

Date: Thu, 10 Aug 2006 17:19:10 -0400
From: Lee Watkins <LWatkins@exchange.ureg.ohio-state.edu>
Subject: RE: J. Owens Dates of Attendance
To: Tamar Chute <chute.6@osu.edu>
Thread-topic: J. Owens Dates of Attendance

Tamar,

Both sets of dates are correct. He was enrolled from 10/09/1933 to 06/15/1936 and then came back again from 10/01/1940 until 12/19/1941. He was in the College of Education and did not graduate.

Lee Watkins
Operations Coordinator
Office of the University Registrar
Phone: 614-292-2117
Fax: 614-292-8700

-----Original Message-----

From: Tamar Chute [mailto:chute.6@osu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2006 11:28 AM
To: watkins.95@osu.edu
Subject: J. Owens Dates of Attendance

Lee,

We have been asked this question so many times, and it is so confusing, I wondered if you could help me. When did Jesse Owens attend OSU? I have a chronology that lists the dates as 1933-1936 and 1940-1941, but I am not sure where those dates come from. So much of Jesse Owens' history is confusing, this is just another aspect!

If you are not able to give me the information, I certainly understand.

Thanks for your help.
Tamar Chute

Tamar Chute
Associate University Archivist
The Ohio State University
2700 Kenny Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Phone: (614) 292-3271
Fax: (614) 688-4150

JESSE OWENS: A CHRONOLOGY

(September 12) James Cleveland Owens was born in Oakville, Alabama, the last of nine children.

The Owens family moved to Cleveland, Ohio. James Cleveland Owens attended Bolton Elementary School, where he became known as "Jesse" (from "J.C.") Owens.

Jesse's first records in the high jump and the long jump were established at Fairmount Junior High School under his coach and life-long mentor, Charles Riley.

Owens was enrolled in East Tech High School in Cleveland. Riley followed as a volunteer assistant coach.

(June) Owens tied or set records in the long jump, 220-yard dash and 100-yard dash at the National Interscholastic Championship Meet.

(September) Jesse enrolled as a freshman at The Ohio State University.

(May 25) At a Big Ten meet in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Owens broke three world records in less than one hour—the 220-yard dash, the long jump and the 220-yard low hurdles. He tied a fourth.

(July) At the Olympic trials, Owens won the 100- and 200-meter races and the long jump competition.

(August 3) At the Olympic Games in Berlin, Owens won the gold medal for the 100-meter race, establishing a world record of 10.3 seconds.

(August 4) Owens won a gold medal in the long jump, establishing a record of 26 feet, 5 1/4 inches.

(August 5) Jesse earned a gold medal in the 200-meter race, with a record of 20.7 seconds.

(August 8) Owens received a fourth gold medal as a member of the 400-meter relay team.

(January) Jesse signed a contract with Consolidated Radio Artists as an entertainer.

Owens worked for Cleveland's Parks and Recreation Department.

In Cleveland, Owens established a dry-cleaning business, which failed in 1939.

Jesse re-enrolled at Ohio State.

(December) Owens withdrew from Ohio State.

(January) Jesse Owens was appointed the Director of National Fitness by the Office of Civilian Defense.

45 Jesse Owens worked in the personnel office of the Ford Motor Company, Detroit.

Owens moved to Chicago and established a public relations agency.

Jesse was elected the greatest track athlete of the past half-century by the Associated Press.

Owens was appointed secretary of Illinois' State Athletic Commission.

(December) Jesse's daughter, Gloria, received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Ohio State.

Owens, sponsored by the International Educational Exchange Service of the U.S. State Department, toured India, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Jesse was the personal representative of President Eisenhower while attending the Olympics at Melbourne, Australia.

Jesse's daughter, Marlene, was crowned Homecoming Queen at Ohio State. She received a Bachelor of Science in Social Work in 1961.

The first ARCO Jesse Owens Games were established.

(February) Jesse Owens became the training and running coach for the New York Mets baseball team during spring training.

President Richard Nixon appointed Owens as 'good-will ambassador' to Africa.

Jesse Owens received an honorary doctorate of Athletic Arts from Ohio State.

Owens was appointed to the board of directors of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Jesse received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Gerald Ford.

(March 31) James Cleveland Owens died of cancer in Tucson, Arizona.

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THE INTERCOLLEGIATE ASSOCIATION INVITES JESSE OWENS TO COME
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BROAD JUMP THE INTERCOLLEGIATE ASSOCIATION WILL PAY FULL
EXPENSES PLEASE WIRE ME COLLECT=

WARREN STURGIS MEET MANAGER HARVARD ATHLETIC ASSN
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COLUMBUS OHIO=

JESS DEFINITELY DECIDED HE MUST RETURN MASTERS BIRCHALL HAYES
ADVISED IT HE CANT SIGN ANYTHING I HAVE ARRANGED THAT WILL
YOU MEET US=

LARRY.

DE RUTH STJOHN

REF 5-11-36

AIR MAIL R C
TJ RE CHAIRMAN
REFUSED SIGNATURE

THERE IS NO DEPENDABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR WESTERN UNION TIME

EDITORIAL
DEPARTMENT

Amsterdam News

2293 SEVENTH AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y.

TILLINGHAST 5-1760

MEMBER AUDIT
BUREAU CIRCULATIONS

August 19, 1935.

TO Jesse Owens, Eulace Peacock,
Ralph Metcalfe, Cornelius Johnson,
Willis Ward, James Luvalle, Ben Johnson
And All Leading Negro Athletes in the A.A.U.

The Amsterdam News congratulates you.

Despite the limitations placed upon you as members of a minority group, you have fought your way to the top. You have challenged and vanquished the myths of racial superiority and inferiority. Through sheer ability, determination and courage you have carried the banner of achievement beyond the narrow confines of race and nationalism. Accepting every opportunity, you have become symbols of that internationalism, which is the ultimate goal of all civilization.

The Amsterdam News, however, wishes to call your attention to another opportunity--the greatest in your brilliant careers. An opportunity to challenge a force which seeks to destroy everything you have devoted your best years to building. A force which seeks to deny the universal equality you have so laboriously established. And yet, a force which is not above using you and your achievements to strengthen itself so that eventually it may destroy you. This force is Hitlerism as exemplified in present-day Germany--the scene of the 1936 Olympic Games.

2--

Under Hitlerism, or the triumph in this country of similar forces, you would have had no opportunity to become the international figures you are. Under the barbaric rule of the Nazis, you would have become pariahs and have been subjected to the persecution and oppression which another prominent minority group has suffered in Germany. Under Hitlerism, you would have been denied even the limited opportunities which have been yours in America. And this oppression would have not been confined solely to the field of sports. The Nazi philosophy has bludgeoned its way into every field of human endeavor and has extended its poisonous tentacles far beyond the borders of Hitler Germany.

Humanity demands that Hitlerism be crushed. And yours is the opportunity to strike a blow which may hasten its inevitable end. As members of a minority group whose persecution the Nazis have encouraged, as citizens of a country in which all liberty has not yet been destroyed, as leaders in a field which encourages the removal of all barriers of race, creed and color, you cannot afford to give moral and financial support to a philosophy which seeks the ultimate destruction of all you have fought for.

Your appearance there in the 1936 Olympic Games, the use of your magic names to attract thousands of tourists and sport fans to that country would undoubtedly furnish this moral and financial support.

EDITORIAL
DEPARTMENT

Amsterdam News

2293 SEVENTH AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y.

TILLINGHAST 5-1760

MEMBER AUDIT
BUREAU CIRCULATIONS

3--

Therefore, as an open protest against Hitlerism and its threat to all civilization, The Amsterdam News begs you to refuse to participate in the Olympic Games in Germany in 1936. We beg you to demonstrate a courage which, so far, has been lacking in the guiding spirits of the Amateur Athletic Union. We beg you to display that spirit of self-sacrifice which is the true mark of all greatness.

We make this request not only in the name of the 204,000 Negroes in Harlem, the 12,000,000 Negroes in America and the countless darker exploited colonials throughout the world. We speak in the name of humanity, of civilization, of all forces of enlightenment which are threatened by the rise of Adolph Hitler and his barbaric National Socialist philosophy.

The world has never had occasion to doubt your courage. We do not believe that you will furnish that occasion now. The Amsterdam News, along with the millions who have followed your achievements, awaits your answer to this most vital question. Will you strike this blow?

Sincerely,

THE AMSTERDAM NEWS.

CONFIDENTIAL

September 3, 1935

Professor A. C. Callen,
Professor Clarence Undegraff,
Professor W. J. Moenkhaus

Gentlemen:-

Since there has been so much publicity connected with Jesse Owens of Ohio State University I am filing with you this report concerning him.

Owens' high school coach was dismissed from the coaching staff at Ohio and so it is reported was not friendly toward the State University. Consequently he suggested to a Michigan alumnus, living in Cleveland, that he would like to see the boy go to Michigan. This Michigan alumnus, who for brevity will henceforth be referred to as M, suggested that Rielly (the boy's coach) drive Owens to Ann Arbor and let the boy look the place over and see if he could get a job. Rielly replied that he could not afford to pay the cost of a trip from Cleveland to Ann Arbor and M gave him \$10 to pay for gas, oil, etc.

Rielly and Owens drove to Ann Arbor and on their return Owens told M he liked the University and wanted to enroll there. If I am not mistaken, he also reported that he had secured employment in Ann Arbor.

"M" thought the matter was closed but a few nights later he heard Owens on the radio state in substance that his father was out of work and that his going to college depended upon his father securing a job. "M" thereupon made inquiry regarding Owens' father and was told that he was honest and had always been willing to work. The father had a family of seven children. It was reported that he seldom, if ever, had had work that paid him more than \$12 a week.

"M" took the matter up with some of the Detroit alumni who secured Owens Senior a job as caretaker of an apartment building at \$16. a week. "M" reported to Owens who asked that M talk to his father. "M" did so but found that Owens Senior was apparently disposed to get all that he could on the strength of his son's athletic ability and consequently M told Owens Senior that he was not interested in them further.

Mr. Dick Kroeshel, President of the Athletic Goods Distributors' Association and owner of a sporting goods store in Cleveland, upon learning that "M" was no longer interested in Owens talked to the boy and apparently secured him a political job at the State Capitol in Columbus. Kroeshel is not an Ohio State alumnus and could have had no selfish interest in persuading Owens to go to Ohio unless it was that thus he hoped to get some Ohio State athletic goods business.

Owens' job consisted of running an elevator in the State House. However, I am told that, this being a political job, the boy spent very few hours in the elevator. He, however, apparently drew pay from the State

Treasury until last January when he was appointed to a job as Page in the Lower House. The circumstances connected with this appointment are as follows:

Dan Duffey is a Cleveland politician. He managed Governor Davies' campaign in Cuyahoga County and when Davies was elected Governor he made Duffey his Executive Secretary. Jesse Owens' sister is a ward politician in Cleveland. She approached Mr. Duffey some time last January and requested that her brother be made a Page to work in the Lower House in Columbus. Mr. Duffey is a Notre Dame man and it is quite probable that the appointment as Page was made for political rather than athletic reasons. Owens served as Page from some time in January until the House adjourned in June. I doubt if he was asked to spend much time in fulfillment of his duties and I doubt if very many of the pages, all of whom receive \$3.00 a day and travel allowances, render much service to the state.

Along toward the end of the Session of Legislature, Owens' sister again approached Mr. Duffey and requested that Owens be appointed as a page ad interim. Some fifteen or twenty pages were appointed to serve continuing committees. If the committee to which an individual page was assigned was not in session the pay went on just the same. If the committee did meet, the page was summoned and expected to proceed from his home to Columbus to do whatever his duties called for. Owens probably had nothing to do with securing the appointment as page ad interim. He received pay, however, while he was absent in California and he also received a check for travel allowance drawn on the state treasury.

After Owens had already been appointed as page ad interim and had received one or two checks from the State Capitol and after he had distinguished himself in track athletics, Mr. Grant Ward, former Intramural Director and coach at Ohio State University and now a member of the State Legislature, introduced a resolution to the effect that the state recognize Owens and honor him by making him a page on full pay. The records, I am sure, will show that Owens was already serving as a Page and drawing pay before Ward introduced his resolution.

Two days after Owens' check drawn for pay in connection with his appointment as Page ad interim was sent from Columbus, someone in Columbus reported the matter to Judge Mahoney, President of the A.A.U. Mahoney's assistant in New York made a trip to Cleveland and urged the Ohio A.A.U. Eligibility Committee to suspend Owens from the A.A.U. for ninety days. Some of the men active in A.A.U. work in Cleveland, knowing the circumstances connected with Owens' appointment as Page ad interim requested Mr. Duffey and Jesse Owens to appear before the committee, which they did. Their stories substantiated the facts which I have above related. Perhaps the following had nothing to do with the case but I wish to report nevertheless that Mr. St. John, chairman of the Joint Basketball Rules Committee, has been instrumental in bringing about the reorganization of the committee. Under the new plan the A.A.U. will not have as large a representation on the committee as will the N.C.A.A. Some of the A.A.U. men are quite disturbed and it may be that Saint is being blamed by the A.A.U. for his part in this matter. Further, Owens and Saint stopped off at Lincoln on their way back from Berkeley as Owens was entered in the A.A.U. Track Meet. The A.A.U. has always paid the expenses of defending champions in their national meet. They, however, refused

to pay Owens' expenses alleging that somebody had paid his expenses to the meet in California, whereupon Saint told them that that being the case Owens would not compete. There perhaps was some personal bitterness engendered as a result of this controversy over expenses.

The situation is now as follows. The Ohio State Eligibility Committee will investigate the Owens' case as soon as the members of that committee have returned to Columbus. In the meantime the A.A.U. Committee in Cleveland will probably do nothing until after the Ohio State Committee has acted.

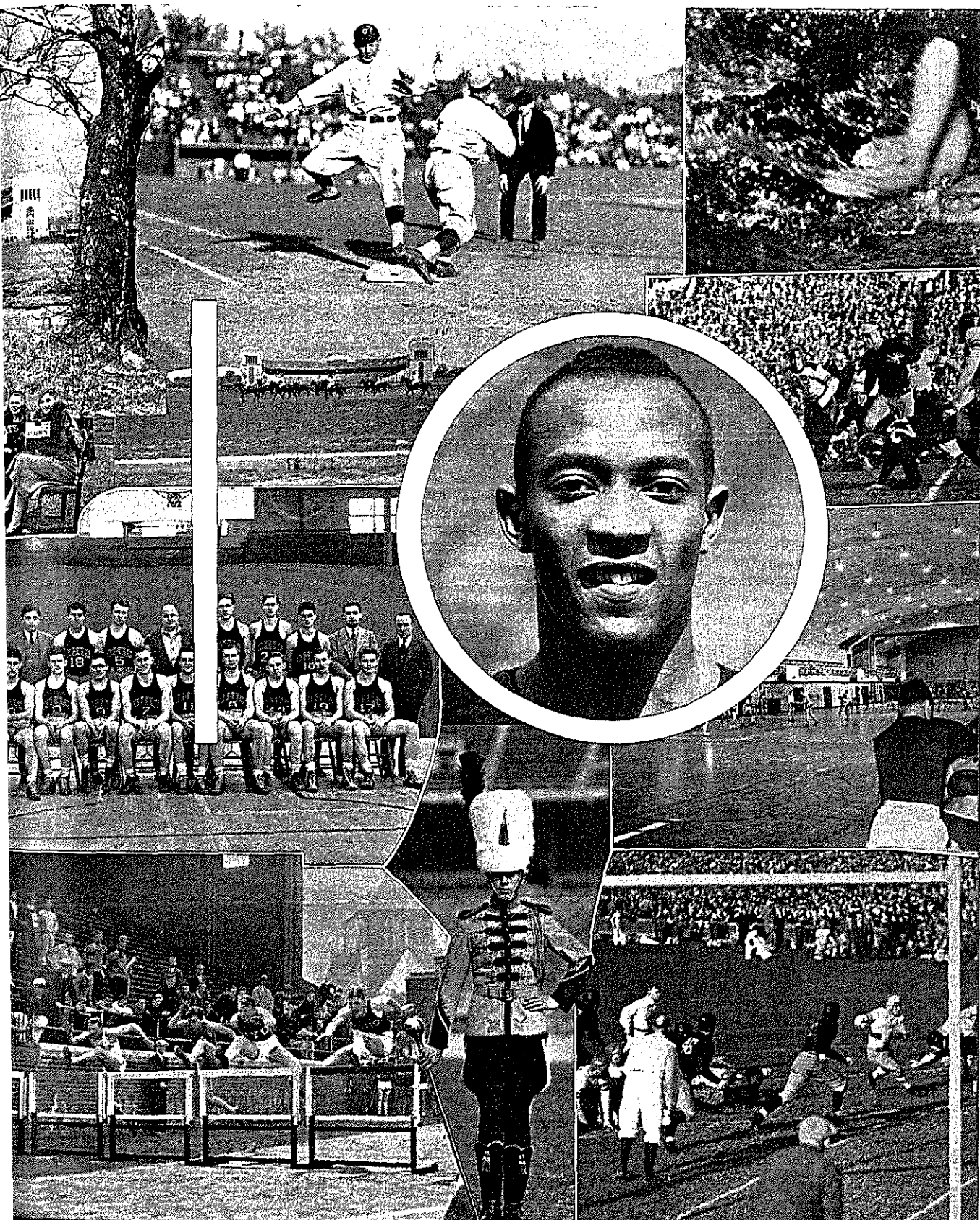
The above statement is true so far as I can determine. Naturally there are conflicting statements but I have tried to state what appears to be the facts.

Respectfully submitted,

JLG:F

John L. Griffith.

Safe at first base . . . sprint swimmer splashes away . . . co-ed rooters show colors . . . women's equestrian class . . . off for good gain against Northwestern . . . Big Ten basketball champs . . . Jesse Owens, sophomore sprinter and broad jumper, who broke eight world marks and tied another . . . ten intramural teams in action at once . . . Ohio hurdler leads way in Penn Relays . . . drum major . . . across Michigan's line for a touchdown



AMERICAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

11 S. LASALLE STREET

CHICAGO

October 26, 1935.

To the Sport-Loving Public of the United States:

The Olympic Games belong to the athletes and not to the politicians. Knowing the temper of the true sport leaders and of the amateur athletes of this country who are unanimous on this subject, I say positively that there will be teams representing the United States in the 1936 Games. The sportsmen of this country will not tolerate the use of clean American sport as a vehicle to transplant Old World hatreds to the United States.

The American Olympic Committee, composed of representatives of over 70 leading amateur sport organizations, after fully investigating all charges and after due deliberation, accepted unanimously the invitation to participate in these Games. These men, most of whom for many years, without remuneration, have devoted time, thought, energy and money to this cause, know the best interests of amateur sport and have in mind the prestige of the United States. They will never allow our athletes to be made "martyrs to a cause not their own", or amateur sport to be sacrificed to a political issue. The American Olympic Committee is the only organization which has authority to deal with the representation of the United States in the Olympic Games.

As a result of hundreds of requests, the American Committee has published a 16-page pamphlet covering the entire Olympic situation. Because of the activities of individuals and organizations who never before gave a thought to amateur sport and the Olympic Games, and who know little if anything of the aims or objects of either, a great deal of misinformation has been disseminated. Many well-intentioned people without waiting to hear both sides of the question, have been led astray by this misinformation.

The bitter feelings engendered, the attempted coercion and intimidation by fair means or foul, the vicious and insidious propaganda which are being used in this campaign largely by individuals who have never learned the lessons of amateur sport and thus do not hesitate to use methods contrary to all codes of sportsmanship, are an indication of what may be expected if religious, racial, class or political issues are allowed to intrude in the council halls of sport where they have no place.

Many dare not even voice their opinions because of the social, political or economic pressure applied by certain organized minorities. However, it is safe to say that the vast and overwhelming majority of intelligent Americans realize that we have many opportunities for the exercise of our altruistic impulses right here in the United States. It would seem only proper to set our own house in order before we attempt to reform the world.

It is notable that everyone who has visited Germany has reported courteous and hospitable treatment and that the German authorities are fulfilling every pledge made to the International Olympic Committee. The agitation has been carried on entirely by those who haven't been closer to Berlin than Manhattan Island.

It should be known that Soviet Russia is not represented in any of the great international sport federations. In 1932 there was a concerted attempt by Communists both here and abroad to wreck the Los Angeles Games. Many of the individuals and organizations active in the present campaign to boycott the Olympics have Communistic antecedents. Radicals and Communists must keep their hands off American sport.

The American Olympic Committee believes that every loyal and patriotic citizen of the United States will desire to encourage enthusiastically this movement to provide for full teams for the Fourth Winter Games at Garmesch-Partenkirchen and for the games of the Eleventh Olympiad at Berlin, teams capable of carrying the Stars and Stripes to victory.

Sincerely,

American Olympic Committee,

by Avery Brundage, *President*

COPY

October 28, 1935

Mr. Ralph W. Aigler
Board in Control of Physical Education
University of Michigan
Ferry Field
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Ralph:

Replying to your letter of October 26, wish to say that John Griffith's letter is substantially correct. There are one or two items which should be changed, however, to make for exact truth.

In the second paragraph it is stated that Owens' high school coach was dismissed from the coaching staff at Ohio. That should read "Owens' junior high school coach. His senior high school coach was a Miami man and never had any contact with Ohio State. The name of the junior high school coach is "Riley" not "Rielly". The rest of that paragraph is substantially correct, as is the next.

The third and fourth paragraphs are correct - I personally being the fellow who attended to this because Owens had come to my office with Riley and asked me to help him get work at the University of Michigan. The matter of getting his father a position happened exactly as stated. I heard the boy over the radio and through that it would make assurance doubly certain if I were in some way to get his father a job. Incidentally his father had not worked for over eighteen months. The old boy was just plain out and out looking to sell Jesse to the highest bidder, and when I found this out I told them that there would be no offer of a position from the University of Michigan alumni for the old gentleman.

In the sixth paragraph, the name is wrong. It should be "Kroesen".

I am under the general impression that Owens worked for the Highway Department for about a year and a half, possibly running the elevator.

On Page 2 I think it is unfortunate that names were mentioned as in the first paragraph, but since they are the Governor's name is "Davey". He is a graduate of Oberlin, not an Ohio State graduate. The facts as given there are substantially correct.

Naturally were the contents of this letter to be published, Dan Duffy would be forced to contradict the whole story, because it looks bad for party politics to think that boys are appointed in this way. However, the facts are substantially correct.

Regarding the third paragraph on Page 2, I wish to say that my personal feeling in this matter, although I have been unable to get any actual facts, is that Grant Ward was trying to do one of two things. He was either trying to get some colored votes for himself by making a grandiloquent gesture of introducing his resolution - or (what seems to me to be more apt the case), he was actually trying to get Jesse Owens in a place where Ohio State could no longer use him. As you may know, Ward has been trying for these many years to get St. John ousted at Ohio State. The gossip is that Ward wants St. John's job and with the Wolf interests back of him, he would be able to get it, were Saint out of the picture. He certainly has been doing everything he could to discredit folks at Ohio State, posing all the time as being tremendously interested in Ohio State athletes and athletic affairs. I don't know him personally, wouldn't know him if I were to see him but this is the story that I pick up from Ohio State people. It may be a gross injustice to Ward.

At the beginning of the last paragraph on Page 2, the question of Judge Mahoney sending a representative out here is not the truth. A fellow came through here; his name was either "Neff" or "Ness", we cannot be certain which. He proposed that Owens be given a ninety day suspension. The facts of Neff's visit are as follows: he came to town and over the telephone, with the President of the Northeastern Ohio A.A.U., used President Mahoney's name to secure an interview. Mr. Bloom was playing golf and was called in from the links, talked to the fellow over the telephone, terminated his golf game and returned to the city. No other members of the Executive Committee were available; it seems that all of us were out of town or out of reach, at any rate, of the telephone. Mr. Bloom had dinner with the gentleman, stayed with him until 10:30 that night and put him on the boat for Detroit. The chap was interested in two things: to get us (that is, the Northeastern Ohio A.A.U.) to take a stand against United States competition in the Olympic games; and entirely secondary, the matter of Owens. Judge Mahoney denied the fact that this man represented him, said that he had never sent any one and didn't know the fellow. I then talked with Mr. Bloom at length about the situation and he said that he couldn't honestly say that the fellow had said that he represented President Mahoney. When the thing was reported at Executive Committee at its next meeting, we all jumped to the conclusion that he did represent Mahoney. However, that is not the truth.

Regarding the first paragraph on Page 3, wish to say that the Executive Committee of the Northeastern Ohio Association of the A.A.U. has met three times in regard to the Owens situation - always at somebody else's instance. Knowing the facts as we do, we have considered Owens to be a victim of circumstances and offended, rather than offending against any of the provisions of the A.A.U.

In case you have to make use of any of this material, I should like to have Dan Duffy's name and Governor Davey's name kept completely out of the thing. As indicated, this is party politics and some of the newspapers would make front page stuff out of it. However, it is just plain party politics. Jesse Owens' sister went first to the local Democratic organization man; he went to Dan Duffy; Dan Duffy to the Governor who no doubt approved the thing in a routine fashion just as he would for all the pages.

Ralph W. Aigler

Page 3. COPY

October 28, 1935

I certainly believe John's letter to convey the truth, with the corrections I have seen fit to make in it.

With personal regards, I am

Very truly yours

FAR:McG

Floyd A. Rowe

BOARD IN CONTROL OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
University of Michigan
Department of Intercollegiate Athletics
Ferry Field - Ann Arbor

COPY

October 26th, 1935

Mr. Floyd A. Rowe,
Board of Education
Room 255
1380 E. 6th Street,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Floyd:

Though I would be personally very much disappointed if it were necessary to disqualify Jessie Owens because of what happened at Columbus, I would very much like to know exactly what the facts were and are.

I am inclosing copy of a letter prepared by Major Griffith which is in the nature of a report to a Conference Committee. Would you be willing to go thru this and advise me whether in your judgment it is an accurate and complete statement of the facts?

With best wishes, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

Ralph W. Aigler

RWA/asb

Incl.



Left to Right—

Front Row: Tucker Smith, Trainer; Jesse Owens, dashes, hurdles, broad jump; John Moore, mile; Cliff Smith, 880; John "Whitey" Wonsowitz, pole vault; Dominic Renda, mile; Larry Snyder, Coach.

Second Row: Fred Thomas, dashes; Inwood Smith, discus; Charles Beetham, 880; Glen Price, two mile; Frank Fowler, two mile; Bob Huffman, two mile.

Third Row: Eino Hironen, broadjump; Frank Jusek, high jump; Melvin Walker, high jump; Ed Gasdik, 440; Kenneth Seitz, hurdles; Bob Blicke, mile. George Neal, shotput; Bob Williams and Chet Henderson, pole vault, not in picture.

1935 --- TRACK --- 1935

by LARRY SNYDER, Coach

The 1935 track team was the best balanced aggregation to represent the University since 1929 when George Simpson, Dick Rockaway, "Pete" Rasmus and Joe Ujhelyi won the National Collegiate championship and the first three set four world's records. And yet it is impossible to talk about the team for at least a few paragraphs because the individual performance of Jesse Owens so overshadowed his teammates.

This light brown Cleveland, whose feet touch the track with the caress of a butterfly's wings, established eight new world records and tied another in one season. Indoors he clipped one tenth of a second from the existing mark for the 60 yards and 60 meters events, and leaped 25 feet nine inches to break his own world record.

Then working gradually into top form for the

longer distances he climaxed the Big Ten outdoor season in the Conference Championships with the most phenomenal performance of all time. Off to a perfect start in the 100 yard dash, he increased his lead with such effortless ease that no one in the stands was prepared for the announcement that he had tied the world mark of 9.4 seconds. Five timers caught him between 9.3 and 9.4, and the day was perfect.

That, however, was just the beginning. Within the next sixty minutes Jess broad jumped 26 feet eight and one quarter inches, raced 220 yards in 20.3 seconds and stepped over ten two feet six inch hurdles while running another 220 yards to break the world low hurdle mark. His time of 22.6 cut one tenth from the mark set by Jack Keller in 1932.

When these marks are recognized by the International Federation they will also be considered world records for the 200 meters and the 200 meter hurdles because 200 meters is less than 220 yards.

Lest you might be wondering how all this glory affected the youngster may I mention that he lay on the rubbing table for a half an hour after these record breaking feats crying because the team lost the Conference track championship to Michigan.

One does not plan to break records—they come when every factor is right; condition, the proper amount of nervous exhilaration, the climatic conditions, the competition, the ability to relax (to hold form) and the proper mental attitude. Every factor was right that day and Jesse became the marvel of the athletic world. His name was in head lines in every language and every country where sports are recognized.

Jesse Owens knew he could beat every sprinter, every hurdler and every broad jumper in the Big Ten. He had done so in previous trials. He was at ease, relaxed. His nervous impulses drove his glorious muscles and sliding tendons faster and faster, his heart responded with machine-like regularity, his lungs performed their function without direction from Jesse—but why? Partly of course, because he had trained faithfully, but there is another cause. Perfection of nervous system, muscles, heart and lungs are more deeply seated. Way back somewhere, generations ago, might be found the real reason why Jesse Owens can perform the way he does. Nature, through the intricacies of heredity, had endowed him with the physical and mental perfection necessary to accomplish those record breaking performances. Jesse furnished the desire, the will-to-do, and wiped the marks of 60 years of record-breaking off the books.

There was more records breaking than that done by Owens. Charlie Beetham, sophomore from Cadiz, set a new Ohio State record in the half mile event with a sparkling 1:52, the fastest 880 yards run in the United States this year by any runner. Charlie also won the Big Ten outdoor meet with a mark of 1:53.2. In the Michigan dual meet Dominic Renda, Steubenville, Junior clipped five seconds from the former Ohio Mile Record while defeating the Michigan Captain in 4:18.5. George Neal, Dayton Senior boosted his own record from 47-11 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 48-5 $\frac{1}{4}$. Melvin Walker, Toledo soph, tied the high jump record with a leap of 6 feet 5 inches. The two mile relay team with Renda, Reilly, Smith and Beetham running the four half miles tied the former mark of 7:53.5 made in 1931 by Strother, Bloor, Brown and Gus Beetham.

The Bucks were runners-up in both the indoor and outdoor Big Ten meets, finished second in the N. C. A. A. Meet in California, won the Central Collegiate championships at Marquette (on the way to the coast), won the Quad meet with Wisconsin, Chicago and Northwestern, defeated Notre Dame, Indiana, Illinois in dual meets, but lost to Michigan. Owens also won important races at Drake and during the indoor season in Madison Square Garden.

Owens' greatest performance, from the coaching angle, was at the National Collegiate Meet. He

had won four first places in his favorite events at Los Angeles against Southern California the previous Saturday afternoon. Then with five days of rest, and a 500 mile train ride to Berkley sandwiched between, he was called on to run trial heats on Friday and finals on Saturday against the best runners, jumpers and hurdlers in the country. This time there was tension . . . No certainty here that he could win easily. He had to face a strong wind both days and on that day compete against champions in every event.

In the 100 yard event Peacock and Anderson were the chief worry, but Jesse was off with the crack of the gun and won by four feet. He had leaped over 26 feet in his one trial broad jump on Friday afternoon, so there was no need to worry about that event. Forty minutes after the hundred he was again on his mark with Anderson, Draper and five others in the 220-yard dash. It was the same story. Jesse led all the way, eased a bit from the 100 to the 180 yard mark, then raced away from the approaching Anderson in the final 40 yards.

It was Glenn Hardin the "greatest low hurdler of all time" (they forgot Rockaway and Keller) who was picked to win the 220 yard low hurdle event. He didn't. Again Jesse led all the way, upsetting the dopesters, and won as he pleased with a four to five yard lead. Jesse felt so good after that that he took a broad jump for the sake of the spectators who had not seen his Friday leap. Without resting longer than it took to walk from the finish line to the broad jump pit he raced down the runway and jumped 25 and one half feet. That was the day I enjoyed most. He beat other men with 9.4 records in the 100 yard event. He beat men, not time, and that is the real test in any competition.

OHIO STATE TRACK RECORDS

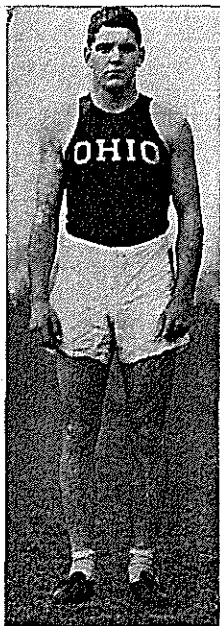
60 yard dash.....	6:1 secs.
Established by Jesse Owens in 1935. World Record.	
60 meters.....	6.6 secs.
Established by Jesse Owens in 1935. World Record.	
75 yard dash.....	7.6 secs.
Established by George Simpson in 1929.	
100 yard dash.....	9.4 secs.
World record established by George Simpson in 1929 and equalled by Jesse Owens in 1935.	
220 yard dash.....	20.3 secs.
World record established by Jesse Owens in 1935.	
70 yard low hurdles.....	7.8 secs.
Established by Jack Keller in 1931 and equalled by Jesse Owens in 1935.	
70 yard high hurdles.....	8.4 secs.
World record established by Jack Keller in 1932.	
120 yard high hurdles.....	14.0 secs.
Word Record established by Jack Keller in 1932.	
220 yard low hurdles.....	22.6 secs.
Established by Jesse Owens in 1935. World Record.	
440 yard dash.....	48.1 secs.
George Arnold in 1934.	
880 yard run.....	1:52.0
Charlie Beetham in 1935.	
One mile run.....	4:18.5
Dominic Renda in 1935.	
Two mile run.....	9:40.0
Harold Kennedy in 1925.	
Pole vault.....	13 ft. 10 in.
John Wonsowitz in 1933.	
Shot put.....	48 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.
George Neal in 1935.	

(Continued on page 72)

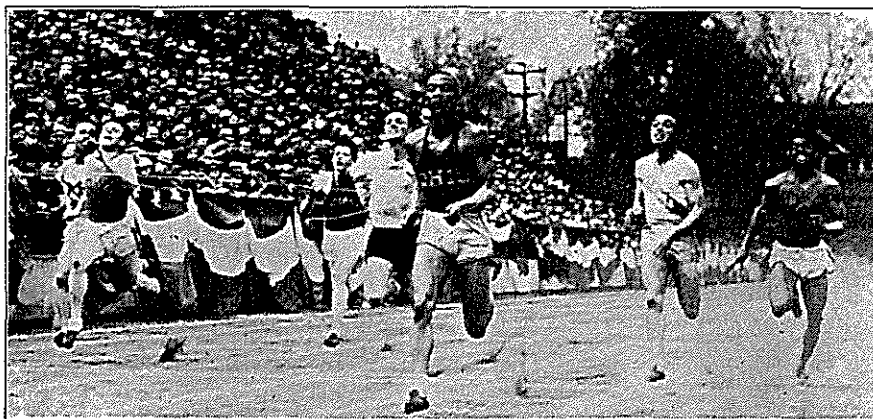
TRACK RECORDS

Continued from page 27

High jump.....	6 ft. 5 in.
Charles Anson in 1926 and equalled by Melvin Walker in 1935.	
Discus.....	159 ft. 1½ in.
Established by Peter Rasmus in 1929. World record at that time.	
Broad jump.....	26 ft. 8½ in.
Established by Jesse Owens in 1935. World record.	
Javelin.....	192 ft. 5 in.
Homer C. Smith in 1932.	
Hammer.....	154 ft. 3 in.
Ray Bunker in 1924.	
440 yard relay.....	41.8 sec.
(Kriss, Strother, Rockaway, Simpson.)	
880 yard relay.....	1:25.4
(Rockaway, Richards, Strother, Simpson) in 1930.	
1 mile relay.....	3:17.1
(Willey, Smith, Bloor, Arnold) in 1934.	
2 mile relay.....	7:52.2
(Dille, Bloor, Brown, Beetham) outdoors in 1931.	
2 mile relay.....	7:53.5
(Strother, Bloor, Brown, R. Beetham) Indoors in 1931. Equalled by (Renda, Reilly, Smith, C. Beetham) indoors in 1935.	
Medley, ¼, 220, 220, ½ mile.....	3:27.6
World record established by (Wise, Strother, Fazekas, Beetham) at Penn Relays in 1931.	
440 yard shuttle hurdle.....	1:01.8
World record established by (Pierce, Petersilge, Crooks, Rockaway) at Ohio Relays in 1929.	
4 mile relay.....	18:38.3
(Kreider, Arnold, Russell, Kilpatrick) in 1924.	



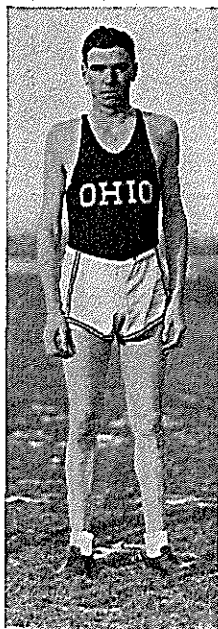
Frank Boucher



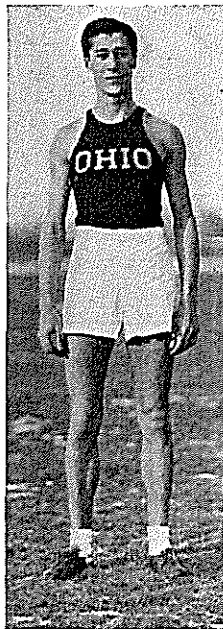
Owens winning the 100 at the Drake Relays. Time 9.5 seconds.



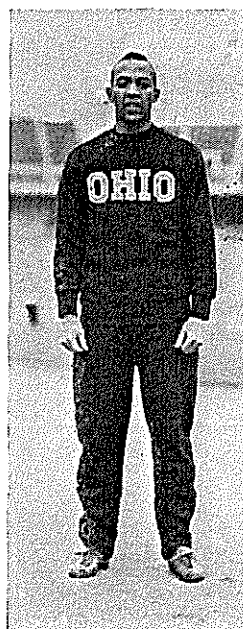
Cliff Smith, Captain



Glenn Price



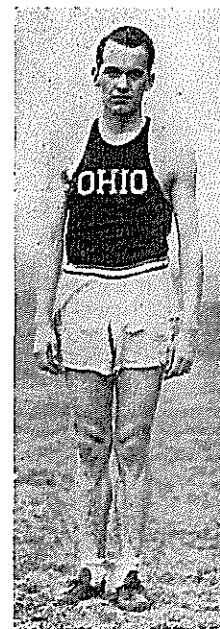
Dominic Renda



Jesse Owens, Capt. Elect
Below—"Whitey" Wonsowitz



George Neal



Bob Huffman



COPY

December 9, 1935

Mr. Gustavus T. Kirby
36 East 57 Street
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kirby:

Pursuant to our conversation of yesterday afternoon regarding the matter of Jesse Owens, wish to say that I am sending you copies of correspondence I have had regarding the matter. Just a brief history regarding the correspondence. I am a graduate of the University of Michigan, and for that reason, Ralph Aigler, who is Chairman of the Board in Control of Physical Education, wrote me under date of October 26 regarding a letter written him under date of September 3 by John L. Griffith, Commissioner of Intercollegiate Athletics. Copy of Mr. Griffith's letter to the Eligibility Committee of the Intercollegiate Conference, addressed to Professors Callen, Udegraff, and Moenkhaus, appears on top. Mr. Aigler's letter conveying this copy to me appears next, and my reply to Mr. Aigler's letter, under date of October 28, is the last exhibit.

I should be glad to have you keep all of these in your files for your own information, but must further ask that you treat them as entirely confidential, particularly names mentioned. I can give you my own personal assurance that I believe all the information contained in my letter of October 28, appearing as corrections to John Griffith's letter, are facts as I know them to be. I believe there are no mistakes in facts. If there are mistakes, they are because of the fact that I have received information which I believe to be correct. On the whole, however, I do not believe that any substantial amount of the material contained in this correspondence can be controverted.

If it would serve any good purpose, I believe that I would be willing to make the effort to appear before the committee on this matter, because I certainly do not wish to see any injustice done to Jesse Owens. He is a Cleveland boy, I have known him for eight years, and in that time I have never known Jesse Owens to do anything that really discredits him.

COPY

Mr. Gustavus T. Kirby Page 2.

December 9, 1935

Further, and confidentially, the only thing that I know about Jesse (and I don't believe this has anything to do with the situation in hand) is that his marriage last July was a forced marriage in that one of the Cleveland newspapers, finding out that he was the father of a three year old girl, secured a picture of the child and told him that unless he married the child's mother, they would publish a picture on the front page. This bit of "blackmail" was pulled off on the morning of the day that Jesse Owens ran in the A.A.U. championships at Lincoln, Nebraska - a special representative of the Cleveland paper having gone to Lincoln for that purpose.

Now you are in possession of all the facts that I have in regard to this boy, and I leave it to your judgment to use them as you see fit, with the single exception that all of the information must be anonymous, excepting that I am perfectly willing to have my name appearing as vouching for the thing.

Thanking you for this opportunity to get this information before the committee, I am

Sincerely yours

FAR:McG

Floyd A. Rowe

DOWN IN FRONT

By RICHARDS VIDMER

Copyright, 1936, New York Tribune Inc.

Glimpses of the Great

ON AN August afternoon in 1935 four colored attendants sat in the shade beside a gasoline station on Cedar Street in Cleveland. Three of them just sat. The other hummed a cheerful tune as his bright, eager eyes glanced up and down the street, on the alert for any approaching motorist.

A car came along, veered over toward the gas station and slowed down. Before it could stop, the youngster, with the snatch of melody still on his lips, jumped up and darted toward the curb. As he trotted forward there was a noticeable syncopation in his stride, rhythm as he ran.

"Yes, sir," he said, his fingers already busy with a rag on the hood of the car. "Yes, sir. What'll it be? Gas? Yes, sir."

He continued to hum as he went about the business of filling the tank, and his white teeth gleamed in a bright smile against the sepia of his skin. To the average motorist he might have been just any colored boy working in a gas station. To the driver of this particular car he was a study. He watched the lad closely and observed that there was no sign of superiority. He was cheerful, energetic, respectful as he went about his work.

He might have been just any attendant at any gas station. But he wasn't. He was, in a way, a celebrity. His name was Jesse Owens and he was a track athlete at Ohio State University. One day that spring he had broken three world's records and tied a fourth.

"Check your oil and water, sir?" he asked when the tank had been filled.

"Never mind. I came to talk with you."

"Yes, sir, just a minute," Owens replied, understanding that he was about to be interviewed, but dashing off first to attend another car that had arrived.

Figuring for the Future

AT THE time he was being charged with professionalism. When he returned and had a moment of leisure he was asked about that.

"There isn't anything to it," Owens explained. "I figure it's just a political grudge. You see, I was offered a scholarship at Ohio State but I said I'd rather have a job. So they gave me one running the elevator at the State Capitol. Then somebody got sore at the Senator who got me the job and tried to make him look bad by saying I was getting paid even when I wasn't working. That isn't true. I didn't work all the time because some days I was running in meets and couldn't. But I never got a cent for the days that I was off."

But suppose they declared he was a professional, anyway. What then?

"Well, I reckon I'd go on running the elevator and have to stop running in track meets. But I sure want to finish my course at Ohio State, whether I can run or not."

And what did he intend to do when he finished the course? Keep right on running the elevator?

"Oh, no," he replied. "I'm taking a physical education course and I stand pretty high in my class. When I finish I hope to get a job as a coach somewhere."

He filled the tank of another car and came back again. One foot on the running board, he explained how he had to make a living and coaching seemed to be a good way.

"I know I'll never get rich at it," he said as he went on about his asks, "but at least I'll get by."

Another Close-Up

AND that was in August, 1935. Just a year later—yesterday, to be exact—the Queen Mary, greatest of ocean liners, steamed into New York Harbor. She had broken the record for an Atlantic crossing and whistles were blowing as she came down the river. But some of those whistles were blowing not in recognition of the record set by the great liner but for the records set by the little brown gas station attendant of a year ago. He had won four gold medals in the Olympic games, something no one ever did before, something no one may ever do again. And he was on board.

City officials, the Mayor's representatives, and officials, too, from the City of Cleveland boarded the boat at Quarantine with hands outstretched in welcome and words of congratulation on their lips. But neither the hands nor the words were for the captain nor the officers in charge of navigation who had brought the Queen Mary across the ocean in record time. They were for Jesse Owens.

Camera men crowded about the slim, smiling youngster with wings on his flying feet. Microphones were thrust before him so that his words could be sent over the air and heard by hundreds and thousands and millions of people. Reporters gathered about, asking questions.

And the questions they asked were somewhat the same as those that were asked a year ago on Cedar Street in Cleveland. But the answers had changed a bit.

New Answers to Old Questions

"WHAT about your turning professional?" they asked, where before there had been a question of professional charges.

"I want to get the most money I can," Owens replied, where a year ago his only worry had been caused by a day's pay as an elevator operator.

"Do you intend to return to Ohio State?" they asked, where before the only question had been whether or not he could run if he returned to Ohio State.

"I want to finish my course there," Owens answered. "I've got one more year. But I can't afford to give up all the offers I've received for making a lot of money quickly." And a year ago he thought that the salary he might some day receive as a coach would be enough.

