

# Swing-a-Thon!

By Robert Larios, Club Operations Manager

**LAPD Centurions lose to NYPD, but it's all for a good cause.**

On July 24 at El Cariso County Park in Sylmar, baseball teams from the LAPD and the NYPD took to the field for some healthy competition — and some healthy inspiration for kids.

LAPD Officer Mike Scott, who coordinates the effort, says: "This is the biggest baseball festival ever for the kids in the LA community. We have baseball tickets, football and baseball celebrities... a birthday party for the kids. Our vision is to have LAPD and NYPD officers touch the lives of the kids in the communities that are struggling for inspiration and help them forget about the troubles in the streets and hopefully change and touch their lives."

The 2004 edition of the Swing-a-Thon is the fourth. Present were Police Chief William J. Bratton; City Council President Alex Padilla; Councilmember Dennis Zine; County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavski; baseball legend Manny Mota; players from the Los Angeles Dodgers; former professional football players Rod Martin, Charles White and Anthony Davis, and other elected officials and celebrities.

Oh, by the way, the final score was NYPD 11, LAPD 4.



The LAPD Centurions.



Officer Copeland, 10 years, Metropolitan Division.



Senior Officer Kinney, 11 years, Metropolitan Division.



From left: Officer Cheri Roberts, 10.5 years service; and Officer Bob Sieger, 9.5 years.



Event Coordinator and Officer Mike Scott says this is an event for the kids in the community.



From left: Officer Noel Magpoc, 7 years, West LA Division; Sgt. Mel Ariola, NYPD, 10.5 years; Officer Fernando Espinola, NYPD, 6 years, with girlfriend Christina Zapata; and Officer Raysa Calderon, NYPD, 1 year.



From left: Raider great Rod Martin, USC Heisman Trophy winner Charles White, USC running back great Anthony Davis, and Ron Shabtay sponsor and board member of the children's foundation working with LAPD.



From left: Officer Cesar Corona, West La Division, 10 years; Lt. Tim Moss, West LA Division, 33 years; Officer Rob Murray, Devonshire Division, 6 years; and Officer Merrill Dunn, West LA Division, 3 years.



From left: Officer Campbell, Rampart Division, 3 years, playing outfield; and Officer Mota, Hollywood Division, 3 years, playing catcher.



Richard Lee, Public Works, Public Information Officer, 20 years.



Event Coordinator Mike Scott addressing the hundreds of attendees at the Swing-a-Thon for the fourth consecutive year.



Baseball legend Manny Mota.



Officer Merrill Dunn, West Valley, 3 years.



From left: Officer Mike McComa, Devonshire Division, 1 year; and Officer Oscar Bocanegra, West LA Division, 2 years service.



Councilmember Alex Padilla and Manny Mota having a few words on batting strategy for the game.



From left: Officer Wayne Edwards with his brother Coach James Edwards, LAPD, 15 years.



Rod Martin receiving the City Award from Councilmember Dennis Zine.



From left: Officer Hovey, 15 years; and Officer Mitch Nolen, 12 years.



Sgt. Jose Vega, NYPD, 13 years



From left: Jeff Hernandez; Marisol Vielma, PSR-Downtown, 2.5 years; and Natrese Thomas, PSR, Downtown, 4 years.



Head Coach Moss making sure his team gets ready to have fun.



An officer getting ready to take the field.