

interview





Anastasia Ashley

Surf's Up for This Aquatic Beauty

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Few 19-year olds can climb the ranks of professional surfing and still have time to shop! But Anastasia Ashley found time for SOAK as she sauntered through clothing stores, surely spotting posters of herself along the way. SOAK hangs ten with Ashley as she dishes on her intimidation of the boys, her way-cool swag, and what it's like to be...the next (gasp!) Pamela?

Surf's up! Eat your heart out Keanu Reeves—and Patrick Swayze.

SOAK: *What's it like going to stores and seeing products in which you have an endorsement deal...like Oakley?*

Anastasia: It's cool. It's even cooler if it's me in the ads in the stores. It's good to see.

SOAK: *What's your average day like?*

Anastasia: Right now, I usually get up in the morning, probably around 8 or 9. Then I usually check my email and I check the waves online, too. Then I'll go down to the beach, and then I either go surfing if there are waves, or go work out at the gym. Then I'll come back and check email again...I have a phone that checks email [laughs] so I'm constantly checking my email. And then I go out with my friends that night.

SOAK: *That sounds like a pretty cool life.*

Anastasia: Yeah. Pretty mellow. A lot of times, too, I go and talk to my sponsors in meetings.

SOAK: *As far as training for surfing, people probably think you just go out and surf. What kind of things do you have to do physically to stay in surfing shape?*

Anastasia: I usually do the majority of my training before my contests.

SOAK: *You're starting to build a name for yourself at such a young age. What's it like to now be an emerging blip on the celebrity radar?*

Anastasia: It's cool. It definitely has its perks. Obviously, I've gotten free stuff for like ten years of my life. Now I'm starting to get really cool free stuff like designer clothes, and shoes, and a lot of stuff that's not related to surfing. It's cool. A lot of people respect me and the stuff that I do.

SOAK: *You have a lot of younger people, including non-surfers, who look up to you as a role model.*

Anastasia: I definitely want to be a role model. There definitely needs to be more positive role models, instead of somebody who is a bad role model that young people shouldn't look up to.

SOAK: *Whenever you do get spare time, what type of things do you like to do?*

Anastasia: I like hanging out with my friends. I like to go shopping, go to the movies, just do normal stuff, go to the beach, hang out with my boyfriend. Pretty much anything a normal 19-year-old girl would like to do.

SOAK: *Is it hard to now be a typical 19-year-old? Do people stop and talk to you all the time?*

Anastasia: A lot of times I get recognized in beach towns, but it's been more recently that



I get recognized in regular places like the mall and stuff like that. Overall, I've been very normal and I don't think of myself as better than anyone or anything, by any sense. It's not hard for me to say that I'm a 19-year-old girl.

SOAK: *That's great that you've been able to have a great time, achieve at a high level in your sport, and still have time to be normal.*

Anastasia: Yeah. I mean, before I've had people say negative things to me before, but for the most part, it's mostly positive.

SOAK: *They have jealousy issues?*

Anastasia: Yeah. I just think a lot of people might be jealous or they might have their opinions of me.

SOAK: *That has to be a bit of a downer.*

Anastasia: There are so many people who are positive to me so it doesn't matter.

SOAK: *You've been nominated as one of PETA's "World's Sexiest Vegetarians." This might be something that puts you into the limelight as a sex icon. What's that like?*

Anastasia: It's really flattering. I don't necessarily think of myself as a sexual icon by any means, but I think it's cool. Pamela Anderson has also been nominated and she's a very pretty woman—one of the most famous in the world. And it's really cool.

SOAK: *You mentioned you have a boyfriend; do you still get approached by guys a lot when you go out?*

Anastasia: I don't really go out as much as I used to, so I don't really get approached. I'm usually with my boyfriend when I go out, so I don't think people are really going [laughs] to come up to me when I have a man next to me.

SOAK: *Do guy and girl surfers try to pick each other up with pick-up lines that involve wetsuits?*

Anastasia: No. [laughs] The year before, I never would really get approached by guys in the water, because I think a lot of guys were kind of scared by me when I was surfing. I never had been approached like that.

SOAK: *Why do you think they were scared?*

Anastasia: I don't know. I think they might have seen me surf. A lot of times, girls who aren't that good at surfing—they're not that aggressive and I'm very aggressive when I surf. I'm not just sitting there letting them take all my waves. And if I take their waves they get mad. So after all that, they're probably not going to want to try to pick me up.

SOAK: *Is there a friendly competition between male and female surfers?*

Anastasia: Sometimes. I used to when I was younger. When I see guys, like my friends out surfing, I definitely try to compete, like, try to do the best turn or try to do an air or something. It's not like we're out there seriously competing, it's like fun and games. I don't know if most people out there compete with guys and girls. I think it's more of a guy thing.

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