A private car was waiting to take him to Cleveland. His wife and his mother and his father were among those to welcome him home. So was Jack Dempsey. So was Bill Robinson, the pride of the colored race. A parade up Broadway in honor of the returning hero was abandoned, or rather postponed, because Jesse wanted to share it with his teammates, who will not return until September 3. On that date he will come back to New York and ride with the other Olympic athletes while cheers echo against the skyscrapers and ticker tape streams down from the windows up above.

A year has made an amazing change in his young life, but amazingly it has not changed Jesse Owens. He hears the cheers, poses for pictures, answers questions with the same cheerful, courteous manner that was his on an August afternoon in 1935. He still might be asking:

"Check your oil and water, sir?"

April 30, 1936

Mr. Floyd A. Rowe,
Board of Education,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Floyd:

Larry has just placed your letter of April 21 before me and has discussed the subject.

In the first place, the Athletic Board is making it possible for Larry to attend the Olympic Games. We are making reservation for him on the exhibition and are hopeful that he will be accompanying, therefore, several Ohio State men, who possibly may make the Olympic team.

I believe I represent Larry's attitude correctly when I say that he would not wish to say or do anything that would deprive anybody of a free trip to Europe. On the other hand, neither Larry or myself since we are interested in the success of Jesse Jones would advocate having Mr. Riley attempting to inject himself into the picture by attempting to advise or counsel Jesse Jones. It seems to me to be a rather poor excuse, because some fellow like Riley happened to have something to do with an athlete like Jesse in his Junior High School days, to try to capitalize on that to keep him in the Olympic picture. It seems to me to be a rather far-fetched idea. This is my own thought and not representing Larry.

When we had George Simpson and Jack Keller, some of the local people attempted from time to time to give Coach Stevens, of East High School, an undue amount of credit because he happened to be at East High School when these boys were coming up. Most of that sort of thing is very far-fetched. Any consideration of Riley is even more far-fetched. It would be my own personal observation that, in place of being a source of any help to Jesse, it probably would be a source of danger in up-setting Jesse to have Riley attempting in any way to ask for some of his silly ideas, as he did last summer, from which he got his name in the paper.

I consider Ed Lang a good friend of mine. I would be glad to have you place this letter of mine in confidence before Ed Lang, which will pass on to Ed my personal idea that it would be just as well to forget about the matter.

Mr. Floyd A. Rowe #2

April 30, 1936

of sending Riley to the Olympic Games, at least insofar as any connection with Jesse Owens is concerned.

I certainly appreciate your interest in this whole matter.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Ms:LF

L. A. St. John,
Director of Athletics.

May 1, 1936

Mr. Ed Bang
Sports Editor
The News
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Ed:

Attached you will find a letter from St. John, expressing his opinion in regard to the matter of Charley Riley and the possible effect of sending him to Berlin, upon Jesse Owens.

Personally I want to say that I concur in Saint's view to this extent. All the time Owens was at East Tech under a very competent coach, Riley was giving Owens advice, and criticizing his coach. The same is true now to a lesser degree. Riley severely criticized Snyder before both Owens and myself at the time of the Public Hall meet for the way in which he was handling Owens.

Without going into the relative merits of the abilities of the two men, I would say that it would be upsetting to any athlete to have two coaches trying to tell him what to do.

It was with this thought in mind that I suggested, when you mentioned the matter to me, that you let me take it up with Snyder before you made a decision.

So far as I am concerned, the entire matter is now a closed incident. You can handle it any way you want, and I will cooperate with you to the limit of my ability. I am leaving the whole thing to your good judgment, and simply saying that your decision will be final, and I will go along with you regardless of what it may be.

With personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours

FAR:McG
Attachment

Floyd A. Rowe

THE CLEVELAND NEWS

The Exclusive Evening News of the Associated Press

EDITORIAL ROOMS

May 2, 1936

Mr. L. W. St. John,
Director of Physical Education,
Ohio State University,
Columbus, O.,

My Dear Saint:--

Floyd Rowe was kind enough to send along your letter concerning Jesse Owens and Charles Riley and I read same with keen interest. I took the matter up with our editor, Earle Martin, and he agreed with me it might be a big mistake to promote funds to send Riley to Berlin with the thought in mind of having him give a helping hand to Coach Larry Snyder in prepping Owens. We only wanted to be helpful in a small way but after digesting your letter we have concluded "too many cooks might spoil the broth." Tell Larry for me the only thought behind the plan was to help him.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed F. Bang".

Sports Ed. News

BOARD OF EDUCATION

CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEPARTMENT
OF
INSTRUCTION

May 2, 1936

Mr. L. W. St. John
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Saint:

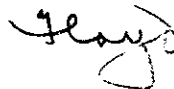
I have just had a talk with Ed Bang and read your letter to him over the telephone. I also expressed myself in regard to the situation pretty much as expressed in my letter, copy of which is attached. He was awfully decent and said that he felt that the matter had not progressed to the point where he could not stop it without injuring any one. Riley knows nothing about it, and the only people that do know it was contemplated are a few fellows around the office.

Ed told me that as soon as he received your letter and mine, he would take them to Martin, the Managing Editor, and recommend that the whole thing be dropped in the interest of Owens' peace of mind.

I told Ed that I appreciated the opportunity to express myself as frankly as I had, and asked him to keep your correspondence in confidence, which I am sure he will do. He is a top-notch newspaper man, and in the thirteen years I have known him, he has never violated a confidence.

With personal regards, and assuring you that Ed will understand your letter, I am as always

Sincerely yours



Floyd A. Rowe

FAR:McG
Attachment

May 5, 1936

Mr. Floyd A. Rowe,
Board of Education,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Floyd:

I appreciate your handling
this matter with Ed Bang and it is my judgment
that you have handled it in an excellent
manner.

Mr. Bang wrote me a nice
note, stating that they would keep out of this
matter entirely, all of which seems very
satisfactory.

Again, appreciation and thanks.

Cordially yours,

LWS:MF

L. W. St. John,
Director of Athletics.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

GEORGE W. RIGHTMIRE, *President*

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
L. W. ST. JOHN, DIRECTOR

COLUMBUS

August 20, 1936

Mr. L. W. St. John, Director
Department of Physical Education
Campus

My dear Saint:

Oscar Thomas has expressed a desire this morning to have some comment from me relative to Jesse Owens. This I am very glad to give, because I have wanted for some time to discuss his case with someone, due to the fact that I am very much interested in the boy and feel that he has a more than average future assured for him in the professional field of physical education.

Jesse, it is well known, has not submitted himself to the regular four-year curriculum in physical education due to a number of reasons, the principal one of which has been the desire on the part of his athletic advisors to keep him eligible. It has been felt that he should avoid certain of the basic sciences and perhaps some of the other courses which might be too "stiff" for him, and thus he has chosen courses up to date which held more promise for ease of accomplishment than some of these others. It has been erroneously assumed, I believe, that Jesse himself could not master these evaded courses. I believe he could have. I believe that if he had developed an enthusiastic desire to do something besides run foot-races in college, no matter how meritorious an ambition that might be, he could have succeeded satisfactorily to at least an average competency in these avoided fields.

I base my opinion on my acquaintanceship with Owens. I had him in one class this last spring, and I detected in him certain flashes of promise. He was on occasion intelligently curious to know what the subject was about, but at other times he lapsed into that state of indifference in which it was plain to be seen that his mind was on his track career and nothing else. I have talked with him personally and find him not at all resistant to ideas, and my general impression as a result of these associations is that with proper and intelligent guidance he could buckle down to the successful completion of his college work and graduate from this University with a much better record than he now has shown.

Up to date, of course, his interest has been consumed by his track career, and none of us can or would detract from the excellence of that. But because of the fact

Mr. L. W. St. John
August 20, 1936
Page 2

that he has reached the top as a magnificent runner, there is all the more reason why he should now redirect some of his energies toward reaching the top in things of greater permanence and of greater worldly value. The world has come to admire him as a beautiful and remarkable animal. He has been on display and has invariably come through. He has reached the top in athletic skill. The world, it seems to me, now is entitled to look upon him as a remarkable man as well as a remarkable psychomotor genius.

But in order to accomplish this, of course, his energies and interests will have to be carefully redirected. I feel sure that some one or more advisers should come into his life and try to stir within him a desire for scholastic attainment. I believe it can be done. I do not believe that the boy is totally resistant to such encouragement. Up to date I do not believe we have provided him with such encouragement. We have been interested largely in keeping him eligible, but beyond that we have been more or less unconcerned. The time has come, in my judgment, when we as a faculty should do what we can to fan the spark of interest into the flame which it can become, and this University in general and this department in particular can and ought to take great pride in this boy's future. It will be a sad and unfortunate commentary upon the quality of our work if he is allowed to drift into fields which are less worthwhile than that of education.

I would see no particular objection to his earning money as a professional entertainer or exhibitionist as long as there is an intense public demand for him. In other words, if he could earn several thousands of dollars in the next few months, he might very well be encouraged to earn that, with the understanding that he was to come back to this University not later than the Winter Quarter to resume his studies and to proceed as rapidly as possible to a Bachelor's and even a Master's degree. He would then be in the same position as Pat Crawford, Ethan Allen, or any other professional athlete who has had sense enough to realize that his exhibition days are short in number and who have supplemented their professional careers with sound training scholastically in the field of physical education. We might add to this picture also such men as Fesler, Larkins, and others who have turned educationally professional but who still continue their studies. I would deem it important that someone consult with Jesse, pointing out to him these specific possibilities.

At the present moment he is still in reasonably good, although somewhat doubtful standing in this University. I am sure that the Executive Committee of the College of Education will have great sympathy for his case. I would personally see to it that he was given every advantage to continue without interruption his scholastic work. I would,

Mr. L. W. St. John
August 20, 1936
Page 3

that is, contingent upon a series of conferences between Jesse and his advisors which would lead him to the point of making a serious and honest effort to redirect his energies into the educationally professional lines. To continue on as he has for the past three years would of course not interest me at all, as I do not feel that we would be doing anything more for the sake of him and all that he represents than to meet bare requirements for no other particular purpose than to say that he had earned a degree.

I hope this expression can be taken in the spirit in which it is meant, namely that of great sympathy and some understanding of the problems of the outstanding athlete as he faces his professional future.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Oberteuffer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

D. Oberteuffer
Professor of Physical Education

DO:BC

THE WEATHER

Cooler Tuesday night and
Wednesday; Wednesday
fair

Columbus Evening Dispatch

OHIO'S GREATEST HOME DAILY

Wirephotos
Associated Press
International
News Service

VOL. 66, NO. 35.

*** Telephone—MAin 1234

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1936.

22 PAGES

PRICE In Greater Columbus, One Cent
Elsewhere, Two Cents

OWENS SETS TWO MORE OLYMPIC MARKS

Jesse Owens in Berlin This Morning

Picture Rushed to City by Radio and Wirephoto



This radiophoto from Berlin shows Jesse Owens, Olympic 100-meter champion, who broke the Olympic broad jump record, this morning, with a leap of 25 feet, 4 47-64 inches, in action in a qualifying jump today. The photo was radiated from London to New York and transmitted by a (AP) Wirephoto to The Dispatch.

Buckeye Star Scores Win In Broad Jump

Previous Records In 200-Meters and Leap Fall.

HELEN STEPHENS WINS

Hardin of U. S. Team Cops 100-Meter Hurdle Title.

BERLIN, AUG. 4.—(AP)—A fresh assault on the record took, with Jesse Owens once again capturing the major share of the honors, today featured the third day of the Olympic track and field competition.

The Ohio State Negro all-around star won the broad jump title, following up his earlier triumph in the 100-meter sprint.

Owens won his second title of the eleventh Olympiad with a leap of 806 meters, 26 feet, 5 21-64 inches, shattering the previous record of 25 feet 1 1/2 inches made by Edward Hannan in the 1928 games.

The fan thunderbolt from Ohio State twice jumped one-tenth of a second from Eddie Tolson's Olympic mark of 21 1/2 seconds in the

last two stabs of the 200-meter event, and then beat the Olympic standard in the running broad jump.

Owens qualified in the morning with a leap of 21 feet, 3 1/2 inches, and then in the afternoon, on his first two tries did 25 feet, 4 47-64 inches and 25 feet, 9 27-32 inches in succession.

His first successful jump also showed the extent of Harbin's improvement, one centimeter in the metric.

Helen Stephens of Fulton, Mo., broke into the spotlight again, capturing the 100-meter championship in 1:15, beating the old mark by four-tenths of a second for the second time in two days. However, her winning time was one-tenth of a second slower than her smashing victory in yesterday's semi-final trial.

Parkard, Robinson in While all this was going on, Uncle Sam qualified all his entrants for the 200-meter semi-final. Matthew (Black) Robinson of Pasadena, Calif., and Bobby Packard of Rockford, Ill., making the grade along with Owens.

However, the Americans lost one member in the 400-meter hurdle semi-finals as Dale Schenck of Provo, Utah, was beaten for third place by Christos Mandilas of Greece in a "photo-finish." Glenn Hardin of Greenwood, Miss., won the 400-meter hurdle championship.

Taken from booklet entitled:



Aug. 17.

Dear Sam,-

Larry Snyder and Jesse Owens seem to be very much in the news. It looks now as tho they will get into N.Y. on the Queen Mary next Monday.

I am anxious to have them come directly to Columbus without getting tied up in any way with those promoters who are anxious to take Owens into the pro field. If it is best for him to go professional I think it had better be done after he has looked the matter over carefully from all angles and had the advice of his best friends.

It seems now as tho Roy Seed, a close personal friend of Larry's and mine, will go to New York to meet Larry and with the hope of bringing them directly home. Seed is a smart sound business man who is interested in Larry and in Owens too for that matter. He would like to protect and safeguard both of them.

Will it not be possible for you to get Seed onto this boat before it docks at quarantine or something-so that Seed may have a talk with Larry before those wolves get to him? If that can be done I am sure you can work it out. If other, Carr or some of these men would help if you need any help.

~~Weed will get in touch with you on his arrival in New York.~~

I am planning on a trip to Otsego Lake for the next ten days tho I am coming back to Columbus to meet Larry if that seems to be indicated.

Cordially yours,

1936

Aug. 17

Dear Roy,-

Auth told me this evening that she thought you were willing to go to New York to meet Larry on his arrival. I think that would be very desirable and a fine thing to do if you can possibly manage.

I have written a letter to Larry which I wish you could deliver to him before he gets too much tangled up with these promoters. I have also written a letter to a Mutual friend of Larry and myself-Sam R. Firestone,

Office

address-860 Madison Ave. Phone Rerent 4-6600. Residence 460 Park Ave., Phone Volunteer 6-7148. Sam is an exceptionally smart boy-a Hebrew-who ran one of the best football managers we ever had here. He went to New York on his own and has made good in a big way with one of the best real estate firms in the city. He knows his way about and will do everything possible-I feel sure-to help.

I will have this letter mailed to Sam in case you are going down and after we know when Larry is coming in.

Cordially yours,

Mon. P.M. Aug. 17

Dear Larry,-

Reporting a fairly successful trip to the coast where Ruth saw Hibs who seems to be in fair condition. Betsy seems fine.

You seem to be having a rather hectic time. I am sorry but there is no escape from a certain amount of things of that sort in this day. In spite of the cables I sent you today I anticipate that you and Jesse are coming home on the Queen Mary-arriving in New York Aug. 24. I think and hope that Roy Seed is going to meet you there and further hope that you and Jesse will come directly to Columbus with Roy.

If it seems best for Jesse to go Pro I can see no reason why he may not do so more safely after looking the thing over carefully-here- and conferring with some of us who are so deeply interested in his ultimate welfare.

I am going to Otago tomorrow-Aug. 18- but I will hold myself in readiness to come down to Columbus Wed. Aug. 26 or any day thereafter if it seems at all advisable and I can help in any way.

I have gone over all the angles of this matter with Oscar Thomas-so far as I know them and as far as it seems possible to do at this time. When you get in here -if it seems of any use I will be glad to talk to you on the phone and then come down if it seems advisable.

Bill Hunter is anxious to have our team back at L.A. again next summer. I am sure he thinks that Jesse will be on the team. If he is not that may make a difference. Jesse would certainly be a great asset and we could probably take pretty good care of him.

You might loosen up and send me some sort of word after my two cables sent to you today.

Best wishes and good luck whatever you do.

Sincerely,

WORLD'S NEWEST FASTEST HUMAN WITH ADMIRING MEMBERS

DISPATCH
AUG 25 1936
-:-

-:- OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY

Jesse Owens, the phenomenal Negro one-man track ace from Ohio State University, is back again on American soil following his sensational victories in the Berlin Olym-

pics. The all-conquering hero returned amid the welcoming cheers of thousands and the adulation of his immediate family.

Jesse is pictured below at the home of his great booster, the inimitable Bill Robinson, surrounded by his mother, father and wife. Money to replenish the waning

family bankroll is his immediate aim, avows the star of the Olympics. Evening Journal Staff Photos for International News.

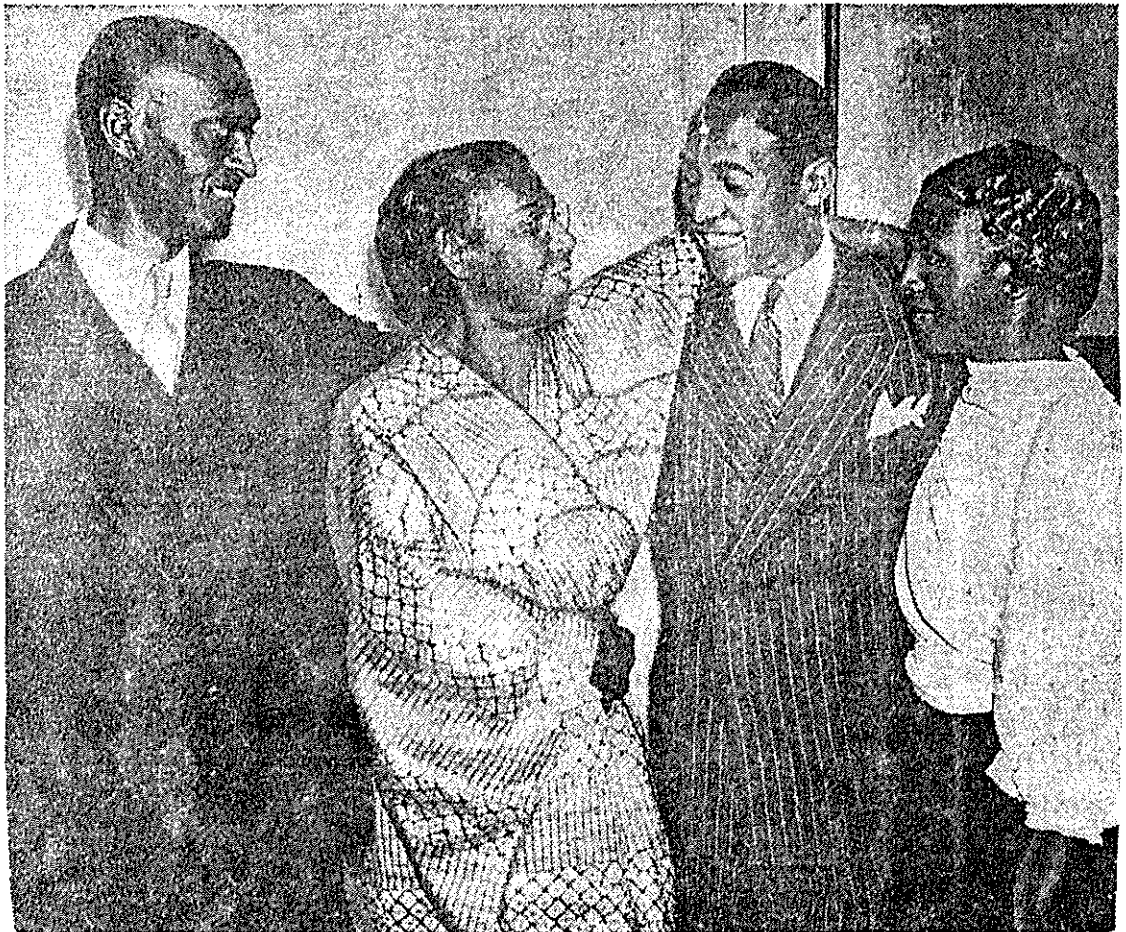


OWENS READS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES



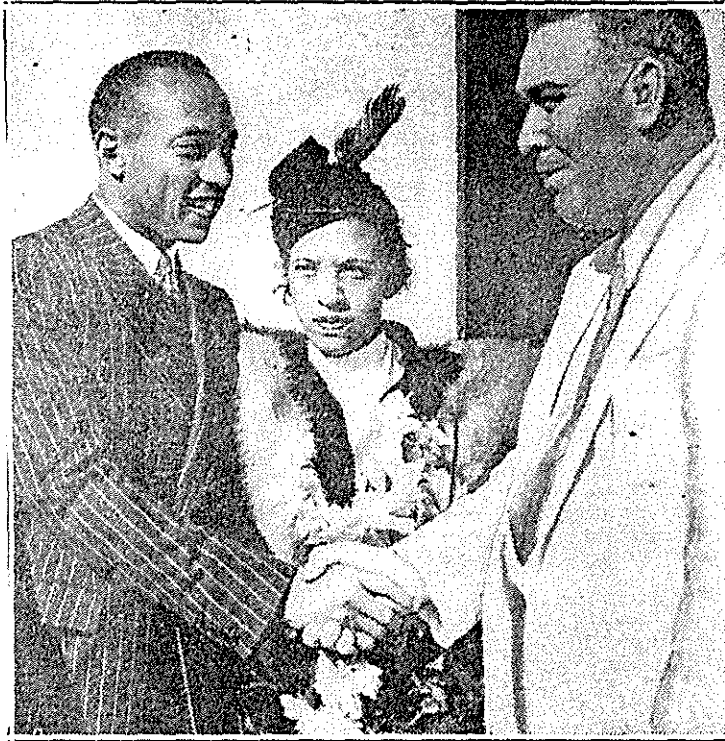
8-25-36

JESSE AND WIFE GET OFF BY THEMSELVES



FATHER, MOTHER, JESSE AND WIFE.

Lipstick Accolade for Olympic Hero



9-25-36 "DAILY MIRROR"
His pretty bride planted a resounding kiss on Jesse Owens' face, leaving a cupid's bow imprint, when star athlete arrived on the Queen Mary yesterday. Here's Jesse with his wife and Grant Ward, president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Columbus.

Jesse Owens Is at Peace With World

Olympic Hero Plans to Finish Course at Ohio State

8-25-36
By Herbert Allan

The fastest human and the fastest ship in the world arrived in a dead heat today as Jesse Owens, Olympic record-breaker, returned aboard the Queen Mary on her record run with the announcement that he intended to go back to Ohio State University for his senior year and had no plans to turn professional. The Negro sprint star, who won three individual events at Berlin and helped the 400-meter relay team set a new international mark, declined to commit himself regarding offers to capitalize his athletic feats and to join the anvil chorus in criticism of Avery Brundage, president of the A. A. U.

"As a man, Mr. Brundage is fine," said Jesse, changing his tune radically from the one he sang while abroad. "I have nothing to say against him or the A. A. U. Maybe they were justified in suspending me. I don't know about that. After all, the A. A. U. keeps us all together and we want to stay that way."

Had Enough Competition

"I simply thought I had had enough competition after four meets following the Olympics and decided to come home. So here I am. No, I didn't sign an entry blank for the Oslo meet or any other."

Jesse admitted Eddie Cantor's \$40,000 proposal for a vaudeville tour was the best he had received, but denied he had accepted it or any other. He repeated that his chief desire now was to complete his course for a physical education degree and that he hoped to get a teaching job after graduation.

He maintained he entertained no ill feeling toward Adolf Hitler.

"Hitler waved to me in the most friendly way and all the Germans were fine to me. I think it's bad taste to talk about the man of the hour in a country where you're a guest."

Met by Delegation

Jesse, bearing himself as modestly as ever, was greeted down the bay by his wife, mother and three members of Mayor LaGuardia's welcoming committee, Stanley Howe, secretary to the city's chief executive; Bill Robinson, noted Negro tap dancer, and Jack Dempsey. The delegation of handshakers, one of the largest ever to meet a sports celebrity, also included an official representing Cleveland, whither he is going tonight in a private car with his family to attend the Great Lakes Exposition and ceremonies in his honor.

He will return here Friday for the preliminary Olympic celebration when the vanguard of the team arrives on the Roosevelt and will remain for the grand fanfare on Randall's Island September 3, when the rest of the heroes are due on the Manhattan.

WINNER BRINGS WINNER HOME



MR. AND MRS. JESSE OWENS

The American speed marvel came home on a British speed marvel—the record-smashing *Queen Mary*, today, to announce he would not now turn professional and that he would complete his education.

8-25-36 *DISPATCH* Fastest Man on Fastest Ship —Queen Mary Brings Owens

*Jesse Hugs Wife and Hasn't a Word to Say
Against Hitler—or Even Brundage*

The *Queen Mary*, new mistress of the seas, docked this morning titled to fly the blue pennant symbolic of the world's fastest westward crossing of the Atlantic—

But, she couldn't fly it, because she didn't have one.

With British conservatism the ship's captain, Sir Edgar Britten, didn't arrange to have the blue pennant on hand until his ship had actually won it. Even now Sir Edgar doesn't know if the Cunard-White Star Line purchasing department will have one for the return voyage or not.

Speed of 30.01 Knots

The official time for the crossing was announced aboard the ship, as

four days, seven hours and twelve minutes. The average speed was 30.01 knots. The previous record speed, that of the French liner *Normandie*, averaged 29.64.

"Now we will have some friendly competition," Commodore Britten said: "the *Normandie* will now break our record, and then we will break hers."

To the disappointment of a large crowd that had gathered at the pier for the scheduled 8:30 docking, the *Queen Mary* did not tie up until nearly 9:30.

Commodore Britten had to wait for slack water before bringing the ship in.

The United States Coast Guard cutter which met the *Queen Mary* at Quarantine was jammed to the rails this morning when she set out.

Jesse Owens Aboard

Not only were there additional newspaper men and photographers to report the double-header arrival of the record-breaking liner and the one-man Olympic team, Jesse Owens, but there were welcoming committees on board and friends of several returning notables.

Most-flurried aboard the cutter was Mrs. Jesse Owens, who was meeting her husband.

He was hanging over the ship's

The Columbus Dispatch:

August 25, 1936

rail for a sight of his wife long before the cutter drew alongside the new pennant holder.

Dressed in an advance fall creation of black velvet and red fox, Mrs. Owens admitted she was pretty excited at the prospect of seeing her widely acclaimed husband.

Prominent in the Owens' welcoming committee were Stanley Howe, Mayor LaGuardia's secretary, representing the Mayor; Jack Dempsey and Owens' brother, Sylvester, of Cleveland.

Owens and his party reached Bill Robinson's apartment at 2588 Seventh Avenue, at 149th Street, shortly before 11 A. M. No one was there to greet them except a bevy of bluecoats assigned in mistaken anticipation of a large crowd of Harlemites.

Owens said he planned to rest all day at Robinson's home and leave for Cleveland tonight with his wife and brother, Sylvester. A big reception is planned for him in Cleveland tomorrow night.

Bill Robinson

In the crowd welcoming Owens home was Bill Robinson, famous tap dancer, who headed the Harlem delegation and who took the exercises in hand by pleading, "Gangway for Mrs. Owens," as the cutter crowd boarded.

On board, the Owensses fell into each other's arms, with Owens interrupting his kissing of his pretty wife long enough to kiss his mother and then start all over again for the cameras.

"Just one more," the photographers asked, and Owens seemed pleased to oblige.

While Owens was being interviewed on deck, Bill Robinson, hearing the chug of the tugs, invented a new "Chug-Tug" routine on the spot.

Non-Aryan Sportsmanship

"No, I have no hard feeling against the A. A. U. In fact, I haven't been notified that I was suspended," Owens said.

"I was very tired after the Olympics and the post-Olympic meets and I figured that, inasmuch as people pay to see track stars at their best, I had better stop running over there.

"Mr. Avery Brundage? Personally, he is one of the finest men I've ever met. I haven't anything to say about the Olympic Committee except that I was treated fairly.

"I do not think Hitler snubbed me—please remember that he is a very busy man."

Unwilling to discuss the \$40,000 offered to him by Eddie Cantor for a vaudeville contract, Owens said he wasn't sure of anything except that he intended returning to Ohio State, where in another year he will have a degree in physical education.

He said he hadn't tried to break the shipboard track record of Viscount Burleigh, whose speed and distance records around the deck of a Cunard White Star Line ship never have been broken.

Has An Alibi

"They were washing the decks down the night I wanted to try," he explained.

Mrs. Owens said she had met her husband at Fairmont High School, long, long ago, in Cleveland. It was, in exact time, seven years ago.

"We went together all that time—and finally married a year ago, July 5."

She said that at no time had she considered going to Berlin with her husband—"and after the way he got pushed around I'm just as glad I didn't."

Mrs. Owens laughed heartily when it was suggested he must be a hard man to keep up with.

Then the business of interviewing settled down to an inquiry into the situation at Berlin.

TRACK---1936

By LARRY SNYDER, Coach

THE 1936 star-studded Buckeye track team brought more fame to Ohio than any previous cinder aggregation although they won but one dual engagement—that an impressive 72 to 53 victory over Michigan. Indoors the Bucks lost to Indiana, Illinois and Michigan by large scores. Outdoors they were a much better team, losing by a one point margin to Notre Dame, and by six points to Wisconsin, and defeating Michigan. A glance at the final standings of the Big Ten Meet shows that the Bucks met only those teams who stood in the first five in Big Ten track strength.

In the championship meets and big relay games the Ohio lads were much more impressive. Then finished second in the Butler Relays, an indoor meet, only because Lash of Indiana caused his team to be disqualified when in the last leg of a distance relay he slipped the baton into his shirt instead of carrying it in his hand as the rules specify. Michigan finished third in that

George O'Brien, Don Spitz and Charlie Beetham win the Sprint Medley which consisted of a 440, two 220's, and an 880. Beetham came from behind in the final two hundred yards to win from Venzke of Penn and Wolf of Manhattan. Beetham also contributed the greatest half mile ever witnessed at Penn when in the final leg of the two-mile relay he came from twenty yards behind to overtake the Michigan and Manhattan anchor men and go on to win by the same distance. His time, 1:52.5, was the finest early season performance of all time. Bob Blickle, Tommy Sexton and George O'Brien were the other runners on that team. Then Dave Albritton won the high jump with a 6'5" leap with Mel Walker finishing in the runner-up position.

Indiana with 47 points won the Big Ten Meet held at Columbus before 15,000 interested fans. Ohio and Michigan were tied for second and third with 39 each.



Bottom: Albritton, Price, Williams, Pettigrew, Blickle, Seitz, Beetham, Walker.
Second Row: Obrien, Mgr. Lapp, Washburn, Squire, DeVine, Benner, Sexton, Snyder, Owens.
Third Row: Stultz, Spitz, Rabb, Sullivan, Asst. Mgr. Edelman.

race, so with Indiana disqualified they were moved to second place and the added two points enabled them to win the Relay Championships over the Bucks with a one and one-half point margin.

At the Penn Relays the Ohio lads stole the show. Jesse Owens broke Peacock's 100 meter record with a sparkling 10.5. (With George Simpson's 9.6 mark still standing as the 100 yard record at Penn, the Bucks have the dashing marks well under control at the Penn Relays.) Jesse also won the broad jump and helped

Wisconsin scored 32 and Illinois 19 points. In this meet Jesse Owens proved conclusively why he is a champion. He had already won the 100, 220 and broad jump and was tired when the 220 hurdles were called. He missed his stride to the first hurdle, took the second off the wrong foot and came in the gate with 120 yards to go, eight yards behind the fifth runner. He was completely out of the race—but, no he wasn't! Driving with all the speed at his command, he started to come.

(Continued on Page 67)

TRACK... 1936

(Continued from Page 40)

He kicked the top off the next hurdle without loss of speed or balance. He came faster and faster, stepping over hurdles as though they were shadows on the track. He was fifth, fourth, third, second and with a final drive went into the lead a yard from the tape and won the race. A champion!—Yes.

Probably the most interesting dual meet ever held brought Southern California and Ohio together in the Ohio Stadium on June 13. U. C. gave the Ohio lads a chance by agreeing to count only first places. They could have won easily in the regular three-place scoring manner, but to make the meet more thrilling and to save carrying extra men for the second and third places, the English method was used. The final score $7\frac{1}{2}$ to

Princeton. Charlie Beetham broke Hornbostle's Big Ten record in the 880. Sexton and Benner set new Ohio State records in the mile and two mile.

Football Program: November 21, 1936



Beetham

Owens

Sexton

$7\frac{1}{2}$ was ideal for all concerned. Thousands of alumni on the campus for graduation, saw a track meet for the first time, and they saw champions in profusion.

Ten of the boys in that meet represented the United States at the Olympic games. Tommy Sexton and Paul Benner, with their record breaking times of 4:18.4 and 9:37.1 in the mile and two mile respectively, gave the Bucks two points. Jesse added four, and Charlie Beetham again defeated Bush to add another in the 880, while Dave Albritton tied with Thurber of Southern California in the high jump.

When they took second place in the National Collegiate meet with 72 points, the Bucks scored 22 more points than they did to win that event in 1929. Southern California, with their collection of stars, went over the hundred mark to register the highest count ever made in this meet. Jesse Owens again won his four events; Charlie Beetham won the 880; Dave Albritton and Mel Walker tied for first in the high jump; Paul Benner was fifth in the 5,000 meter (run Olympic year instead of the two-mile event); George O'Brien was fifth in the 880 and Tommy Sexton was sixth in the 1500.

Records made this season make the Ohio World and Conference Record Holder list impressive. Owens with his four world marks in the 100, 220, 220 low hurdles, and broad jump saw Dave Albritton leap six feet, nine and three-quarters inches to gain a World mark at

THE WORLD'S GREATEST TRACK ATHLETE

By LARRY SNYDER, Coach

AUF DIE PLATZE! Fertig! Bang! Six sprinters driving from their starting holes to gain the Olympic Championship in the 100 meter dash: A Hollander, Osendarp; Stranberg of Schweden; the champion of Deutschland, Borchmeyer; Metcalf, Wykoff and Jesse Owens, U. S. A. A magnificent flag decked stadium, one hundred and ten thousand people representing every nation, the greatest array of athletes of all time, Berlin in gala attire and the eyes and ears of the world focused on what those six boys were doing.

You know that Jesse won the 100 meter by a good five feet as he tied the Olympic record of 10.3. He broke the record by five-tenths of a second in winning the 200 meter run in the Olympic and World record time of 20.7 around a curve. He won the broad jump with a leap of 26 feet 5½ inches and broke that record. Then he paced the American 400 meter relay team to a new Olympic record by giving the second American runner a seven yard lead.

A prodigious flight from the cotton fields of Alabama to the Olympic Stadium in Berlin made possible only because there was consuming desire to attain perfection in running and jumping form so that God-given nervous system could drive those beautiful arms and legs over the ground at the fastest rate ever attained by man.

Undeclared in two years of college competition there is one day's performance that stands out as the greatest of all in the history of athletics. That was at Ann Arbor in the 1935 Big Ten Championships. All week prior to that meet, Jesse was allowed to indulge in only the slightest exercise because of an injury which started in his back when he rolled down the stairs at his fraternity house while wrestling with one of the brothers. So severe was it, and so inconstant—for it traveled down the thigh and into the region back of his knee as the week wore on—that there was grave doubt that he could even compete. His reiteration, "It will be all right," and the knowledge that it had not come from a track injury was only slightly consoling. He stepped through the first heat of the 100 on Friday rather gingerly and found the injury did not bother him once he was under way. He qualified in the broad jump, 220, and 220 low hurdles that same day and left the track feeling better than when he started in the first race.

On Saturday all trace of pain was gone. The track was perfect. It was the first hot day of spring and muscles warmed easily and worked freely. The following wind was strong enough, yet not too strong to go above the three mile limit allowed for record breaking. In rapid succession he ran the 100 in 9.4; broad jumped 26 feet 8¾ inches; raced over the 220 yards in 20.3 and closed the day with a mark of 22.6 in the 220 low hurdles; three new world marks and a tie for the fourth.

In both 1935 and 1936 he won four Big Ten and four National Collegiate championships. He set an indoor world mark of 25 feet 9 inches, and new marks for both the 50 and 60 yard dashes. His 6.1 in the Indoor Big Ten meet in 1935 is his official mark for that distance but not his best mark.

After the N. C. A. A. meet in Chicago this spring, in which he set an official record of 10.2 for the 100 meters, Jesse really went to work. While he had won the same four events he still needed work to get into the condition that he had been in at Ann Arbor the year before. During the next three weeks he ran 50's and 60's, 300's and 350's until he was perfection. He ran faster than the official record for 300 yards and ran two six flat 60 yard dashes. That meant that his starting was better than ever before and that insofar as condition was concerned, he was "tops."

His victories in the 100 and broad jump at Princeton in the A. A. U. championships were easy even though the "experts" picked another runner to win the 100. The Randall's Island meet where the final tryouts were held was a mere formality as far as Jesse was concerned. He qualified for the Olympics in the 100 and 200 meters and the broad jump, going away.

He was on the boat bound for Berlin. That same colored lad from the cotton fields of Alabama was to represent his country in the Olympic Games, to spread the fame of the Ohio State University over all the world. Never, while autographing thousands of cards, books and photos, did he fail to write "Jesse Owens, Ohio State University." Three extra words every time he signed his name. And there was pride in his pen flourish and a smile as he did it. This University means more to him than most of you can realize.

Nine days on the boat with only the slightest exercise—Oh, there was a workout slipped in at La Havre, when, by a bit of strategy, Dave Albritton and Jesse were slipped out into a nearby lot to loosen those muscles that had been too long on shipboard. An official edict forbade going ashore even though the boat was tied up at the dock for 14 hours.

Berlin! The Olympic Village! A rain sodden track! Temperature better for fine football than record breaking performances with a week of training between show-ers. The opening ceremonies with 110,000 people—athletes from fifty nations; Hitler! Soldiers! Flags! the final torch-bearer arrives with the fire and touches off the flame that burns throughout the games! The Olympic Bell summons the Youth of the World! The Olympic Hymn! Artillery Salute! Releasing of the pigeons! Presenting the Olive Twig! The Olympic Oath! Der Furher departs! Milling thousands, soldiers guarding the right of way—a thrilling day—but Jesse rested at

(Continued on Page 67)

THE WORLD'S GREATEST TRACK ATHLETE

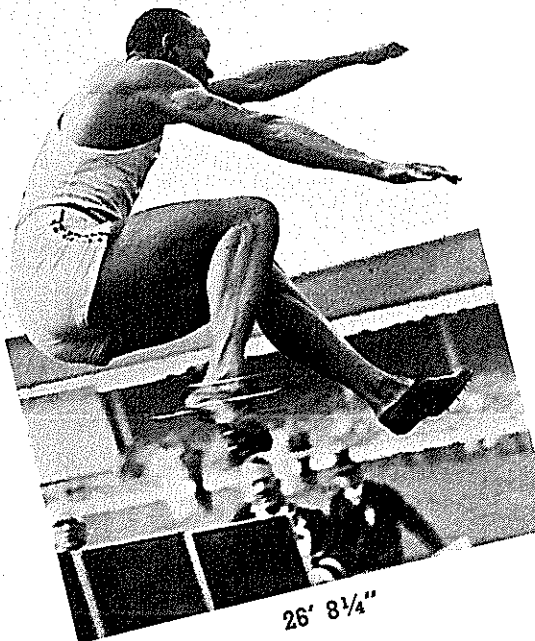
(Continued from page 25)

the Village missing all of it so that he might be ready to attain the goal he had set for himself: the winning of three Olympic Championships in the next four days.

At ten o'clock the next morning Jesse and 71 other sprinters marched through the huge gates beneath the Olympic flame and the games were on. There were twelve heats in the 100 meter, and Jesse was in the last one. Imagine his feelings! Warmed up and ready to go at 10 A. M. then forced to wait an hour and a half before he could dig his holes. He rested, warmed up, rested and warmed up, repeating this time and again as the cool wind swirled around him. Finally it was his turn. His holes were dug. The forceful, yet soothing voice of Hans Muller gave the commands. The greatest starter in the History of Track was commanding the greatest runner to: Go to his mark; get set; and then the gun cracked that sent him on his way to four Olympic Championships.

After that first race Jesse won the hearts of everyone in the Stadium. His graciousness in receiving congratulations, his flashing smile, his bowing handshake, his willingness to speak, to wave, or to pose for those amateur photographers in the front rows; no false modesty there, no boorish cockiness, only a confident, pleasant, gentlemanly college boy accepting the adulation of a sport-loving throng.

It did not go to his head. His feet stayed on the ground where they know how to perform. He is the friend of every boy who lived in the Olympic Village, the idol of hundreds of thousands of people throughout the world. He is "Jesse Owens, Ohio State University."



26' 8 1/4"



The Relay at London



Respite

THE WORLD CHAMPION



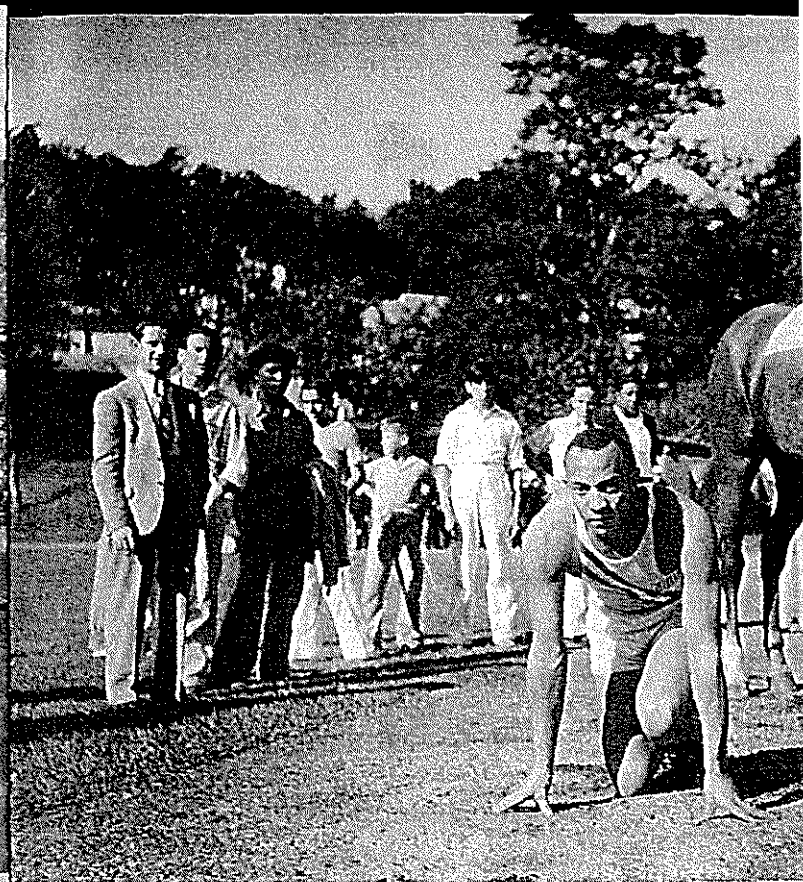
Farewell to London



Autograming



Football Program:
November 21, 1936
page 24.



In August 1936 Jesse Owens became an Olympic immortal by winning four golds at the Berlin Games. Four months later he had been banned from athletics and reduced to racing against horses. How did it come to this?

Havana, Cuba, 26 December 1936

Jesse Owens had hit the road again. He had arrived in Havana the day before, on a wet Christmas Day. The rain made him think of Ruth and Gloria, his wife and their four-year-old daughter at home in Cleveland. This was meant to be the most special Christmas of their lives. But here he was – back on the dirt.

As he neared the start he looked at his rival. Unlike Owens, who was five feet ten

and weighed a shade under 12 stone, Julio McCaw was big. He was very big. It was a racing certainty he would also be quick and strong – far quicker and stronger than any man Owens had ever beaten. That, according to Marty Forkins, Owens's irrepres- sible agent, was the point. Jesse Owens vs Julio McCaw would be the Race Of The Century.

Owens dug two holes in the cinder for his feet. In a time long before starting- blocks, he always carried the same little trowel with him wherever he ran.

