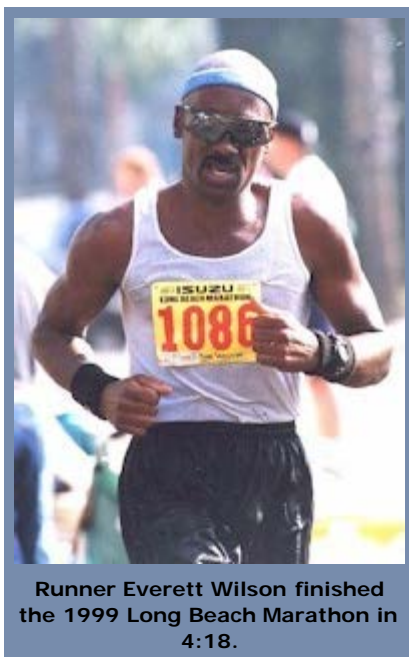


By BILL HEARD, Editor

(March 1) In 1986, the MTA's Everett Wilson ran the very first Los Angeles Marathon. On Sunday, March 5, he'll run in the 15th Marathon – one of only 366 "rare individuals who have started and finished the 26.2-mile" race every year, says a City of Los Angeles commendation.



City officials presented the commendation to Wilson and his fellow runners, walkers and wheelchair athletes in ceremonies, Feb. 26. The group was honored as Marathon Legacy Runners and "part of an exclusive club that will forever be closed to new members...."

Sense of euphoria

"I love running," says Wilson, an assistant auditor in the Revenue Compliance Department. "It gives me such a sense of euphoria."

Wilson, 53, trains for the LA Marathon and other races all year 'round. He ran the Long Beach Marathon last November and the San Diego Marathon in January. "My training has been pretty good lately, although the rain hasn't helped," he says.

On Sunday, he hopes to break four hours and expects to be within the top 10 to 15 percent of finishers. He's been averaging about seven miles an hour, finishing a recent 14-mile run in one hour, 58 minutes. His personal record for a 26.2-mile marathon, set when he was in his early 40s, is three hours, 15 minutes.

Wants to outrun everybody

Although he now competes in the Masters Division for runners ages 50 to 55, the New Jersey native says, "I'm out there to outrun everybody. That's always my goal, even if it's not realistic. I'm not one of the elite runners, but that doesn't mean I don't try; it's the only way to improve."

Elite runner he may not be, but Wilson estimates he's in the top third of the region's marathon runners with races in Canada, Alaska, New Mexico and other western states to his credit.



And he can still give the youngsters a run for their money. Wilson often trains with the Muir High School track team in Pasadena. Said to be among the top track and field teams in the country, the school produced Ingrid Miller, now Number 2 in the world in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash.

Wilson in the
LA Marathon.
[See MTA
Report.](#)

"It's tough running against them," he says, "but, it's always a pleasure to see how well I can do."

Wilson and his wife, Diane, a property manager, live in Alta Dena with their daughter, Jonell, 16, a high school junior.

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