



July 2013

SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: STEVE GARCIA

By Larry Wolfe

An injury from an accident kept Steve Garcia from fulfilling his dream of fighting for his country as a member of the military, but it didn't keep him from serving as a career police officer. After being designated 4-F by the military, Steve pursued "the next best thing." He attended both Santa Barbara City College and Ventura College, earning a degree in Criminal Justice. That led to a 28-year career in law enforcement.

Steve's long and distinguished career with the Santa Barbara Police Department encompassed nearly all fields of police work. He was a patrolman, training officer, crime scene investigator, detective, traffic cop and member of the SWAT team and Critical Accident Response Team. Steve was honored as Department Officer of the Month on several occasions and earned the Kiwanis Club Officer of the Year. He was also nominated for National Officer of the Year by the VFW and received the prestigious Thomas H. Guerry Award for Valor. That honor was based upon his actions in unarming a drug-induced samurai sword-swinging suspect. Steve's stories regarding his career could fill a

very thick book. Highlights include his serving on details protecting President Reagan and then-candidate Clinton and, more importantly, saving the lives of several potential crime scene victims. Suffice it to say, he was a hero several times over, but in modest fashion he proclaims that “it was all just part of the job.”

An eighth-generation native of the Santa Barbara area, Steve can trace his ancestry back to the Spanish conquistadors who came to California in the 1600s. He was a three-sport star at San Marcos High prior to pursuing his life in public service.

Besides his love of softball, Steve also enjoys golf. In fact, one of his fondest memories is serving as assistant golf coach for son Steve, Jr. when he made the high school Arizona State Finals. At the Field of Dreams, Steve is known as a slick-fielding shortstop who always leads the league in diving for ground balls! Steve doesn't feel that he's played a good game if his uniform isn't dirty! He's also a solid hitter who's a real team player and one of our “nice guys.”

Steve and his lovely wife, Kelly, enjoy entertaining (Steve considers himself a Master BBQ Chef!) and life with their four pugs. They're also extremely proud of daughter Lindsey, who's currently serving in the Navy, and Steve, Jr., who's in the A/C repair business.

A past “out of the box” fun experience was their performing as extras in several episodes of “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air” where they got to hang with Will Smith and other stars. Fun indeed!

Even though Steve didn't get to fulfill his dream of serving with the troops, he's certainly a real trooper himself. As a career first responder and certified hero, he's provided the same type of dedication and service as the best of our troops. He can forever be proud of that service.