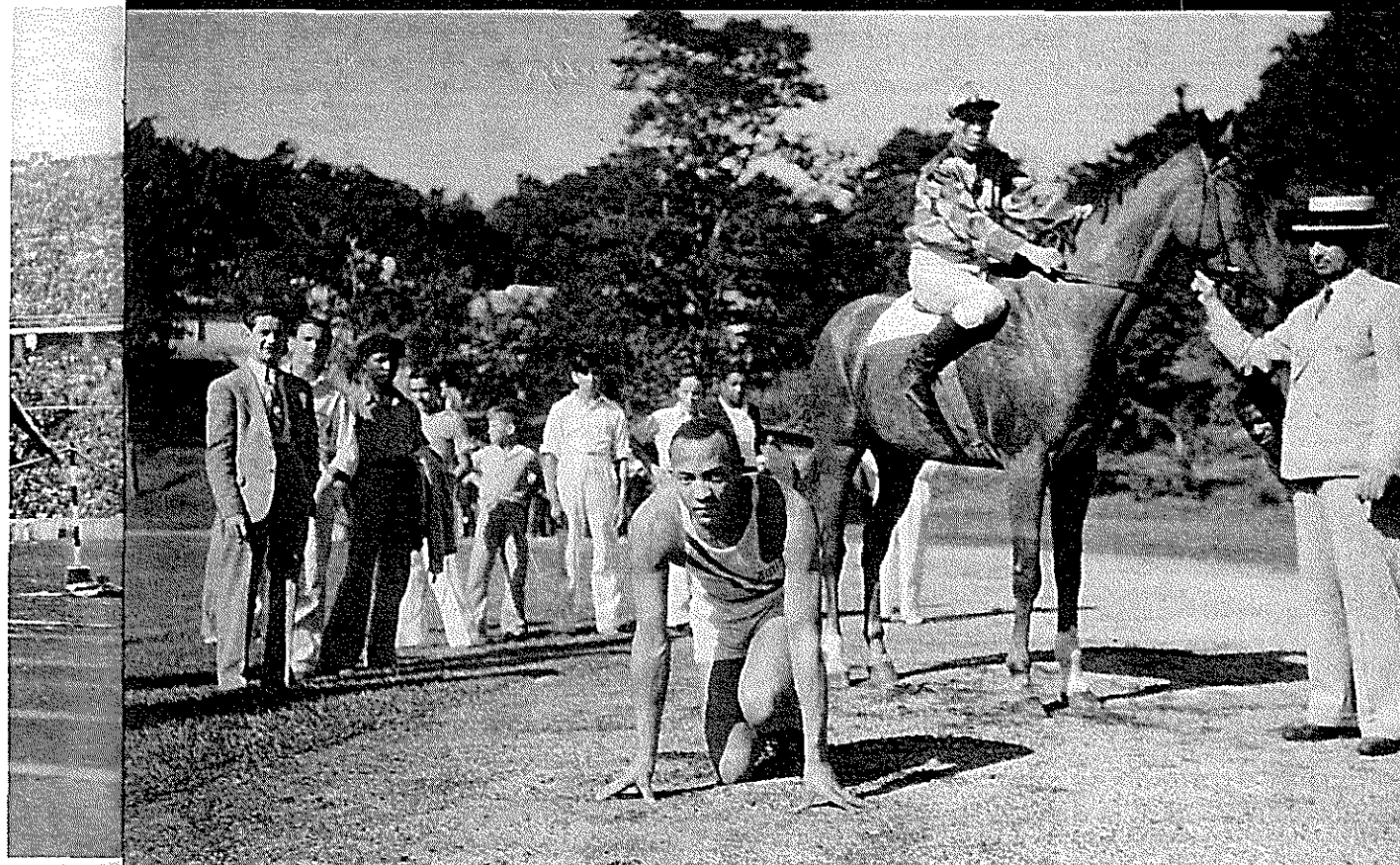
To make the race fairer, Owens was

given a 40-yard start. Also startled Julio: world's greatest ath- an even bigger responded with a ti Owens finished jus pleting the 100-yar turned to the crowd

Jesse Owens had 'Since I haven't time,' he said after ing the condition o fied with my showi: to race a horse with

Owens
ahead
h

26 December 1936:
Owens prepares to race
against Julio McCaw in
Havana. AP



By Donald McRae

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Havana, Cuba, 26 December 1936

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To make the race fairer, Owens was

given a 40-yard start. The starter's pistol also startled Julio McCaw, allowing the world's greatest athlete to sprint away into an even bigger lead. Julio McCaw responded with a tremendous burst, but Owens finished just ahead of him — completing the 100-yard dash in 9.9sec. He turned to the crowd to celebrate.

Jesse Owens had just beaten a horse. 'Since I haven't competed for a long time,' he said afterwards, 'and considering the condition of the track. I am satisfied with my showing. I would be willing to race a horse without a handicap, even

from scratch, provided the animal selected is not remarkably fast.'

Owens's last words were the most revealing. 'It sure feels good,' he sighed, 'to get out on the cinders again.'

Just four months earlier Jesse Owens had captivated the world and infuriated the Nazis by winning an unprecedented quartet of gold medals at the Berlin Olympics. Yet it had already come to this: running against a horse before a paltry crowd of 3,000 during the half-time interval of a Cuban football match.

Later, he would look back and take a

more realistic view of the humiliating charade. 'It was degrading for an Olympic champion to run against a horse,' he reflected. For Owens, however, the Havana race was far from his last bizarre stunt-run. In the ensuing years he also raced trains, cars, motorbikes, baseball players and even a dog. 'Those races made me sick,' Owens said, 'I felt like a freak.'

His involvement in every one of them reflected a simple, desperate truth for Jesse Owens as he left the track on that miserable Boxing Day.

At just 24 his career as a serious athlete was over.

Ruth Owens stares at a photograph hanging from the wall of her small study in Chicago. It shows Jesse Owens walking through the gates of the Olympic village in 1936. As he gazes back at her, his expression lost in the black frame, Jesse is forever 23 years old. Ruth is 85.

Her face creases and melts at the sight of her husband, who died of lung cancer in March 1980 at the age of 66.

'Mmmmmmm,' she eventually sighs, 'ain't he fine?' Owens made history in five remarkable days at the Berlin Olympics (see p47), establishing himself alongside Muhammad Ali, as the iconic sportsman of the twentieth century. Yet, incredibly, his final performance as an athlete came just 10 days later: during the third leg of a meaningless relay – which an American team won on 15 August 1936, at White City in London.

'That Avery Brundage feller,' Ruth recalls, 'tore a big hole inside Jesse.' Brundage had arranged a post-Olympic tour across Europe with the sole purpose of making money for the two administrations of which he was president, the American Athletic Union and US Olympic Committee.

The tour began on 10 August, the day after the track and field programme ended in Berlin. The organisers of the first meeting in Cologne told Brundage that, if Owens performed, they would increase the AAU's cut of the gate receipts from the agreed 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

The AAU brushed aside Owens' exhaustion and insisted he take part. After the long jump and the room final, he had to attend a banquet which only finished at midnight. Early the next morning he travelled alone to Prague for another exhibition.

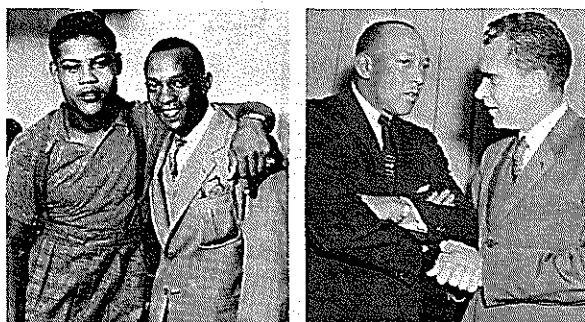
Owens had no money when he arrived at the airport, leaving a fellow passenger to buy him some milk and a sandwich. The plane was delayed and Owens finally arrived in Prague at 4.30pm. He was immediately driven to the stadium where the meeting began at six. Over the next three hours he won the room and the long jump, though with performances that barely matched his best schoolboy efforts.

The following day he flew to the German town of Bochum, eating his first meal at four o'clock that afternoon. Two hours later he equalled his own world record of 10.3sec for the room. That night he and his teammates left for England, arriving at Croydon Airport long after midnight. They were forced to sleep in an empty hangar.

Brundage was emphatic that he would never allow Owens to run competitively again as long as he remained in power. But, in 1936, Owens was unaware of the enormity of Brundage's ban. 'This suspension is very unfair,' he said. 'This track business is becoming one of the biggest rackets in the world'



1936: Ruth and Jesse Owens, and the record-breaker's nemesis, Avery Brundage. Corbis/AP



1935: Owens meets Joe Louis. 1958: With then Vice President Richard Nixon. Corbis



June 1954: Owens, now co-owner of a drive-in cleaners in Ohio, greets a customer. Corbis

Larry Snyder, Owens' college coach, claimed angrily that they were being treated like 'trained seals', while Owens himself told the *New York Times*: 'Somebody's making money somewhere. They are trying to grab all they can and we can't even buy a souvenir of the trip.'

Meanwhile, he was being bombarded with telegrams from America, each containing another lucrative offer: \$40,000 from the radio entertainer Eddie Cantor to work on his show and \$25,000 if he appeared on stage with a Californian orchestra were supposed to be just the start of a growing mountain of money.

Brundage, though, had other plans. He accepted further invitations from Sweden, Finland and Norway and insisted that Owens would spend the following week running across Scandinavia.

Owens had lost 11 pounds in weight since arriving in Europe. He had also run in eight additional races for Brundage's benefit and had grown, in his own words, 'pretty sick of running'. After the White City relay, he and Snyder refused to board the Stockholm flight. Owens, instead, would take the next boat back to America.

'Jesse's got a big chance back home,' Snyder said. 'He's got a break that comes once in a lifetime and never comes at all to a lot of people. It's tough for a coloured boy to make money, at best. What kind of friend would I be to stand in his way?'

Brundage's response was swift and brutal. He instructed the AAU secretary Daniel Ferris to announce that: 'Jesse Owens is permanently suspended from all amateur athletic competition. The suspension became automatic as soon as Owens refused to fulfil his competitive obligations.'

Brundage was emphatic that he would never allow Owens to run competitively again as long as he remained in power. Even the horse race in Havana carried the stamp of Brundage – for Owens had originally been contracted to run against Conrado Rodriguez, Cuba's leading sprinter. But once Brundage threatened to ban him from all amateur competition in America if he raced against the 'professional Owens', Rodriguez withdrew. Julio McCaw trotted into his place.

While Owens languished, Brundage's authority grew ever stronger. A former Olympic athlete himself (he competed in the 1912 decathlon) Brundage, who was then 49, had turned his construction and real-estate firm into a million-dollar business. He was as single-minded as a sports administrator – almost 40 years later he was still president of the International Olympic Committee.

But, in 1936, Owens was unaware of the enormity of Brundage's ban. 'This suspension is very unfair,' he told the *Chicago Defender*. 'All we athletes get out of this Olympic business is a view out of a train or airplane window. It gets tiresome. It really does. This track business is becoming one of the biggest rackets in the world. The AAU gets the money. It gets all the money collected in the United States and then comes over to Europe and takes half the proceeds here. A fellow desires something for himself.'



3 September 1936: Owens makes it to Broadway as New York welcomes the four-gold winner with a ticker-tape parade. AP

'It was a strange time,' Ruth Owens remembers, 'I went to New York to meet Jesse off the boat. His face was in every newspaper and everyone was his friend. We were taken to expensive restaurants and swanky hotels. But whenever Jesse looked a little deeper into each offer he saw there was nothing there. People kept telling him they were gonna do this or that for him. It was just fancy talk.'

In his 1978 autobiography, Owens admits that he was more naive than his wife. 'Ruth got a kick out of being wined and dined, too, for a couple of days anyway,' he wrote. 'But then I could tell she was starting to get edgy...[I told her] "You wouldn't believe some of the jobs these millionaires have offered me."

'She didn't say anything. I tried to persuade her to stay, but she went back [to Cleveland]. I had to stay. I had to decide which millionaire or two I wanted to work with.'

The pattern was set. As Owens was let down with one deal evaporating after another, Ruth stayed at home, looking after Gloria and, later, two more daughters, Beverly and Marlene. For the next 16 years Owens searched for both a steady income and a destiny more befitting his status as an Olympic champion. He found neither, and instead was forced onto the exhibition circuit. Amid the horses and trains he also once ran against Joe Louis. The world heavyweight champion was no sprinter, so Owens pretended to trip so the heavy-legged fighter could beat the 'world's fastest man'.

'It was a terrible time for him,' remembers Marlene Owens Rankin, his youngest daughter. 'They took away his career. They took away his life. Today, it would be the same as administrators telling Tiger Woods his career is over. Can you imagine how Tiger would feel, and how the rest of the world would

react, if he was told at 24 he could never hit another golf ball again in serious competition?'

'It took some real mental gymnastics for Jesse to rationalise this awful truth. It seems ridiculous now when you consider the multi-million deals that await any athlete who wins the Olympic 100m gold. But America was very different in 1936.'

'On the one hand Jesse was being touted as this legend who had beaten Hitler. Yet he was continually reminded he was not so special. He was still black.'

In May 1939, Owens filed for bankruptcy. His laundry business - The Jesse Owens Dry Cleaning Company, which boasted a 'Speedy Seven Hour Service By The World's Fastest Runner' - had collapsed.

The following January, he accepted a position as a salesman with the Lyons Tailoring Company who hired him 'because of his popularity among the negro population'. Cleveland newspaper adverts fea-

tured Jesse in a 'dazzling three-piece suit' as he crouched in the sprinter's traditional starting pose. 'Come in and shake hands with the greatest athlete of all time,' the caption read. 'Jesse will be glad to show you the newest and smartest spring patterns and colors in fine imported and domestic fashions.'

Owens was not the best salesman in the world - or even Cleveland. His contract was terminated after six weeks. 'He spent too much time observing people,' his boss complained. 'Whenever a pretty girl passed the store he ran down the street after her.'

Despite his lack of involvement in serious athletics, Owens remained a phenomenal sportsman. In September 1950, just days after he turned 37, Owens completed the 100-yard dash in 9.7sec during a Milwaukee exhibition. The slender Owens was out the holes like a flash, 'one reporter wrote, "floating over the terrain like a feather. He was breathing easy at the finish."

Jesse Owens' post-Olympic life was a maze of contradictions. Beyond the stunts he had a dazzling variety of jobs – from nightclub entertainer and motivational speaker to director of the Illinois Youth Commission and 'international sports ambassador' for the American government. He survived a \$114,000 debt and endless tax problems while always managing to sustain a comfortable middle-class existence.

His life was not tragic, yet it was marked by paradox and pain. And despite his symbolic role against Nazism, Owens was never free from racism himself. A few months before leaving for the Olympics in 1936 he and his best friend, the high-jumper Dave Albritton, had travelled across America with Ohio State University's athletic squad. On their return from an indoor meeting they stopped for a meal in Richmond, Indiana. While their white friends found seats around the empty tables, Owens, Albritton and another black athlete were blocked at the entrance.

The restaurant manager grunted: 'White folk only...' Albritton stepped towards him with clenched fists. 'Now then, Papa,' Owens said to Albritton, 'take it easy.'

Two months later, on another dark trip to Indianapolis, they were forbidden to drive into a roadside cafe. They had to wait outside in a parked car. When their white team-mates finally brought Albritton and Owens their chicken sandwiches, the proprietor rushed out. His arms pumped comically in time to his rant: 'We don't feed no niggers here.' Owens had to again restrain his friend.

'Jesse,' his wife suggests, 'was not a bitter man. He liked moving ahead with life. He was gearing up for the Olympics – and nothing was going to stop him.'

That prejudice was the underlying reason for the abrupt end of his athletic stardom. But his politically loaded Olympic victory also explains why he is still a greater icon than Carl Lewis – who matched his gold medal haul at the 1984 Games.

Lewis avoided Owens's fate. He had a long, seriously competitive and highly lucrative career. He did not have to race horses. He did not have to run against Mike Tyson. He did not have to move into the laundry business or work in a suit store. Lewis became a different kind of salesman. He made commercials for fast cars and rubber tyres. He marketed himself ceaselessly. Lewis became very rich – and unpopular.

His sleek confidence 'reeked of arrogance'. In *Newsweek* he was described as 'a master self-promoter... a fabled loner... with a whining attitude'. The damning assessment concluded that 'mere records do not make legends'.

But if Owens is blessed with eternal popularity it came at a high price, and not just for him. For while Owens was devastated, his family were also affected in the bleak aftermath of his Berlin triumph – Ruth most of all.

'My mother had to be very strong,' Gloria Hemphill says. 'It was lonely. I know this because I was the oldest daughter by six years. I would sit by her bed at night

JESSE OWENS v CARL LEWIS Lewis matched Owens for medals, but otherwise there was little similarity. Jesse worked in a suit store, but Carl Lewis



and talk to her for hours. I was her only company.'

There is something almost unbearably moving about the way in which Ruth and her three daughters – 68-year-old Gloria, 62-year-old Beverly and 61-year-old Marlene – now remember Jesse. But if his

autobiography is a slim account of a huge life (it even ignores the Brundage ban) Owens wrote of himself as a husband and a father in blunt terms.

'One way to cut through the painful periods of absence, to re-establish the intimacy at once,' he confessed, 'was to walk

in with diamond bracelets for Ruth and exotic dolls for the girls from foreign lands. But intimacy takes time. And my time had been taken up making money that I spent to try and regain the intimacy I'd once known with my family without the money.



Ruth Owens with her daughters, from left, Marlene Rankin, Beverly Prather and Gloria Hemphill. Photograph by Peter Thompson

a different kind of salesman, marketing himself ceaselessly. Lewis became both rich and unpopular. Jesse became an icon



'I saw it happening and I struggled to change it, to break the bonds that held me away from home week after week, month after month, and reunite with the four human beings that mattered most to me. Like a man caught in quicksand, the harder I struggled the deeper I sank.'

Owens recalled racing to be home in time for his 43rd birthday in 1956 having again been away for weeks. 'I'll be there in time to kiss the little one goodnight before she goes to sleep,' I thought. But the little one was no longer little.

'That night, not only was my baby, Marlene, too old to be told any bedtime stories by her father because she had an important date but Gloria, my oldest, had to rush out for a civil rights meeting which she was into long before it was fashionable.' Owens thought of Beverly, his middle daughter, as 'outgoing and impulsive like me'. But, that night, he was shocked by an '18 year-old's bold determination' as she announced the news of her impending marriage.

'We always joked about dad being old-fashioned,' Marlene recalls. 'He was a real patriarch who thought his daughters should be dignified young ladies. He came from a conservative generation. We were obviously from a different era – and we wanted to lead our own lives.' A few days after those bitter-sweet birthday revelations, Owens decided to curb his previously elusive restlessness. He told Ruth he would give up the road, and 'for the first time, really, I would be a full-time husband and father'. Her response was to 'sob with relief'.

Looking back, Ruth is wistfully philosophical. 'Jesse was always on the move, trying to earn a living and find the magic he had on the track. Jesse was crazy about running. When that got taken away it was a shock to his system. But things got easier – and our last years in Arizona were especially fine. See, Jesse never spoke about racing horses or anything. It was like he could forget some of the bad times.'

His daughters place Owens's life in a more political context. 'Well,' Beverly says, 'we were just kids when he was away such a lot. He was just our dad and that's what he did. But now we know he had little choice.'

'People rightly celebrate Jesse's achievements in 1936 as a victory over Hitler,' Gloria argues. 'But there was a bunch of Nazis in American athletics. Avery Brundage just wouldn't accept that Jesse, a black man, could show defiance.' Owens initially concealed his feelings – leading to mistaken accusations from younger athletes that he was an 'Uncle Tom'. 'It was only when we became adults that he spoke more openly about his experiences,' Marlene stresses. 'We saw his anger then. He was such a patriot – but he'd encountered racism all his life.'

When Jesse Owens died, people from all over America sent money to his family. 'These were just ordinary people who had been touched by him,' Marlene recalls. 'This was their way of showing their love and respect for him. We

opened a fund which soon reached \$6,000. Gloria, Beverly and I, with our family and friends, asked: "What are we going to do with this money?" It did not take long to decide. We set up the Jesse Owens Foundation.'

As the Foundation's executive director, Marlene and her sisters have spent the past 20 years working in his name to help children overcome adversity. 'We offer scholarships to around 38 students a year across America. Apart from giving money to help them complete their education we remind them of everything Jesse had to overcome. Sixty-four years may have passed but they still feel an empathy with him.'

'These are just average kids, who have limited opportunities. But our success rate is 97 per cent in helping these kids graduate. We've got this almost perfect record at the Foundation because we specifically help those disadvantaged young people who have the inner strength. It's been quite a journey. And it's not over. It's still a battle to get corporations working with us. And, sure, when you're fund-raising it's hard to stay detached.'

Marlene looks away for a moment, her gaze finally resting on a photograph of Jesse Owens racing across the Olympic track. 'Sometimes,' she says, 'when rejection happens, it feels personal. It feels like they're rejecting my dad.'

Contributions can be sent to the Jesse Owens Foundation, 401 N Michigan Avenue, Suite #290, Chicago, Illinois 60611, US.

The OSM lowdown on... Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics

How did Jesse Owens and the rest of the US team get to Germany? By boat. The SS Manhattan took nine days and nights to cross the Atlantic in July 1936. Owens was winner of the ship's Best Dressed Person award.

Was there an Olympic village? Yes – 160 spacious homes edged a beautiful birch forest. Each athlete had a double room with its own private amenities. A translator and a cook specialising in that country's cuisine were assigned to each team. Owens loved the fact he could eat, 'steak, and plenty of it, as well as bacon, eggs, ham, fruits and juices'.

Did he socialise much? He seems to have done. On July 25, his second day in Berlin, he 'met many people from strange lands and most of them could speak English'.

Who did he like most of all? The Aussies. After 'a bull session with some of their boys' he wrote admiringly: 'What liars they are!'

Which was his first gold? The 100m. 'When I lined up in my lane for the finals of the 100 metres,' he later wrote, 'I saw the finish line, and knew that 10 seconds would climax the work of eight years. So, why worry about Hitler?'

Did he win easily? He cruised into a big lead after 30 metres, and though another black American, Ralph Metcalfe, put in a searing finish Owens won by two metres. The ensuing awards ceremony was the 'happiest moment of my life'.

And the second gold? The long jump. It developed into a struggle between him and the German Lutz Long. In the end Owens won easily and set a new world record with his last jump.



26ft 5in. It would only be bettered as an Olympic mark 24 years later, at the 1960 Games in Rome. As one writer put it, Owens 'seemed to be jumping clear out of Germany'. At the end of the two jumpers, above, embraced to rapturous acclaim and were still arm-in-arm when they disappeared down the tunnel.

So there were some enlightened people watching Owens triumph? Some, but not many. The American novelist Thomas Wolfe was then a journalist in Berlin and watched Owens win gold in the 200m (another world record) a couple of days later. 'Owens was black as tar, but what the hell,' he wrote. 'It was our team and I thought he was wonderful.'

And the fourth gold medal? In the 4x100m relay.

Another world record? Of course.



TRACK COACH LARRY SNYDER, TONY AQUILA AND JESSE OWENS
Birthday party for Tony planned for Feb. 25

Sunday, August 7, 1928

No Foolin'!

It may interest you to know that Jesse Owens has no regrets over turning professional and that he is well satisfied with the money he is earning.

I had that straight from Jesse as we talked of this and that Thursday when he was in Madison to give an exhibition at Breese Stevens field.

Jesse turned professional following the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin where he won the 100 and 200 meter sprints and the broad jump and anchored America's victorious 400 meter sprint relay team.

He was a junior at the time at Ohio State university and only 22 years old. He already was married, and he now has two children.

"I don't often talk about the money I am making," said Owens. "Most of the time it's just idle curiosity that prompts people to ask. But I read your Wednesday's column, and I know that you have more than a passing interest.

"I'll talk very frankly to you, and if there's anything you can use you're more than welcome.

"Here's the way I look at it," he said seriously.

"Money is the medium by which we make our way, the medium by which we can give our families the advantages we would like for them to have. My best chance to make money in a hurry was to turn professional.

"I am married; I have two children, and I felt that I owed it to them to provide what measure of security I could. So I turned professional, and I would do it again.

"Maybe the money I have made wouldn't seem like a lot to most people, but it has been enough for me to open a cleaning business that has prospered and to build up a fund that will assure my family of a modest annual income," he revealed.

The conversation turned to the 1936 Olympic Games. Owens' face lit up as he talked of that time.

"It was wonderful," he said. "The people over there couldn't have been nicer to me. It was the inspiration of those crowds and the thrill of wearing the United States shield that helped me accomplish what I did."

Did Jesse get tired of barnstorming?

"Well, that's a funny thing," he said. "I haven't yet. I guess I always had some wanderlust in me, and it's been a pleasure to get around the country.

"I am booked pretty solid for the next few weeks," he said, "and I may be glad of a rest when that's over.

"Ordinarily I run three or four times a week and average about \$400 a week, but when I am booked as solid as I am at present I make about \$750 a week.

"I feel pretty good over that. Speaking frankly, my being a colored person limits my opportunities somewhat," he pointed out.

The writer offered the opinion that Jesse's being colored was far less of a handicap to his making money out of his athletic talents than was the fact that track never has been a sport that made money for professionals.

He agreed. "Yes," he said, "I guess I'm the only track man who ever made any money out of turning professional. The people have been kind to me, and I appreciate it."

It's easy to see why Jesse packs them in. He's the same affable young man he was at Ohio State; he's still anxious to please, still willing to do anything he can to help a performance.

Madison fans found that out Thursday night. Owens never had tried circling the bases, but he agreed to try it here because spectators had looked forward to seeing him try his speed at that against Joe Hady, Madison's fleet little centerfielder.

Again, in the race where he stepped off the 120-yard low hurdles, midway through he felt an old muscle catch in the leg, but he finished out the event and had a big grin for the crowd at the finish.

He had to slow down over the last half of that race and he was anxious that the people knew he did this only because he had that leg injury.

"When people pay to see me run they are entitled to my best efforts," he explained, "and I don't want them to feel that I was only going through the motions."

The crowd got a big kick out of Owens' performance. He's still as smooth as silk in his running, still a perfectly trained athlete.

There may never be another track athlete to equal Owens. Certainly there hasn't been his equal to date. And it's nice that this affable, intelligent young gentleman of color is doing himself some good financially.



JESSE OWENS
... best chance ...

Board of Trustees

11-20-'50

That Faculty Rule 65A be amended to read as follows:

A. Members ex officio. Twenty ex officio members as follows: the President, the Vice Presidents, the Secretary of the University Faculty, the Dean of the Graduate School, the Deans of the Colleges, the Director of the Twilight School, the Professor of Military Science and Tactics, the Professor of Air Science, and the Professor of Naval Science and Tactics.

That Faculty Rule 166 be amended as follows:

A. There be added to the classifications now existing with respect to partial exemption from fees, an additional one reading as follows: Professional librarians of the University Library staff who are registered in the Graduate School.

B. The new classification to be numbered "2" with existing classifications "2" through "6" renumbered "3" through "7."

C. The paragraph now numbered "7" to be retained, but without numbering.

That the following gifts be accepted and the appreciation of the Board of Trustees be appropriately expressed:

From the Development Fund

\$5,000 for the Jesse Owens Scholarship Fund, as follows:

The Jesse Owens Scholarship Fund

Established October 26, 1950 by a gift through the Development Fund from W. B. Calkins, GPH '98 in honor of Jesse Owens, University and Olympic track star. The principal is to be invested in accordance with Section 4861-10 G. C., the income to be used for scholarships awarded by the University Scholarship Committee to students who qualify under University rules. Should the need for scholarships cease to exist, or so diminish as to create unused income, then the Board of Trustees in its discretion may use said income for any purpose.

\$1,500 for the Robert W. Terry Memorial Fund, as follows:

The Robert W. Terry Memorial Fund

Established October 26, 1950 by a gift through the Development Fund from Mrs. H. Sue Terry, widow of the late Robert W. Terry, as a memorial to him. The principal is to be invested in accordance with Section 4861-10 G. C., the income to be used in the same manner and according to the same regulations as prescribed for the Ohio Poultry Fund.

\$11.24 for the Alumni Endowment Fund.

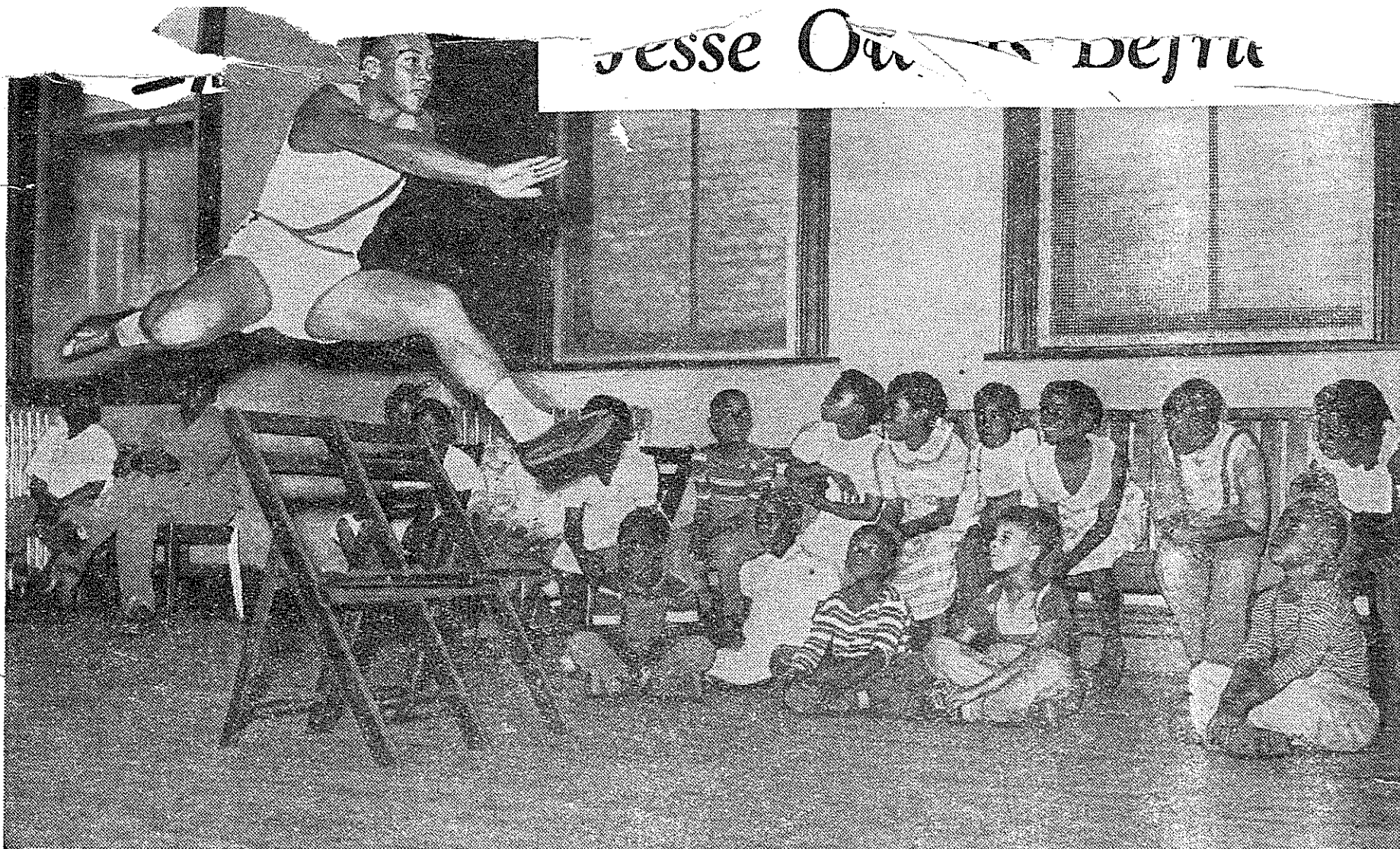
From other sources

\$2,250 from the American Council of Learned Societies, to be credited to American Council of Learned Societies Rotary 11015;

\$750 from the Ohio Tuberculosis and Health Association, Columbus, Ohio, to be credited to Ohio Tuberculosis and Health Association—Prior—Rotary 11578;

\$500 from the Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D. C., to be credited to American Wildlife Institute Rotary 11025;

Jesse Owens



JESSE OWENS, friend of poverty-stricken youngsters, displays hurdling skill for South Side Boys Club members and other neighborhood children. Because he was helped to fame by many who befriended him, Owens feels that he owes it to children to help them.



'ER, 5, of 3953 gets first-hand information as Jesse Owens discusses program to help ne youngsters with Owens, who is

field and Olympics here.

14, 1952

By Wendell Smith

JESSE OWENS, THE GREATEST speedster of the past 50 years, is making rapid strides in his race against juvenile delinquency.

As a member of the board of directors of the South Side Boys' Club, the ex-Olympics sprinter is helping hundreds of poverty-pinched boys and girls to get a flying start on the road leading to good citizenship.

The obstacles with which he is confronted seem insurmountable at times, but Jesse has managed to hurdle most of them with the same ease he exhibited 16 years ago when he won three Olympics events and set two world records at Berlin stadium.

* * *

HUNDREDS OF YOUNGSTERS, MOST of them from broken homes, call upon the ex-track star for help and inspiration.

Jesse, who never paid much attention to



WILLIAM McCURINS, director of South Side Boys' Club, discusses program to help ne youngsters with Owens, who is

Needy Boys



THIS PICTURE, taken at 1936 Olympics, shows Owens as he shattered broad jump mark. He won three Olympics events and set two world records at games.

time as he broke record after record during his brilliant career, always seems to have time now to devote to these frustrated youths.

The stop watch being symbolic of track, the 39-year-old Owens uses the two words as guides in his work at the Boys' Club. He says:

"There wouldn't be so many juvenile problems today if we adults would just take time to stop and watch our youngsters.

"If you stop and watch your kids for awhile, you'll find out a lot of good things about them.

"Just give the kids a little more attention and you'll find that you'll have fewer problems and troubles."

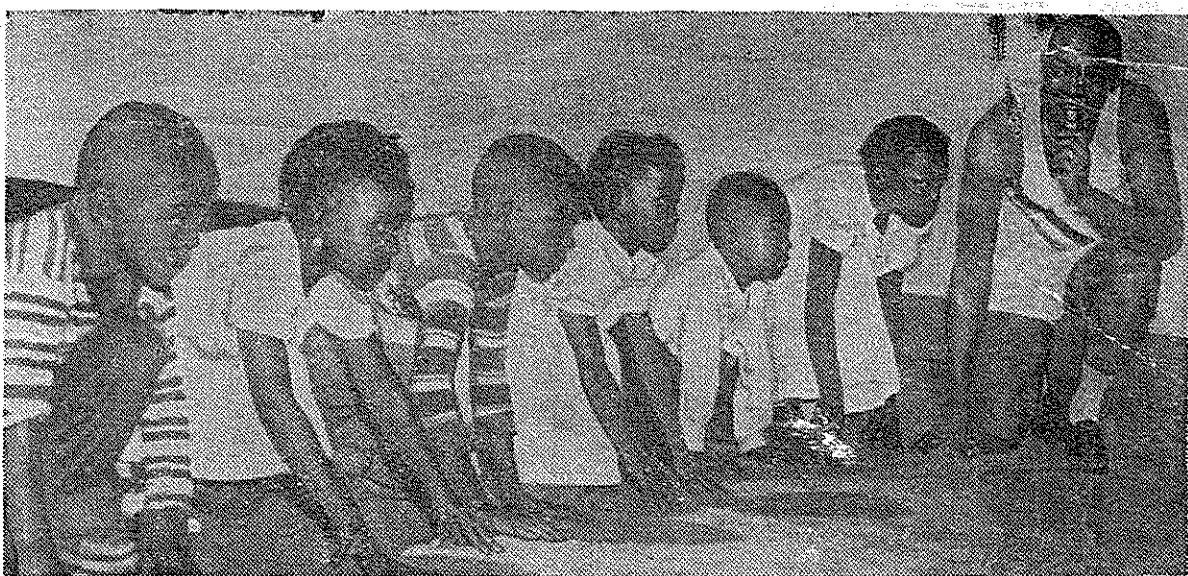
* * *

NOW A SUCCESS IN THE INSURANCE business, he believes his volunteer work at the Boys' Club is going to pay big dividends eventually. In his own words:

"No one ever got any place without help, rich or poor. I became famous because many people helped me.

"That's why I decided it was my turn to help kids. I think I can help a lot of them."

Jesse has a growing family of his own to care for. He has three daughters: Gloria 20, a senior at Ohio State, her dad's alma mater; Beverly, 15, and Marlene, 13.



GETTING early start in their hero's sport, track, eager youngsters line up for race as Jesse Owens prepares to blow starting whistle.
(Herald-American Photos by Arnold Tolchin.)



Dispatch Photo

Jesse Owens, Left, Coach Larry Snyder Meet Again In Ohio Stadium
Former OSU Track Star Received Special Recognition On 'Day Of Champions' Oct. 5, 1952

NOV 18 1952

Bio on Jesse Owens - E d w 11/137

38 years old. Married, one grown daughter. Hometown, Cleveland, where he graduated from East Tech High School. Attended Ohio State University. Now lives in Chicago, where he is managing director of three hotels, is active in the South Side Boys' club.

Participated in track at Ohio State, where he competed in dashes, hurdles and jumps. Is a four goldmedal winner of the 1936 Olympics, was selected as the top track athlete of the first half-century by sports editors and radio editors in the nation in 1950.

His biggest day in Big Ten competition came on May 25, 1935, when he took the field for Ohio State in a meet with Michigan at Ann Arbor. In the space of an hour he:

won the 100-yard dash in 9.4 seconds, tying the world record.

cleared 26 feet, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in the broad jump, to set a new world's record (it still stands)

set a world's record in the 220-yard dash (20.3 seconds)

set a world's record in the 220-yard low hurdles (22.6 seconds)

set a world's record in the 200-meter dash

set a world's record in the 220-meter low hurdles

The following year he went to the 1936 Olympics on the American team. The trial heats for the 200 meters event and the broad jump were held at the same time. He qualified for the 200-meters, then immediately went to the jumping pits where he qualified for the broad jump.

In the Olympic finals he set new world records in the 200-meters dash and the broad jump. (20.7 seconds for the 200-meters; 26 feet, 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ inches for the broad jump) He also ran the 100-meter dash in 10.3 seconds, to get a third gold medal, won his fourth running a leg on the 400-meters relay team.

Adolf Hitler, who believed Negroes were inferior, walked out of his Olympic box, rather than greet Owens. Fifteen years later, in September, 1951,

John Mitchell

65,000 Berliners, who were attending an exhibition game of basketball between Negro teams, stood and cheered lustily as Owens was introduced to the crowd.

Said the Mayor of Berlin: "Hitler would not greet you - I take you by both hands."

Following his departure from the University, Owens managed and operated a semi-pro baseball team; ran professionally for a short time; worked as a public relations man for the Ford Motor Company. During the war, he worked with the Office of Civilian Defense, was appointed National Director of Physical Fitness for Negroes. After the war he was a sporting goods salesman in Chicago, did radio announcing.

In 1950, he was named to the the 50-year ALL STAR Big Ten track and field squad, honoring the top Western Conference champions of the Big Ten's first 50 years.

NOV 63

60 - Daughter Marlene elected Homecoming Queen

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

of

65 - Citizenship Award - Nominations

JESSE OWENS

Jesse Owens is considered by many sports experts to be the greatest track and field star of the half century.

He is a resident of Chicago, Illinois, where he devotes much of his time to underprivileged youth, as a board member and former director of the Chicago Boys' Club, an organization serving 1,500 youngsters. He was for five and a half years the Sports Specialist of the Illinois Youth Commission.

The former Olympic star is currently making public appearances and speaking engagements before youth groups, civic meetings, P.T.A.'s, sports banquets and giving commencement addresses for schools and colleges throughout the country.

He is now a partner of OWENS-WEST ASSOCIATES, a Public Relations and Consultant firm, which operates a Consumer Market and Research Service.

In 1955 the U. S. State Department delegated Owens as America's "Ambassador of Sports" and sent him on a two month good-will tour of the Far East. The following year he went to Australia as one of the personal representatives of President Eisenhower at the 16th Olympiad.

Owens' athletic career began in 1928 at Cleveland, Ohio, where he set new world records for junior high schools by jumping 6 feet even in the high jump, and 22 feet 11-3/4 inches in the broad jump.

During his high school days in Cleveland, Owens won all of the major track events, including the State championship for three consecutive years. At the National Inter-scholastic School meet in Chicago, during his senior year, he set a new world record for high schools by

running the 100 in 9.4 seconds to tie the accepted world record, and he created a world record in the 220-yard dash running it in 20.7 seconds. A week earlier he had set a new world record in the broad jump by jumping 24 feet 11-3/4 inches.

During his freshman year at Ohio State University, Owens set a world record in the 60 meters at 6.2 seconds and created a new record of 6.1 seconds in the 60-yard dash.

As a sophomore, he had the distinction of being the only track and field athlete in history to set three world records and to tie the fourth in a single track meet. He ran the 100-yards at 9.4 seconds to tie the world's record and set world's records in the 220 at 20.2 seconds, the 220 low hurdles at 22.6 seconds and the broad jump at 26 feet 8-1/4 inches.

At the 1936 Olympic games held in Berlin, Germany, Owens gained international distinction with a dramatic victory that set new Olympic records, by winning individual titles in the 100-meters, 200-meters and broad jump, and running on the victorious relay team.

Today, more than 25 years later, the same Jesse Owens continues in the front ranks of athletes, and was acclaimed in 1960 "The Champion of the Century". He has gained respect and honor, not only for his achievements as an athlete of unparalleled skill and ability, but also because of his many and varied activities in community services.

His experience with youth all over the world has brought into sharp focus for him the needs and problems of young people everywhere. His major concern is doing his full share to make available better and more complete educational opportunities for all youth. To this end, "The Jesse Owens' Educational Foundation" was established.

Jesse Owens Edu-W-37

May 13, 1965

NOTED BY ALB

Mr. John B. Fullen
The Ohio State University Association
Office of the Secretary
Columbus, Ohio

BY WHOM.....

Dear Mr. Fullen:

Your letter of May 6th has just been handed to me by Mr. Jesse Owens. He asked me to give you some facts in regard to the various, citations and awards as well as trips he has made recently.

In January 1960 he was given the following Awards and Citations:

"Track Man of the Century" by the Touch Down Club, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.

"Track Man of the Age", Special Placque conferred by the B'nai B'rith, the the Bill Corum Memorial Dinner, in New York City.

A Citation from the "One Hundred Per Cent Wrong Club" for notable contributions to sports during the last Quarter Century, Atlanta, Ga.

He has appeared on the following programs: "This Is Your Life", "What's My Line" and "Person to Person."

His youngest daughter, Marlene, while a student at Ohio State University was elected "Homecoming Queen" at Ohio State University.

Some of his Recent Trips Abroad are:

He was invited to Ireland, in 1963 to appear on the Program of Health, Education and Welfare.

In 1964 he and Mrs. Owens went to Berlin, German to do a documentary on the Olympic Games.

He and Mrs. Owens attended the 18th Olympiad at

Jesse Owens

- 2 -

at Tokyo, Japan during the fall of 1964, when he represented some Fifty-one News Papers throughout the country.

Mr. Owens' current activities and public appearances include the following:

Speeches before the various organizations as Boys' Clubs, Local Sports Banquets, and those throughout the country, High School Athletic ASSOCIATIONS dinners, Physical Education meetings and programs, Parent-Teach Associations, Father and Son Banquets, National Youth Week programs, Brotherhood and Negro History programs, National Council of Churches, YMCA's, various Management Associations and conferences as well as Public School Superintendents, at programs of Universities, High Schools and Public Schools. He has spoken for The Christian Athlete programs throughout the country.

I am also sending you a copy of Jesse's Biographical Schetch which will give the highlights of many of his activities and accomplishments.

Jesse is still confined to the Hospital but we are hoping he will have recovered sufficiently to be with you on Saturday, May 22nd.

Thanks for all courtesies, we remain

Sincerely yours,



(Mrs. L. S. Hedrick)

SECRETARY TO JESSE OWENS

Jesse Owens

National scholastic champ in 100 and 220 broad jump and national American Athletic Union champ in the broad jump.

Did 9.4 in the 100 yard dash several times.

Holder of indoor world mark of 25 feet 3 1/4 inches in the 1934 Indoor Championships his mark of 25 feet nine inches, made on his fifth trial, was the best of his six marks, every one of which was better than 25 feet two inches. (This was on Feb. 23, 1935)

Holder of the world's 70-yard dash record, worked as page in the Ohio Legislature while attending school.

At Ann Arbor, Mich., on May 25, 1935 he tied the 100-yard dash -- 09.4 seconds and raced to a new world's record of 20.3 seconds in the 220-yard dash. He then broke his second world's record, negotiating the 20 yard low hurdles in :22.6 seconds.

After this he went to Los Angeles, Cal. for a dual meet with Southern California and again won his four specialties, and then went to Berkeley, Cal. for the N.C.A.A. championships. Here he took first places in the 100 and 220 yard dashes, the 220 yard low hurdles and the ~~xxx~~ broad jump/

In June of 1936 he was the holder of 7 certificates signed by the American Amateur Athletic Union - his greatest feat at that time being the records he set at Ann Arbor, Mich in May of 1935. (mentioned above)

At the Olympics in Berlin in 1936 he was the only one of the American Olympic team members to qualify for three events. He set another world record at the Olympics 200 meters in 21 seconds. This was in August of 1936 in Berlin, Germany.

Upon his return to the United States he was paraded down Broadway in New York City and people hailed him in a reception comparable to the parade for Lindbergh when he returned from Paris. He then returned to Columbus, where a celebration was held in the State House yard.

After this he left Ohio State and placed himself ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ under the advisorship of Marty Forkins, a manager of actor-folks.

In Nov. 7, 1936 edition of the Saturday Evening Post he was featured in an article by his old coach Larry Snyder.

At an Ohio State - Michigan football game in 1936 the Ohio State Alumni Association presented Owens with a silver serving set, commmerating his feats in the Olympic games.

In March of ~~1936~~ 1937 he headed his own dance band and was reported to have made more than \$50,000 at various professional stunts. In October, 1937 he reported he was making a salary of \$1,000 a week from his dance band, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ part of which he was putting into a trust fund.

In April of 1942 he was appointed director of physical fitness for Negroes in the Office of Civilian Defense.

