

ENDLESS SUMMER

Surfing Life Gets Sheriff's Department Twist

For Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Russell, it truly is an endless summer.

As captain of the Department's Surf Team, Russell keeps the beach-blanket spirit year round by hitting the waves whenever he's off duty from the Lakewood station.

From Hawaii and Mexico to Malibu and Australia, the 37-year-old has led the team all over the world.

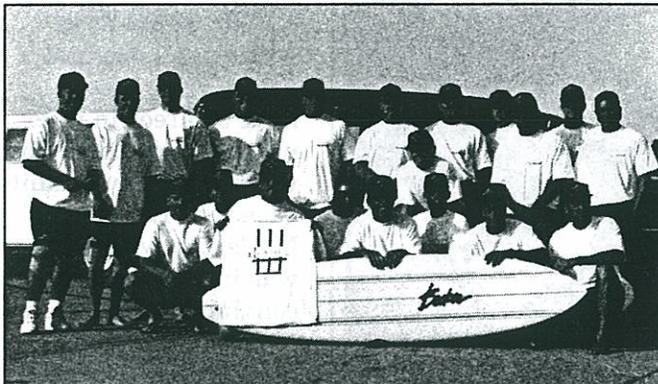
"We took five gold medals at the police olympics last year," Russell said. "Another major challenge is next year's World Police and Fire Games in Melbourne, Australia."

The games, according to Russell, will take place at Bell's Beach, one of the world's premier breaks where waves can top 20 feet.

"I once broke a board and almost drowned in Hawaii. I didn't think I was going to make it," Russell said. "But if you respect the ocean and it's power and have spent your entire life studying it, you can make it out."

Next up for the 20-member team is the Summer Games meet in Oceanside Harbor.

"It keeps us in great shape," Russell said. "The aerobic exercise in the water can't be beat."



Surf Team members, above, sport custom-designed T-shirts before hitting the waves at last year's California Police Summer Games in Los Angeles County.



Later, the boys of summer show off 5 gold, 1 silver and eight bronze medals won at the same event.

SNAPSHOT HISTORY

District Attorney Investigates L.A.'s Roots

25 years ago: The tumultuous 60s ended with the Manson murders, two savage forays which took the lives of actress Sharon Tate and six other victims. The trial of Charles Manson and his "Family" was among the longest and most publicized prosecutions in Los Angeles history at the time.

50 years ago: Mobster Bugsy Siegel was in court on bookmaking charges. The appropriate Hollywood atmosphere occurred when movie actor George Raft appeared as a character witness for

Bugsy. Siegel's defense was candid. He wasn't making book -- he was trying to make a bet. Ultimately, Siegel pled guilty to misdemeanor bookmaking charges, and felony conspiracy charges were dropped. Three years later Bugsy Siegel was killed.

75 years ago: The nation's first female deputy district attorney, Lita Belle Hibbern, was appearing in court for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. She was frequently in court with attorneys from the Public Defender's Office, also the first in the nation.

BATTER UP

Deputy District Attorney Hits Home Run in Law Career and Lifelong Baseball Drive

Deputy District Attorney Gina Satriano has taken a leave from the Compton Office to play professional baseball with the Colorado Silver Bullets of the Northern Independent League. The Silver Bullets are the first women's team recognized by the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues.

In the Class A league, the team will play against men's teams. Thus, it's not like the women's teams in the movie, *A League of Their Own*, in which women played against women. Gina is a pitcher and plays third base.

Gina says she is "a good fielder and a good arm." As a base runner, she says she is "smart, but slow."

She is also daughter of major leaguer Tom Satriano who played for the Angels and the Red Sox from 1960 to 1971.

When Gina went down to Orlando, Florida, for tryout in mid-December, Silver Bullets' manager and former major leaguer Phil Niekro started teaching her how to throw a knuckle ball, his own famous pitch. He also told her that her curve ball was better than his.

The season will probably consist of 60 games.

In March, Gina left for spring training in Orlando and the season will begin in May.

Gina was suiting up for a men's semipro team, the Blue Jays, in West Los Angeles, before leaving for Orlando. Her pitching record was 1-1.

She tried out for the men's team when she attended U.C. Davis and made the team. After three months, she was cut--without explanation.

Then she joined a men's semipro team, which she stuck with throughout college.

The first girl to play in Little League in California, Gina joined a team in Woodland Hills in 1972. She progressed through the other youth leagues with teams in Santa Monica and Malibu.

"I never thought I'd ever get a shot at playing professional baseball," Gina states. "And, at my age." Gina is 28.

The Colorado Silver Bullets are owned by Whittle Communications and are sponsored by Coors Beer.

The team is being approached internationally by sponsors from Japan, Australia and other countries to play in their parks following the regular season.

This would fit in with Gina's original plan for her life--to have a career in international relations. She worked for Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy when she was in college, and he convinced her to seek a career in the law. She says, "I fell in love with criminal law my first year in law school." While going to law school, Gina clerked for the DA and decided she wanted to become a prosecutor. She has been a deputy district attorney for a year.

So far, 38 women have been invited to spring training by the Silver Bullets, and 20-25 will make the final cut.

Gina says that Compton Head Deputy Steve Kay has been very supportive of her taking a leave of absence and pursuing her dream.

Everyone in the office wishes her well.

