San Francisco hires first woman stadium announcer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -The San Francisco Giants made baseball history Wednesday by choosing a female public address announcer, ending a search for a new voice to go with the team's new face.

Sherry Davis, a legal secretary from Walnut Creek, will be the first full-time woman p.a. announcer in major league history, according to team officials.

"I was surprised, but I hope that other women will try out now," said Davis, who beat out two finalists in auditions at Candlestick Park

nine competitors called back for the second round of auditions. Almost 500 people showed up earlier this month to try out for the job. Eight were women.

Most of those who made the first cut had announcing experience.

But Davis, who said she was in her early 40s, has a theater and voice background that goes back nearly 25 years.

A graduate in drama from the College of Notre Dame in Maryland, she has performed voice-over work for various comments since 1981. She has also appeared as an extra in the movies "The Last Detail" and "On the Edge."

The public address announcer must also keep score. Davis was prepared to prove her ability at that chore. She carried a scorebook that dated back to 1987.

'We wanted someone with special qualities and a distinctive voice who could make the place feel special," Giants executive Pat Gallagher said.

The Giants were formally purchased

The new management has tried to revamp the team's image, from creating classy advertisements for season tickets to upgrading the food sold at Candlestick

Although Davis will be the first fulltime announcer, women have done the

Joy Hawkins McCabe, the daughter of a Washington Senators executive, filled in for one game in 1966. Kelly Saunders, a reporter for WJZ-TV in Baltimore, took over for one game last year while the regular Orioles announcer was ill.