The nation's sports editors in the Associated Press featured a poll to determine the ~~x~~ three athletic feats of all time, and they named the running feats of Jesse Owens as one.

Jesse Owens, pg. 2

In 1944 he was reclassified 1-A for armed forces services.

He was employed by Ford Motor Co., in 1942.

He rewrote a record book on track in 1949.

Was named to Helms Hall of Fame in 1950.

Voted as greatest track star since 1900 by Associated Press in 1950.
In July of 1950, aged 36, he weighed only 168 - just 8 pounds more than his running weight. He was married, had 3 daughters, and Gloria (one of his daughters) was to enter Ohio State University in the fall of 1950.

In the fall of 1950 he was given a testimonial dinner at Chicago's Sheraton Hotel - was selected as the greatest track athlete of the first half of the 20th century and on the campus of Ohio State University was honored by a \$5,000 scholarship fund being named in his honor. At this time he was living in Chicago where he was a top executive of the Leo Rose Company, clothiers.

In August of 1951 he returned to Berlin, Germany and received a thundering ovation, 15 years overdue, from a crowd estimated at 75,000. This was the scene of the Olympics.

to Ohio State
He returned over the years many times for sports events - returning for "Old Home Week" in Dec. of 1953.

He made a goodwill tour of the Far East in 1955.

In 1958 he sought to be elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Chicago.

In ~~11~~ 1959 he was named to the planning committee of Pan American Games.

In 1960 he presented the Homecoming Queen trophy to his daughter, Marlene, at a football game at Ohio State.

In 1963 his statue was presented to Ohio State University by the OSU Philadelphia (Pa.) Alumni Club. Owens was stationed in Philadelphia w for part of his war-time duty.

He represented Ohio State on a T-V program in ~~62~~ 1964 to help raise funds, and won the 1st and 2nd rounds on the program.

The T-V film "Jesse Owens Returns to Berlin" was made in 1965 (which was recently shown over our local station).

He received the Alumni Association Citizenship Award in 1965.

221-7746

1. Sept. 1966

NITE LETTER...

Albert K. Ridout
949 Washington Ave.
Pelham, N. Y.

Re Owens - five and half years sports specialist Illinois Youth
Commission. Board member, former director Chicago Boys' Club; ambassador
of sports for State Dept. two month tour of Far East; winner, Ohio State's
Alumni Achievement Award in 1965; disc jockey for WAAF Chicago; partner
of public relations firm, Owens-West, Chicago; speaks to civic groups
nationally.

*Read editorial 10:15 am - Sept. 1 -
called in to Boston Union
10:40 am - Sept. 1, 1966*

NOTED BY RECORDS
OCT 4 1966
JL:JSM

From Slave to Citizen

148,445 against, but the nearly 25,000 Negroes in the state couldn't vote for their own cause. In fact, it took until January 19, 1870, when the Ohio legislature ratified the 15th amendment, for Negroes to gain the franchise. It is somewhat surprising to note that even after the Civil War, Ohio's Senate ratified the amendment by only one vote, 19-18, and the House by two, 57-55. (Passage of the state constitution back in 1803 with its controversial section on restriction of Negroes, also had passed by only one vote, 18-17.)

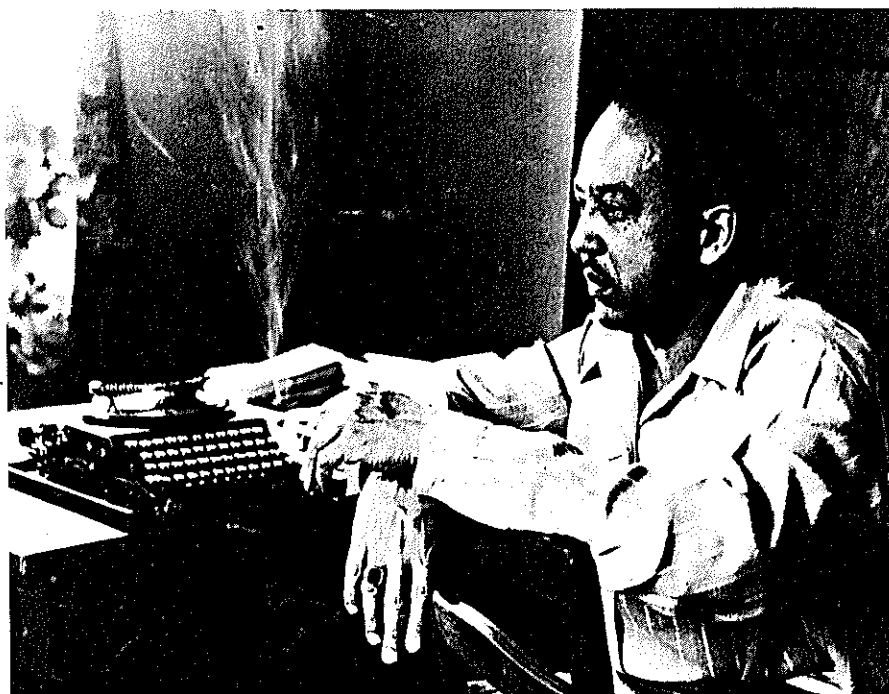
With the repeal of the Black Laws, individual Negroes began to gain prominence for their accomplishments. Artist Robert Duncanson of Cincinnati, a painter of the Hudson River school (established by Ohioan Thomas Cole), gained fame in the era before the Civil War. John Mercer Langston, who had grown up in Chillicothe and attended Oberlin, was elected to the Brownhelm City Council and the Oberlin Board of Education, before becoming the first Negro ever elected to The House of Representatives.

The Civil War enabled Ohioans to put into official practice many of the policies they had been unofficially following. The underground railroad continued highballing, the American Missionary Association set up a Columbus secondary school for Negroes, and generally, residents of the state accepted what an 1849 Cleveland convention of Negro leaders had stated—that Negroes were "entitled to all privileges — moral, mental, political and social — to which other men attain."

In spite of general acceptance, there was still hesitancy on the part of some, especially military leaders, to regard the Negro as an equal. In 1861 Cincinnati offered a regiment of 1,000 Negro soldiers to fight with the Union forces



Jesse Owens, above, one of this country's most renowned trackmen, captured three individual gold medals in the 1936 Olympics. Author Langston Hughes described the spirit of the Negro in his many plays and books.



(there had been no Negro troops since 1820) but the offer was declined and the group ended up as a home guard.

Reconstruction brought many Negro leaders to the attention of the country, and interestingly enough, the only three ever elected to the U. S. Senate (until 1966) had Ohio backgrounds. Hiram Revels had attended school in Drake County before moving to Mississippi, where ironically, he was elected to the Senate to fill the seat previously held by Jefferson Davis. Blanche Bruce graduated from Oberlin, also moved to Mississippi, and after his Senate term held several important posts in the Federal government. The third to be elected, Pinckney Pinchback, never went to Washington for the Louisiana legislature refused to recognize his election. Pinchback, who had worked as a canal boat cabin boy in Ohio, served as a captain during the Civil War and eventually became lieutenant governor of Louisiana.

At the same time that Ohio Negroes were making themselves known in American politics, a Newark native, Edward Royle, traveled to Liberia as a merchant, successfully established a business, and in 1871 was elected fifth president of that nation.

Oberlin College played a major role in the history of the Negro in Ohio, and during the 19th century, school alumni included such graduates as Mary Jane

Patterson, the first Negro woman college graduate; William Scarborough, who became president of Wilberforce University; and Robert Church, a delegate to the Republican National Conventions of 1912-16-20-24, and who, in 1922, was appointed by U. S. Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes to study economic conditions in Haiti.

There were many areas where the skills of the Negro manifested themselves. Ohio can lay claim to George Williams, author of the "History of the Negro Race in America," who also was an Ohio legislator and U. S. Minister to Haiti; Granville Woods of Columbus who developed an air brake patent and sold out to Westinghouse; and Garrett Morgan of Cleveland who invented the electric traffic signal and also the smoke and gas protector used by American troops in World War I.

In Fine Arts, two names stand out. Paul Lawrence Dunbar of Dayton, a one-time elevator operator, gained acclaim through his "Oak and Ivy," a book of poetry he paid to have printed. His 1913 book, "Complete Poems," has never been out of print, a testimonial to his excellence. Langston Hughes, whose career was said to have started when he was attending Cleveland's Central High School, wrote of many subjects and his talent encompassed poetry, plays and books. (Many of Hughes' early com-

edies were performed at Cleveland's Karamu Theatre, founded in 1916, which has produced almost every play concerned with Negro life, no matter who the author.)

Other Ohio Negroes who have more than achieved the status once denied them include Jesse Owens, triple-gold-medal winner in the 1936 Olympics; Cleveland's Joseph Stadler, one of the first two Negroes to compete in the Olympics (St. Louis, 1904 — broad jump); Charles Waddell Chestnutt, an attorney whose books were well received at the turn of the century; W. E. B. DuBois, a teacher at Wilberforce and leader of a group which eventually became the NAACP; Irvin Underhill of Galion, a missionary to West Africa and a member of the Royal Geographical Society of England; James Monroe Trotter, founder of the newspaper, "The Guardian," and author of many musicals and books on music; and Benjamin Davis, currently a lieutenant general in the U.S. Air Force, the highest ranking Negro military leader in history.

The success of Davis indicates some of the changes that have occurred since Commodore Perry first refused to have Negro sailors in his fleet. Perry, as the framers of Ohio's constitution, has long since been proven wrong, for the Negro has been a definite asset to the Heritage That is Ohio.

These dancers at the 1939 World's Fair were from Cleveland's Karamu Theatre (the original building is shown) founded back in 1916.



KARAMU THEATRE

THE OLYMPICS: A PREVIEW

The hero of the 1936 Games
has high hopes
for this year's U.S.A. team

By Jesse Owens

In 1936 when I had the honor of participating in the Summer Olympic Games in Berlin, 49 nations competed and the United States won more gold medals in men's track and field (14) than it has ever won since. Starting this Saturday (Oct. 12), athletes from 103 nations—more than 8000 young men and women—will convene in the giant, 80,000-seat Olympic Stadium in Mexico City to begin the 19th Summer Olympics. There's an excellent chance, if all goes well, that the U.S. will emerge with more gold medals this time than ever before—not only in track and field—but across the whole spectrum of 22 sports in this thrilling spectacle.

Many sports fans musing about Summer Olympic matters think mostly of track and field—the sprinting, hurdling, shot-putting and the rest—as well as swimming and diving; and these indeed are the chief focal points of any Summer Games. (The ABC network will devote 50-60 percent of its television coverage to them.) But at widely separated points around Mexico City (and as far away as Acapulco, where the yachting events will be held), a great deal more will be going on in such esoterically sportive areas as horsemanship, fencing, field hockey, shooting, volleyball, water polo, cycling, weightlifting, wrestling, canoeing and rowing, as well as in such crowd pleasers as basketball, boxing and soccer.

Mexico City will be a splendid and colorful locale for the games. The stadium on the grounds of the University of Mexico will be the site for all track-and-field events except the marathon. This will be the most spread-out Olympics in history, with many of the events coming from 15 different spots in and around the capital city.

The Olympic track itself is made of a special new all-weather material—instead of the customary clay or asphalt—which will assure top performances because the runners will never be competing in mud; spike holes automatically reseal themselves and the surface is always smooth and springy.

Mexico City is 7347 feet above sea level (our athletes have been training at Lake Tahoe, which is roughly the same), and for that reason I'm certain we'll see many records fall by the wayside, especially in events with running times under two minutes; and also in any field event which requires a body or object to sail through the air—javelin, shot put, pole vault, discus, etc.

The reason, of course, is that the air is very thin in Mexico City, and anything projected through it is going to fly a little farther than usual. In races beyond two minutes, however (or to put it another way: in contests longer than 800 meters), the runners will lose one to three percent of efficiency, and records will prove more difficult to break.

Let's get down to some specifics. The United States men have customarily dominated Olympic track events from 100 to 800 meters (or roughly half a mile). We haven't won a 1500-meter race (the metric mile) since 1908, when Mel Sheppard won a gold medal for

us. Americans are not particularly interested in the longer races, such as the 5000 and the 10,000 meters: it's not the tradition in this country, and we don't have many events of that kind here. Europeans, Australians, and, more recently, Africans, have been better in the long distances than we have.

This time, however, we'll almost surely see a breakthrough in the 1500 meters, thanks to Jim Ryun, the brilliant American runner who currently holds the world record for that distance at 3.33.1. Ryun will be one of the big stories of the 1968 Summer Games and, of course, the 1500 meters is always one of the big dramatic contests of Summer Olympic meets.

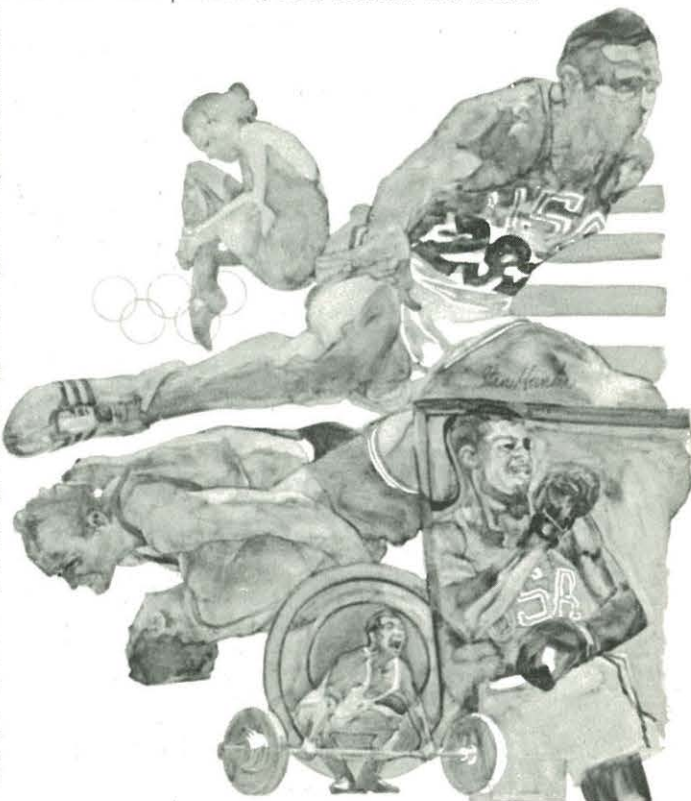
Except for the 800 meters (in which Franz-Josef Kemper of West Germany is the favorite), the U.S. should dominate the shorter races: Jimmy Hines and Charlie Greene are superb 100-meter sprinters, and it's my judgment that nobody in the world can take this race away from them.

In the 200 meters, the U.S. has the pending world-record holder (at 19.7) in John Carlos, and the great Tommie Smith of San Jose State College; and in the 400 meters the U.S. is fortunate to have Ron Freeman, Lee Evans and Larry James.

In brief, these Olympic games will have together in Mexico City the greatest array of sprinters the world has ever seen. As usual, the U.S. can probably forget about the 5000 and 10,000 meter races (although, to everyone's surprise, we won those in Tokyo four

years ago), and probably the 3000-meter steeplechase as well.

But the U.S. is the overwhelming favorite in the pole vault, shot put, hurdles, discus, long jump and high jump. We've never lost the pole vault since the revival of the Olympic Games in 1896, and if Americans Bob Seagren and John Pennel have anything to say about it, we'll maintain that record.



Randy Matson of Texas A&M (6-feet 8, 245 lbs.) is the first and only man to put the shot over 70 feet, and nobody in the world is close to him in this event. Dick Fosbury, whose eccentric style in the high jump (he clears the bar by falling over it backward) is favored to capture the event which until recently was almost the private domain of →

Russia's now-retired Valery Brumel.

Erv Hall and Willie Davenport will give the U.S. dominance in the 110-meter high hurdles; Jay Silvester (who recently broke the existing world record by 5 full feet) and Al Oerter (who won the event in 1956, '60 and '64) practically assure the U.S. a gold medal in the discus. And our long-jumpers, Ralph Boston and Bob Beamon, will, I predict, stand off the challenge from Russia's great long-jumper, Igor Ter-Ovanesyan, to give us another win.

To sum up track and field: I believe the U.S. men will win 16 out of 24 gold medals, which would be more than we've ever won before in a single Summer Olympics meet. In Tokyo in 1964 we won 12, and that was considered an excellent performance; but in the interim we've become enormously more track-and-field conscious, we've developed a number of superstars, which always makes for heightened public interest, and there's been a concomitant upsurge in the fans' emotional involvement in these events, as well as in the athletes' performances. And that's why the U.S. has reached the high plateau in track and field it stands on today.

The United States is the strongest swimming power in the world, and that status—barring unforeseen mishaps—will be defended and reinforced in Mexico City next week. To give you some idea of how thoroughly we dominate swimming and diving, consider this: in Olympic competition, the U.S. has won a total of 111 gold medals, while its closest competitor, Australia, has won 24. Three American superstars will supply a lion's share of the drama and excitement this year: Debbie Meyer, the 16-year-old aquanaut from Sacramento, Cal., is almost sure to cop three gold medals in the 200-, 400- and 800-meter women's freestyle events.

Don Schollander, the 22-year-old Yale senior, is by far the strongest entry in the men's 200-meter freestyle. In the last Olympics, Schollander be-

came the third man in history to win four gold medals in a single Summer Olympics meet. (One of these, if I recall, was a chap named Jesse Owens.)

The third member of this trio is 18-year-old Mark Spitz of Santa Clara, Cal., who is determined to be the first man in Olympic history to win five gold medals—and it's even money he'll make it. He is all but guaranteed three gold medals (100-meter freestyle, 100- and 200-meter butterfly) and, including relay races, has a good chance to win six.

The Russians as usual will dominate the men's breast stroke, this time with Viktor Kosinsky. The host nation, Mexico, could win its only gold medal in a major event in the 1500-meter freestyle: Guillermo Echavarria came out of nowhere last year and broke the world record by 6 full seconds. The American Mike Burton has since broken that record by about 20 seconds.

If such U.S. stars as Sue Pedersen (100-meter freestyle), Catie Ball (100- and 200-meter breast stroke) and Claudia Kolb (200- and 400-individual medley) match the expected performance of the fabulous Debbie Meyer, then the United States will surely win 10 out of 16 gold medals in women's swimming and diving. And the men should easily win 11 of 17 gold medals.

In basketball, the United States has never lost a game in Olympic competition since the sport was included in 1936: a record of 66 wins and no defeats. This year, however, the U.S. won't be represented by the biggest and strongest team in the field; some experts are saying that either Russia or Brazil has a better chance than we do. We have no big names this time (many of our best prospects, including Lew Alcindor and Elvin Hayes, decided to pass up the Olympics), so we'll have to rely on old-fashioned team basketball.

Rowing has always been one of the U.S.'s best showcases: in Olympic competition, we've won 33 gold medals, more than twice as many as our closest adversary, Great Britain. This year →

we'll be represented by the Harvard University club in the "eight oars" and by top-flight entrants in the other rowing and sculling events as well.

Russia once again will have strong teams in most of the events it enters and will surely dominate wrestling, weightlifting and fencing. In soccer, the world's most popular sport, the U.S. will be just an interested bystander: our team was eliminated in the pre-Olympic play-offs by tiny Bermuda.

Those are some of the high points of interest we'll be seeing in Mexico City for the next few weeks. There is another, of course, unhappier aspect of the games this year, and one which all sports fans who love the Olympics and its traditions are sure will be dissolved by the good sense and loyalty of many of the athletes themselves.

I speak of the expressions of discontent which some black American athletes have voiced over representing in international competition a nation they claim has failed to give them equal opportunity—in education, housing and jobs—with their white colleagues. I recognize, as do these young people, that there are many problems here in the U.S.A. with regard to Negro participation in sports. But I also look at the many things both blacks and whites have done to alleviate these conditions.

Economically, Negroes haven't been able to rise as fast as whites in many areas of American life; but the athletic world has been good to Negroes—they can walk and talk with other athletes man to man, and they can demonstrate their abilities without reference to race. As a result, many blacks have become heroes in this country. Because of their achievements, they've done a great deal of good for themselves and the people around them. I'm not in favor of cutting off the one area of understanding we have. Negroes have a right to be proud of the disproportionate percentage of black athletes representing the U.S.

The Olympics is a place where people live, work, and break bread together;

it has brought about tremendous understanding and cooperation in racial matters. So I don't think the pride which our black athletes have in themselves and their country will allow them to do anything to embarrass the United States in so conspicuous a world arena.

There were no more angry people than black Olympic competitors in Berlin in 1936. We had insults thrown at us by our host nation; Hitler didn't accord Negroes and Jews the same courtesies he did others who came to Berlin. That made us more determined to prove that, in the eyes of God, we were every bit as good as any man.

Many of the youngsters competing this year don't realize the kind of hostility that was directed toward us. But through the efforts of athletes before me, and men who competed in my own day, we paved the way for the opportunities which many young men have today in schools, in business, and on athletic teams. I say to these boys today who are considering public protest against their own country that they would not only be hurting themselves, but they might in the end aid our strongest competition, Russia.

South Africa has been banned from these Summer games, which, I think, was the best move in the circumstances. Their presence would have been a farce. There should be no political nor ethnic divisiveness in the Olympic Village, and the segregated teams they planned to send would have been an insult to other athletes.

But aside from such considerations, I expect to be witnessing one of the most exciting Olympic meets ever. The talent from participating nations will comprise the greatest array of athletes ever collected in one place. And it's my own belief that the spirit which they will bring to this peaceful combat will be an inspiration and an example to the world's peoples, demonstrating how men can live together in friendship, cooperation and toleration. END

Bio Ale 1435-74

Quotations of 250 words, or approximately one-third of the body of the article, whichever is less, is permitted when accompanied by a credit line reading: "Reprinted from the October 12, 1968 issue of

TV GUIDE magazine." Brief excerpts, such as selected phrases, may be identified by a reference to the issue of the magazine. Copyright, 1968 by Triangle Publications, Inc.

The Great Jesse Owens Shares His Views On America's Blacks

5-15-70

"Blackthink, My Life as a Black Man and White Man" by Jesse Owens with Paul G. Neimark (Morrow, \$5.95)

Everyone knows Jesse Owens around here. He's the young man who won four Olympic gold medals in 1936. He's the young man who set four world track and field records in one day. He's the young man who was Ohio State's greatest track star.

But everyone doesn't know Jesse Owens human being. Jesse is a black man who has fielded all the black man's problems doubled in spades. Yet his inspirational volume brings a new philosophy to the race problem which is astonishing for a black man. Let's let Jesse speak:

"... THE RACE crisis going on in America right now is for the most part the biggest hoax in our history. And possibly the cruelest — for in its seeds is another crisis of infinite proportions."

"Blackthink — pro-Negro, antiwhite bigotry — is what makes the new Negro and white extremists tick ... Irrationality and violence, above all, are at blackthink's guts ... America's blackthinking extremists may be the new George Wallaces."

"I KNOW what is usually said. Most whites and Negroes have been brainwashed to believe that black men and women, with few exceptions, such as athletes, entertainers or postmen, don't have much chance in America.

"It's a lie. If the Negro doesn't succeed in today's America, it is because he has chosen to fail. Yes, there are exceptions. But there are exceptions for whites, too."

"THE SAD fact is that a hypersensitive and naive public, an often out-of-touch 'moderate' leadership and a sometimes headline-hungry press have played perfectly into the hands of the blackthinkers."

"One hand held out in sincere humanity can make a lot of laws unnecessary."

"NO MATTER how much you change and grow, I think some things inside you — just like inside a country — must stay the same. If I still

have a lot to learn in this world, none of it will be from bigots. America has nothing to learn from them either."

"... the militants are more insecure about their skin color than anyone."

Strong language from an always courageous man. This book should be must reading for everyone. Perhaps the picture would become a little clearer and the problems a little easier to solve by heeding some of his philosophy.

I've known Jesse for many years. Sincerity and a desire to help others be the human being he is have always been part of him. He deserves to be listened to — now. — JACK KELLER

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PERSONALS _____
MARRIAGES _____
BIRTHS _____
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ALUMNI RECORDS
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MAGAZINE
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*J. Hammerack*BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OF JESSE OWENS

Jesse Owens is considered by many sports experts to be the greatest track and field star of the first half of the 20th Century. He is a resident of Chicago, Illinois, where he devotes much of his time to underprivileged youth, as a board member and former director of Chicago Boy's Club, an organization serving fifteen hundred youngsters. For 5½ years he served as sports specialist for the Illinois Youth Commission.

The former Olympic star is currently making numerous public appearances and speaking engagements before youth groups, civic meetings, alumni clubs, PTA's and sports banquets, or giving commencements for schools and colleges throughout the country. He is now a partner of Owens-West Associates, a public relations and consultant firm, which operates a consumer market and research service.

Owens' athletic career began in 1928 at Cleveland, Ohio, where he set new world records for junior high schools by jumping 6' 0" in the high jump and 22' 11 3/4" in the broad jump. It did not end here. During his high school days, Owens won all the major track events, including the State Championship, for three consecutive years. And at the National Interscholastic School Meet in Chicago, during his senior year, Jesse set two world records - one in the 100 yard dash, and one in the 220 yard dash. During his Freshman and Sophomore years at The Ohio State University, Owens set numerous world records. Also during his Sophomore year, he had the distinction of being the only track and field athlete in history to set three world records and to tie a fourth in a single track meet.

It was at the 1936 Olympic Games held in Berlin, Germany, that Owens gained international fame with a dramatic victory that set new Olympic records

by winning individual titles in the 100 meters, 200 meters and broad jump, and running on the victorious relay team. Following his fantastic track and field career, Owens has enjoyed success in numerous endeavors, yet never losing the interest in working with young people. In April of 1942, he was appointed Director of Physical Fitness for Negroes in the Office of Civilian Defense. And in 1949, he rewrote a record book on track.

During 1950, when he was a top executive of the V. O. Rose Company, Clothiers, Owens was named to the Helms Hall of Fame, voted the greatest track star since 1900 by the Associated Press, and honored by The Ohio State University with a five thousand dollar scholarship fund in his name.

In August of 1951, he returned to Berlin, Germany, scene of the 1936 Olympics, where he received a thundering ovation - 15 years overdue - from a crowd estimated at 75,000, and where the mayor of Berlin said: "Hitler would not greet you - I take you by both hands."

In 1955 the U. S. State Department delegated Owens as America's "Ambassador of Sports" and sent him on a two month good-will tour of the Far East. The following year he went to Australia as one of the personal representatives of President Eisenhower at the 16th Olympiad. In 1959 Owens was named to the planning committee of the Pan American Games, and in 1960 presented the Homecoming Queen trophy to his daughter, Marlene, at a football game at Ohio State.

Since 1960 Owens has received numerous awards and citations by groups all across the country, has made several trips abroad including a trip to Ireland in 1963, again a trip to Berlin, Germany, in 1964, as well as attendance at the 18th Olympiad in Tokyo, Japan, also held in 1964. In 1965 Owens received The OSU Alumni Association's "Citizenship Award", and in 1970 was recipient of The Ohio State University Associations's "Centennial Award".

1971 was the year which saw Jesse travel to the African Ivory Coast where our government had just completed an Embassy in Abidjan. The street on which the

Embassy is located was named Rue Jesse Owens Boulevard in his honor. 1971 was also the year which saw Owens elected to a four year term on the Board of Directors of The Ohio State University Association.

However, with all these awards and citations, Mr. Owens' current activities and public appearances outside his business are usually related to youth, such as the following: boys clubs, high school athletic association dinners, physical education meetings and programs, parent-teacher associations, father and son banquets, the National Youth Week Programs, the National Council of Churches, YMCA's, and the Fellowship of Christian Athlete Programs throughout the country.

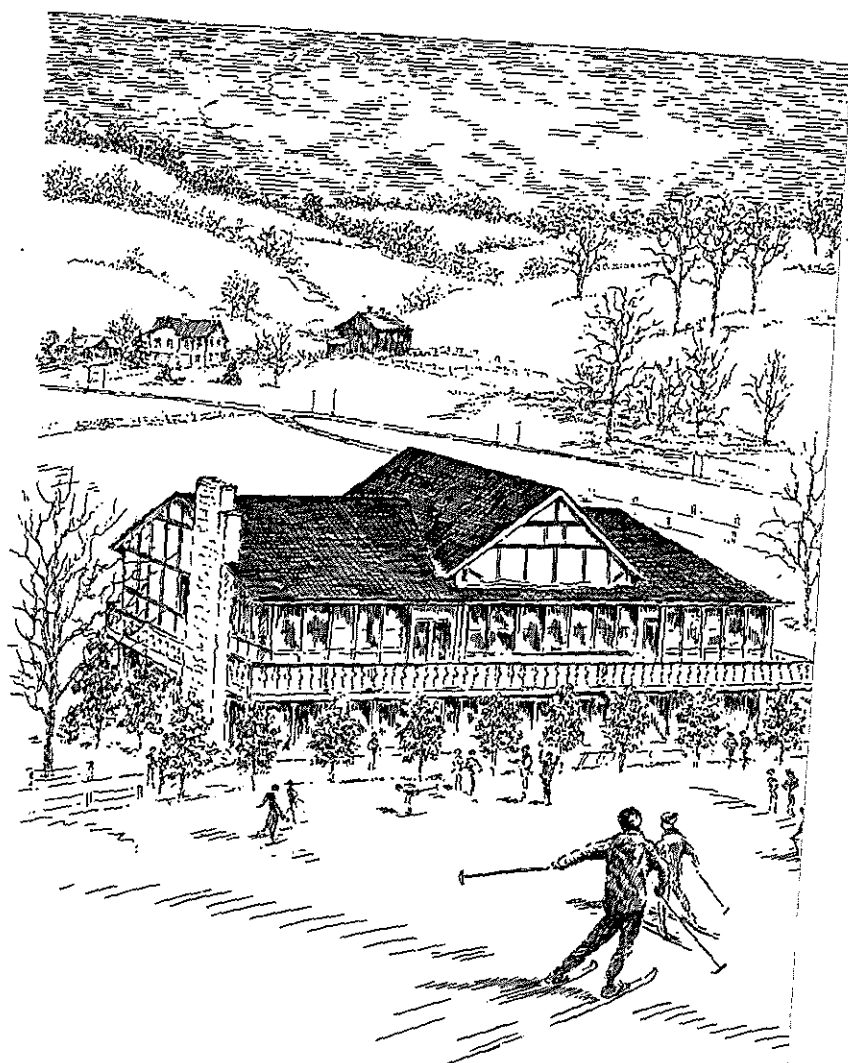
Today, more than 35 years later, the same Jesse Owens continues in the front rank of outstanding Americans. He has gained respect and honor, not only for his achievements as an athlete of unparalleled skill and ability, but also because of his many and varied activities in community services. His experience with youth all over the world has brought into sharp focus to him the needs and problems of young people everywhere. Much of the knowledge and experience he has gained in his life is now reflected in his book entitled Blackthink, My Life As A Black Man and White Man. His newest work will go to the printers about the first of November, 1971.

In 1931 Jesse married Ruth Solomon. They have three daughters: Gloria, Beverly, and Marlene. Beverly received her degree at Northern Illinois University in Dekalb and works for the U. S. Treasury. Gloria and Marlene are both graduates of The Ohio State University. Gloria received her Master's degree from the University of Chicago and is a teacher in the reading resources specialty. Marlene is a supervisor in the Urban Opportunities Program in Chicago. The girls have produced five grandchildren for Jesse and Ruth, four girls and a boy.

There is no doubt that Jesse Owens' major concern is doing his full share to make available better and more complete educational opportunities for all youth.

Ohioana Quarterly

Volume XIV
Number 3
Autumn
1971



SCENE AT
MANSFIELD

— — Penelope Williams

The Ohioana Book Award

of 1971
in the Category of Autobiography
to
JESSE OWENS
for
BLACKTHINK
Morrow, 1970



Many impressive titles belong to Jesse Owens: "the world's fastest human;" "a Negro in America for fifty-seven years;" "1936 Olympics Champion, winner of four gold medals."

And now, his deeply personal autobiography earns Jesse Owens another title, "an author who explains the irony of parades and poverty" . . . to both the white reader and the black.

In Jesse Owens' own words, the dual purpose of his book "is to help the white man know the Negro, and, equally important, to help the Negro know himself;" and "to drive the first real nail in the coffin of blackthink . . . which is alienating the Negro from the world in which he lives."

He observes the reality of today and is convinced that the blackthink of the militants is "a vicious, unfair, destructive philosophy, a pro-Negro, anti-white bigotry" which is irrational.

Jesse Owens is now engaged in his own business in Chicago, "Jesse Owen, Inc.," a Public Relations and Consultant Firm, and he is active as a member of the Illinois Youth Commission, which is "dedicated to keeping youngsters active in sports and out of mischief."

Ohio State University remembers him as a good student, as their great athlete, and as the world's "top track performer since 1900." (Jim Thorpe second; Paavo Nurmi of Finland third.)

It was to Cleveland that the ailing and sickly young boy, Jesse, moved with his parents from their poverty-ridden share-croppers' home in Oakville, Alabama. Here Jesse attended school and in 1928 won his first athletic recognition when he set new world records for junior high schools in high and broad jumping.

In high school he also won all the major track events, including the State Championship for three consecutive years.

In 1955, the U. S. State Department delegated Owens as America's "Ambassador of Sports," and sent him on a good-will tour of the Far East. The "Jesse Owens' Educational Foundation" has been established in his honor.

Today Jesse Owens sees a career as the struggles within oneself—"the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us." He says, "*Life is the real Olympics.*"

Honorary Doctor of Athletic Arts

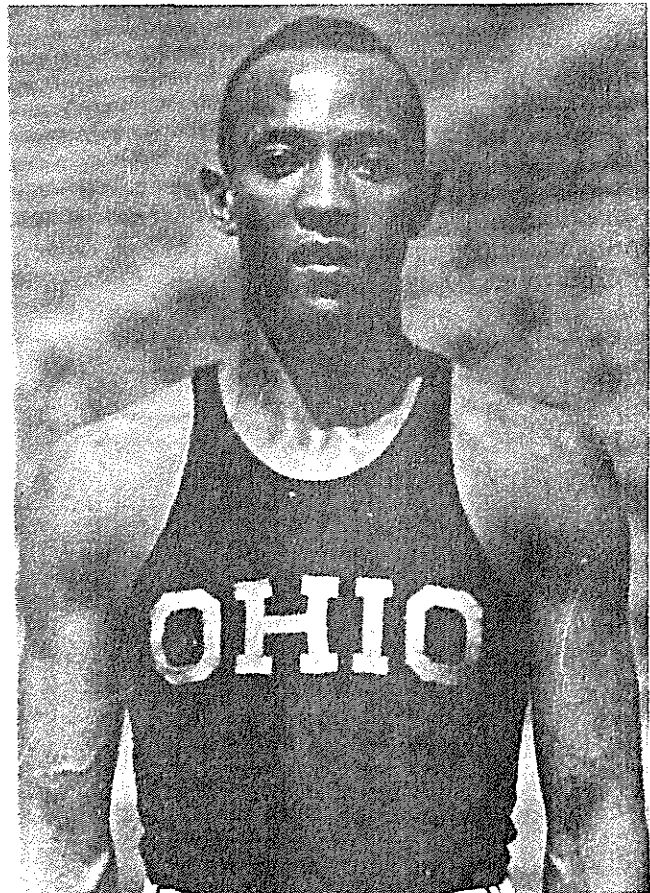
Jack Nicklaus and Jesse Owens were presented honorary degrees of Doctors of Athletic Arts at the summer commencement Sept. 1. Owens was unable to be present due to his appearance at the Olympic Games.

Jesse Owens first astounded track enthusiasts at an Ohio State-University of Michigan meet in 1935 by setting three world records and tying another within an hour. The next year, he won four gold medals for the U.S. in the Olympics and set two more records in the 200-meter dash and broad jump. He also tied a third in the 100 meters. Owens attended Ohio State University from 1934-36.

Owens spent the next few years in public relations work for the Ford Motor Co. and heading his own dance band. At this time, he began working with various youth groups, an interest he still holds. In 1942, he was appointed director of physical fitness for his race in the Office of Civil Defense and in 1955 was named to the Illinois Youth Commission.

The Associated Press mid-century sports poll recognized Owens as the greatest track athlete since 1900. In 1950, Ohio State established a \$5,000 scholarship fund in his honor. That same year, he was named to the 50-year All Star Big Ten Track and Field Squad. He returned to Ohio State in 1960 to present his daughter, Marlene, with the Homecoming Queen trophy.

Two of Owens' Varsity O records, both made in 1935, still stand. They are the 70 yard low hurdles in :07.6 seconds and the long jump of 25 feet, 9 inches. Owens' world long jump mark of 26 ft., 8¼ inches stood for 25 years, the oldest mark in the record book to fall. It was broken in 1960 by Ralph Boston's 26-11.



Jesse Owens



JESSE OWENS

JESSE OWENS

CONSULTANT ON YOUTH PROGRAMS AND ATHLETICS

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.

JESSE OWENS IS CONSIDERED BY MANY SPORTS EXPERTS TO BE THE GREATEST TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETE OF THE HALF CENTURY.

THIS FORMER OLYMPIC STAR CURRENTLY MAKES PUBLIC APPEARANCES AND SPEAKS BEFORE YOUTH GROUPS, CIVIC MEETINGS, PTA'S, SPORTS BANQUETS, AND GIVES COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSES AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

OWEN'S ATHLETIC CAREER BEGAN IN 1928 AT CLEVELAND, OHIO, WHERE HE SET NEW WORLD RECORDS FOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS BY JUMPING SIX FEET EVEN IN THE HIGH JUMP, AND 22 FEET 11-3/4 INCHES IN THE BROAD JUMP.

DURING HIS HIGH SCHOOL DAYS IN CLEVELAND, OWENS WON ALL OF THE MAJOR TRACK EVENTS, INCLUDING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS. AT THE NATIONAL INTER-SCHOLASTIC SCHOOL MEET IN CHICAGO, DURING HIS SENIOR YEAR, HE SET A NEW WORLD RECORD FOR HIGH SCHOOLS BY RUNNING THE 100-YARD DASH IN 9.4 SECONDS TO TIE THE ACCEPTED WORLD RECORD, AND HE CREATED A WORLD RECORD IN THE 220-YARD DASH BY RUNNING THE DISTANCE IN 20.7 SECONDS. A WEEK EARLIER, HE HAD SET A NEW WORLD RECORD IN THE BROAD JUMP BY JUMPING 24 FEET 11-3/4 INCHES.

DURING HIS FRESHMAN YEAR AT OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, OWENS SET A WORLD RECORD IN THE 60 METERS AT 6.2 SECONDS AND CREATED A NEW RECORD OF 6.1 SECONDS IN THE 60-YARD DASH.

AS A SOPHOMORE, HE HAD THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE ONLY TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETE IN HISTORY TO SET THREE WORLD RECORDS AND TO TIE A FOURTH IN A SINGLE TRACK MEET. HE RAN THE 100-YARD DASH AT 20.2 SECONDS, THE 220 LOW HURDLES AT 22.6 SECONDS, AND THE BROAD JUMP AT 26 FEET 8-1/4 INCHES.

AT THE 1936 OLYMPIC GAMES HELD IN BERLIN, GERMANY, OWENS GAINED INTERNATIONAL DISTINCTION WITH A DRAMATIC FEAT BY SETTING NEW OLYMPIC RECORDS, IN WINNING INDIVIDUAL TITLES IN THE 100-METERS, BROAD JUMP, AND RUNNING ON THE VICTORIOUS RELAY TEAM.

IN 1955, THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT DELEGATED OWENS AS AMERICA'S "AMBASSADOR OF SPORTS" AND SENT HIM ON A TWO-MONTH GOODWILL TOUR OF THE FAR EAST. THE FOLLOWING YEAR HE WENT TO AUSTRALIA AS ONE OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AT THE 16TH OLYMPIAD.

TODAY, MORE THAN 35 YEARS LATER, THE SAME JESSE OWENS CONTINUES IN THE FRONT RANKS OF ATHLETES. HE HAS GAINED RESPECT AND HONOR, NOT ONLY FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AS AN ATHLETE OF UNPARALLELED SKILL AND ABILITY, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF HIS MANY AND VARIED ACTIVITIES IN YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICES.

####

JESSE OWENS

DINNER

Sponsored By

SEARS ROEBUCK & CO.

Monday - May 6, 1974

7 P.M.

Park Plaza

E. 96th & Carnegie

Cleveland, Ohio

COCKTAILS

Invocation Dr. Donald Jacobs

Dinner

Program

Master of Ceremonies.....Charles L. Scott

Introduction of Mayor

Presentation.....Mayor Ralph Perk

Introduction of School Superintendent

Presentation.....Harrison Dillard
Representing School Superintendent

Resolution.....James Boyd
Councilman Ward 18

Introduction of Guest Speaker.....Charles C. Wurmstedt
Area Group Manager
Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Speech.....Jesse Owens

Final Presentation

Benediction.....Dr. Donald Jacobs



Harrison Dillard

Cleveland 3/23/74

The stories they will tell

From the end of World War II, I've attended literally hundreds of luncheons, dinners, banquets, receptions, award ceremonies and cocktail parties. Some I remember with pleasure, most I've forgotten, and more than a few I wish I could forget.

They have ranged from a simple affair at a small high school to formal events for a thousand or more that included among others a couple of presidents, ambassadors, a prime minister or two, a couple of dictators, and a king along with a queen, princesses, princes, dukes and other assorted royalty.

The size of the meeting, or social standing of those in attendance, often bore little or no relationship to the impression left. The attitude of those who were there and the reason for the gathering often were of more importance.

All of which leads me to the banquet honoring former athletes and coaches from East Tech and old Central High, whose students were transferred to Tech back in 1952.

A Hall of Fame is being established at East Tech. Several men whose names will stir a lot of memories for a lot of people will be the first inductees. The affair is expected to become an annual one, and each year additional members will be selected.

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Cleveland, it is anticipated that upwards of 1000 people will be on hand to sit down to dinner and afterwards see the ceremony enshrining Jesse Owens, Dave Albritton, Johnny Behm, Lamoyne Porter, Sam Willaman, Ivan Greene, Frank Civiletto, Russ Alexander and this proud writer in the Scarabs' Hall of Fame.

Owens, Albritton and I were track athletes who became Olympic team members. Behm was an outstanding football player, and Porter was one of Tech's brightest basketball stars. Willaman, Greene, Civiletto and Alexander all were remarkable coaches who turned out dozens of outstanding teams and hundreds of fine athletes.

Civiletto and Alexander, both of whom coached at Central, will be honored posthumously.

It is hoped that as many as possible of the East Tech and Central athletes and alumni and their families will be on hand. They are the ones who will make the evening truly memorable.

You can imagine the stories that will be told when



OWENS



ALBRITTON



GLENN



GREENE

members of Tech's great track teams of the past get together. Some of them may not be able to run across the street now or jump up on a curb, but I can hear them now reminiscing about how good they were in the old days. Guys like Harold Few, John Szlempa, "Wimp" Jackson, "Toad" Carter, John Sekelsky, Clint Jones, Sr., Ben Suber, Ed McCadden, Booker White, Ted Theodore, and Stan Tolliver, just to mention a few.

THEN THERE ARE THOSE GREAT Tech basketball teams that have been so tough for a generation or more and had some fine individual players before that. The former members will have forgotten all about the shots they missed and the games they lost.

If you're old enough, you'll remember Jack Vehar, "Cheese" Smith, Joe Lesko, Stan Urban, "Sack" Boyd and Bob Bankhead. If you're not quite that old you'll remember Jim Stone, Ken Glenn and Don Byrd. If you're really young, you'll remember Jim Abrams and the Boldens.

These are but a few of the names that have made sports history at East Tech. I could have gone even farther back and mentioned Ollie Downs, Joe Vosmik and Gordon Cobbledick of boxing, baseball and sports writing fame respectively. Then there were "Jughead" Martin and big Bob Brown who played football about as well as it can be played.

Central, too, has had some fine high school athletes over the years, especially in track. Just to mention a few, Rufus Allison, Stan Robinzyne, Jack Smith, Ed Withers, Stuart Thompson and Clarence Smith.

This is one affair I'm really looking forward to. Here's hoping that the 40 tables set aside for the athletes, ex-athletes, coaches and former coaches will all be filled.

Saw

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON JESSE OWENS

Jesse Owens is considered by many sports experts to be the greatest track and field star of the half century.

Presently a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, he lived in Chicago for a good many years where he devoted much of his time to underprivileged youth as a board member and former director of the Chicago Boys' Club, an organization serving 1500 youngsters. He was, for five and a half years, the Sports Specialist of the State of Illinois Youth Commission. This famous all-time Olympian is currently making public appearances on behalf of youth groups, and addressing civic meetings, sports banquets, and delivering commencement messages to various schools and colleges throughout the country. He is also a representative of the Lincoln-Mercury Division of the Ford Motor Company in their Marketing Division, and Sears, Roebuck and Co., speaking on behalf of these companies to sales groups, marketing people and at various other functions. For 12 years he has spearheaded the Jesse Owens Jr. Track Classics for the Atlantic Richfield Company for boys and girls 10-15 years of age. It has been a very successful program over the years.

