

SPECTACULAR CHRISTMAS EVENT SATURDAY, DEC. 10

# Muhammed Ali to lead celebrity lineup for Compton parade

By Ivan Crosbie  
Staff Writer

COMPTON — Former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammed Ali will lead a host of celebrities down Compton Boulevard in what is expected to be the city's most spectacular, star-studded Christmas parade.

Ali will be joined by former Dodger great Al Downing; Kim Fields, star of the television hit series "Facts of Life"; Hal Williams, star of "Private Benjamin," a television series; Don Mitchell, star of the television series "Ironside"; Pam Moore, a news reporter for KNXT Channel 2; and Al McKay, a former reporting artist with Ike and Tina Turner, Isaac Hayes, Earth Wind and Fire and many others.

The celebrities will join Ali as co-grand marshals of the Compton parade scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 10, according to Frank Sotello, a spokesman for the city.

Ali, who has become a boxing legend in his own time, certainly needs no introduction. However, this will be his

fourth or fifth visit to the city.

Several years ago, the city honored him with a commendation in recognition of great contributions to sports and to humanity, Sotello said.

Confirmation of his participation as grand marshal of the parade was announced Thursday, Sotello said.

Fields, who is not a stranger to the parade, will participate in it for the second time. Last year, she rode down Compton Boulevard as grand marshal of the parade, becoming the youngest celebrity thus honored by the city.

The New York native made her co-starring debut on the television series "Baby Jim Back," with actress Denise Nicholas and actor Desmond Wilson in the lead roles.

Today, she is known as the "wisecracking" Tootle on NBC's hit series, "The Facts of Life," about four rich girls in a boarding school.

Her work in that series won her the "Youth in Film and Entertainment Award for Best Young Comedienne" for two consecutive years.

She made her television debut when she was 5 years old on "Sesame Street."

Following that she appeared in approximately 12 national commercials.

Her dramatic and comedy television roles followed shortly. They include: "Diff'rent Strokes," "Mork and Mindy," "Oz," "Good Times," "Executive Suite," and PBS's "Righteous Aples" in which she played a 10-year-old genius.

Williams, who co-starred in the motion picture "Private Benjamin" and its television series, is currently starring as Art Jensen in the stage comedy "Zi."

In the show, Williams plays a husband whose problems are many with both his wife and mistress living in the same Chicago apartment building.

The Ohio native got his first break as an officer in the "Sandford and Son" television series.

He appears in the PBS upcoming movie, "The Young Landlords."

Prior to that he co-starred in "The Celebrity and the Arcade Kid," an NBC after school special.



HAL WILLIAMS

## AREA JOGGERS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN 5 AND 10K RUNS

# 500 joggers expected to vie in Lynwood run

BY IVAN CROSBIE  
City Editor

Undaunted by the wind's harshness as it pierced their bodies at almost freezing temperatures, a group of middle-aged men and women pursued their jogging exercise on the all-season track at Cal State, Dominguez Hills.

Early each morning, several Los Angeles County firemen would drive their fire truck from its station some miles away to Willowbrook Public Park near Compton.

They come to the park each day to jog despite often unfavorable temperatures, smog and other hazardous weather conditions.

In Lynwood and South Gate's parks, men and women of varying ages could be seen daily pursuing their hobby — jogging.

Some jog to the beat of music as an inspirational means to ease tension. Others jog without musical accompaniment, but allow their will, bodies and minds to take control.

Jogging has become a national phenomenon. And enthusiasts of the sport usually demonstrate their capabilities in 5, 10K and marathon runs.

At least once a year, several Southeast cities usually sponsor 5 and 10K runs in which, not only residents, but also city officials take part.

Several hundred people of various ages participated in Compton's 5 and 10K run last year, including one of the city's councilmen.

This year, sponsors of the run anticipate a larger number of participants, with materials circulating in its community this year.

The city of Lynwood expects to draw more than 500 competitors in its 5 and 10K run scheduled for Feb. 11.

The run, sponsored by the city and the chamber of commerce, will begin at 8 a.m. in the city's recreation and parks parking lot on Bullis Road.

McKay, a guitarist, kicked-off his musical career by forming his own band to entertain his boy scout troop.

Since then, McKay's musical career has taken him through the surf band sounds of the 1960s, the R&B rhythms of Ike and Tina Turner, Isaac Hayes, The Watts 103rd Street Band, The Whispers and LTD, the Las Vegas nightclub style of Sammy Davis Jr., and the spiritual funk of Earth, Wind and Fire.

While a member of Earth, Wind and Fire, McKay wrote and produced the Grammy Award-winning "Best of My Love for the Emotions."

He also wrote and produced other hits like "September," "Sing A Song," and "I'll Write A Song For You."

He also wrote and produced other hits like and co-produced "Boogie Wonderland" with Maurice White.

Downing first came to the Dodgers from Milwaukee prior to the 1971 season. Immediately, he etched his name in the Dodger's record book.

A 26-9 record that year put Downing's name alongside past Dodger greats Sandy Koufax and Claude Osteen as the only Los Angeles left-handers to win 20 games in a season.

Downing pitched for four teams and appeared in three World Series during his 17-year major league career.

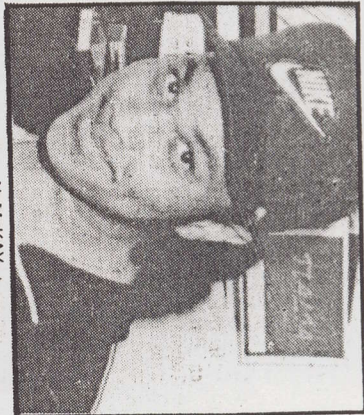
Prior to the Dodgers, he spent eight seasons with the New York Yankees. In 1967, he was selected to the American League All-Star team.

Moore, who joined Channel 2 as a general assignment reporter earlier this year, came to Los Angeles from Dallas, where she worked as a co-anchor, reporter and public affairs host at KXAS-TV.

Moore produced and reported numerous news stories, including special reports on black history, agoraphobia and crime.

She also hosted "Insight '82," a public affairs program.

Prior to KXAS-TV, she served as a co-anchor, medical reporter and host of a public affairs program for WHAS-TV in Louisville.



AL MCKAY



KIM FIELDS

The chamber's executive manager, Bernard Lake, said joggers from cities throughout the Southwest are invited to compete in this run.

Last year, Lake said joggers came from as far as San Diego to compete. One hundred and sixty eight people vied in the 1983 run.

He said the run will consist of nine divisions for both men and women.

Olympic type medals, Lake explained, will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each division.

In addition, he said registered runners will get an opportunity to win door prizes during a drawing.