

Summers' trial in S.B. murder, kidnap case begins

By RICHARD BROOKS
Sun Staff Writer

CHINO — Roy Summers went on trial here Wednesday on charges he murdered his ex-wife and kidnapped two of her young daughters in San Bernardino five years ago.

"It was the defendant, Roy Summers, who killed Beverly Wise and kidnapped Brandi and Tiffani," Deputy District Attorney Michael Smith said in his 3½-hour opening statement to the jury. "But, unless something very dramatic happens between now and the end of the trial, you're not going to know the

final fate of Brandi and Tiffani" because they've never been found.

The crimes drew widespread attention in 1977 because of the nature of the murder — the woman was stabbed to death while tied to a chair in her own home — and because Brandi had cystic fibrosis, a disease that caused her to need daily medication.

Summers, 41, is Brandi's father. She was 5 years old at the time of the abduction from the 1500 block of Alto Drive. Her half-sister, Tiffani, was 2.

Although they've never been found, the girls reportedly have

been seen in several western states since their disappearance.

The case against Summers involves a map of California that was left in the victim's home, the alleged sightings of the children with Summers and his friends, and incriminating statements Summers supposedly made to two jail inmates and police.

The prosecution claims Summers hated his ex-wife — to the point that he frequently said she should be killed — and that he kidnapped the children because they were witnesses to the murder.

The woman's third daughter, Stacey, was left unharmed in the house. She was 9 months old at the time.

In pointing to some of the circumstantial evidence against Summers, Smith said "not everyone would have known that Brandi had cystic fibrosis." Yet, the killer not only knew the child had the disease, but he took a case of the child's medicine with him during the kidnapping, the prosecutor said.

Also taken, Smith said, were clothing for the children, a photo

album and a medical encyclopedia.

The trial is expected to last three to six months. It will include the testimony of about 100 witnesses, Smith told the jury.

Summers' attorney, Timothy Guhin of San Bernardino, is scheduled to deliver his opening statement this morning. The jury has been told Summers says he wasn't even in California when the crimes were committed.

San Bernardino police originally accepted Summers' account of his

(Please see Trial, B-5)