In September 1973, the National Collegiate Athletic Association selected Owens to be the recipient of the 1974 Theodore Roosevelt Award which is the highest honor bestowed upon anyone by the NCAA. "It is presented annually to a distinguished citizen of national reputation, who, having earned a varsity athletic award in college, has by his continuing interest and concern for physical fitness in competitive sports and by the example of his own life, exemplified most clearly and forcefully the ideals and purposes to which collegiate athletic programs and amateur sports competition are dedicated." Previous recipients of this award have been Dwight D. Eisenhower,

Christopher Kraft and General of the Army Omar N. Bradley.

In 1974 Owens served as International Chairman for Boys Basketball International. This organization has, for the past four years held a tournament for boys 12-14 years of age, which is participated in by 32 regional championship teams from across the nation and other parts of the world.

Since establishing his residence in the PHOENIX area, Owens has been recruited onto the Board of Directors of the Memorial Hospital, a private non-profit, acute care hospital medical center, serving Metropolitan Phoenix and surrounding communities in Arizona. He was also called to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. In addition to his many appearances on behalf of the youth of American he has consented to serve on the Board of Directors for Boys Town, Nebraska and also for the Up With People Organization.

In the summer of 1974 the National Track and Field Hall of Fame of the United States of America was established in Charleston, West Virginia, and Jesse Owens was one of the 26 Charter Members to be inducted in August. In 1975-76 Owens traveled on behalf of the World Book Encyclopedias, speaking to sales personnel and groups of underprivileged children. In 1975 Mr. Owens became associated with the Canadian Consulate's Offices in Montreal and New York, and made many personal appearances and did extensive promotional work for the Canadian Olympic Coin Program. This work was directly responsible for the realization for up to a million dollars in cash for the U.S. Olympic teams in 1976. The U.S. teams received three cents on every dollar, face value, of the Canadian Coins sold in the United States.

In May of 1976 Mr. Owens received the honor of "Sports Father of the Year"

Many fine athletes to miss East Tech's Hall of Fame

When I wrote last week about the East Tech Hall of Fame banquet coming up on Sunday, April 7th in the Sheraton Cleveland, some forty former athletes and coaches were mentioned by name. Naturally that isn't even a good start when you consider the hundreds of fine athletes who have played and competed on the various teams at Tech over the years.

A few of those mentioned were from Central whose student body was merged with Tech in 1952 when Central was closed. Tech at that time had been an all boys school since 1932. So after 20 years it became co-educational again.

But getting back to those who weren't mentioned last week or were not chosen by the selection committee to be inducted into the Hall.

Obviously a great many deserving athletes will not be enshrined this time. With no trouble at all I can think of more than a dozen guys who would have impressive credentials.

It would be a great thing if they all could be a part of the first enshrinement, but if I can think of a dozen by myself you can imagine how many the entire selection committee could come up with when their collective heads are put together. I'm glad I don't have their job.

For instance, if you had to choose just four or five from the names I mentioned last week, plus another group I'll mention today, plus all those you can think up yourself, you'll have some idea of what the selection committee is up against.

Last week I didn't mention a lot of former State, and/or Senate champions, school record holders, all-city team members, etc.

In one or more of the above categories are fellows like Steve Gwin, (now deceased) who in the opinion of many was about as good an all-around basketball player as Tech ever had. A couple of others who played real East Tech type ball were Sam Thomas and Fred Beaumont.

On the track there were the likes of Chet Thomas, Harold Lane, Howard Leahy, Lloyd Crable, Billy Clayton, George Clark, Jessie Williams, Jim Babbitt, Estus Newberry, Haven Robinson and Bill Whitman.

The Mathis brothers, Oscar and William, along with Joe Williams and old-timer John Trice, who played back in the 20's, are a few worthy football players.

In the coaching ranks, John Broski, Joe Smith and John Chavers all directed Tech basketball teams to championships in wholesale lots.

I'm sure there are a lot of Scarab followers who can come up with a lot more names which only helps to point up the problem faced by the selection committee. That's why I'll just be happy to be there a week from tomorrow.

* * *

Chances are when Henry Morton Stanley was told by his editor on the New York Herald to go to the Belgian Congo to find Dr. David Livingstone, he had not the slightest idea that he was visiting a territory that would someday be the independent country of Zaire.

I'm sure he had even less of an idea that one day a heavyweight title fight would be scheduled in what is now the capital city in Kinshasa.

If all goes as scheduled, George Foreman will defend his title this September against the peripatetic Muhammad Ali, who fought in more unlikely places than any fighter in history.

EAST TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

2439 EAST 55th STREET • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44104 • PHONE: 431-2626

March 29, 1974

JOSEPH D. SMITH
Principal

Mr. Jesse Owens
3007 East Coetilla Lane
Phoenix, Arizona 85028

Dear Jesse:

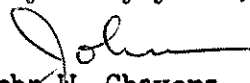
I have been unsuccessful in several attempts to contact you by phone and since we're down to the wire in preparations for the East Tech Hall of Fame Banquet, I am sending you copies of press releases and articles which will convey, better than I, the high level of expectancy that has grown in Cleveland since the announcement of this event.

The Hall of Fame Banquet will be held at the Sheraton Cleveland in the Main Ballroom on April 7, Palm Sunday Evening. Dr. Leroy O. King, National Director of Leadership Training and Group Development of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is the guest speaker. All signs indicate that we will have about 1500 persons in attendance. Dignitaries from the public and private sectors of Cleveland will be participating in the program. Four hundred seats have been reserved for former East Tech Athletes and their families. The Class of 1924 will be recognized at this same time in commemoration of their 50th Anniversary. Some of the best music in Cleveland will provide excellent calibre entertainment.

This significant event in Cleveland will not be complete without you. Would you kindly let us know by return mail, if you can be with us. All of Cleveland is looking forward to your presence.

We will be happy to forward a round-trip airline ticket to you as soon as we have heard from you, confirming your attendance. If overnight or other accommodations are needed, please let us know and we will make whatever arrangements are necessary.

Very truly yours,


John W. Chavers,
General Chairman

East Tech Hall of Fame Banquet

Encl.

Owens, Dillard, PD's Chay to join Scarab shrine

East Tech High will honor some of its illustrious graduates and coaches at a Sports Hall of Fame banquet on Sunday, April 7, at the Sheraton-Cleveland hotel.

Among the luminaries are Jesse Owens, Harrison Dillard, the Plain Dealer's Ed Chay, Dave Albritton, John Behm, Jack Trice, Ivan Greene, Bob Brown, Frank Civilelto, Paul Rose, Russ Alexander and Jim Martin.

The chairman of the banquet committee is basketball coach John Chavers, who asks East Tech alumni and any Cleveland sports fans to suggest other nominees. Send names on post cards to Chavers at Tech, 2439 E. 55th St., Cleveland, 44103, by Tuesday.

The banquet also will honor the Class of 1924 on its 50th anniversary. Reservation may be made by calling the school, 431-2626, or 881-6074. Tickets are \$12.50 per person and tables of 10 also are available. Co-chairmen include William (Sonny) Harris and Len Soeder.

P.D. 3/10/74

East Tech to honor greats

East Tech, a high school with more than its share of alumni who have made names for themselves in the world of sports, will honor some of those illustrious graduates and coaches at a Sports Hall of Fame banquet on Sunday, Apr. 7, at the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel.

Foremost among nominees to be honored are track stars Jesse Owens, Harrison Dillard and Dave Albritton.

Chairman of the banquet committee is basketball coach John Chavers, who requests Tech alumni and any Cleveland sports fans to suggest other nominees to be honored. Send names on postcards to Chavers at East Tech, 2439 E. 55th St., Cleveland, 44103 by next Tuesday.

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PRESS 3/8/74

PRESS 3/8/74

Bill Dvorak

Coach to be remembered

OLDTIMERS: Frank Civiletto will be honored posthumously as the outstanding old Central High athlete Apr. 7 when the 1920's alumni of East Tech and Central hold their Hall of Fame banquet at the Sheraton-Cleveland. The East Tech class of 1924 is sponsoring the \$12.50-a-plate affair for the Alumni Scholarship Fund.



Civiletto returned to old Central as a coach after his starring days. Joseph H. Avellone is chairman of the dinner.

The Better Gardens Club and Higbee's are sponsoring a fund-raising champagne brunch Mar. 21 at Higbee's auditorium. Money will go to the Cleveland Beautiful Committee's Public Square beautification program.

MEDICAL NOTES: Tony Granata, Musicians Union chief, presented an honorary Local 4 membership card to Sheriff Ralph Kreiger who is undergoing tests at Cleveland Clinic. Friends say the sheriff is a harmonica virtuoso (or they're not his friends).

Joe Zingale, owner of the Cleveland Nets of the World Team Tennis Assn., was 0-2 to the flu but is winning the match at his home. . . . Connie Saunders, hostess-auditor at the Iron Gate restaurant in Westlake, has traded her crutches for a cane, seven months after suffering a hip fracture.

HELP NEEDED: Earl R. Hoover, Shaker Savings executive and a historian, is seeking information about the Cleveland days of the late Rudolph Friml, Czech song writer. Friml lived with Cleveland friends in 1908.

Tom Egan, former Cleveland policeman who heads the Cuyahoga County Welfare Department's legal and investigative unit, is leaving that post to join the Internal Revenue Service. Taking his place will be Thorton Greene, former investigator who now is administrator of the County Nursing Home.

Cleveland police officers John Borenski and Mathew Kochanski have been cited by Paul Corey, Ohio Selective Service director, for their longtime volunteer work in persuading 18-year-olds to register for the draft.

PIONEERS: Seven residents of Acacia-on-the-Green are members of a veteran share-the-ride program. They are Saul G. Stillman, county Republican co-chairman Albert Gilman, the attorney; James Mellman of Paul Scott & Associates; Mrs. Bernice Yarus, a social worker; Mrs. Marjorie Linsey of Fulton, Reid & Staples; Common Pleas Judge Harry Jaffe and Ed Lubit, the ad man. They organized their car pool in 1972 B.F.C. (Before Fuel Crisis).

Virginia Deptula of the Lakewood Art League and Benedict Skonieczny, Lutheran Medical Center community relations director, arranged to display league members' paintings in patients' rooms. Several already have been sold. The hospital gets a 15% commission for its permanent art fund.

ALL TOGETHER: There are a dozen or so bar associations in Greater Cleveland and they are all getting together for a joint dinner dance Mar. 22 at

Cleveland Plaza. Fred Weisman, chairman of the event, said there will be no speeches. Featured instead will be the big band sound of the 1940's provided by Hal Lynn's 14-piece orchestra.

MEMORANDUM

TO: CHUCK ALY

FROM: JANIS BURENKA

RE: JESSE OWENS

Jesse Owens, one of our loaners and a resident of Phoenix, will be in attendance at Opening Day Ceremonies. This memo is to apprise you of a unfortunate situation which evolved some months ago during exhibit fabrication and installation of artifacts. I got this story briefly from Ruth Packard and should you need any further elucidation, I would suggest you get the story from her.

Anyway...

We wanted to have Jesse Owens Olympic Gold Medal aboard the Train along with various other things which are displayed of his. He was extremely reticent about lending us that particular item since I understand that it had been stolen once prior to our request and he had to have it replaced. Anyway, Ruth had I believe it was Sears bring pressure to bear on Owens to turn that item over to us. He agreed. At the time of shipment, it was lost or stolen. However, it was weeks before the discovery was made. When Ruth got the list of items received from the fabricators, the Gold Medal was not listed so Ruth assumed that Owens had changed his mind back to his original refusal. Owens office received a copy of the shipment receipt and failed to notify the Foundation of any omission. Weeks later when the omission came to light, it was obviously much too late to rectify the error with the North American Van Lines people. Ruth's attempts to make amends for this horrendous error were in vain. Ruth called the Olympic Committee in an effort to have the Medal replaced. The Olympic Committee informed Ruth that only when the winner requests the replacement will they comply. Ruth extended this information to Owens along with the intent of the Foundation to pay all costs to see that a suitable replacement was made. However, Owens never responded.

Please be so advised.

cc: Petr Spurney
Michael Rosenberg
Governor Howard Pyle

Chute, Tamar

From: Myles Garcia <razor323@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2014 6:07 PM
To: Chute, Tamar
Cc: Todd Schannuth
Subject: Fwd: Jesse Owens Medals

Dear Tamar,

Attached please find an email from Todd Schannuth, historian / archivist / organizer of the Bicentennial Freedom Train events for your Jesse Owens files. I thought I would share this development with you and the Collection so there is more documentation.

The attached is a memo which Mr. Schannuth found in his files re the loss of ONE Jesse Owens (replacement) medal while in transit to the BFT. The memo is undated, but Mr. Schannuth believes it is from early 1975 when the first year's exhibit was being assembled.

It doesn't say if Jesse Owens agreed to loan the other 3 (replacement) medals inasmuch as one was already lost/stolen.

Hope this adds context to the Collection.

Sincerely,
Myles Garcia

On Sat, May 10, 2014 at 2:17 PM, Todd Schannuth <tschannuth@aol.com> wrote:
Hi Myles,

Couldn't believe the document I found in my paper collection a couple days ago.

It directly addresses your question about Owens' medal and the 1975-1976 American Freedom Train.

The loss would have taken place early in 1975, say January-March, as the train was coming together.

Usually someone will ask me a question like yours and the answer will surface years later after I've forgotten who asked it. In this case, the answer surfaced in less than two months. Amazing, from my point of view.

Anyway, the doc is attached. Hope it helps.

Todd

Chute, Tamar

From: Myles Garcia <razor323@gmail.com>
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Sincerely,
Myles Garcia

On Sat, May 10, 2014 at 2:17 PM, Todd Schannuth <tschannuth@aol.com> wrote:
Hi Myles,

Couldn't believe the document I found in my paper collection a couple days ago.

It directly addresses your question about Owens' medal and the 1975-1976 American Freedom Train.

The loss would have taken place early in 1975, say January-March, as the train was coming together.

Usually someone will ask me a question like yours and the answer will surface years later after I've forgotten who asked it. In this case, the answer surfaced in less than two months. Amazing, from my point of view.

Anyway, the doc is attached. Hope it helps.

Todd



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

SOVIET LIFE

1706 EIGHTEENTH STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

TELEPHONE ADAMS 2-7768

January 4, 1979

Mr. Jesse Owens
3007 East Ocotilla Lane
Phoenix, Arizona 95028

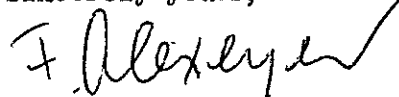
Dear Mr. Owens:

It has been recommended by Mr. C. Robert Paul, Jr., Director of Communications, United States Olympic Committee, that I write you about this matter. Novosti Press Agency is preparing questionnaires, along with popular sports personalities, in connection with the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. The entire series will be published in SOVIET LIFE magazine and distributed in the Soviet and foreign press. It would therefore be interesting for fans in the Soviet Union and other countries to know your opinion on the following questions:

1. What in your opinion is the significance of the Games?
2. Have you ever taken part in international sport competitions in the Soviet Union?
If so, what are your impressions about the organization of these competitions and your stay in the Soviet Union?
3. Do you plan to participate or visit the Soviet Union during the Games?

Would it be possible for you to send your reply so that we receive it by January 31, 1979? The approximate length of the combined answers should be one to two typewritten pages.

Sincerely yours,



Felix Alexeyev,
Managing Editor
SOVIET LIFE magazine

FA:bbp

January 10, 1979

Mr. Felix Alexeyev
Managing Editor
SOVIET LIFE Magazine
1706 Eighteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Alexayev,

We are in receipt of your letter of January 4 regarding a series to be published in SOVIET LIFE Magazine for distribution in the Soviet and foreign press. Following are the answers to the three questions:

1. I do believe that the Olympic Games is a meeting of the only body in the world that can bring together the civilized nations of the world and the Youth of the world to participate in fair and sportsmanlike competition. It is the only body that can bring together the Youth of the world where they can break bread together, dance together, sing together and compete on the field of competition and remain as friends for the betterment of the world itself.

2. No, I have not taken part in international sports competition in the Soviet Union, but I have read and listened to the Youth that have competed in the Soviet Union and am told of the kind of friendships that they have made and the wonderful hospitality of the country.

3. I do plan to visit the Soviet Union during the Games and am looking forward to meeting some of the former greats of sports in the Soviet Union and to renew my acquaintances with those I have met at previous Olympic Games.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Jesse Owens
'36 Olympics

In Jesse Owens' Memories

Friendship, Flag Outweigh Hitler

4-6-1979
By Bob Hunter
Of The Dispatch Staff

Jesse Owens, the former Ohio State track star who set the Nazi world on its ear by winning four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics at Berlin, has more vivid recollections than his psychological battle with German Dictator Adolph Hitler.

"Two things stand out in my mind about Hitler," said Owens who is in Columbus to discuss Leni Ryefenstahl's film *Olympia* as a part of the Community Film Association's series "Propaganda And Film: 1928-45."

"THE FIRST thing was my friendship with foreign athletes and particularly (German broad jumper) Lutz Long," said Owens. "The second thing is standing atop the stand and watching the flag raise above all others to the crescendo of the National Anthem, and knowing that I was an Olympic champion."

But Owens was more than just a

Olympic champion, according to his former coach Larry Snyder. Snyder is appearing with Owens on the CFA's program.

"He (Owens) is and has been a great humanitarian," said the 82-year-old Snyder, who retired as Ohio State track coach in 1965. "He has always given more than he received. He loves people and has always done anything he could for them. This may transcend even his athletic talents."

To this day, Owens, who has lived in Phoenix, Ariz., for the past seven years, still travels all over the world imparting an important message to young athletes.

"IF A KID HAS an opportunity to get an education he should take it because it's important from the standpoint of preparedness," said Owens. "Athletics don't last forever. It's important to be prepared for life."

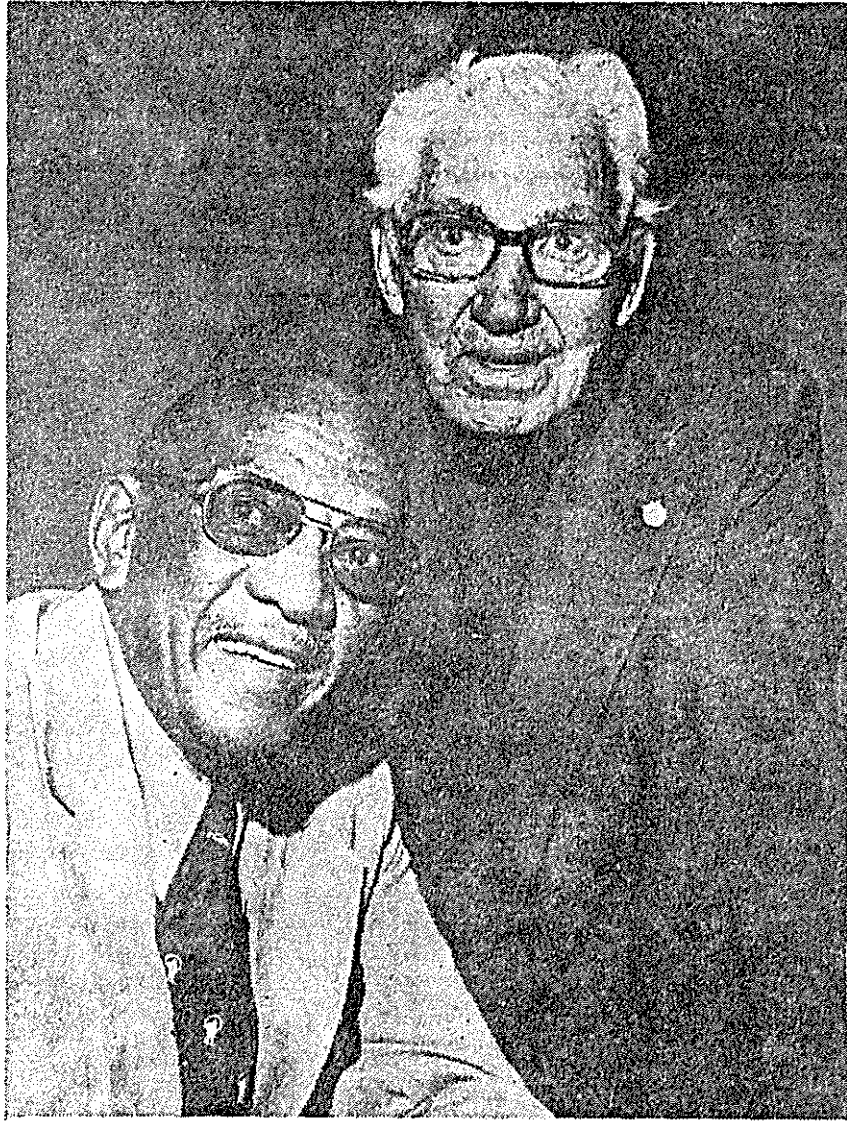
Owens, who has had his share of financial difficulties in the 43 years since his amazing achievements, said

he isn't bitter that he has not been sufficiently rewarded for his athletic talents.

"Everything is not predicated on money," he said. "Sure the young

people today have more opportunities than we had, but I've been blessed in many ways with the friendships that I have. I've got a lot of things that money can't buy."

The Columbus Dispatch



Dispatch Photo by Charles Hays

Olympic Great Jesse Owens, Left, Coach Larry Snyder



Lantern Photo by R. Scott Krupkin

Jessie Owens

Olympics fulfilled Owen's dream

By Martin B. Friedman

11 April 1979

Jesse Owens, former Ohio State track great and winner of five gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, said his victory in the 100 meter dash was his greatest Olympic victory.

Owens was in Columbus to discuss the film "Olympia Part I."

With that victory, Owens said, "I received the title of the world's fastest human." It was what Owens called a dream, from the age of 13, come true.

But Owens said his other gold medals were very satisfying. One that stuck out in his mind was the medal he earned in the broad jump against Lutz Long of Germany. "When the victory was decided and I was the victor, he (Long) was the first one out of the pit to congratulate me. That was the beginning of a friendship that lasts through today."

Owens, a junior at Ohio State at the time of the '36 Olympics, said he was not aware at the time of Hitler's master race propaganda aimed at smearing the United States team because of its black Olympic team members.

"Olympia Part I" belittles the black athletes in favor of what Owens termed the "blue eyed and blond" philosophy of Hitler's master race.

Owens responded to this by saying, "I am neither blue eyed nor blond."

"We were not as politically oriented at that time as young people are today," Owens explained. "You don't have time for that ... I wasn't running against Hitler."

The film was shown by the Community Film Association as part of its screenings and discussions entitled "Propaganda and Film: 1928-45."

Commenting on the film as a depiction of the Olympic Games, Owens called it one of the best films made. It shows the emotion, pageantry and mastery of the games, he said.

The Ohio State Lantern



Jesse Owens in November 1979, with Franklin Heights High School student Tina Lewis. The former Olympics gold and silver medalist came to Columbus to join other business world notables speaking at an "Opportunity Day" seminar for high school students.

Jesse Owens hospitalized

1-25-80

TUCSON, Ariz. (UPI) — Jesse Owens, former OSU track star and legend since his track and field victories in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, has checked into a Tucson hospital for treatment of lung cancer, it was disclosed Thursday.

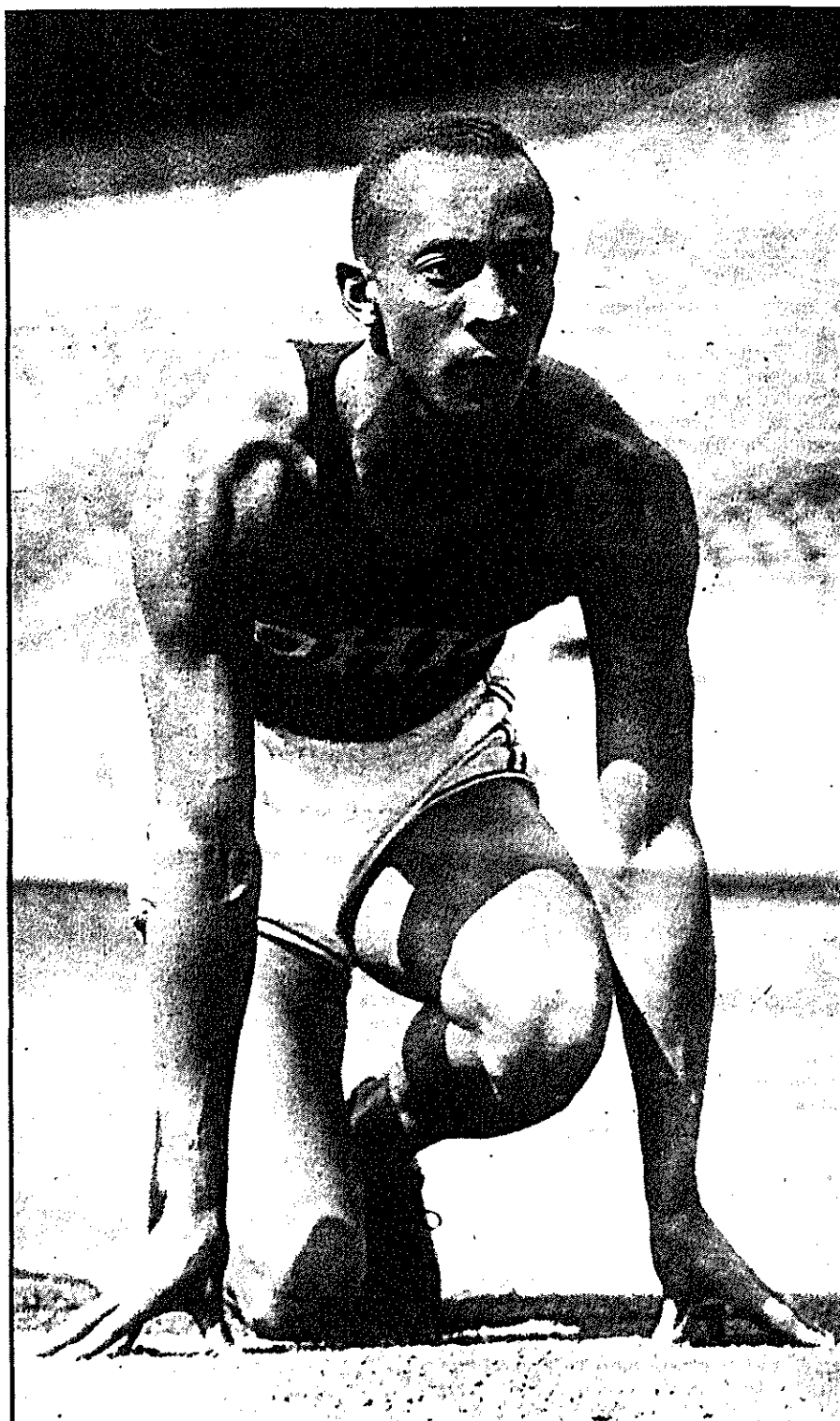
A hospital spokesman quoted Owens, 66, as saying he was fighting "the biggest battle of my life and with the help of Dr. Stephen E. Jones, I'll win this race."

Jones, a cancer specialist and doctor of internal medicine, said Owens was transferred Wednesday to

University Hospital following earlier tests and treatment.

"Mr. Owens was recently discovered to have cancer of the lung. Treatment was initiated at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago and as soon as conditions permitted, he was transferred to University Hospital," Stephens said.

Owens, who lived in the Phoenix area since 1972, refused to comment on the recent controversy surrounding U.S. participation in the Moscow summer Olympics.



Jesse Owens in 1935, track star at Ohio State University.



Jesse Owens in November 1979, with Franklin Heights High School student Tina Lewis. The former Olympics gold and silver medalist came to Columbus to join other business world notables speaking at an "Opportunity Day" seminar for high school students.

My

I WAS BORN in Alabama and then spent 12 years in Cleveland, but in a deep sense, maybe the deepest, Columbus is home to me.

Each time I visit Columbus, I feel something special, unique. Things change; yet in some basic way nothing changes there.

I never really had a boyhood before I entered Ohio State University, but when I got to Columbus and college, it was like six kinds of paradise. It was from OSU that I went to the Olympics and won four gold medals, and it was from OSU that I got my degree. But I'm getting ahead of my story.

I was born in Oakville, Ala., in 1913; lived there until I was 7. We were sharecroppers, like the two Owens generations before us, and all of us nine kids helped my father to work the fields. Just going to school then would have been a vacation. When I almost checked out from pneumonia after a brother and sister had died, my parents knew we had to leave if we were to survive.

We had no place to go, but we sold the mule and anything else the boss would buy and kept heading north. We stopped when we came to Lake Erie. But Cleveland was hard times, too. Mama and my sisters found work as maids, my brothers as janitors. But Daddy couldn't get regular work for 10 years.

I did go to school, which is where I learned to run. Coach Charles Riley of East Tech High School took one look at me and said, "I've never seen such a skinny kid. We've got to build you up." The only remedy was running to and from school, because I held three jobs, one tending a greenhouse before classes. I got home after dark year-around, ate dinner, and studied until I literally fell into bed.

I've got no complaints about those years. I didn't know anything different, and, as the saying goes,



By **JESSE OWENS,**
With Paul Nelmark

After his success at the Olympics in Berlin, Germany, in 1936, Owens came home to a hero's welcome in New York City.

Roots are in Columbus

they made a man out of me. The strange thing is that I was a man before I was a boy, and I became a boy when I got to Columbus and college. The university helped get my father his first steady job, but I still had to work, because Ohio State didn't give athletic scholarships.

I almost missed out on Columbus because of the lack of an OSU scholarship. The last couple of years of high school in Cleveland, lo and behold, the sickly, emaciated J.C. (my initials, standing for James Cleveland) had turned into "Jesse Owens — the world's fastest human." Scholarship offers poured in like syrup straight from the tree. For the first time, it looked like Easy Street for me.

I was set to take them, too. I remember one offered me a plush apartment and \$3,000 a year spending money. And that didn't compare to the fellow who came to my house — we didn't have a phone, so he couldn't call — with the promise of an apartment, \$4,500 and a new auto. A car — I didn't know anything but bicycles!

But Charles Riley had other ideas.

He never told you what to do, but he let you know what he thought in an unusual way. "New Model T?" he grinned. "And all that money. And a bigger place all for yourself, bigger than you and your whole family have ever lived in. That's a lot. Of course, you'll miss something, too."

"What?" What could be missing?

"Well, first there's Larry Snyder," Riley said. "Best track coach in the country. And a few other things. One of them is Columbus."

"What's Columbus?"

"It's a good place for you to be," he answered. "The only place."

You couldn't say no to Charles Riley. It was as if

my parents had brought me to Cleveland to him, and now he wanted to bring me to Columbus. I wasn't going to get any nice apartment and car, but he had done something else that was even more important. He had talked to a couple of runners I'd become quite close to, Dave Albritton and Ralph Metcalfe, and they were going to Ohio State. But to be frank, the day I stepped out of Albritton's beat-up car — which almost didn't make it there — and first set foot on the campus, I still wasn't convinced.

"Let's see the stadium first," I said. "That's where we'll be running."

The instant I stood inside that stadium, I felt something I'd never felt before. Oh, it was awesome and beautiful — the only place to compare with it would be Berlin's stadium in the '36 Olympics — yet it was something else that took hold of me. I knew I'd win there. I knew I'd break the world's record there.

As an athlete, I'd always had a "thing" about the places where I competed. I recall a high school in Cleveland where the team had gone for a meet in my sophomore year. I'd begun to get a reputation as a mighty fast kid, and the team was depending on me to take first place in the sprints.

There was something about the place that made me feel uneasy. I didn't win that day — as a matter of fact, I didn't even come in third in the 100, which was my favorite event.

There was no explaining it. It wasn't all the place, but I know that was part of it. Some years later when I was struggling for money again, after the Olympics, I had the same feeling. Blacks weren't allowed in any pro sports then, and the country was still in the Depression. I took a job for \$50 a night running a sprint against a race horse. These exhibitions usually took place before Negro baseball games. These

games were just beginning then and were a way for blacks to create their own pro sports.

The place was Fremont, in northern Ohio, and something about the surroundings gave me bad vibes. I had sprinted against this same horse a half a dozen times before, and the trick of beating him — and it was a trick — was that the starter always stood next to the animal and shot the gun off in his ear. The horse would be startled and would rear and take a few seconds to get into gear, and by that time I'd be halfway home. At the end of the race, the horse would be thundering by me, but I'd make it to the tape first.

(continued)



In this 1970 photo, Owens shows the four gold medals that he won at the 1936 Olympics. Behind him are photographs and trophies of his track and field prowess.



24 The Columbus Dispatch Magazine—February 3, 1980

Owens

continued

I didn't like it, but I needed it. I had a wife and two kids and needed the money. It was in Fremont, though, that I happened to glance at the horse's eyes when the gun went off. It was the only night I lost. I got off to a slow start because I saw the fear in the animal's eyes, and I saw the inhumanity of the whole thing. That night I decided to quit. I found a job in Cleveland as a playground instructor for \$28 a week.

But in the stadium at Ohio State, everything felt good. The first time, I just kept standing there, gazing about. Dave Albritton, and the people who had come to meet us from the university, wondered what in the heck I was doing. "Let me walk around for a few more minutes," I told them. I charted what I thought might be the course I'd run for the 100 and 200. I looked at the grass and the sky.

I was home.

In the spring of 1935, in the Big Ten meet, I won the sprints and set a world record in the long jump which lasted for about a quarter of a century. Even when the meets were away from home, just the feeling that I was with the Ohio State team, and that I'd be returning to my room in Columbus, gave me something that I never had before. So, when I was a junior in 1936, I was ready for the Olympics in Berlin, Germany, and for Adolf Hitler. The dictator would walk out of the stadium right before I was about to compete, say all kinds of things to the press about me so I'd get mad and lose my cool. He'd even groomed one of the German athletes for years to beat me, but my three years at Ohio State had made me too secure, and I was able to come home with four gold medals.

Yet the stadium at Ohio State was only the "first act." The atmosphere of Ohio itself was something special. And, most of all, Columbus.

What exactly was it? I've thought about that a lot — on planes to Tokyo, on the ship to the Olympics, and sometimes simply

walking around my den in Chicago and, later, in Phoenix, where I now live.

First, I think, it was the mere physical size of the city. Columbus then, and now, too, though it all works together as one big place, was so different from Cleveland. To me, it was a lot of tiny cities within a city. OSU was one. But then there were the military and religious centers; the business sections and all the rest; new structures being put up, but with log houses spotted here and there; even a penitentiary. I had read of the 1930 fire there, where 320 prisoners were burned to death. I had to go look at the prison my first week in Columbus. I had wanted Dave to drive over with me, but he couldn't stand the thought of sightseeing in a prison. So he let me use the car, and I went alone.

When I got there, I sensed what he may have felt. We were both blacks from the Deep South and deep poverty, and where we'd come from was a prison.

It was strange how Columbus was like Oakville — only with the bad turned good. The expanse of it was only the beginning. There was the sky at dusk for instance. In the middle of Ohio, there was a kind of luminous glow when the sun went down. I never saw that glow in Cleveland, but it was so reminiscent of spring and fall in Alabama. The difference, of course, was when the sun went down in Oakville, we were all so exhausted that there was hardly energy left to talk. The five hours' sleep each of us got — three for my father — was the only escape, the only thing to look forward to.

When the sun went down in Columbus, I was still filled with energy. I studied — and thank goodness they didn't let me take courses like Basketweaving and Tying Your Shoelaces 101 — and learned. I was the first Owens to ever attend college.

Sure, I still had to work. But my jobs were actually fun.

I was running a freight elevator 12 hours a week in a new office building. They had just put in a few passenger elevators and had



Above, Jesse Owens and Larry Snyder, right, his coach at Ohio State. Owens says that Snyder "knew more about track and field than any other college coach in the world." On the opposite page, Owens' reunion with his family in New York after the 1936 Olympics. From left, Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Owens, Jesse's father and mother; Jesse Owens; Mrs. Ruth Owens, Jesse's wife.

hired two retired fellows of about 70 to run those. I wasn't supposed to pick up any passengers, but it got a little boring waiting for freight in the basement. So, to entertain myself, the minute the signal would go on (which meant there was someone waiting to be picked up), I'd throw the thing into gear like I was coming out for the start of a 100-yard dash, make it to that floor before the two other operators had time to even close their doors, pick up the passenger and be gone. They'd get up there, and no one would be there. I had them scratching their heads all day long. After a while, though, they told the boss that they couldn't understand why a whole day passed and they had only picked up half a dozen passengers, so I cooled it and went back to waiting for the freight boxes.

I couldn't afford to lose the job, either, because my first year at college I got married. I had been in love with Ruth since sixth grade, and if I had to be away from her a little longer I wanted us to at least be man and wife. But she was too young to get married in Ohio, so one weekend when there wasn't any track meet Dave Albritton and his girl drove us to another state where a justice of the peace tied the knot. It has stayed tied 47 years. Later on, we got "married" again, this time in a church, with our parents and families there.

But the first ceremony is even more boldly etched in my memory. For one thing, I had to have Ruth back home in Cleveland by 11 that night. So we started off before dawn, worrying that the car wouldn't make it back.

After we said "I do," paid the justice of the peace and got back to Columbus that afternoon, I had \$2 still left in my pocket. There was a little sandwich shop — on High St., I think — and that was where we had our wedding dinner. We treated Dave and his girl, too. Four could eat on \$2 in those days.

But even after Ruth and I were openly married, I must admit I lived more with my running shoes than with Ruth. Larry Snyder

had turned out to be everything I could ask for in a coach.

In a way, Larry was like Charles Riley — never pushy but always letting you know that you'd wind up a loser if you didn't take his advice. I guess that's why Riley liked him. But really, Larry didn't even give advice. He knew more about track and field than any other college coach in the world, and it was a thing of beauty when he "taught" you something. Like the time he casually gave me a ride back to my room. Only before I knew it we'd left the campus and were driving south. "What's up?" I asked.

"Have you got an hour or two?"

"Sure, Larry."

"Well, there are some youngsters thinking of transferring to Ohio State next year, supposed to be real talented runners, and I thought we could take a look at them together."

It sounded sensible. But 25 minutes later, we went down an old dirt road for about a mile and a half and pulled up next to a huge pasture. That was one of the nice things about Columbus — go 15, 20 minutes in any direction and you'd wind up with a different piece of Americana.

Larry climbed over the fence. I did the same. We walked toward a group of beautiful, wild-looking horses. "Don't worry," Larry said, "I know the people who own the place. It's OK to come out here whenever I want."

"But where are these kids that might go to Ohio State?"

"You're lookin' at 'em."

Larry had put me on. But I knew he never pulled the wool over your eyes without opening them up to something new.

The horses were a little wild, and it took Larry a while to quiet one down enough to climb on. "I didn't know you were a horse tamer," I laughed as he was trying to climb on one of the spooked animals. He just grinned and said, "They're natural, and I want you to watch them."

(continued)

A 1936 photograph shows Jesse Owens in front of a microphone, a crowd in the background, on the day of his return to Columbus after the Olympics.



Owens

continued

In the next half-hour, I saw the most important thing about running. A few years before, Charles Riley had told me to watch how animals run and had shown me some films of cheetahs and horses and greyhounds. And Larry Snyder brought it home in a way I'd never forget.

He rode that horse, without a saddle, sometimes out of sight, then coming back. I knew it wasn't easy for him. The only thing he said during the entire time was "watch the horse, not me, Jesse."

Though he was in good shape, he was breathing heavily when he dismounted. We got back in the car and started to drive back toward Columbus. I waited for him to talk. Eventually, he asked, "What did you see — and don't make any jokes about me being a rodeo rider, OK?"

I told him what I'd seen. A horse didn't have any expression when it ran. No "I'm going to go as fast as I can go" look on his face, like a lot of runners. Yours truly being one.

Larry nodded. "Gritting your teeth doesn't make you go any faster," he said. "What else?"

I hesitated. "I don't know how to say it, Larry. It's just that they run naturally. They don't make any mistakes."

"Why do they run naturally?"

I shrugged my shoulders. "They just do."

He grinned. "Right. They just do. Because they're animals and they haven't learned any bad habits unless people teach them bad habits." He didn't say anything for maybe half a minute. Then, "A lot of people have been calling you a natural runner, Jesse, and in a way you are. That's why you go so fast, and why you've broken some records. It's a God-given gift. But you've got a bad habit. Not real bad, but enough. You could go faster if you didn't have that bad habit. The horse doesn't have it. What is it?"

I didn't know, so he told me. By asking questions. "Was the horse tired at the end?"

"No. You were — but the horse wasn't."

Larry said the horse wasn't tired partly because it was in shape. But I was in shape, too. "The other reason he doesn't get tired, Jess, is because he doesn't think about being tired. Particularly in the 200, you think about being tired. You know you've got the fastest start around, but you know guys like Ralph Metcalfe who are bigger and stronger than you are might come thundering past you at the end. Don't think about it. Don't ever think tired. Next week when you run, I want you to practice not thinking tired. Run the 200 like it was the 100."

I nodded. But then I had to ask, "How? I get tired after that first 150 yards."

"So does the horse. But he doesn't think about it. Think like the horse when you run the 200. Don't think. Just run."

The next week was a wonder. Every time I practiced the 200, I thought like the horse I'd seen. I didn't think. I felt like I was flying. My times were faster than I had ever done in practice. Sure, I was gasping a little for 15 or 20 seconds afterward, but if you didn't tie that to the idea of being fatigued, you weren't fatigued. On Thursday, after I ran a really sparkling 200, Larry walked up to me and did something he'd never done before. "Run it again."

You didn't run two 200s in a row. It just wasn't good training — or was it?

"OK," I answered. "Give me about 20 minutes."

"Right now," he said. "Pretend you're a horse."

I did it. I only went two-tenths of a second slower than the first time! I wasn't tired. I had become the horse — a natural animal, which we all are underneath, letting my body move for the sheer joy of it. "How about another?" I said to him afterward.

"That's enough for today," he smiled. As I put my sweat clothes back on and started to walk off the track, he yelled, "But don't start eating oats, Owens."

I would have eaten oats if Larry had



Called by many "a natural runner," Owens, right, shows the form that led him to world records and Olympics triumph. The photo of a meet at Ohio Stadium was taken in 1934 or '35.

wanted me to. Everything seemed to be going right for OSU. Our football team had won the Big Ten Championship for the first time in 15 years.

But it was Larry, and Ohio State, and Columbus, that got me to the Olympics as a college junior in 1936 and carried me through some tough moments there, because Hitler had directed the brunt of his propaganda against the Americans and me in particular.

Afterward, it sure seemed like everything would go my way. The streets of New York were lined for miles with a parade just for me. The sickly, poverty-stricken kid from Oakville, Ala., seemed to have reached the top of the mountain. Someone even thrust a paper bag into my hand as the convertible in which I was riding made its way through the streets. There were thousands of dollars in it, in small bills. I wired it back to Cleveland immediately, to buy a home for my parents — the one dream they'd always had which they didn't dare believe they'd ever get. There would be a lot more money, I figured. Millionaires were making me offers, and Ruth and I were staying in a posh New York hotel, with one of those tycoons footing the bill.

But when it came time to stop slapping me on the back and actually start giving me a job, the big talk went up in smoke. I dropped out of college, because the future looked so rosy that I couldn't see how I would need a degree. But it wasn't long before I was running against the horse, quit that, and then went back to Cleveland to the playground instructor's job. I had another child on the way, and though I was still so famous that it boggled my mind, none of it was putting food on the table. Things weren't good. I sat down and talked with my father one night. Thank goodness, he and Mama had gotten a house out of all of it, but that's about the only thing besides the four gold medals in my living room.

Henry Owens was a lot like Larry Snyder. He didn't tell you what to do, and he

didn't say much. But what he did say meant a lot.

"When I'm in trouble," he said slowly, "and I guess that's been most of my life, I always tries to go to my roots. Maybe you should do that, J.C." Even though everyone had come to call me Jesse, my father had never stopped calling me by my given initials, J.C.

"You don't mean back to Alabama?"

He shook his head. "The South's not your roots, J.C. Here in Cleveland isn't either."

I knew he was right. My real roots — of what I'd become and what I wanted to be — were in Columbus. It was probably the hardest thing I ever had to do, but I moved Ruth and the kids there and finished up my last year at Ohio State.

Gaining the degree made the difference in my life. Yet I think that going back and finishing what I'd begun in Columbus was the most important thing. I had to work hard to stay in school that senior year, but it was worth it.

Afterward, World War II war came, and I got a good job in Detroit with the Ford Motor Co., which had turned its resources toward the military. After that, I moved to Chicago, where I lived for almost 20 years. Now, I'm in Phoenix.

But even though I went back to Columbus and "finished" my education, Columbus has never ended for me. I go back whenever I can, sometimes just stopping off on the way to somewhere else, taking a couple of hours to walk the streets, look at the sky and look inside myself.

Because that's where Columbus will always be as long as I draw a breath.

Inside of me. ■

Jesse Owens, of Phoenix, Ariz., is now a public relations executive. Paul Neimark, of Highland Park, Ill., has written 17 books, hundreds of articles, a TV movie and a television film, Jesse, scheduled to be released this year.

Jesse Owens Says He Opposes Boycott Of Moscow Olympics

DISPATCH 2-7-80

PARADISE VALLEY, Ariz. (AP) — Jesse Owens, who won four gold medal in the 1936 Olympics in Germany, says he opposes President Carter's proposed U.S. boycott of the Moscow games.

"To me, it's not right in the eyes of God or the soul of man," said Owens.

"Politics and world events should be kept out of the Olympics. It hurts to have a kid who has trained, believed, lived, slept and ate Olympics for years, and suddenly someone says you can't go."

OWENS, 66, has been undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer of the left lung.

His comments on the Olympics — in an interview with Rick Lanning published Thursday in the the Phoenix Gazette — were his first on the subject.

His wife, Ruth, said Owens has gained five pounds since doctors diag-

nosed the problem as lung cancer. Owens is undergoing chemotherapy as an outpatient at the University of Arizona Cancer Center in Tucson.

HE WAS first hospitalized in Chicago in December after reporting short-
age of breath.

Mrs. Owens said he suffers short-
ness of breath, has trouble talking and must limit visits.

THE FAMILY home is in this well-
to-do Phoenix suburb, in a subdivision known as Camelot. The Owens have three daughters and five grandchil-
dren.

Because Owens was black, German leader Adolph Hitler refused to congratulate him after he took gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, the long jump and the 400-meter relay race, smashing the Nazi dictator's dream of Aryan supremacy.

Owens operates Jesse Owens Public Relations in Phoenix, which has contracts with six major U.S. corporations to provide motivational impact for employees, concentrating on the sales staff.

"MY HUSBAND is quite a man," says his wife and childhood sweetheart.

Owens is a born-again believer, preaching Christ, morality, goodness and being optimistic. He especially likes to talk to young athletes.

"A person's race has nothing to do with success," he said. "In this country, thank God, you get what you want. You can achieve any goals you set for yourself."

"To a Christian, that's no secret. The Bible has it all recorded in the Old and New Testaments . . ."

Recalls days at OSU with Jesse Owens

Jesse Owens and I first met the summer of my junior year in high school. We were both employed as junior counselors at the Young Men's Christian Association summer camp outside Cleveland.

My reminiscing is triggered by the fact that Jesse lies seriously ill at this moment in a hospital in Phoenix.

The summer after I graduated from St. Natius High School, my mother stopped in the Sohio gas station at E. 93d and Cedar. Jesse was pumping gas there for summer employment.

He and my mother engaged in some small talk. During this exchange my mother mentioned that I had received a scholarship to attend Ohio State University. Jesse had just finished his freshman year there.

Jesse told my mother to have me telephone him and he would arrange housing for me when I came down to enter school in September. This was in 1934 and at the time black students were not permitted to live in the university dormitories. And no white fraternities pledged blacks.

So my freshman year Jesse and I were roommates. We lived in the home of a black couple named Harrison with several other students. Located in the university district, it was about a five-minute walk to campus.

His volunteering to arrange for my living conditions and be sort of a big brother to

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CPR

**GEORGE
ANTHONY
MOORE**



me was characteristic of Jesse's generous nature and his concern for other people. Jesse has always been soft-spoken; he smiles a lot and I don't ever recall his speaking ill of anyone. At the time he did not drink or smoke.

Jesse dressed like a fashion model. I always envied him because his face was as smooth as a baby's and he never had to shave. Women literally threw themselves at him. It is a credit that today, 48 years later, he is still married to the same woman, Ruth.

Although he was one of the outstanding athletes of the first half of this century, he still had to work his way through college.

Jesse worked nights in a state office building. I think the university treated him shabbily. I recall in particular that he was refused admission to two of the honoraries for outstanding students. One was Bucket and Dipper, the other Sphinx.

Their excuse was his academic point average did not qualify him. Had he been an athlete in today's times, he would have been fantastically wealthy as are most of today's star athletes.

The occasion that lives in my memory most vividly is when Jesse came back to the house in Columbus after the Berlin Olympics in 1936. He had won four gold medals, in the 100 and 200-meter dashes, the 400 meter relay and the broad jump.

Adolph Hitler left the Stadium after he had won these four events and did not shake his hand as was the custom. We stood around listening to Jesse open mouthed. True to his generous nature, Jesse was not vindictive about Hitler's snub.

Cleveland can be thankful that his parents, who came from a rural Alabama cotton farm chose our city and that Fairmount Junior High School and East Tech where Jesse went to school helped him cultivate the determination, dedication and discipline to become the world's fastest human being. We wish him that same rate of speed in his recovery.

a Cleveland Newspaper

Jesse Owens Dies Of Cancer At 66

3-31-80
By Paul Hornung
Of The Dispatch Staff

James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens, most famous of all U.S. track stars, has lost what he called his "toughest battle," a fight against cancer.

The 66-year-old Ohio State alumnus, who once set three world records and tied another on one afternoon, died at 5:40 a.m. Monday in the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center in Tucson.

His wife, Ruth, was at his side.

OWENS WAS hospitalized last Dec. 12 in Chicago, where his illness was diagnosed as adenocarcinoma, a form of cancer doctors said is usually associated with heavy cigarette smoking. Doctors said Owens smoked about a pack a day.

Owens said he faced "the biggest battle of my life" but that he hoped to "win this race." He did not.

Owens' greatest fame resulted from the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, although he had already enjoyed national acclaim for his track accomplishments at Cleveland East Technical High School and Ohio State University.

THAT HE collected four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics created international attention. He won the 100-meter dash, tying the world record, the 200-meter dash, setting an Olympic record, the long jump, establishing another Games mark, and anchored the winning U.S. 400-meter relay team.

But perhaps more remembered was the snub by then-German dictator Adolf Hitler. Owens recalled later that "Hitler had directed the brunt of his (pre-Olympic) propaganda against the Americans and me in particular."

So frustrated was Hitler by Owens' heroics that he left the Olympic stadium to avoid presenting medals to the black American from Ohio.

"HE WOULD walk out right before I was to compete," Owens recalled later. "He would say all kinds of things to the press about me. He had even groomed one of the German athletes for years to beat me."

None ever did, of course. None even came close.

Ironically, Owens formed a friendship during the Olympics with a white German who obviously risked Der Fuhrer's wrath because of his overwhelming admiration for the great American athlete.



JESSE OWENS

Dispatch Photo

Owens and the German corresponded for a number of years afterward and enjoyed several warm reunions.

OWENS WAS born in Oakville, Ala., one of nine children of a cotton sharecropper. He helped his father in the fields.

When he was 7 years old, he contracted pneumonia and nearly died. A brother and sister did die during the epidemic.

"My parents knew we had to leave if we were to survive," he said years later.

"We had no place to go, but we sold the mule and anything else the boss would buy, and kept heading north. We stopped when we came to Lake Erie," Owens said.

The family settled in Cleveland.

AS A HIGH school senior at East Tech., Owens tied the world record of 9.4 seconds in the 100-yard dash and set a scholastic record of 24 feet, 9 5/8 inches in the long jump during an interscholastic meet in Chicago.

College recruiters swarmed around the skinny 20-year-old, offering all sorts of inducements. But he selected Ohio State for several reasons, including the fact it was near home and he was impressed by both Larry Snyder, the Buckeye track coach, and Ohio Stadium, where he would win many races.

Owens became known as "The Buckeye Bullet."

Owens highlighted his first year of college varsity competition with what is acknowledged to be the greatest single day by any track and field performer.

THAT WAS on May 25, 1935. In 70 minutes in the Big Ten Championships at Michigan, Owens tied the world record in winning the 100-yard dash (9.4) and set world records in the 220-yard dash (20.3), 220 low hurdles (22.6) and the long jump (26 feet 1/4 inches).

That was one year before he won four gold medals in the Olympics.

Owens recently opposed President Carter's call for boycotting the Moscow Olympics, saying politics has no place in the Games.

OWENS' 1936 Olympic feats have become a yardstick by which other accomplishments are measured.

When swimmer Mark Spitz won an extraordinary seven gold medals in the 1976 Summer Games in Munich, it was compared with Owens' record. And when Eric Heiden swept five gold medals in speed skating events at the 1980 Winter Games in Lake Placid, N.Y., again it was Owens' name that surfaced for comparisons.

Perhaps the best indication of his greatness, though, was that it took four decades before the last of his 11 world records in track and field vanished from the record books.

"I LOOKED upon them as a part of history," he said in 1975, shortly after his name disappeared from the list of record-holders. "I was proud to be involved in that history-making process, but I have nothing but admiration for the kids coming along today."

Unlike today's Olympians who, with the help of television and the mass media, have the opportunity to become instant superstars, Owens found that many doors did not open for him after his 1936 triumphs.

He did not return to star in the movies as Johnny Weissmuller and Sonja Henie did. He could not star in another sport, as Babe Didrikson did on the golf links, or become involved in politics, as Bob Mathias and Rafer Johnson did. He could not turn professional, as Dick Buton, Dorothy Hamill and other figure skaters did.

INSTEAD, OWENS became a sort of sideshow attraction. He raced against

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(cont.)

horses and, later, toured with basketball's Harlem Globetrotters, running exhibition races as a halftime attraction.

"Sure, it bothered me," he once said of the fact the color of his skin took precedence over everything else. "But you have to remember there is a vast difference between my time and today's time.

"Young blacks today are living in a world that is changing, a world in which a man with ability and who is prepared can work and succeed at what he is doing."

ULTIMATELY, Owens became a successful businessman, a national spokesman for the American Olympic movement and the U.S. State Department's "Ambassador to Sports."

Forty years after President Franklin D. Roosevelt failed to invite Owens to the White House, President Gerald R. Ford honored Owens by presenting him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House on Aug. 5, 1976.

Recently, Owens said, "I was born in Alabama and then spent 12 years in Cleveland, but in a deep sense, maybe the deepest, Columbus is home to me."

Columbus and the world have lost a great star

Owens served for 5½ years as a sports specialist for the Illinois Youth Commission, before organizing his own business, Jesse Owens Inc., in Chicago. The firm did public relations and market research.

Owens later moved to Phoenix, where he made his home with his wife, Ruth, to whom he was married early in his Ohio State days. He did extensive traveling and conducted his business from Phoenix.

Ohio State University President Harold Enarson announced Monday morning that he has recommended to the board of trustees that the track at Ohio Stadium be named the Jesse Owens Track and that three of the university's recreation centers be renamed in Owens' honor.

DISPATCH 3-31-80

1970
←



PRIZED POSSESSIONS — Jesse Owens displays the case holding the four Olympic gold medals he won in

the 1936 Games in a 1970 photo. Of all Owens' track and field awards, these were his most prized possessions.

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In Art.
1960

HAPPY HOMECOMING — Jesse Owens presents his daughter Marlene with the 1960 Ohio State

University homecoming queen trophy after she won the honor at her father's alma mater in 1960.

Jesse Owens

3-31-80 DISPATCH

The Gold And The Glory



FAMILIAR FLYING FORM — Jesse Owens flies through the air at Ohio Stadium during the long jump event at a track meet in 1936 before he

journeyed to Germany and captured four gold medals in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.



HERO'S WELCOME — Jesse Owens receives a hero's welcome in a ticker-tape parade down Broadway in New York City after his triumphant

return from the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. Owens' four gold medal performance at the Games helped deflate Adolf Hitler's dream of

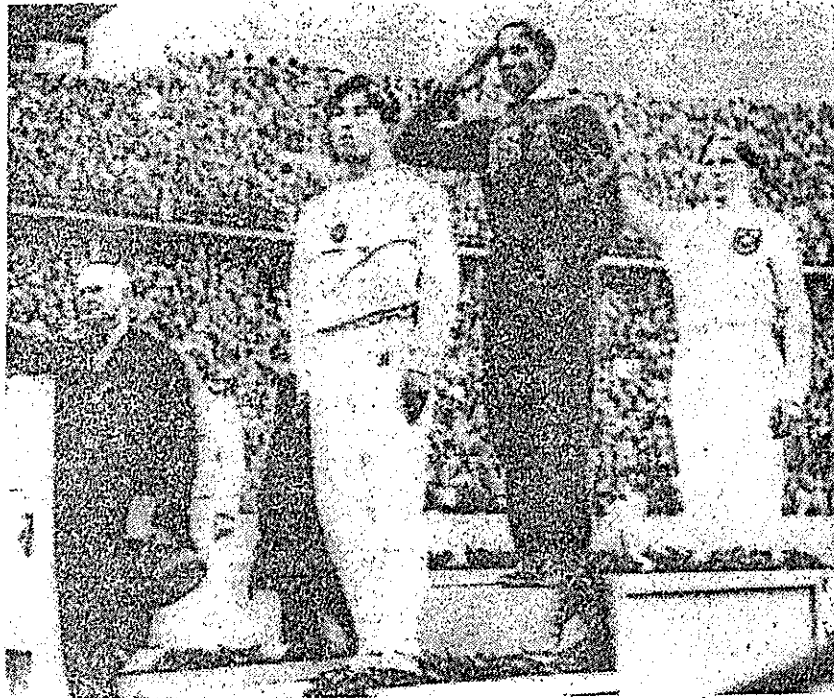
Aryan superiority in the event, which Hitler hoped would showcase his "master race."

DISPATCH 3-31-36



FAMILY REUNION — Jesse Owens poses with his family at the Harlem home of stage and screen star Bill Robinson after Owens' return from the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. From left are his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Owens, Owens and his wife Ruth.

DISPATCH : 3-31-80



SPOILS NAZI MYTH — Jesse Owens, center, salutes as the U.S. national anthem is played after one of his gold medal performances in the 1936 Olympic Games. Owens' four gold medals shattered Adolf Hitler's hopes for Aryan supremacy at the Berlin Games.



STAR AND COACH — Jesse Owens and his Ohio State University track coach, Larry Snyder, right, appear at an OSU ceremony honoring Owens after his return from the 1936 Olympic Games.



Former OSU track star JESSE OWENS will be honored at halftime in Saturday's OSU-UCLA game with a formal dedication of the running track in Ohio Stadium, and three university recreation centers named for Owens by Ohio State's Board of Trustees in April. Owens, who died March 31, is best known for his four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.



Called by many "a natural runner," Owens, right, shows the form that led him to world records and Olympics triumph. The photo of a meet at Ohio Stadium was taken in 1934 or '35.

Champion Jesse Owens Dies

DISPATCH 3-31-80

1936



1 April 1980

Jesse Owens leaps to a gold medal in the long jump at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The former Buckeye

United Press International
died Monday of lung cancer at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center.

Nazi Hunter Urges Naming

Berlin Avenue For Owens

DISPATCH 3-31-80

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Simon Wiesenthal, the well-known "Nazi hunter," proposed Monday that an avenue leading to the Berlin stadium where Jesse Owens triumphed in the 1936 Olympics be renamed after the American track star.

WIESENTHAL said he had made the same suggestion previously but was told by West Berlin authorities that streets could not be named after living persons.

The new proposal to change the avenue's name was made in a telegram sent to West Berlin Mayor Fritz Stobbe. Wiesenthal said it would be a gesture of "moral reparation of injury done to him by Hitler."

HE APPARENTLY was referring to the long-standing impression that Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler snubbed Owens at the 1936 Games by not shaking his hand because of his race. Hitler, however, had been told by Olympic officials not to shake the hands of any of the competition's winners.

Wiesenthal heads the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna, whose records and investigations have led to the arrest of numerous Nazi war criminals.

Snyder: Owens Greatest

3-31-80
By Bob Hunter
Of The Dispatch Staff

Former Ohio State track coach Larry Snyder was "choking his way through the tears" when he heard of Jesse Owens' death Monday morning, but remembered Owens as the best athlete he ever coached.

"I coached a lot of tremendous athletes," said the 83-year-old Snyder, who retired as Buckeye track coach in 1965 after an OSU career than spanned 40 years.

"He was the greatest by far. I've never seen an athlete who was so great in so many different events."

There could be no more convincing testimony to that than Owens' four gold medal performance in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, when the Cleveland athlete foiled Adolf Hitler's theory of "Aryan supremacy" to the delight of the free world. Snyder recalled that he wasn't at all surprised by the amazing performance.

"JESSE WAS confident going in, and I was very confident," said Snyder. "In my mind, he was going to win every event in which he was entered. There wasn't any doubt about that. He did, too."

"He was a great track star then, and he was great all his life. His attitudes and beliefs always helped me and thousands of other people."

"He was a tremendous human being."

Snyder recalled that when Owens attended Ohio State, neither he nor any of the other black athletes was permitted to stay in the same hotel with white track team members.

"It didn't seem to bother Jesse at all, at the time," said Snyder. "He just accepted it and went on. But I learned later that it did bother him a little, and I think he carried that with him in later years."

"IT SEEMED like it was all right to do those things then, but now I know that it wasn't all right. I think, in the long run, Jesse felt it."

Snyder said that the first time he saw Owens was at the Mansfield Relays while Jesse was still in high school, but that he didn't know then that the youngster from Cleveland would turn out to be the legendary track star he was destined to become.

"You knew he was going to be good," said Snyder. "But you can never

tell what will happen to a boy after he gets to college."

"I had several conversations with Jesse at various track meets about coming here. But it was the students — the big men on campus — who got him to come here. They had conversations with him, drove up to Cleveland, helped him pack his clothes and brought him back to Columbus. I was very grateful."

SNYDER STILL IS. The memories Owens gave his former coach are numerous, including the Olympics and the 1935 Big Ten meet in Ann Arbor, Mich., where the fleet sprinter cracked three world records.

But as much as any performance, Snyder remembers the 1936 Big Ten meet in Ohio Stadium when Owens got off to a very bad start in the low hurdles and was last by 20 yards with less than half the race to run.

"Bob Osgood of Michigan was leading, and he told me that when Jesse went by him, it sounded like a thunderstorm," said Snyder. Owens won that race, like most of the others he ran.

Snyder said that "we didn't coach much in those days," and won't take credit for many of Owens' incredible track accomplishments. But Snyder deserved at least a share of the credit for making sure that his track star was ready for the meets that counted.

"I TOOK A great deal of credit with myself on having Jesse right, at the right time," said Snyder. "You can't make a great athlete, but as a coach, you can at least have them right for the big meets. He was right for both the big meets here and over in Europe."

"We got a break in the Olympics because the Spanish team pulled out because of the their civil war, and we were given the opportunity to move into their quarters. Because of that, Jesse didn't have to go back to the Olympic Village for lunch."

"He was entered in so many events, he was running morning and afternoon, and this gave him an opportunity to stay close to the stadium and rest. I stayed with him and talked to him, and I think that helped some, too."

Snyder had numerous opportunities to talk to Owens, both as a coach and for many years later as a friend — which is one reason that Owens' death hit him so hard.

"WE TRAVELED by car, in those days," said Snyder. "So we had plenty of time to talk. We had conversations about philosophy, religion and politics, and talking with Jesse about those things was really interesting. You really get to know a person when you travel with him."

As Snyder "got to know" Owens as both an athlete and a person, he liked what he knew of both.

"This is tough, it really is," said Snyder. "He was such a wonderful person."

"And as an athlete? Well, he was given an award as the greatest athlete of the half century."

"I would say that that pretty well says it, wouldn't you?"

The Columbus Dispatch



Dispatch Photo

Jesse Owens, Left, Coach Larry Snyder Meet Again In Ohio Stadium
Former OSU Track Star Received Special Recognition On 'Day Of Champions' Oct. 5, 1952

OSU

NEWS

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For release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 1980

Attached is the text of a statement by President Harold L. Enarson on the death of Jesse Owens. Also attached is the text of a resolution that was mailed to The Ohio State University Board of Trustees March 28 recommending the naming of facilities in honor of Mr. Owens.

It is expected that the Board of Trustees will act on the recommendation at its next meeting which is scheduled for April 4 at Newark, Ohio.

I offer these recommendations to the Board with great personal enthusiasm. We hope these new honors will convey to Mr. Owens' family -- and to the millions across this country who held him in the highest regard -- a sense of the admiration and continuing affection in which he will always be remembered by his alma mater.

PRESIDENT ENARSON'S STATEMENT RECOMMENDING THE NAMING OF
FACILITIES FOR JESSE OWENS

The death of Jesse Owens marked the passing of one of The Ohio State University's most illustrious sons.

In 1972, this University was privileged to confer upon him the honorary Doctor of Athletic Arts degree in tribute to his accomplishments as an athlete and his services as a humanitarian.

His athletic achievements are legendary. They do not need a detailed recounting here. Yet the mere mention of his name brings to mind two moments perhaps unique in the annals of track and field competition.

We remember that day in 1935 when he set three world records and tied a fourth in a meet against the University of Michigan.

We remember the Berlin Olympics in 1936 when he won four gold medals and in the process destroyed before the world Hitler's myth of racial superiority.

Jesse Owens has been called the champion of the century. As an athlete, he carried the name of this University and this country to new heights of world acclaim. As a friend and advocate of youth, an ambassador for the best that

sports has to offer, as a humanitarian in the highest sense of the word, he earned world respect. His life exemplified the foundation on which The Ohio State University has been built -- opportunity and excellence.

As long as there are people who compete in sports, the name of Jesse Owens will be remembered. As long as there are people who contemplate and comprehend the tragic waste of racial discrimination, the life of Jesse Owens will shine as a beacon.

So that his name and his life may stand as a continuing example to this University and to all who will come here in the future, I have recommended to the Board of Trustees the following:

First, that the track in Ohio Stadium be named the Jesse Owens Track. In this way his singular achievements as an intercollegiate and Olympic athlete will serve as an enduring inspiration to the thousands who come to the stadium each year.

Second, that the three recreation centers opened by the University in 1976 be re-named in his honor. This recommendation is particularly fitting. Jesse Owens spent much of his adult life helping young people develop their full potential -- as athletes, as students, as human beings. His efforts were directly in keeping with the spirit and purpose for which these recreational facilities were built.



in the Press Box Today

With Paul Hornung

Owens' Later Life Matched His Feats

DISPATCH 3-31-80

Greatness, as it is with some chosen few, appeared to be preordained for Jesse Owens.

How else would this particular son in a family of nine children of a poverty-ridden Alabama sharecropper rise to walk literally with kings, and then to die mantled with the glory of everyone's Hall of Fame — for track, citizenship and other qualities which magnify a man toward immortality.

Perhaps this inevitability is illustrated by the fact Jesse, nearly missed one of his most celebrated moments on sports' stage.

ON A MONDAY before the 1935 Big Ten track championships in Ann Arbor, Mich., Owens strained his back so severely, as Coach Larry Snyder recalled, "We weren't sure he was going to be able to run at all."

Owens and some of his friends were wrestling around on a landing between the first and second floors of their fraternity house and, Owens explained later, "I lost my balance and rolled down the stairs."

"My back was so bad the next morning, they had to help me out of bed."

He worked out "very, very lightly," Snyder recalled, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Jesse, Mel Walker, Dave Albritton and I drove up to Toledo," said Snyder, "where we helped dedicate a YMCA. Walker was from there and had set it up. From there we went on to Ann Arbor."

"JESSE RODE IN the rumble seat. We lifted him in and lifted him out. I really didn't know if he could do anything in the meet, but he kept saying, 'Don't worry, coach, I'll be all right.' He surely was."

After working kinks out of his aching back, Jesse tied the world record for the 100-yard dash, broke the world record in the long jump, broke the world record for the 220-yard dash and broke the world record for the 220 low hurdles.

All that transpired within a span of about 70 minutes. No other track athlete ever had such a day — and, for irony, it was an Ohio Stater performing on a Michigan track.

If you scan the 1970-80 edition of *Big Ten Conference Records*, all four of Owens' records still stand -- 9.4 in the 100, 20.3 in the 220, 22.6 in the hurdles and 26 feet 4-inch in the jump.

OWENS' OLYMPIC feats the following year in Berlin — four gold medals -- and his tacit tweak of arrogant Adolf Hitler's nose gained greater world and national acclaim. New York accorded Owens a ticker tape parade — the ultimate in recognition in those days — when he returned from Germany.

But those privileged to know Jesse Owens carry far more precious memories.

As an Ohio State freshman in 1935, I first saw Owens in action in a night meet against Notre Dame. Snyder recalled that "we set up mobile lights beside the track."

The start of the 220-yard dash was at the end of a spur — since removed — which extended south from the southeast gate of Ohio Stadium.

ON THAT NIGHT, the gun cracked in the darkness outside the stadium. Suddenly, the runners raced under the lights at the stadium gate. Nothing in 40 years of covering sports made a more indelible impression on me than the sight of Jesse Owens gliding over the cinders to an easy victory.

This was sheer poetry of muscular motion as the lights picked up Owens' bronze body — he had a magnificent physique — and highlighted it down the track . . . torso erect, legs pumping smoothly like tuned pistons, arms swinging free, head hardly bobbing.

Precious few athletes are blessed with that grace of movement. Joe DiMaggio played center field that way. So did Willie Mays. People used to ask, "How fast could Jesse run if he really pushed?"

HE WAS PUSHING. He was going his fastest. He did it so effortlessly that it merely accentuated his opponents' straining and thrashing.

Snyder said that "he was able to run full speed while being relaxed." That explains it well. And it is, in essence, the picture of a consummate athlete.

Another indelible memory for me came in the 1936 Big Ten meet in Ohio Stadium.

"Jesse was a great starter," Snyder recalls, but when the field in the low hurdles came into view of the crowd, there was no Owens in sight.

He had missed the start badly this one, rare time. "He was 18 to 20 yards behind when the runners came to the stadium gate," Snyder said. But Owens still won, besting Michigan's Bob Osgood.

"I'VE ALWAYS SAID it was the fastest 220 ever run," Snyder added, "except that Jesse ran it over hurdles."

It's tragic that sports television had not been perfected in the mid-1930s. What a sensation Jesse would have been, had the world's millions of sports fans been able to see his heroics as they happened. Lesser heroes have enjoyed more acclaim because of the timing of their careers.

But, though his track exploits have carved immortality for him, those of us who knew Jesse Owens treasure more the man he became. He was a polished public speaker, far more articulate and profound than many who carried more college degrees.

Ohio State accorded him an honorary degree. It elected him a charter member of its Athletic Hall of Fame. Former Football Coach Woody Hayes recently proposed that "the track in the stadium has got to be named the Jesse Owens track. They can put a plaque up there that will let all the young athletes in future years know that this was the home of Jesse Owens."

Ohioans honor Jesse Owens

1 April 1980
United Press International

All-time track great Jesse Owens was remembered by Ohioans Monday as "the greatest athlete of our time" and a model for youths who was "always willing to help other people."

Owens, 66, who won four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics to the chagrin of Adolph Hitler, died early Monday of lung cancer in Tuscon, Ariz.

Gov. James A. Rhodes praised Owens as "the greatest athlete of our time" who "took his athletic skill into larger arenas, serving throughout his life as both a symbol of hope and as inspiration to young people."

An Alabama native whose father moved to Cleveland to escape the poverty of a southern sharecropper, Owens attended Cleveland East Tech High School and Ohio State University.

At college he came under the tutelage of former OSU track coach Larry Snyder, 84.

"When he was in school he was the greatest boy that a coach would have wanted, and he was also the finest man as he grew up and developed," said Snyder. "He undoubtedly was one of the greatest athletes ever."

Snyder shared in Owens' triumphs when he shattered four world track records as a college competitor in a 1935 meet in Ann Arbor, Mich., and the following year when he made Olympic history.

"The Ann Arbor deal where he broke world records in four events and tied another is one that one would never forget," Snyder said.

"He was one of the great ones, there's no doubt about it, probably the greatest," Owens' former coach said.

Snyder also remembered Owens for his tireless energy.

"I wrote him a letter a couple of years after I vis-

ited him in Phoenix three years ago and tried to get him to slow down a bit, but he thought he could do so much good, such a good job in making speeches and showing people how to live a good life, which he did, that he didn't slow down a particle."

"The death of Jesse Owens marked the passing of one of the Ohio State University's most illustrious sons," said OSU President Harold Enarson.

"We remember that day in 1935 when he set three world records and tied a fourth in a meet against the University of Michigan," Enarson said. "We remember the Berlin Olympics, when he won four gold medals and in the process destroyed before the world Hitler's myth of racial superiority."

Enarson also recommended to the Ohio State Board of Trustees that university facilities be named in honor of Owens, who was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Athletic Arts degree in 1972.

Enarson recommended that the track in the Ohio Stadium be named the Jesse Owens track, and that three recreation centers opened by the university in 1976 be re-named in his honor.

Rhodes said Owens was a personal friend from his days at Ohio State and as a page in the Ohio General Assembly. He will especially be remembered at Cleveland East Tech High School and at Ohio State where he trained, played and competed as a young man.

"Generations of students to come at these schools will have an unparalleled example of greatness to help guide their development into citizens of the nation Jesse loved so much," Rhodes said.

Rhodes said Owens was "a man of unmatched skill and guts who not only disciplined himself to the grueling training his sport required, but who stood up

to Hitler's racism at Berlin in 1936, serving as a shining beacon of American principle in the troubled days before World War II."

Owens dies

By Tom Jung
and

Sandra Huggler
1 April 1980

Ohio State lost a favorite son with the death of Jesse Owens early Monday in Tucson. He was 66.

Owens' death comes just five days before the Board of Trustees is to discuss proposals to name Ohio Stadium's track and the three campus recreation centers after the former Buckeye and Olympic great.

Owens' name sparks memories of a gifted young athlete, excelling at Ohio State during his sophomore year in the 60-, 100- and 200-yard dashes as well as the 220 low hurdles and the broad jump.

Gov. James A. Rhodes Monday praised Owens as "the greatest athlete of our times," and said Owens "was a personal friend from his days at Ohio State and as a page in the Ohio General Assembly."

Owens set the world record in 1935 in the 220-yard dash, the 220 low hurdles and the broad jump; he tied the record in the 100-yard dash.

Owens achieved world recognition at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin

when he won four gold medals, for the broad jump, 100- and 200-meter dashes and the 1600-meter relay.

Owens' triumphs came in the wake of a propaganda campaign by the Third Reich, which claimed the Aryan race was superior to the black. After Owens' victories, Hitler left the stadium without congratulating the black hero.

Owens went on to success in the business world, operating a promotions agency in Chicago. He was a widely acclaimed speaker, acted in films and made a number of television commercials.

In late 1979, Owens entered Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago where he was treated for lung cancer. When he was able to travel, he was moved to University Hospital in Tucson, where he died Monday.

According to President Harold L. Enarson, the idea of renaming the track and the recreation centers after Owens was made about 10 days ago. If the resolution passes — Enarson said he is certain it will — the track will be named Jesse Owens Track, and the centers will be called Jesse Owens Recreation Center North, South and West.



United Press International
Jesse Owens

"I thought it was an excellent idea, but I had some feeling that if there was something more we could do, we should do it," Enarson said.

Enarson expressed deep regret that Owens died before news of the proposal reached him.

Owens is survived by his wife Ruth and three daughters: Gloria, Beverly and Marlene, who was the OSU Homecoming Queen in 1960.

CS 4-1-80

'Best friend' reflects on Jesse Owens

By REBECCA TEAGARDEN

The late Jesse Owens was many things to many people. But he was known as "best friend" to only one man — Dave Albritton.

"Jesse and I have been together all our lives," Albritton said. "Our families came up from the South about the same time. We went to the same elementary, junior high and high school."

In high school, the Owens and Albritton dated sisters so they could double date together.

When the time came, Owens and Albritton graduated from Cleveland East Tech High School and became roommates in Columbus, where they entered Ohio State University as college track hopefuls.

Albritton specialized in the high jump. Owens, "The Buckeye Bullet," ran track events and participated in the broad (long) jump for Ohio State.

"We were inseparable all our lives," said Albritton, an insurance salesman and former state legislator, who lives in Dayton.

"I pushed him, and he pushed me. In fact, when we went to the Olympics (1936), Jesse was the one who made me go out for my jump. It was so darned cold that day. He has always been an inspiration to me.

"It's not his athletic ability or his charm and class that made him so famous," Albritton said. "You put them together, you see, and this creates what he had."

To Albritton, what Owens had was the loyalty that comes with being a best friend. Albritton was best man in Owens' wedding, and Owens was the godfather for Albritton's son. Albritton was the same for Owens' three daughters.

"When Jesse's daughter was crowned homecoming queen at Ohio



sports

Tues., April 1, 1980

★★★★

Columbus Citizen-Journal 13

State in 1960, that night she, Jesse and Jackie Robinson came right over here to campaign for me," Albritton said.

One of the last times Albritton saw his famous friend was during a weekend reunion for some of the men who participated in the 1932 and 1936 Olympics. They gathered Sept. 10 at Owens' country home in Ocean Pier, Mich.

"After Ralph Metcalf died, Jesse thought we should all get together because he said, 'It's later than you think.' I'm sure glad we did it," Albritton said. "It was his birthday that weekend, and mine was the 13th."

Albritton said the black athletes of his generation were as close as "an unnamed fraternity." The bond that tied the friends together originated in

the days when blacks were excluded from many hotels and restaurants.

"It was an auspicious time back in 1932, '33, '34 and '35," Albritton said. "Things were very, very different then, the feeling on campus, in Columbus . . . It was the same way not even too long ago. I couldn't go in the Athletic Club even as a legislator.

"But that's what made us so unique. There were none (blacks) in baseball, football and darn few in basketball then. The fellows showed they were gentlemen as well as athletes. We wanted to establish that an athlete is an athlete, is an athlete. We had to push out that stuff about the feet and being able to do certain things better, and Jesse did the most to shut that out."

Albritton also did his part, setting a world record of 6 feet, 9 3/4 inches in the high jump in 1936. He soon will be inducted into the Track and Field Hall of Fame in Charleston, W.Va., joining his friend Jesse Owens as a member of the hall.

Charlie Beetham, assistant OSU track coach in 1935, said he remembers Owens best as a neat, orderly athlete who never complained.

"Jesse got along with everybody. He had the grace and ability to meet people and put them right at ease. He related to strangers very well," Beetham said. "I never heard Jesse complain about anything."

Gov. James A. Rhodes issued a statement, declaring Owens to be "the greatest athlete of our time, a man of unmatched skill and guts who not only disciplined himself to the grueling training his sport required, but who stood up to Hitler's racism at Berlin in 1936 . . ."

Harold Enarson, Ohio State University president, also has recommended that the track in Ohio Stadium and three athletic facilities on campus be named after Owens.

Owens' deeds live

⁴⁻²⁻⁸⁰ OSU can be proud of its athlete-hero

Although Jesse Owens spent only a few years in Columbus attending Ohio State, perhaps his greatest dreams were fulfilled during that time.

He will live in history as the man who defied Adolph Hitler's hope of presenting the Aryan race as superior to all. Owens was generally acclaimed to be the fastest man in the world after his record 10.3 seconds time in the 100 meter race at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. This caused Hitler great embarrassment.

He was also the first person to win four Olympic gold medals. At that time he was a junior at Ohio

State and a member of the track team.

Owens was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha chapter at OSU. When he left here in 1937, he held eight world track and field records. His amazing athletic skill places him as one of the finest athletes to perform at OSU.

After leaving Columbus, Owens worked mainly in public relations for the sporting world. Although he achieved certain successes in his working career, he will be remembered best for the years spent attending this university, and a trip he made to Berlin during that time.

For the life and achievements of Jesse Owens, all those connected with Ohio State can feel proud he graced our campus.

Writer starts work on Owens movie

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (UPI) — Writer Bill Hopkins is at work on a script for a proposed television movie about Jesse Owens, the Olympic athlete who died this week of lung cancer.

Disclosure of the project was made Tuesday because of Owens' death, but the producer said it actually had been in development for six months with the full cooperation of the late track star.

Producer Gerald Abrams said a treatment has al-

ready been delivered to NBC-TV and Hopkins is already at work on a script.

Asked if Owens had expressed any special hope for the movie, Abrams said Owens had a love for children and always took time to explain to them that neither he nor anyone was always a winner.

"It isn't important winning; the important thing is competing," said Abrams in paraphrasing the late athlete. "I think that's the message he wanted most of all to get across."

'Illustrious son' dead at 66

Athletic facilities to bear Jesse Owens' name

"ON CAMPUS"

4-3-80

The University's Board of Trustees on April 4 will consider a recommendation that the track in Ohio Stadium be named the Jesse Owens Track and that the three recreation centers opened by the University in 1976 be re-named in honor of Owens.

Owens, who won fame wearing an Ohio State track uniform from 1933-35, died of cancer March 31 at age 66.

President Enarson announced later that day that he had recommended the facilities be named to honor Owens in a letter to the trustees a few days before Owens' death.

Describing Owens as one of the University's most illustrious sons, Enarson said the late track star "has been called the champion of the century."

"As an athlete, he carried the name of this University and this country to new heights of world acclaim. As a friend and advocate of youth, an ambassador for the best that sports has to offer, as a humanitarian in the highest sense of the word, he earned world respect," Enarson said.

"His life exemplified the foundation on which The Ohio State University has been

built — opportunity and excellence.

"As long as there are people who compete in sports, the name of Jesse Owens will be remembered. As long as there are people who contemplate and comprehend the tragic waste of racial discrimination, the life of Jesse Owens will shine as a beacon."

Enarson said naming the track for Owens "will serve as an enduring inspiration to the thousands who come to the stadium each year."

The proposed re-naming of the recreation centers, the president said, is particularly appropriate because "Owens spent much of his adult life helping young people develop their full potential — as athletes, as students, as human beings."

Owens accomplished one of the greatest feats in track history on May 25, 1935, when in a little more than two hours he set three world records and tied a fourth during the Big Ten outdoor championships in Ann Arbor.

In 1936 Owens won four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics, the first American to come home with that many. On his return, New York City greeted him with a

ticker-tape parade.

Laurence Snyder, Ohio State's head track coach from 1931 to 1965, said that Owens was a winner as an athlete and as a person. "We have lost a great individual," he said.

Now a professor emeritus of health, physical education and recreation, Snyder said Owens was very well liked and admired by his Ohio State teammates and fellow students.

Owens had a rare quality as an athlete, Snyder said. "When he ran, he ran with everything he had and still he appeared relaxed. He could turn it on and keep it on as long as necessary."

Later in life Owens received a number of tributes to his athletic skills and humanitarianism. In 1950 he was named the outstanding track star of the first half of the 20th century. Ohio State in 1972 awarded him an honorary Doctor of Athletic Arts degree for his accomplishments on and off the track.

According to one account, Owens described the proudest moment of his life as the crowning of Marlene, one of his three daughters, as Ohio State homecoming queen in 1960.



JESSE OWENS — as rendered in a statuette presented to Ohio State in honor of his career.

Owens' death called 'loss of Americana'

"America has lost a part of Americana."

With those words, Don Cohen, founder of the Track and Field Hall of Fame in Charleston, Va., Monday paid the supreme tribute to Olympic hero Jesse Owens, a former track star who finally lost his race with cancer.

Cohen, a personal friend of Owens', said "the world has lost a wonderful person."

"America has lost a part of Americana, and I have lost a dear friend. But the legend of Jesse Owens will live forever. My love and thoughts are with his wife, Ruth, their children and family."

Owens was inducted into the hall Aug. 30, 1974, as one of 26 charter members. Cohen said Owens was the only person ev-

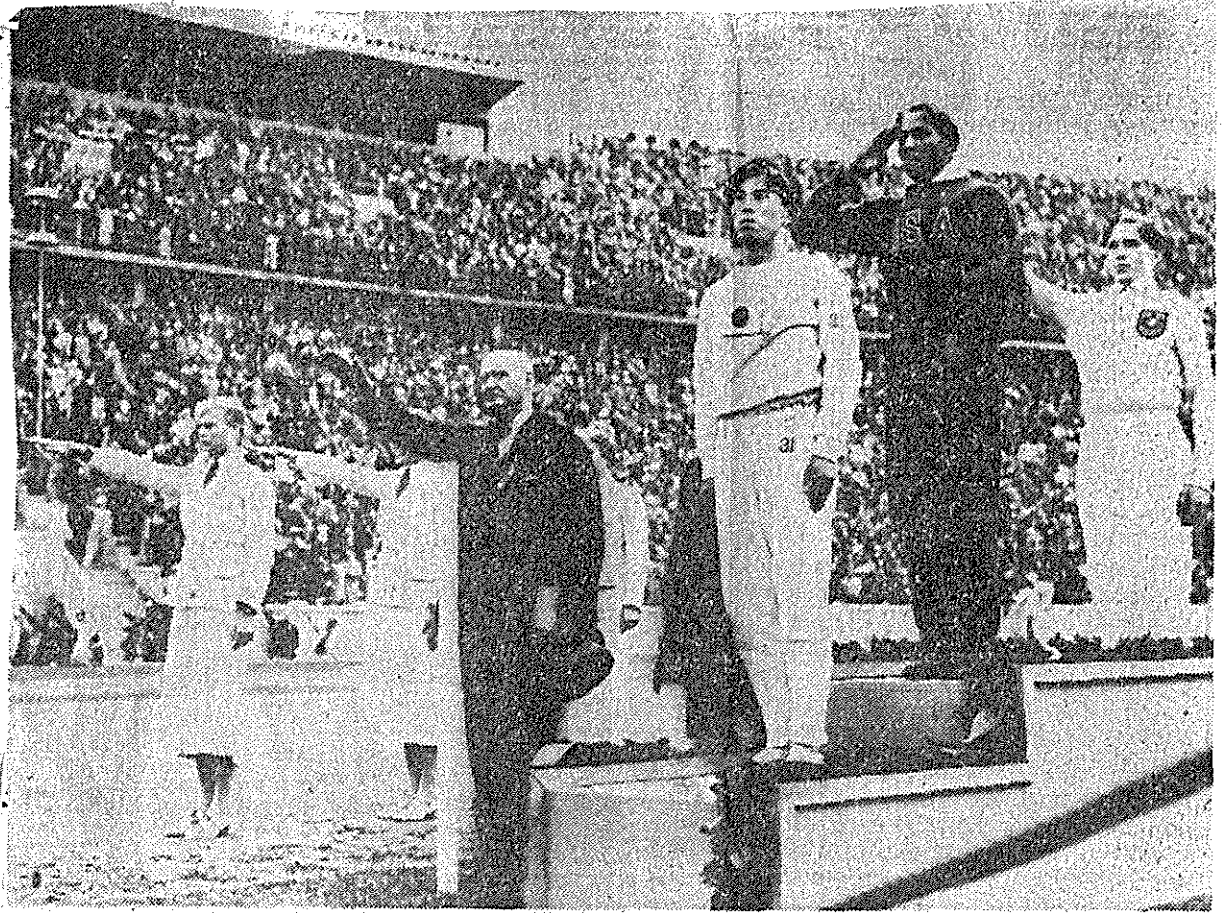
er voted in unanimously on the first ballot.

President Carter also was among the thousands of mourners from across the world who praised Owens' name.

"Perhaps no athlete better symbolized the human struggle against tyranny, poverty and racial bigotry," Carter said in a statement issued by the White House.

"His personal triumphs as a world-class athlete and record holder were the prelude to a career devoted to helping others. His work with youth athletes, as an unofficial ambassador overseas, and as a spokesman for freedom are a rich legacy to his fellow Americans."

"Rosalynn and I send our deepest condolences to his wife and children and to the countless friends he made in a lifetime of service."



At the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Owens won four gold medals and is shown saluting, at right. His great victories angered Adolf Hitler, the notorious white supremacist.

Sprint champion fails to overtake inoperable cancer

From page 1

rector of information services. Time and location were not immediately announced.

It was the "heart that helped him set those world records in the 1930s" that kept Owens alive in his final days, Marshall said.

Owens, regarded as the greatest track and field star of his era, won the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, the broad jump and the relay at Adolf Hitler's showcase Olympics.

Hitler, whose Nazi philosophy claimed superiority of the white race, left the awards ceremony for Owens, a black, in disgust.

"We were aware of a militant Germany, but none of us felt the war was imminent," Owens later recalled. "I saw Hitler wasn't in his box, but to me he was just another head of state. I wasn't running against Hitler, I was running against the world."

L.A. flags at half staff

Flags flying over Los Angeles County parks, playgrounds, beaches and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum were lowered Monday to half staff as a tribute to track immortal Jesse Owens, who died Monday.

The flag tribute was ordered by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who said Owens "was not only one of America's greatest athletes but one of the world's greatest. He was a champion of champions."

After retirement from athletics, Owens raced thoroughbred horses, established his own public relations firm, and served as a "good will ambassador" for the U.S. Olympic Committee.

During the 1950s, President Eisenhower named Owens as an ambassador of U.S. sports to other nations. Owens also was active in Chicago with Boys' Clubs.

Owens, born Sept. 12, 1913, at

Danville, Ala., helped his sharecropper father pick cotton during his childhood.

He ran his first race at 13 and during his school days set a national record of 9.4 seconds for the 100-yard dash that held from 1933 until the 1960s.

Owens attended Ohio State University, where he worked as a \$100-a-month elevator operator to pay his way through school.

Owens' life saga of courage

TUCSON, Ariz. (UPI) — Sports legend Jesse Owens, once known as "the world's fastest human" and winner of four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, died Monday of cancer.

He had called his battle with cancer "the biggest fight of my life."

Owens, 66, a pack-a-day smoker for the past 35 years, had been hospitalized off and on for the past three-and-a-half months for treatment of inoperable lung cancer.

His condition deteriorated during the weekend at University of Arizona Health Sciences Center.

● Owens' death called 'loss of Americana'. Section 4, page 1.

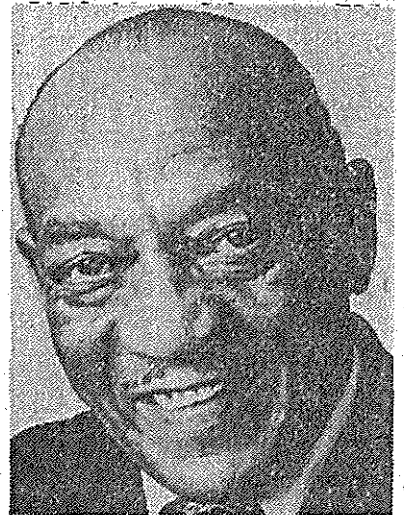
● Greenberg cartoon, section 2, page 2.

Owens' wife, Ruth, and other family members were at his bedside when he died at 3:40 a.m. MST Monday.

"He had a strong will to live," said Dr. Stephen E. Jones, head of the medical team that treated Owens. But, he said, "we made no heroic attempts to try to save him."

Funeral and burial services will take place at Chicago, said Hal Marshall, the hospital's di-

Please turn to page 14, col. 4



JESSE OWENS

Loses cancer bout

-- Tues., Apr. 1, 1980 / VALLEY NEWS



NEWS

The Ohio State University

Communications Services
102 Administration Building
190 North Oval Mall
Columbus, Ohio 43210
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For release

On Receipt

4-4-80

(LO,SP)

NEWARK, Ohio -- Ohio State University Friday (4/4) named the Ohio Stadium running track and three recreation centers in memory of Jesse Owens.

Ohio State's Board of Trustees, in session on the university's Newark Campus, adopted a resolution naming the Columbus Campus sports facilities for Owens, who died Monday (3/31) in Tucson.

The board's resolution said the action was taken "as a measure of the admiration and continuing affection in which Jesse Owens will always be held by his alma mater."

The legendary track star attended Ohio State in the mid-1930s before he won international acclaim by taking four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Ohio State President Harold L. Enarson presented the proposal to the trustees. With the track named for Owens, Enarson said, "...his singular achievements as an intercollegiate and Olympic athlete will serve as an enduring inspiration to the thousands who come to the stadium each year."

Enarson said the new names for the three recreation centers, built in 1976, were particularly fitting because the late athlete "spent much of his adult life helping young people

(more)

develop their full potential -- as athletes, as students, as human beings. His efforts were directly in keeping with the spirit and purpose for which these recreational facilities were built."

Official names of the facilities will be:

Jesse Owens Track (in Ohio Stadium); Jesse Owens Recreation Center North (at 2151 Neil Ave.); Jesse Owens Recreation Center South (175 W. 11th Ave.), and Jesse Owens Recreation Center West (1031 Carmack Road).

-wfr-

OSU names recreation areas for Jesse Owens

NEWARK, O. (AP) — Ohio State University trustees yesterday named a running track and three recreation centers for Jesse Owens. The former Olympic track star and Ohio State student died Monday.

Trustees also appointed members to a new University Hospitals board and accepted \$11.3 million in research funds, mostly in federal money.

The Ohio Stadium track and centers were renamed for Owens, an Alabama native who attended OSU during the Depression and won

• Jesse Owens is eulogized at Chicago funeral, Sports, Page 1-C.

four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

"His singular achievements as an intercollegiate and Olympic athlete will serve as an enduring inspiration to the thousands who come to the stadium each year," said Harold L. Enarson, OSU president. He presented the proposal to trustees who met on the Newark branch campus.

Trustees appointed 15 members to the hospital board, created last fall to oversee patient services in the university hospital complex on the Columbus campus.

Grants accepted by trustees included \$75,953 from the National Science Foundation to upgrade the quality of computer-generated pictures.

DEAD AT 66

Friends Of Jesse Owens Say He Was Remarkable

"CALL AND POST" 4-5-80

By HIRAM L. TANNER

Jesse Owens, the hero of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, died of lung cancer in Tucson, Ariz., on Monday, March 31.

Owens was perhaps the first OSU athlete to gain world wide attention by winning four gold medals in the Olympics. He won the 100-meters in 10.3, 200-meters in 20.7 and the long jump with a leap of 26 feet, five inches and 5/16 of an inch. He was also a member of the winning 400-meters relay team.

On Dec. 12, 1979, Owens had been scheduled to be the principal speaker for the Merry Makers Club OSU Scholarship Fund banquet at the Sheraton Hotel. More than 1,000 people attending this affair were shocked when Chuck McMurray, master of ceremonies, announced Owens had been hospitalized in Chicago. He was later transferred to the University Hospital in Tucson, where he passed away Monday.

During Owens high school days at Cleveland East Tech, he set national scholastic records in the 100 of 9.4, the 220 in 20.7 and the long jump in 24-9%. Owens, Dave Albritton, Ben Tiff and others led East Tech to the state Class AA championship in 1932.

After enrolling at Ohio State, Owens broke and set many collegiate track records. In 1935 Owens set world records in the 220-yard dash, 220-low hurdles, the broad jump and tied the record for the 100-yard dash. Some of his Big Ten records still on the books are 100 in 9.4, 220 (straightway) 20.3, 220 low hurdles (straightway) 22.6, and broad jump 26 1/4.

When Owens attended Ohio State, there were no

athletic scholarships. He worked at various jobs to earn money for his tuition and lived with his wife's cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hayes on the Hilltop. After returning from the Olympics, the Hayes were instrumental in getting Owens started in the cleaning business similar to their Daniel Boone Cleaning Shop in the Eastend.

Although there are some segments of our society who always like to exploit the performance of Owens and his nine black companions in the Berlin Olympics as an indictment of racism, there are others who remember Owens and compatriots as men among men.

Chuck McMurray said, "Owens was a man who walked with kings, queens and anyone. He never lost the common touch."

On one occasion, McMurray told how Owens carried a beggar into the hotel restaurant and bought him a meal. Later he invited him to his room, allowed him to wash up and gave him one of his shirts. It was not until other people began to seek Owens' autograph that the beggar knew who he was.

"No one loved youngsters better than Jesse," McMurray said. "I have heard him speak to young people on many occasions and he always emphasized an abiding faith in God, parents and getting a good education in that order."

"There are many social ills in America," Owens has often said, "but it is still the greatest country in the world."

Richard Delaney, associate director of athletics at Ohio State, had this to say about Owens: "Jesse Owens is Ohio State's most



THE OLYMPIC MEDALS-The U.S. Olympic Committee's top appeal over the years in fund raising drives for the American entries was Jesse Owens. Here he displays case of replicas of the four gold medals he won in 1936 games, sold nationally to raise dollars for the 1976 team.

renown athlete. Jesse Owens and Ohio State are synonymous. You grow up in a time when you legitimately had heroes. Jesse Owens was one of those heroes for me."

Furthermore, Delaney said, "It is not until I think you live a little bit, experience a little bit, until you can really appreciate the things he did beyond the athletic field."

When asked if Owens graduated from Ohio State, Delaney added, "I don't know whether Jesse graduated from here or not. I just don't know. I think he didn't hope he did. I just don't know. That's even immaterial as far as I am concerned because of his self improvement, his drive to improve himself, maybe we don't have enough of today."

"It is easy to be ordinary," Delaney said. "This

wasn't an ordinary person. He excelled in whatever he did right through the line."

"It is not all that the university rubbed off that made Jesse Owens. Jesse Owens made Jesse Owens. He became greater for being here. He became a little better more, a little greater because of being here. The university is greater too, for him having been here. The country is even greater."

As to the many social problems facing our country, Delaney said, "Jesse Owens was aware of all that went on being black in this country. He had to be. He fought it in his way though."

In expressing his experience he has had with other athletes, Delaney added, "I have had conversations with latter day ath-

letes who did not like the way of Jesse Owens, but I don't think any of them can walk in his shoes. He stuck by what he believed all the way."

Ralph Hammond, captain of Ohio State Indoor and Outdoor Big Ten Championship Track Team in 1942, remembers how he first met Owens. "I was standing in the Ohio Union with my varsity "O" jacket when he entered the room."

"He walked up to me and said, you are Ralph Hammond aren't you?" "He was a friendly man with a remarkable memory of people and their names."

Several years ago when Owens was speaking at a banquet in California, he met a high school teammate of Hammonds. Owens gave Hammonds' address to his teammate and the two men renewed their corresponding with each other after an absence of more than 20 years

Owens Remembered By Gibbs As A Kind Man

CALL AND POST - 4-5-80
(Ed.'s Note. The following is a statement by Jack Gibbs, director of the Fort Hayes Career Center. Gibbs was one of the first to propose that an athletic complex be named in Columbus in honor of Jesse Owens. But when the proposal was put forth in 1972, some of the city's leadership community decided against supporting the construction of a 20,000 seat indoor sports arena to bear Owens' name.)

I guess no matter what roles are in life, we are all judged on the basis of what impact we have had on the lives of others and if a world is better because we have lived, then I suppose in some way we have been successful. In this regard I sincerely believe

that the world is truly a better place because Jesse Owens has lived.

It was for this reason that I chose in 1972 to attempt to create a memorial in his honor in Columbus in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments as an athlete, a patriot, and a humanitarian. It was my hope at that time that we would have been able to accomplish this in his lifetime in appreciation of the many contributions he made to the lives of others.

I first met Jesse at an athletic banquet while a student at Ohio State University and was inspired by the message he gave as guest speaker. Later in my professional career when I served as an administrator at Franklin Junior High he visited the school and had the same kind of impact on our student body in spite of the fact they were of another generation. His charisma and genuine qualities as a human being seem to cut through all age levels.

I also had the opportunity of doing research on his life in conjunction with the effort being made to establish a living memorial in his honor. I discovered a most unusual aspect -- Jesse Owens had been a lot of things to a lot of people, but the thing he cherished most was the fact that he strived to be remembered as a kind and decent man. I consider it an honor to have known this outstanding individual whose many accomplishments were always tempered with humility.



ARENA PROPOSAL - Jack Gibbs, left, and Chuck McMurray, right, meet with Jesse Owens in 1972 in preparing to launch a proposal of Gibbs' to build a Jesse Owens Sports Arena in Columbus. Many of Columbus' leadership community who are now on the bandwagon to memorialize the Olympic great rejected the proposal in 1972.

Proposal Made To Have 'Jesse Owens Olympics'

CALL AND POST - 4-5-80
It has been suggested to President Carter that his proposal for an "Alternative Olympics" be named the "Jesse Owens Memorial Games" and be held at sites in Columbus and Cleveland.

Lee Vlisides, sports director at WBNS-10TV, has written a letter to the President in which he outlines how the two cities can accommodate the Olympic games.

In part Vlisides wrote: "The 'Jesse Owens Memorial Games' would be a fitting tribute to a great man and a superb athlete who looked evil straight in the

eye at the nineteen thirty-six Berlin Olympics and, on winged feet left it in the dust."

Vlisides said Tuesday night that a representative for the President called to

say that they would give consideration to the proposal. Vlisides said he would put his suggestions in writing and forward them to Carter.

JESSE
Owens exhibit
"ON CAMPUS" 4-10-80

Photos, news clippings and other memorabilia of the life of Jesse Owens will be on display through April 18 in the skylight area of Main Library.

The exhibit has been organized by Friends of the Libraries of Ohio State, University Archives and Photo Archives.

According to Linda Bowers, Friends' executive secretary, the display will focus on Owens' days at Ohio State and his success at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, where he won four gold medals. Included will be many photos, newspaper clippings, articles from the Alumni Monthly, old Makos and other items.

A more extensive exhibit, which may include material from the athletic department and the Owens family, is being planned for mid-May, when alumni will visit the campus for Alumni Day activities, Bowers said.

Owens died of cancer in Arizona March 31.

"ON Campus", 4-10-80

Honor Owens

The trustees adopted a resolution naming the Ohio Stadium running track and three recreation centers on the Columbus campus in memory of Jesse Owens, who died March 31 in Tucson.

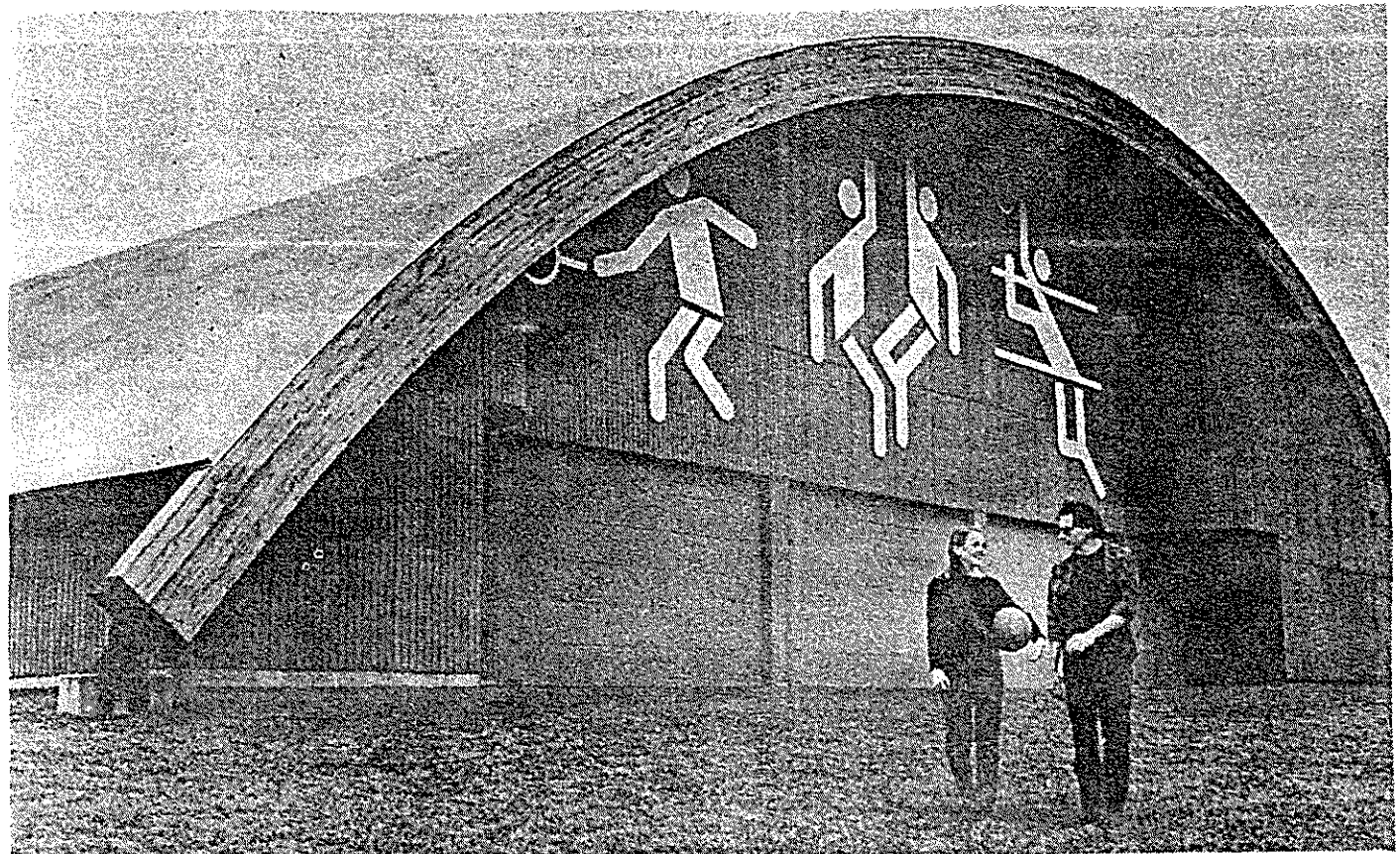
The board's resolution said the action was taken "as a measure of the admiration and continuing affection in which Jesse Owens will always be held by his alma mater."

The legendary track star attended Ohio State in the mid-1930s before he won international acclaim by taking four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

President Enarson presented the proposal to the trustees. With the track named for Owens, Enarson said, "...his singular achievements as an intercollegiate and Olympic athlete will serve as an enduring inspiration to the thousands who come to the stadium each year."

Enarson said the new names for the three recreation centers, built in 1976, were particularly fitting because the late athlete "spent much of his adult life helping young people develop their full potential — as athletes, as students, as human beings. His efforts were directly in keeping with the spirit and purpose for which these recreational facilities were built."

Official names of the facilities will be Jesse Owens Track (in Ohio Stadium); Jesse Owens Recreation Center North (at 2151 Neil Ave.); Jesse Owens Recreation Center South (175 W. 11th Ave.); and Jesse Owens Recreational Center West (1031 Carmack Road).



THE MEMORY OF JESSE OWENS was honored by the trustees April 4 when they renamed the track in Ohio Stadium and the three recreation centers for Owens. Pictured here is the Jesse Owens Recreation Center West, 1031 Carmack Road.

Dispatch 4-15-80

OSU Dedicates Stadium Track To Jesse Owens

Ohio State University named its track and three campus recreation buildings for the late Jesse Owens as a tribute to "his singular achievements as an intercollegiate and Olympic athlete."

University trustees, meeting Friday at the OSU Newark campus, unanimously passed a resolution renaming the facilities for the legendary track star who died in Arizona last Monday at age 66.

Trustees noted the action was being taken so "the name of Jesse Owens and the example of his life shall serve as an enduring inspiration to all who come to this campus."

THE RUNNING track inside Ohio Stadium now will be known as Jesse Owens Track and the three recreation buildings as Jesse Owens Recreation Center North, South and West. The trustees ordered appropriate memorials erected at each location.

OSU President Harold Enarson, who proposed the actions, said the naming of the track befits Owens' tremendous athletic achievements which "carried the name of this university and this country to new heights of world acclaim."

He added that naming the three campus recreation centers, built in 1976, for Owens also was appropriate because the athlete "spent much of his adult life helping young people develop their full potential — as athletes, as students, as human beings. His efforts were directly in keeping with the spirit and purpose for which these recreational facilities were built."

ENARSON also said he hopes in the future to find donors to contribute to having a large bronze statue made to honor Owens, who is already portrayed in a small statue on display at OSU.

Described by trustees as "one of the most illustrious sons of the Ohio State University," Owens never completed work on his degree while attending OSU in 1934, '35, '36, '37.

But his athletic achievements at Ohio State and his feat of winning four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin prompted the university to award him an honorary "Doctor of Athletic Arts" degree in 1972.

"ON CAMPU" 4-24-80
Stamp for Owens

President Enarson has written President Carter urging him to recommend that the U.S. Postal Service issue a commemorative stamp to honor the late Jesse Owens.

"I believe you will agree that he is the kind of person who should continue to hold a special place in the hearts of all Americans," Enarson wrote. "His life can continue to provide a shining example, especially for the young people of our country."

A spokesperson for the Postal Service in Washington, D.C., said the agency has a rule that a person cannot be commemorated by a stamp until at least 10 years after his or her death. The only exception to the 10-year rule is for U.S. presidents and former presidents who die, he said.

The Postal Service currently has a black heritage stamp series honoring black Americans. Jesse Owens could be a leading candidate for a stamp in that series

DISPATCH 5-28-80
**Enarson Backs
Owens Stamp**

Ohio State University President Harold Enarson has renewed a plea to the White House to issue a commemorative postage stamp for OSU and Olympic athlete Jesse Owens.

Enarson received a reply to an earlier request from Robert A. Berenson, assistant director of domestic policy staff, who said it is customary to wait until a person has been dead 10 years before being honored by issuance of a stamp.

Enarson pointed out last week, however, that there are exceptions to this. In August, Enarson said, labor leader George Meany will be honored with a stamp, less than a year after his death.

"It strikes me that the president might will conclude that the honoring of so distinguished a black American as Jesse Owens ought to proceed at this time rather than being delayed a decade," Enarson wrote to Berenson.

"Certainly such an action by the president would be extremely well received across the country."

Track condition demeans Owens

6-5-80 By Tom Jung
Analysis

In choosing to honor Jesse Owens in a permanent, material way here, the administration has brought to light a situation that needs attention soon. That is, the deplorable condition of the track in Ohio Stadium, which now bears his name.

As complaints mount from coaches and athletes alike, it becomes obvious that, while Owens was honored by the intent, the track's condition only demeans the memory of this great alumnus' achievements.

In the past couple of seasons, OSU track teams have been away nearly every weekend; not because of track usage conflicts, but because opponents' tracks have been so superior to OSU's that teams do not want to come here.

Comments from men's and women's track coaches indicate that they are dissatisfied with the condition of the track because of its physical condition and they are dissatisfied with naming it after and in reference to Owens.

Women's track coach Mamie Rallins commented "the track needs to be fixed, period," and "we only improve what drastically needs attention." These views were reinforced by men's coach Frank Zubovich as he said "Jesse Owens was a quality individual, and if you're going to name a facility after him, it should be a quality facility."

According to Rallins, Jesse Owens wanted to improve the track while he was alive, trying to organize the alumni to generate sufficient funds and interest to make the necessary improvements.

The best idea currently proposed to alleviate the situation is the construction of a new track complex to be located south of the stadium and west of the tennis courts.

If OSU had a good, 3,000-set outdoor track facility, it could attract prestigious track and field events of the caliber that have been attracted to Peppe Aquatic center since the excellent diving well was constructed.

If this facility is well-planned and built with an eye to the quality that Jesse Owens' name inspires, his memory and the needs of OSU and state track communities will have been well-served."

COA HE

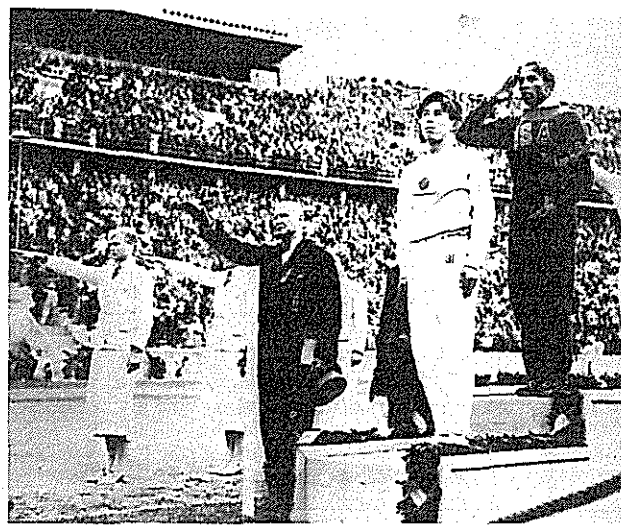
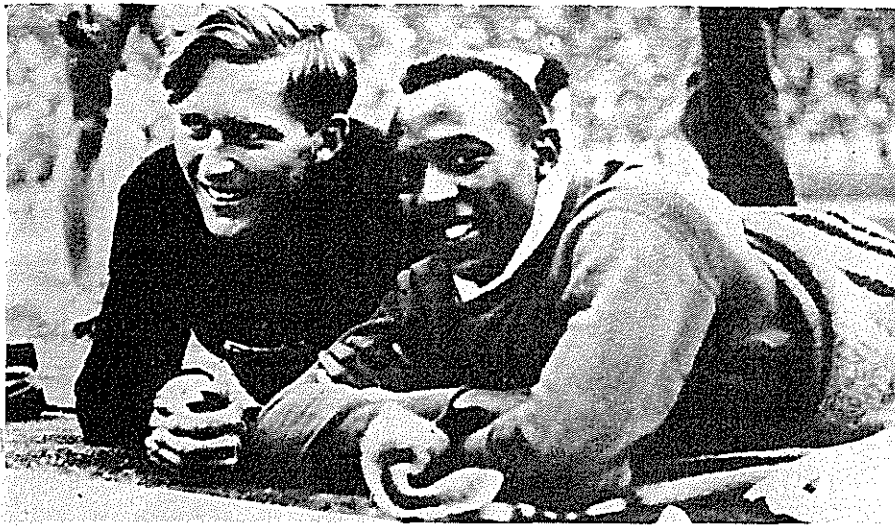
NICE GUYS NEVER FINISH LAST

Is sportsmanship practical? "Yes!" says a great Olympic champion.

by Jesse Owens with Paul Neimark

TED PRESS INTERNATIONAL





UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Black U.S. athlete Jesse Owens says he would not have achieved his Olympic victories without the sportsmanship of German track star Luz Long. Long, who had been set up by Adolph Hitler to represent Hitler's twisted ideas of racial superiority, instead became good friends with Owens during the Olympic competition, and gave him advice which helped him win the long jump. At left, the two athletes relax together and watch the other long jump contestants. At right, Owens (right center) and Long (far right) at the victory ceremony, which Hitler did not attend.

THE MOST sportsmanlike act I've ever known—and the one that enabled me to win my four Olympic gold medals—came from a man who was my archenemy in every way. This above all is why I know that fairness and simple, human caring are unshakable in the human spirit. And, when I look around me today, I see that unquenchable fire of sportsmanship burning brightly again for the first time in many years.

We have just survived an era, in sports and in life, when it was almost fashionable to be unsportsmanlike. My heart sank in 1968, at the Mexico City Olympics, when Tommie Smith, a bright, high-class boy whom I deeply liked, used the winner's stand to tarnish the Olympic ideal of comradely combat by airing his private political beliefs. It pained me to see the rash of recent books, beginning with Jim Bouton's "Ball Four," in which, after years of struggling along with his teammates for a common goal, a player exposes their seamier sides.

Is what these people say true? Is it true that you must only "look out for Number One" or "win by intimidation?"

Not at all. There's a more important truth to be told. I can tell you something of it, because I've known the other side. You know me as someone who set records in the right way against athletes controlled by Adolf Hitler, who knew nothing of sportsmanship and humanity. But let me reveal to you the time when I was guilty of the same sin.

It was two years after the Berlin 1936 Olympics. I'd gone from being just about the most famous person in the world to being just about the most broke. Blacks weren't allowed in professional sports, so I couldn't use my athletic ability to make a living. In fact, next to nothing was open to me. The U.S. was still deep in the Great Depression. I had a wife, a little girl, and another baby on the way. I took the only job I could find—playground

instructor—for \$28.60 a week. Those were hard days, I thought.

Soon after that, a couple of promoters who were trying to get Negro baseball started came to my flat and offered me five times what I was making. I figured it was to play ball. But the night before the first game, they told me a different story. They wanted me to drum up business by running an exhibition sprint against a racehorse. The signs outside read:

JESSE OWENS—THE WORLD'S FASTEST HUMAN
MEETS—AND BEATS?
HIS TOUGHEST COMPETITION EVER—
A REAL RACEHORSE!

"I can't beat a racehorse," I told the promoters.

"You'll beat him," one of them said. "You'll both start when the starter's gun goes off—but the gun will go off right next to the horse's ear. By the time he stops rearing, you'll be halfway to the finish line."

Which was just what happened. The horse went up on his hind legs at the sound of the gun, and I was 40 metres ahead before he was off and running. The animal would be thundering past me a few metres past the finish line. But I "won."

I "beat" that horse for the worst two weeks of my life. After every race, I'd feel sick inside. For 14 nights, I stood side by side with that horse, but couldn't stand to look at him. I couldn't bear to face the mirror, either. People thought I was outrunning that animal, but it was my not playing fair and decent that was getting me to the finish line first.

The horse had no choice, but I did. "I can't do it another time," I told the promoters at the beginning of the third week. "You don't have to pay what you owe me. I just want out."

They asked me why. I told them. Then, "We'll double what we're paying you," they said.

I wouldn't have taken a million dollars to run against that horse again. Sure, I'd done a few unsportsmanlike things as a kid, but I wasn't a kid any more. I made a silent vow never to let it happen again. I went back to the

Hurting through the air on the way to victory and an Olympic record which would stand for 24 years, Jesse Owens leaps more than eight metres (26 feet, 5 1/16 inches) in the long jump. This gold medal was one of four won by Owens in the 1936 Berlin games.

Since retiring from athletic competition, Jesse Owens, now 66, has run his own public relations company and engaged in a wide variety of civic service projects and work with underprivileged youth. A popular speaker, Owens is shown here at Rotary International's 1975 convention at Montreal, Que., Canada, chatting with an old friend, then R.I. Director I.W. "Ike" Parrish, Jr., of Kankakee, Illinois, U.S.A.



DANIEL D. MILLER

playground, but shortly after that my life took a turn for the better. I've had no complaints since.

Yet it also wasn't so long after the racehorse experience that U.S. baseball manager Leo Durocher's "nice guys finish last" became the catch-phrase of our culture. The world had by then been through two terrible wars, and too many people were brainwashed to believe that you can't be fair to others and still be fair to yourself.

Yet the two are really one; many an athlete has found that out at a far greater price than I did. I'll never forget what one former star told me recently: "I sacrificed sportsmanship, cut corners, didn't do what I knew in my gut was right. I thought it was the only way to beat out the competition.

"I sure wish I had it to do all over, Jesse. Because I lost so much. I lost my love of the game. I lost a good feeling about myself. To be totally honest," he went on, tears in his eyes, "I think I lost some respect from my own family. All I can do now is to try and turn things around. But will they ever be the same?"

Words like those are hard to forget. Whenever I think of them, something else also comes to my mind—the words, and deeds, of countless individuals who didn't sell their sportsmanship for a pot of porridge.

The late U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower may be my best proof that nice guys don't finish last. During his second term, he appointed me Ambassador of Sports for the U.S. I spent some time with him on several occasions, and once we played together in a golf threesome. The third man was a high official from another country, with a reputation as an excellent golfer. Ike, too, was first-rate on the links, and a keen competitor.

We were to play nine holes. My back was bothering me, so I went along mainly for the walk. Things were even between the two heads of state until the 4th hole, when the President sank a long putt for a birdie and went one up. The match continued that way until the 9th hole. Ike needed only to tie the hole to win the match, and he got off to quite a start with a drive so straight and long it might have made Jack Nicklaus jealous.

But his guest came up with an even better one!

Ike's second shot was where it should be—on the green. It looked as if the only way the European dignitary

could beat him was to put his second shot close enough to the pin to one-putt. Instead, the Minister hit his first bad shot of the day—way off into the woods at the right.

Ordinarily, it would have been "out of bounds"—meaning a two-stroke penalty and automatic loss of the hole and match. But Ike wouldn't fear of it. Rather than going to his own ball, he accompanied his opponent into the woods . . . and got down on his hands and knees to search for the lost ball.

Twenty minutes later, after even his guest had given up, Ike was still searching.

And he found it—in a spot where there was *just* enough room to hit between the trees to the green.

The guest was elated. He hit a marvelous shot less than a metre from the pin and sank his putt. On a viciously curving green, Ike three-putted—missing the key shot by less than a centimetre—to lose the hole and the victory. Yet had he lost?

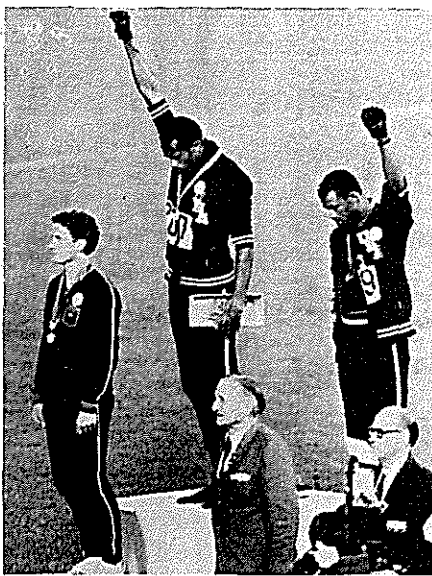
President Eisenhower had merely tied the match, but he had won a friend. A crucial head of state from an important nation now trusted Ike, whatever their future disagreements might be.

And President Eisenhower had won something more—something *inside* that no one could take away from him—for sportsmanship itself is the ultimate victory.

A "nice" platitude?

No. The moral is the practical, first because your human opponent is, in the best sense of the word, your means to your goal. The competition between you is a gift, which enables you to bring out the best that is within you. The more you recognize this, the more you value your "opponent." That also means you'll compete harder against him—but fairly, humanly. You'll improve, or, if you've accomplished a peak level, maintain that level of excellence as long as possible. Anything less, anything else, is cheating—yourself.

The individual who knew that best was my arch rival in the 1936 Olympic Games. Luz Long was Hitler's prize athlete, primed by the Nazi dictator for years to accomplish just one goal: beat Jesse Owens in the long jump. This would supposedly "prove" Hitler's mixed-up belief that one color of hair or skin makes you superior to someone else, no matter what you've got inside. Fortu-



WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Far left: Controversy erupted during the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, when two U.S. sprinters used the presentation of first and third place medals as a chance to protest racial discrimination by giving the clenched-fist "black power" salute on the platform.

Left: A scene of violence and tragedy: the widow of one of 11 murdered members of the Israeli Olympic team views a room where the athletes were held hostage before being killed by Arab terrorists during the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

nately, Luz Long didn't buy that philosophy.

When I got to Berlin I was under more pressure than at any other time in my life, before or since. And it got the better of me. The long jump preliminaries came before the finals of my other three events, the races of 100 metres, 200 metres, and the 400-metre relay. To me, the other events depended on the jump. I had three tries to qualify. I just needed to jump within a half-metre of my best to reach the finals.

On my first jump, I leaped from past the takeoff board for a foul, so I played it safe on the second, jumping from far in back of the board. But I'd played it too safe. The jump wasn't long enough. It was my worst since early high school.

I felt panic.

A reporter I knew from the United States came up to me. He said, "I've never seen you jump like this. Is it because Hitler walked out on you?"

I didn't even know about that. It turned out that just before I'd begun jumping, the Nazi dictator had stood up in his private box, turned and left the stadium—as if to say that I wasn't worth watching.

So far, he was right.

But Hitler hadn't counted on Luz Long's being a great sportsman as well as a great jumper.

I felt a hand on my shoulder. I turned and looked into the clear blue eyes of the man who was supposed to be my worst enemy in the world. He introduced himself in broken English. I could hardly get out my own name, the tension was so great. But he cut through it in a single second, asking: "Jezzee, what has taken your goat?"

I had to laugh in spite of myself. It felt good. Luz meant what had "gotten" my goat, of course, but didn't know how to say it.

As soon as I laughed, the chiseled lines of his lean, intense face broke into a wide grin. "Look," he said. "It does not matter what the reason. What matters is you qualify. I almost not qualify in meet last year same trouble as you now. I find this secret I tell you?"

"Sure," I answered. Part of me thought for an instant that maybe it was a plot, that he'd say something which would make me lose for sure. But—NO—down deep I knew he was sincere.

What Luz showed me *was* a secret: to place my towel only a few inches back of the takeoff board. That way, I'd have a place from which to jump that wouldn't lose me much distance.

It worked. It worked so well that I almost broke the Olympic record on that qualifying leap.

Yet it worked for Luz equally as well. In the finals a few days later, he broke the Olympic record.

He had also achieved his goal—to *do his best*.

Because Luz was such a fine sportsman, helping me to reach the finals, he had given himself the extra bit of competition he needed to bring out the best in himself. By the same token, he brought out the best in me. On my final try, I was fortunate to jump even a little bit farther than he had.

How did Luz react?

With joy!

He raced over to where I was standing, threw his arm around me, then pulled me to the edge of the stands where more than 100,000 German people filled the stadium. He lifted my arm in the air, and yelled, "Jezzee Owenz!" He shouted it again.

People in the stands picked up his chant, shouting, "Jezzee Owenz!" Soon, the whole stadium was cheering: "Jezzee Owenz! Jezzee Owenz! Jezzee Owenz!"

I raised my other hand to thank them, then to still them.

I took Luz's arm and lifted it toward the skies. "Luz Long!" I cried at the top of my lungs. "Luz Long! Luz Long! Luz Long!"

No, you don't win anything by intimidation, manipulation, or unsportsmanlike behavior.

The nice guys I've known have always finished first! ●

[Word of Mr. Owen's death came as we went to press. Eds.]

● Jesse Owens, one of the world's greatest athletes, won four gold track-and-field medals at the 1936 Olympics: three individual, and one as a relay team member. Since then, he has kept busy in public relations and as an inspirational speaker. He also works extensively with underprivileged and delinquent youth. Married, with three children and six grandchildren, Jesse now lives in Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A., where he still shoots under 80 on the golf course.

● Paul Neimark, a prolific Chicago-area free-lance writer, is the author of 27 books, two filmscripts, and more than a thousand articles. Married, and also the father of three children, Paul keeps fit by jogging at least eight kilometres daily.



NEWS

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(LO,WS)

NEWS ADVISORY

An original painting of Jesse Owens commemorating his 1936 Olympic victories will be presented to Ohio State University, Owens' alma mater, by the Miller Brewing Company, Milwaukee, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, (10/4) in the Alumni Lounge of Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, 2400 Olentangy River Road, Columbus.

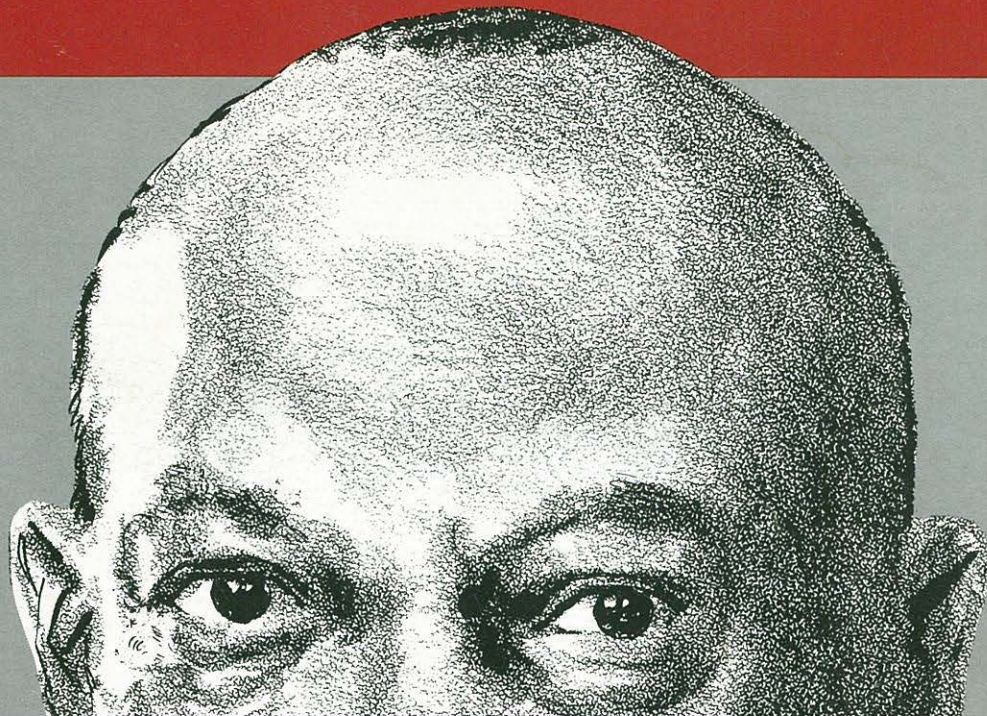
The painting was commissioned by the Miller Brewing Company as the cover of its 1980 Black American Olympic Champions calendar, the seventh in Miller's Black American Heritage Calendar series. The 13 portraits of Black Olympians were painted by Ben Ortero of Moomey Ward Creative, Inc., Milwaukee.

Ohio State University President Harold L. Enarson will receive the 22-by-28 inch tempera painting from Obrie Smith, manager of community relations for Miller Brewing Company. Mrs. Ruth Owens also will attend the presentation.

Mrs. Owens, Jesse Owens' wife of more than 40 years, and several of the Owens children and their families also will attend the OSU-UCLA football game later that day. Half-time ceremonies at the game will include formal dedication of the running track in Ohio Stadium and the three university recreation centers, which were named for Owens by Ohio State's Board of Trustees in April. Owens died March 31, 1980.

##

OHIO STATE



October

Program



Jesse Owens: An Illustrious Son of OSU

Jesse Owens remained close to Ohio State over the years, returning to his alma mater many times for special ceremonies and to receive personal recognition.

He was present when the Philadelphia Alumni Club donated the sculpture of Jesse the Runner and he was present when the Jesse Owens Scholarship Fund was established at ceremonies in 1950. The scholarship, donated by W. B. Calkins, class of '98, still provides financial assistance to Ohio State undergraduates.

Students recognized him in 1956, when Owens was elected an honorary member of OSU's chapter of the senior honor society Sphinx, and he returned to campus for the "linking" ceremony.

One of Owens' best remembered visits to his alma mater came in 1960, when he was again center stage during halftime of a football game. He and Mrs. Owens returned to see their daughter Marlene, then an OSU senior, named Homecoming Queen. In an emotional ceremony, Owens personally presented the queen's trophy to his daughter.

Owens served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and in 1965 the association presented him with the Alumni Citizenship Award.

In 1972, Ohio State awarded Owens an honorary Doctor of Athletic Arts degree in recognition of his accomplishments as a world-renowned athlete and his lifetime of humanitarian service.

The Ohio Stadium track and the University Recreation Centers named for Owens and being dedicated during halftime ceremonies of today's football game make evident the University's pride and respect for Owens' achievements, as an OSU alumnus, world-class athlete and dedicated humanitarian.

In recommending to the Board of Trustees that the facilities be named for Jesse Owens, Ohio State President Harold L. Enarson said:

"The death of Jesse Owens marked the passing of one of The Ohio State University's most illustrious sons.

"In 1972, this University was privileged to confer upon him the honorary Doctor of Athletic Arts degree in tribute to his



accomplishments as an athlete and his services as a humanitarian.

"His athletic achievements are legendary. They do not need a detailed recounting here. Yet the mere mention of his name brings to mind two moments perhaps unique in the annals of track and field competition.

"We remember that day in 1935 when he set three world records and tied a fourth in the Big Ten conference meet at Ann Arbor.

"We remember the Berlin Olympics in 1936 when he won four gold medals and in the process destroyed before the world Hitler's myth of racial superiority.

"Jesse Owens has been called the champion of the century. As an athlete, he carried the name of this University and this country to new heights of world acclaim. As a friend and advocate of youth, an ambassador for the best that sports has to offer, as a humanitarian in the highest sense of the word, he earned world respect. His life exemplified the foundation on which The Ohio State University has been built — opportunity and excellence.

"As long as there are people who compete in sports, the name of Jesse Owens will be remembered. As long as there are people who contemplate and comprehend the tragic waste of racial discrimination, the life of Jesse Owens will shine as a beacon."



Commemorative plaques are being placed near the Jesse Owens Track and in the rotunda of Ohio Stadium. Another plaque is being installed in the lobby of Larkins Hall, where athletes who seek to follow Owens' example will see it daily.

In addition, plans for the Jesse Owens Plaza in the Stadium Drive area leading to Ohio Stadium are underway. The plaza will be visited by hundreds of thousands of students and visitors to Ohio State every year and will serve as a continuing tribute to the life of Jesse Owens.

The cast bronze plaques, 18 inches by 24 inches, to be installed at Ohio Stadium, and the cast aluminum plaque to be placed with existing memorials in Larkins Hall, read as shown at right.

The Jesse Owens Track

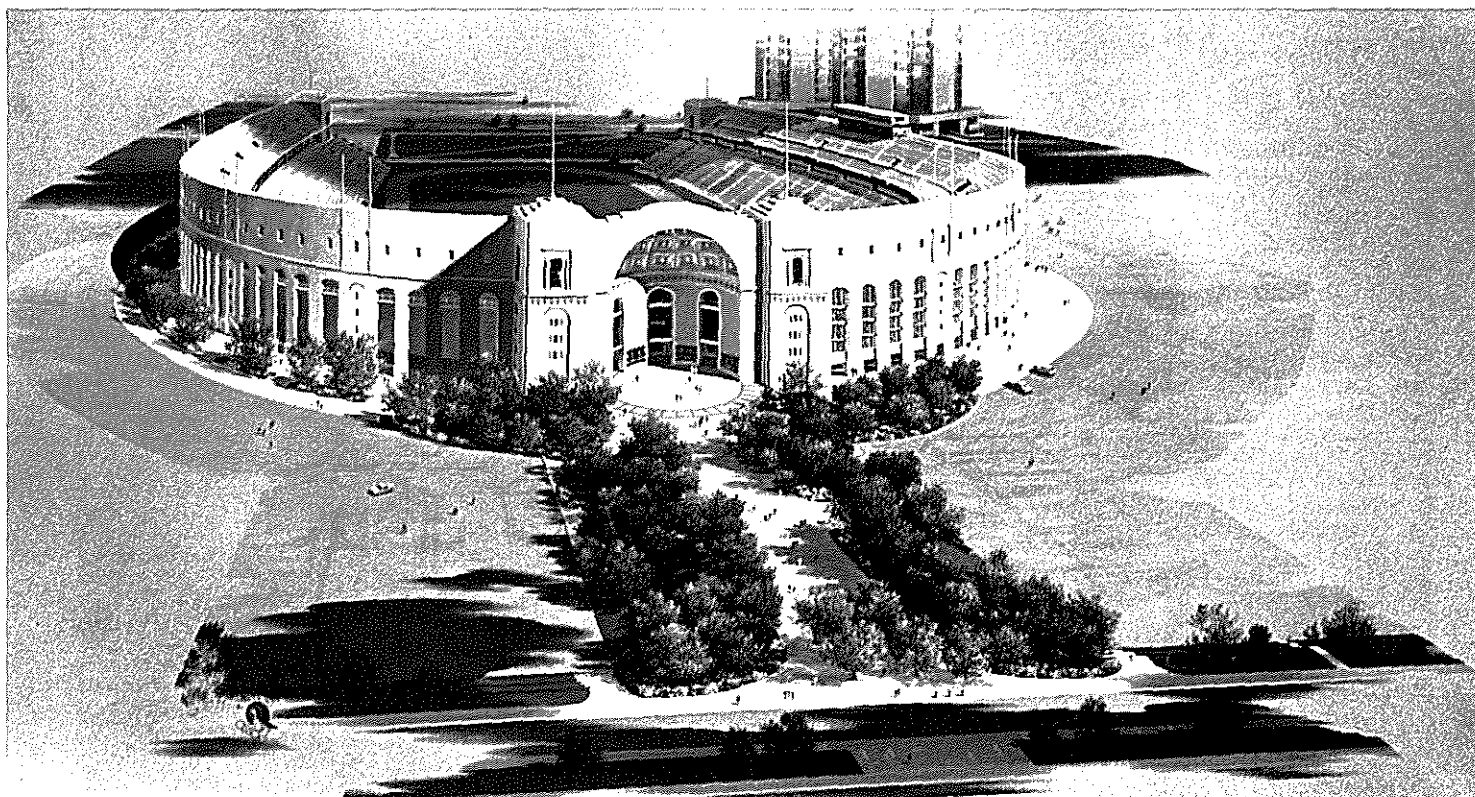
James Cleveland (Jesse) Owens 1913-1980
Ohio State University Track and Field Star
Olympic Champion • Ambassador of Sports
Humanitarian • Friend of Youth

Jesse Owens' incomparable achievements as an Ohio State and Olympic athlete are legendary.

During the Big Ten Championships in 1935, he set three world records and tied a fourth. In the 1936 Olympic Games he won four gold medals.

He carried the name of this University and this country to world acclaim. He personified the sportsmanship ideal. He cared for people and challenged them to give their best.

As long as athletes compete in sports, or people strive for excellence in any undertaking, the life and accomplishments of Jesse Owens will remain an enduring inspiration.



Artist's conception of the Jesse Owens Plaza north of Ohio Stadium on the Ohio State University campus.

Jesse Owens Remembered During OSU Tributes

"THE CALL AND POST" 10-25-80

Buckeye sports immortal, Jesse Owens, whose death March 31, 1980 in Phoenix, Ariz., saddened millions of fans throughout the world, was honored recently when family, friends and sports figures from across the nation gathered in Columbus to participate in a series of well-deserved tributes.

An impressive slate of weekend activities got underway on Friday, Oct. 3, with a gala reception, which was held in the Alumni Lounge of the Fawcett Center For Tomorrow. Ohio State University president and Mrs. Harold L. Enarson hosted the party.

A pre-game salute and spectacular half-time show followed on Saturday, Oct. 4, during the OSU-UCLA clash.

Climaxing the weekend was an elegant and well-attended party, hosted by the ever-popular Merry-makers Club of Columbus, Inc., and held at the group's spacious party house at 618 E. Spring St. Members of the Owens family and guests enjoyed the get together, following the game Saturday evening.

The Jesse Owens Track

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As long as athletes compete in sports, or people strive for excellence in any undertaking, the life and accomplishments of Jesse Owens will remain an enduring inspiration.

COMMEMORATIVE MESSAGE-This is the text of the bronze plaque placed in Ohio Stadium naming the historical arena's sports track, "The Jesse Owens Track." The track and three university recreation centers were named for him in April, shortly after his death, and were dedicated formally Saturday, Oct. 4 during the half-time program for the regionally televised Ohio State-UCLA football game. Owen's widow, Ruth, and their three daughters and families were guests of Ohio State University president and Mrs. Harold L. Enarson at the weekend activities.

Over 88,000 cheering Buckeye and Trojan fans paused to pay special tribute to a fallen hero during half-time festivities of the OSU-UCLA football game, Saturday, Oct. 4.

Stadium spectators, as well as millions more who watched on a special regional telecast of the clash, looked on as Buckeyes everywhere commemorated the life of Olympic track and field champion, Jesse Owens.

During mid-game ceremonies, Ohio State University president Harold L. Enarson, formally dedicated the Ohio Stadium sports track as "The Jesse Owens Track" and christened three Jesse Owens Recreation Centers on

campus.

The half-time program culminated a weekend of activities and citations, honoring the "greatest track star of all time."

Last April, shortly after Owens' death March 31, the OSU Board of Trustees officially named the facilities for the sprinter in recognition of his sports achievements, lifetime of humanitarian activities and service to his country.

President Enarson hailed Owens, noting: "Jesse Owens was an unusual person in many ways. His unique athletic abilities as a track and field star brought great recognition to this university and to the United States.

"But his athletic accomplishments were not an end for him but a beginning. They provided the momentum. He provided a sense of concern for people.

"Together, it was a combination that was to carry him far beyond the athletic realm into the broader area of humanitarian service.

"And it was for this service, as well as his athletic achievements, that Ohio State conferred upon him the honorary doctoral degree in 1972," Enarson said.

"Obviously, Ohio State is proud of Jesse Owens and his accomplishments. He is held in great affection by this University and by people around the world," he continued.

"We want our students and the thousands of visitors who come here each year to know what he did and what he stood for," the

president concluded.

Mrs. Ruth Owens of Phoenix, Ariz., widow of the honoree, members of the family, and many long-time friends and colleagues attended the colorful dedication ceremonies.

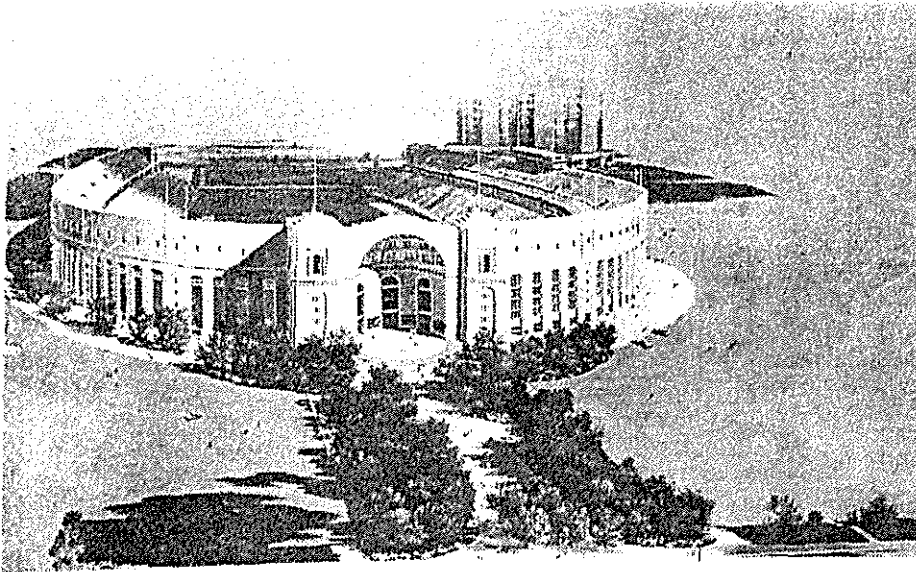
Assistant band director, Willie Sullivan, presented a specially choreographed half-time band show for the Ohio State Marching Band with music and formations focusing on the many facets of Owens' life.

Joining their mother for the tribute were the three Owens daughters and their families of Chicago: Mr. and Mrs. Stuart (Marlene Owens) Rankin and son, Stuart Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Donald (Beverly Owens) Prather and Mrs. and Mrs. Malcolm Hemphill Jr. (Gloria Owens) and daughters, Marlene and Gina.

Recognized as the greatest track and field athlete of the century in coaches' and sportswriters' polls, Owens' world record-setting feats were legendary from the day he broke three world records and tied a fourth all in one Big Ten meet in 1935.

He topped those marks winning four gold medals in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

Owens remained close to his alma mater until his death, returning many times to accept awards and honors presented by the university and various alumni groups.



JESSE OWENS PLAZA-The artist's conception, above, suggests how the new Jesse Owens memorial Plaza will appear when constructed. Plans for the campus plaza, with a completion date targeted for autumn 1981, were endorsed by the Ohio State University Board of Trustees Friday, Oct. 3. The model shows proposed landscaping at the northside of Ohio Stadium-the closed end of the horseshoe-from the rotunda to Stadium Drive. The focal point of the plaza will be the setting for a statue or work of art commemorating the life and accomplishments of Jesse Owens, the gold medal-winning Olympian, as an athlete and humanitarian. The university will seek private funds to commission the work of art, William E. Vandament, vice president for finance and planning said. "Interestingly, the original design of Ohio Stadium calls for a plaza in the area now proposed," Vandament said. "Such a plaza, in honor of Jesse Owens, will enhance the beauty of the area. It will become a focal point of interest for the hundreds of thousands of persons who visit that part of the campus each year for commencements, athletics and other events. Most significantly, it will serve as a source of inspiration for future generations of students," he said.



THE IMMORTAL BUCKEYE-Jesse Owens, Olympic track and field star, born 1913 in Alabama; died March 31, 1980 in Phoenix, Ariz.; was remembered during half-time ceremony at the OSU-UCLA football game, Saturday, Oct. 4. As a young man, Owens, the sprinter, hurdler and broad jumper, set sports records in high school and college, going on to triumph in the 1936 Berlin Olympics where the invincible sportsman won four gold medals, as well as setting Olympic records in the individual events and leading the 400-meter relay team to a new world record. At one time, Owens, held five world titles in officially sanctioned track and field events and set several more for his indoor performances. Four of his Big Ten records still stand unbroken. His last world record didn't fall until 1968. He was inducted into the Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1976. To this day, no athlete has emerged to challenge Owens' place in sport history as the greatest performer the sport has ever seen. A great deal of Owens' support came from coach, mentor and friend, legendary OSU track coach, Larry Snyder.



OFFICIAL GREETING-Ohio governor James A. Rhodes greets Mrs. Jesse Owens of Phoenix, Ariz. and her son-in-law, Stuart Rankin of Chicago, during the recent Ohio State University tribute to Jesse Owens. Governor Rhodes, a friend of the Olympic great and the family for many years, was one of the featured speakers at the Friday, Oct. 3 reception held in the Alumni Lounge of the Fawcett Center For Tomorrow.



OLYMPIC PORTRAIT-Obie Smith, left, Milwaukee, community relations manager for the Miller Brewing Co., presented a portrait of the late Jesse Owens to Ohio State University during the campus salute to the Olympic champion the weekend of Oct. 4. Accepting the painting on behalf of OSU are president Harold L. Enarson and Mrs. Jesse Owens, Phoenix, Ariz. The original drawing commemorates Owens' 1936 Olympic victories. It was at the Berlin Olympiad that the young Buckeye sprinter, hurdler and broad jumper single-handedly destroyed Adolph Hitler's German supremacy rhetoric by winning four gold medals in track and field events. The presentation of the handsome portrait was made in the Alumni Lounge of the Fawcett Center For Tomorrow.



AN HISTORIC MOMENT-Ohio State University president Harold L. Enarson, foreground center with Mrs. Jesse Owens, at his right, presided during ceremonies in Ohio Stadium, Saturday, Oct. 4, naming the stadium track and three university recreation centers in honor of the late Olympic great, Jesse Owens. The dedication took place during half-time festivities of the OSU-UCLA clash. Members of the Owens

family, who traveled to Columbus from Chicago to witness the historic event are, left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Rankin and son, Stuart Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Prather; Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Hemphill Jr. and daughters, Marlene and Gina. Mrs. Rankin is the former Marlene Owens; Mrs. Prather, the former Beverly Owens and Mrs. Hemphill, the former Gloria Owens.



UNANIMOUS VERDICT-The honorable Robert M. Dunlap, judge of the U.S. District Court for Southern Ohio, and -time friend of Jesse Owens family spoke during the Oct. 3 tribute in the Alumni Lounge at the Fawcett Center For Tomorrow, hailing his old chum as "the greatest athlete in the d." The judge reminded the assembled throng that Olympian and field star Jesse Owens, deceased since March 1980, holds four Big Ten records.



HEROES AND LEGENDS-This trio of sportsmen, spent several relaxing hours greeting old friends and reminiscing about the life and times of their late friend, Jesse Owens. A large group of Owens' fans gathered in tribute Friday, Oct. 3 in the Alumni Lounge of the Fawcett Center For Tomorrow, to pay homage to Owens, a four gold medal winner in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The gentlemen here are, from left: David Albritton, Dayton, former Ohio State University and Olympic track star and close friend of fellow Buckeye Owens; Lucien Wright, Columbus and Herb Douglas, Wyncote Pa. The most popular and most repeated Owens reminiscence of the fellow get together was how their old friend came to be 'Jesse' Owens. This is how the story went: "The seventh child of Henry and Emma Alexander Owens was named James Cleveland when he was born in Alabama in 1913. 'J.C.', as he was called, was nine when the sharecropper family went north to Cleveland, where his new school teacher gave him the name that was to become known around the world. The teacher was told 'J.C.' when she asked his name to enter in her roll book, but she thought he had said 'Jesse.' And the legend of Jesse Owens began to unfold.



SOUVENIR PLAQUE-In behalf of her mother, Mrs. Jesse Owens, Mrs. Malcolm Hemphill Jr. (the former Gloria Owens) of Chicago, accepts a souvenir copy of the plaque placed in Ohio Stadium naming it "The Jesse Owens Track." Ohio State University president Harold L. Enarson made at presentation Friday, Oct. 3 during a reception held in the Alumni Lounge of Fawcett Center For Tomorrow, a kick-off of weekend activities which culminated at a half-time dedication during the OSU-UCLA football game.



CHERISHED MEMORIES-Ohio State University president Harold L. Enarson presents an album of photographs recalling great moments from the life of Olympic legend Jesse Owens to his widow, Ruth during a recent tribute held in the Alumni Lounge of the Fawcett Center For Tomorrow. Looking on, from left, are the three Owens daughters: Mrs. Malcolm Hemphill Jr. (the former Gloria Owens); Mrs. Stuart Smith (the former Marlene Owens) and Mrs. Donald Prather (the former Beverly Owens). The three sisters reside with their families in Chicago. Owens family members were in Columbus the weekend of Oct. 4th to participate in a series of Jesse Owens commemorative activities, which were climaxed during half-time festivities of the OSU-UCLA football game when the sports track at Ohio Stadium was officially named "The Jesse Owens Track."



PROUD MOM--Ruth Owens, widow of Jesse Owens, left, shares a warm moment with her daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters during a reception Friday, Oct. 3 in the Alumni Lounge of the Fawcett Center For Tomorrow on the Ohio State University campus. The family was in Columbus to attend the campus tribute to Owens, who died March 31. Mrs. Prather, second from right, is the former Beverly Owens. With her is husband Donald and daughters, Donna, right and Dawn, left.

Lawrence Tolbert - 10-25-80



MERRY SALUTE - Merrymaker Lawrence Tolbert, left, participated in his club's festive salute to the Owens family and the legendary tribute to the late Jesse Owens at the Merrymakers' partyhouse, Saturday, Oct. 4. In addition, to honored guest, Mrs. Ruth Owens, center. Tolbert is joined by fellow Merrymaker Robert Cromwell and James Young.



PARTY CO-HOST - Charles McMurray, left, acted as co-host along with fellow Merrymakers during the festive gala thrown in honor of the family of the late Jesse Owens. Saturday, Oct. 4. Merrymakers and their invited guests assembled at the group's club house, 616 E. Spring St. following the OSU-UCLA football game, to entertain Mrs. Ruth Owens and family members. Pictured above, are the Owens daughters, from left: Beverly Prather, Gloria Hemphill, mother Owens, Marlene Rankin and co-host McMurray.



"Call and Post" 10-25-80



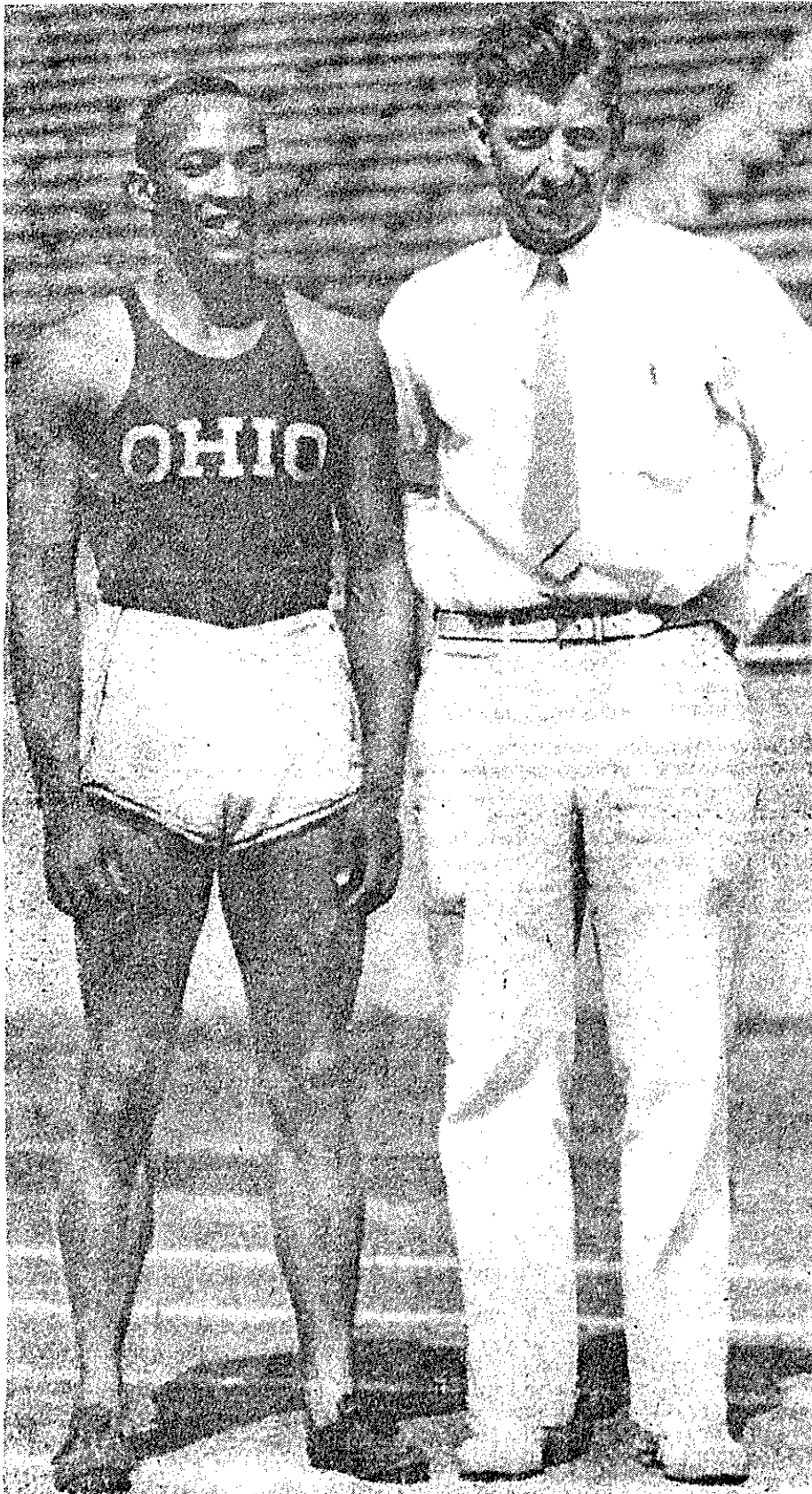
PROUD MOTHER-IN-LAW - The sons-in-law of the late Jesse Owens joined their charming mother-in-law, Mrs. Ruth Owens, center, for the Merrymakers' gala Saturday, Oct. 4, following the OSU-UCLA football game. The elegant affair was held at the group's spacious partyhouse at 618 E. Spring St. Merrymaker president, Bill Harris, right, was on hand to give the honorees a royal welcome. With Mrs. Owens are, left to right: Stuart Rankin (Marlene Owens); Malcolm Hemphill, (Gloria Owens) and Donald Prather, (Beverly Owens.)



NAME'S THE SAME - But Merrymaker Dr. Edward J. Sullivan, left and Willie Sullivan, right, (same name but not related) enjoyed several happy hours relaxing and reminiscing with Mrs. Ruth Owens, center, the charming widow of the late, great Jesse Owens. (Willie) Sullivan, assistant band director for the famed Ohio State University Marching Band, was responsible for putting together a high-stepping and colorful half-time musical tribute to former Buckeye and Olympic track and field star. The band show highlighted the OSU-UCLA football game Saturday, Oct. 4.

University will honor memory of Owens

4 Oct, 1981



The University will formally dedicate the Jesse Owens Track and three Jesse Owens Recreation Centers in ceremonies at half-time of the Ohio State-UCLA football game Oct. 4 in Ohio Stadium.

The facilities were officially named for Jesse Owens, an Ohio State alumnus, last April by the University's Board of Trustees in recognition of Owens' sports achievements, his lifetime of humanitarian activities and service to his country as a traveling ambassador of sports around the world.

Members of Owens' family and long-time friends and colleagues will be present for the dedication ceremonies. Assistant band director Willie Sullivan has choreographed a special half-time program for the Ohio State Marching Band, with music and formations focusing on the many facets of Owens' life as an athlete, humanitarian and outstanding American.

Owens has been called the greatest track and field athlete of the century in coaches' and sportswriters' polls. His world record-setting feats were legendary from the day he broke three world records and tied a fourth all in one Big Ten meet in 1935. He won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

Owens remained close to his alma mater until his death March 31, 1980, and returned many times to accept awards and honors presented by the university and alumni groups. He was present in Ohio Stadium when his daughter Marlene was crowned Homecoming Queen in 1960. In 1972, Owens was awarded an honorary Doctor of Athletic Arts degree from the University.

• • •

Jesse Owens' time at Ohio State will be the focus of an exhibit on display through Nov. 10 in the Skylight Area of the Main Library. Photographs, newspaper articles, yearbooks, athletic trophies and other memorabilia drawn from University Archives, the libraries' special collections and the athletic department are featured in the exhibit

JESSE OWENS poses on the track in Ohio Stadium with his coach, Larry Snyder, now professor emeritus of health, physical education and recreation. The photograph, which is about 45 years old, comes from University Archives. The stadium track will be formally dedicated in Owens' honor Oct. 4.

Owens' achievements still remembered

Former Buckeye called world's finest athlete

By Seana Elam
Lantern staff writer

The average man could not have accomplished all Jesse Owens did, but then again, Owens was not an average man.

The man who became known as "the world's fastest human" and who Gov. James Rhodes once called "the greatest athlete of our time" is remembered not only for his achievements on the track, but for his contributions to his fellow man.

Born in Alabama to a sharecropper, Owens moved with his family to Cleveland when he was 9, where he later attended Cleveland East Tech High School. He was named James Cleveland at birth, but went by the initials "J.C." throughout most of his childhood. A schoolteacher mistook "J.C." for "Jesse" and the name stuck with him.

Owens entered Ohio State in 1933. As a freshman he set world records in the 60-meter dash (6.2 seconds) and the 60-yard dash (6.1 seconds). As a junior, Owens became the only track and field athlete in the history of the sport to set three world records and tie a fourth in a single meet, the 1935 Big Ten Outdoor Championships in Ann Arbor, Mich.

He ran the 100-yard dash in 9.4 seconds to tie the world record, and he set the world record in the 220-yard dash at 20 seconds flat. That same day he went on to set the world record in the 220-yard low hurdles at 22.6 seconds, and the broad jump at 26 feet, 8 1/4 inches.

Former OSU President Harold Enarson and his colleagues took great



initiative to assure Owens would be honored for many years.

Enarson recommended to the Ohio State Board of Trustees in 1980 that the Ohio Stadium track be named and the three recreation centers be renamed in Owens' honor.

"He was not simply a world-class athlete, but a world-class human being. And that's what we're celebrating — not only that he was a great athlete, but that he was a very fine human being," Enarson said. "Jesse was well-regarded by the people of Ohio and deserves to be remembered for a long, long time."

In 1936 Owens quelled Hitler's hope of presenting the Aryan race as superior to all when he won four gold medals at the Olympic Games in

Berlin. At that time, Owens was the only athlete in the history of the Olympic Games to win four gold medals.

He set new Olympic records in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, the long jump, and ran on the victorious 400-meter relay team.

It wasn't long before the name Jesse Owens became a household word. Helen Stephens, who ran on the 1936 U.S. Olympic team with Owens and who was the 'world's fastest woman for 20 years, referred to Owens as "Mr. Track."

"Jesse was a magnetic person. He was an idol for many thousands of youngsters," Stephens said. "Everyone knew him."

After the 1936 Olympics, Owens returned to Cleveland where he took a job as a playground director and devoted his life to working for the underprivileged youths of America.

Matthew Robinson, another of Owens' Olympic teammates, said Owens was a man of great charisma.

"There's nothing you can say bad about Jesse," Robinson said. "He was a great competitor, and took interest in youngsters. He wanted to see that the youth improved academically as well as physically. I think he wanted them to have the chance to do as much as he did."

Some 20 years later, Owens served as America's "Ambassador of Sports." That same year he was President Eisenhower's personal representative to the 1956 Olympic Games in Australia.

In 1976, Owens was awarded the highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom, by President Ford. Two years later at the White House, Presi-

dent Carter presented Owens with the Living Legend Award.

In late 1979, Owens was treated for lung cancer at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago and later transferred to University Hospital in Tucson, Ariz. near his home in the Phoenix area. He died on March 31, 1980.

Top Performers

3:45 — Women's Long Jump — 19-6 1/4 — SR, 22-11 1/4 — AR, 23-7 1/4 — WR

Dorothy Scott, Atoms Track Club (21-6)
Robin Taylor, Old Dominion University (21-0)

3:45 — Men's High Jump — 7-1 3/4 — SR, 7-7 1/4 — AR, 7-8 3/4 — WR

Dwight Stones, Pacific Coast Club, (7-7 1/4)
Jerome Carter, Ren. Athletic Club, (7-7)

4:45 — Pole Vault — 17 1/4 — SR, 18-10 1/4 — AR, 19 1/4 — WR

Billy Olson, Pacific Coast Club, (19 1/4)
Brad Pursley, Abilene Christian University, (18-10 1/4)

3:45 — Women's Shot Put — 47-4 1/4 — SR, 62-7 1/4 — AR, 73-8 — WR

Melody Torcolacce, Canada, (50-0)
Jodi Riedel, Kent State University, (50-9)

3:45 — Women's 4 x 100 Meter Relay — :47.7 — SR, :42.29 — AR, :41.60 — WR

Canadian National Team
4:00 — Men's 4 x 100 Meter Relay — :40.4 — SR, :38.03 — AR, :38.03 — WR

Eastern Kentucky University
East Carolina University

4:10 — Women's 100 Meter Hurdles — :13.4 — SR, :12.79 — AR, :12.36 — WR

Stephanie Hightower, Nurrl-Onix Inc. (:12.79)
Judi Brown, Michigan State University (:12.9)

4:30 — Men's 110 Meter High Hurdles — :13.5 — SR, :12.93 — AR, :12.93 — WR

Rod Milburn, Unattached, (:13.37)
Dan Lavitt, Pacific Coast Club (:13.6)

4:30 — Women's 1,500 Meter Run — 4:37.7 — SR, 3:52.43 — AR, 3:52.47 — WR

Darlene Beckford, Liberty Athletic Club (4:12.85)
Diana Richburg, Gazelle International (4:16.27)

4:40 — Men's One Mile Run — 4:00 — SR, 3:47.89 — AR, 3:47.33 — WR

Tom Byers, Unattached (3:35.33—1500 Meter Run)
5:00 — Women's 400 Meter Dash — :54.3 — SR, :50.62 — AR, :48.16 — WR

Diane Dixon, Ohio State University, (53.17)
Angella Taylor, Canadian National Team

continued on page 11

OSU to be co-host in film of Owens' life

By Shawn Summers

Lantern staff writer

1-12-84

Hollywood, watch out!

First Central High School, now Ohio Stadium, will be filled with movie directors, cameras, bright lights and television stars.

This time, Jesse Owens will be the subject of a four-hour television mini-series filmed on the OSU campus and elsewhere in Columbus.

Wednesday, Gov. Richard F. Celeste announced Paramount Television has selected OSU, Owens' alma mater, and Columbus to film "The Jesse Owens Story." Celeste said the movie will generate \$1 million locally.

Although the script is not complete, Paramount plans to hire an undetermined number of area residents for extras, minor speaking roles and technical positions. Filming will begin in late February.

Casting Director Ruben Cannon, who worked on

the television series "Winds of War" and "Roots," will be in Columbus prior to the filming to hire area residents for the film. A date has not been announced.

An actor to portray Owens has not yet been selected, said Executive Producer Harve Bennett, who also produced the award-winning television special "A Woman Called Golda."

"We have several outstanding candidates," Bennett said, "including at least two of the best young black actors in America."

Bennett, who has never visited OSU, said filming at OSU will give the story "a quality of realism."

"Certain things demand to be what they are," Bennett said. "Realism is very important in this picture — we don't want some frothy Hollywood bio-pic (biography picture)."

OSU President Edward H. Jennings said the university is "extremely proud to be a part of Jesse Owens' accomplishments."

"We're particularly pleased the film will honor

Owens as an athlete and as a student," Jennings said. "It (the film) will show what Owens did with his education at OSU and what he did for his race."

While a junior at OSU, Owens drew worldwide acclaim when he became the first person to win four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. His accomplishments humiliated Hitler and challenged Hitler's theory of racial superiority.

The film will detail Owens' childhood in Alabama, his life at OSU, his Olympic accomplishments and the racism he experienced after the Olympics.

Bennett said the most filming will be in the Columbus area, while the rest will be filmed in the Southern United States and in Berlin.

"We have a good market now for Jesse Owens' story," Bennett said. "The country is excited about the return of the Olympics to America. Jesse is among the three most celebrated American Olympic heroes . . . and American always needs a hero."

Crew scouts neighborhoods for Jesse Owens TV movie

^{'The Brother' 1-16-84}
Portions of Clintonville's stylish 1930s-era neighborhoods are among those being considered for residential location shots for a made-for-television movie, an official of the Ohio Film Bureau announced last week.

Eva Lapolla said areas near Ohio State University are being scouted by Paramount Television officials for a four-hour mini-series on the life of Jesse Owens, the athlete who won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. The movie will be filmed partially in Columbus and on the campus at Ohio State University, Owens' alma mater.

Owens drew worldwide attention when he became the first person to win four gold medals in the Olympics. His series of track and field victories challenged Adolph Hitler's theory of racial superiority. The black man's success also made Owens one of this country's most famous Olympic heroes.

The film will tell the story of Jesse Owens, his childhood, Ohio State years, Olympic victory and the

racial discrimination he faced. Portions of the film will also be filmed in the southern United States and in Germany.

No actors have been selected to play the major roles, but Paramount officials announced last week they will be hiring area

residents for extras and minor speaking roles. Filming is scheduled to begin in February.

Portions of the story will also be filmed in Ohio State's horseshoe stadium, where cinders are expected to be placed on the track to give it a 1930s appearance.



Remaking history

"ON CAMPUS"

Photo by Kevin Fitzsimons

1-26--84

PRESIDENT JENNINGS PRESENTS SCARLET AND GRAY stocking caps with the OSU emblem to executives of Paramount Television who announced earlier this month that portions of the TV mini-series "The Jesse Owens Story" would be filmed on campus and in selected locations in Columbus. From left are Dick Irving, the film's director and Harold Gast, producer/writer.

February 1984

Paramount Pictures Corporation

TELEVISION PRODUCTION DIVISION

JACK CHILBERG
Art Director
THE JESSE OWENS STORY

5555 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038-3197 (213) 468-5882

Paramount will cast locals in TV special

By Shawn Summers

Lantern staff writer

2-10-84

If you've ever wanted to be a television star, your chances have never been better.

This weekend, you may be discovered.

Saturday and Sunday, Paramount Television officials are interviewing at Mershon Auditorium for minor speaking roles and extras for the television miniseries "The Jesse Owens Story."

Owens, an OSU graduate, drew worldwide acclaim at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin when he became the first person to win four gold medals. His accomplishments humiliated Adolf Hitler and challenged Hitler's theory of racial superiority.

Between 500 and 1,000 local residents of all ages will be cast, said Jody Hummer, who was hired by Paramount for local casting. She also helped find extras for "Teachers," a movie now being filmed in Columbus.

Interviews for individuals from 6 to 18 years old will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and interviews for people from 18 to 65 will be at the same times Sunday.

Applicants must bring a current photograph.

"We may hire only 700 people. Everything depends on the budget," Hummer said.

Filming will last from Feb. 20 until March 8.

Hummer said she has already conducted interviews for larger speaking roles with Ohio actors and theater performers. Speaking roles for college-age students have been filled, she said.

For minor speaking roles, Hummer said she is looking for black males between 15 and 17 to portray Owens'

high school track team members, two black females between 15 and 19 to play Owens' sisters and two black adults between 35 and 50 to portray Owens' parents.

"They must resemble Jesse Owens," Hummer said.

Owens will be portrayed by Dorian Harewood, who played Simon Haley in "Roots," said Gary Claussen, who is in charge of national publicity for Paramount. An actress to portray Owens' wife has not yet been cast; he said.

Claussen said Paramount officials still are frantically trying to pick film locations, finish the script and cast actors.

Hummer said she will also cast a white female between 30 and 40 to play a waitress and a white male of the same age to play Owens' track coach.

Hummer said she will hire extras to play Owens' relatives, friends and teachers. Extras will also be hired to fill background scenes such as Owens' childhood neighborhood, a park and a courtroom.

"Extras usually are used to fill additional background," Hummer said, "but a lot of times (the extras) get close-up shots."

Hummer said she is looking for a range of people of different ages.

"I'm not necessarily looking for college kids . . . I want all ages — teens, old people, professors, students. Extras are cast to duplicate reality."

Hummer said parts will not last more than one day, although one scene may require two days. Once an individual is hired, he may only know the night before that his part will be filmed the following day.

Extras will be paid minimum wage while people with minor speaking roles will be paid according to stan-

dards set by the Screen Actors Guild, Hummer said.

Hummer said she is not always looking for acting experience, although she would like to see some college actors.

"The only real requirement is to have an interest in seeing what's going on," Hummer said. "There may be wardrobe requirements, so you may have to go through your closet and look for bell-bottoms."

Hummer said one scene will be filmed on the Oval with students (extras hired by Paramount) walking to classes.

Several scenes will also be filmed in Ohio Stadium.

Sections of the horseshoe stadium will be re-covered with cinders and grass to make it look as it did in the 1930s.

The series' executive producer, Harve Bennett, said Chicago and Canada were also considered for filming locations. Ohio, though, had the best economy, area architecture and the "right look for the film," Bennett said.

Bennett said the cold winter weather, the smoky gray skies and the old stadium will make the scene seem as if it were in the 1930s.

The television series will be shown a week before the start of the Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Crowd anticipates stardom

Owens auditions a success

By Shawn Summers

Lantern staff writer

2-13-84

The crowd at Mershon Auditorium this weekend had stars in its eyes.

The audience wanted to act in the show, not watch it.

By Sunday afternoon, more than 1,300 people had applied for minor speaking roles and extras for the television miniseries "The Jesse Owens Story."

Paramount Television plans to hire between 500 and 1,000 local residents, said Jody Hummer, local casting director.

Saturday, when applicants from 6 to 18 years were interviewed, only 165 people applied.

Hummer said she was disappointed and surprised at Saturday's turnout.

Sunday, however, two policemen guided more than 1,100 applicants from 18 to 85 into the auditorium. Most waited two to three hours for an interview.

"I'm running behind now," Hummer said Sunday afternoon. "These things take time, but we're very pleased with the turnout."

After a two-hour wait, about 30 applicants were called by their numbers and led behind the stage curtain. Sitting in a half-circle, applicants answered questions from Hummer about their lives.

Potential actors for speaking parts were picked out and led to a private room for a script reading. The others handed in their applications and left. The interviews usually lasted five minutes.

Hummer interviewed a variety of people, including

housewives, OSU students and professors, government workers, retired senior citizens and children.

Scott Weaver, a junior from Upper Arlington, studied while he waited to be interviewed.

"I came because I wanted to do it for the experience — just to say yeah, I did it. It was fun," Weaver said.

Renee Cook, 35, of Columbus, dressed in a '30s-style dress and wore an antique brooch and earrings for her interview.

"I wanted to take a chance, get a new experience," Cook said. "It was an impulsive decision."

Tim Harvey, a sophomore from Stow, said he went because he is a member of the OSU track team and always sees pictures of Owens around campus gyms.

"I heard they were looking for a European runner and I thought I'd have a good chance because of my (track) experience," Harvey said.

Jeffrey Wright, 19, of Columbus, was picked for a script reading to portray one of Owens' track teammates.

"I have theater experience, but I'm scared," Wright said. "I'd love it if I got the part."

Hummer said applicants for extras will not be notified until one or two days before filming for a particular segment. Most extras will work only one day, she said.

Filming will last from Feb. 20 until March 8.

Hummer said she has not yet picked anyone for speaking parts or extras.

"For extras, I want someone who has a particular look, a period look (of the 1930s)," Hummer said. "For actors, I want theater people who look like athletes."

Old house finds its way to Hollywood

By J.F. Poole

Lantern staff writer 2-17-84

The house on Blake Avenue will be empty for a while.

The moving van, blocking traffic in front of the house, is waiting for everything to be loaded.

Dishes are being packed away, pictures are coming down, the walls in the house are being changed to look even older and the furniture is being taken to some unknown warehouse.

Why?

Because Hollywood is here once again. But this time, it will be moving into a campus-area home for two weeks to film part of the Jesse Owens miniseries. Several scenes in the movie, covering the time from Owens' childhood until his adult years, will be filmed in the house.

But what are the occupants of the house receiving in return for their trouble and inconvenience?

"One month's rent, \$50 to help out with the utility bills, new wallpaper that is supposed to look old, and new old curtains. Who knows, maybe they will let us keep them," said Mary Ann Miller, a junior from Novelty.

"We can continue living in the house during the days they will be filming. We just don't have any furniture."

Several area homes were under consideration for a part in the movie.

"Our location manager obtained research on exactly what the Owens' family house looked like and the basic layout of their home," said Tom Pedigo, the set decorator for Paramount Television.

Because they were quite poor, the Owens' family lived in a rather bad area of Cleveland, Pedigo said.

The house selected parallels a home that would have been built in the early 1930s and has been untouched since. The front porch is falling apart, and

the paint on the house looks as if it has been through several storms which changed the color from a bright yellow to a drab-looking gray-yellow.

Pedigo's behind-the-scene position of set decorator requires much time and hard work.

"I have to be able to take any so-called set and make it look as if it is in the script," Pedigo said.

"We will be using a lot of Grand Rapids-type furniture, which will add to the time era in the movie," Pedigo said. "This type of antique furniture is a European-American Ambassador which was made in Michigan in the early 1930s."

Pedigo and his staff also have worked on such movies as "Terms of Endearment," "Brainstorm," "Shogun" and "Evita."

There are still positions available as extras in the movie. Paramount Television plans to hire between 500 and 1,000 local residents, said Jody Hummer, local casting director.

Filming of Jesse Owens Story set for today in Clintonville

"THE BOOSTER" 2-20-84

Filming for the Jesse Owens Story, a television movie, was scheduled to begin this morning on several south Clintonville streets.

A resident of one of the streets said she received a notice last week asking that all cars be removed from the street.

The areas that will be us-

ed are the two blocks of Calumet Street between Olentangy Street and Crestview Road and one block of Olentangy Street between Calumet Street and Medary Avenue.

Filming was to begin at 7 a.m.

The resident said the film company, Paramount Pictures, had selected the

house on the northeast corner of Olentangy Street and Calumet Street as the coach's residence.

A spokesman for the production company refused to confirm the information, saying that announcing the specific streets involved would create a problem with crowds.

The Jesse Owens Story

"THE NEWS" (Beachwood/Clintonville) 22 Feb 1984

Portions of miniseries filming in Clintonville

By Jennifer Baseden

Clintonville's streets are usually pretty quiet. And the people who live along them, such as the Wooten family of 194 Olentangy St., lead quiet suburban lives.

So you can imagine the Wootens' surprise when people knocked on the door and asked to use their house as a film location for the upcoming television miniseries, *The Jesse Owens Story*.

How do you get your house in the running for a four-hour Hollywood production? You don't, said Katherine Wooten. "They came to us," she explained.



Dorian Harwood consults with crew members during scenes from *The Jesse Owens Story* being filmed this week on Olentangy Street. Harwood is cast as Owens in the television miniseries.

One day recently, a woman from the Ohio Film Bureau (part of Ohio's Department of Development) knocked on the Wootens' door. She told Wooten the man with her was from Paramount Pictures Corp. and they were looking for a place to use as Coach Riley's house in a miniseries on Jesse Owens.

"As I understand, our house is the largest house with this much ground in this area, close to the OSU campus," Wooten said. Much of the series is being filmed at OSU.

STARTED MONDAY

Filming began Monday at the Olentangy Street location. The scenes being shot there took place in Cleveland in the late 1920s and early '30s, said the project's associate producer, Arnold Turner.

In preparation for the filming, vintage cars were parked along the streets, and a wrecked one was placed in the front yard. Details were added — among them a clothesline draped with period clothing.

Finley Glenn Wooten, Katherine's husband, said Paramount decorated one of the rooms with old curtains and props to look like the coach's living room. "The stuff in here is all *really* old," he said.

ENJOYING THE VISIT

"We're really enjoying all this," Mrs. Wooten said. Although there have obviously been disruptions to the daily routine, she said "it's kind of exciting. They're not putting us out or anything."

The Wooten's 6-year-old granddaughter, Heather, stays with them. "She's excited, too," Mrs. Wooten said.

Studio employees came out late last week to check the curtains that had been hung. They took a picture of the curtains, and let Heather get in the picture, "so now she thinks she's going to be in the movie," Mrs. Wooten laughed.

STAR QUALITY

The miniseries stars Dorian Harwood as Owens.

Harwood played the lead part in the movie *Ragtime*. George Kennedy is cast as Coach Riley, the man who encouraged Owens in high school to go out for track.

Debbie Morgan, a regular performer on a daytime soap opera, is cast as Owens' wife, Ruth. George Stanford Brown plays the role of Gilbert, who became Owens' parole officer after the athlete encountered tax troubles and who later became a friend.

Mr. Wooten said he is proud the studio chose Clintonville as a film site, and is glad viewers will see his neighborhood on television.

"They could have gone somewhere else — anywhere in town. But they chose to film it here," he said.

CLINTONVILLE CREDIT

"It's nice that Clintonville will be part of a movie about Jesse Owens. Not just our house and yard, but the whole area," he noted. "I have to give credit to the community."

"For me, it's exciting to have someone like George Kennedy in your house. And it's also interesting to see how they do things," Mr. Wooten said.

"It's *more* than worth the interruptions," he added.

Associate Producer Turner said the filming will take another three or four days, but the shooting schedule will depend on the weather.

A spokeswoman for Paramount said the studio does not have a firm date the miniseries will be shown, but added it would be sometime shortly before the Summer Olympics.



A crowd of onlookers gathers in front of 194 Olentangy St. to watch filming of *The Jesse Owens Story*. Across the street, George Kennedy and Dorrian Harwood wait on the sidewalk for shooting to start. It's unlikely the RV on Calumet will appear in the film. (News photos by Jennifer Baseden)

"The News" (Beachwood/Clintonville). 22 Feb. 1984

'The Jesse Owens Story' reminiscent of olden days

By Shawn Summers
Lantern staff writer

2-23-84

Blake Avenue aged about 60 years Wednesday.

Model T Fords were parked by the sidewalks, children, dressed in wool knickers and "Great Gatsby" hats, played stick ball in the street.

Women in pill box hats and knee-length patterned dresses chatted on the front porch of a dilapidated three-story house while a coal man made his weekly delivery.

On the other side of the street, though, a small, curious crowd gathered to watch movie actors, directors and cameramen film "The Jesse Owens Story."

One of the women in the porch scene, Glendora Muldrow, 26, of Columbus, was hired as an extra to play Owens' neighbor.

"We did the scene about three times before we got it right. I've been sitting around all day doing different scenes, but it doesn't bother me," Muldrow said.

Her eight-year-old daughter, Stephanie, portrayed one of Owens' neighbors in several scenes of children playing stick ball, jumping rope and playing with dolls.

"I got outta school to do this," she said.

The coal man, Wally Clovington, 52, of Columbus, wore faded blue jean overalls covered with soot and hard-soled button shoes.

"I'm here for the experience and the money. The actors are very nice and friendly — I've met a lot of interesting people here today," Clovington said.

Clovington, who also had an extra part as a policeman on the movie "Teachers," said he hoped he would be called back for more scenes.

One of the extras hired to portray Owens' neighbor actually was once good friends with Owens.

Marie Young, 62, of Columbus, lived a block away from Owens his last few years as a student at OSU.

"It's far-out being in this film since I knew him personally," Young said. "Jesse would always walk me and a friend home from the library after dark. Jesse would always do whatever he could for you. He was a good socially minded person."

"I knew Jesse after he won his Olympic medals and unless you knew him, you wouldn't know he was a celebrity."

Policemen cleared the street by 7 a.m. and guarded the entrance all day. Production assistants rushed around hushing the crowd and yelling orders at extras.

Each scene was filmed anywhere from three to eight times before the directors were satisfied.

Anxious camera buffs hovered nearby trying to get pictures of the two celebrities, Dorrian Harewood (who will portray Owens) and George Kennedy (who will play Owens' high school track coach).

Paramount Television has hired 21 Ohio residents for speaking roles and 400 for extra positions, said Sue Carr, communications specialist for the Ohio Film Bureau.

Movie filming alters south campus parking

By Shawn Summers
Lantern staff writer

2-23-84

Faculty members who usually park beside the Main Library and the Faculty Club will be walking a little further next week.

Parking on 12th Avenue north of Neil Avenue and parking on South Oval Drive will not be permitted Monday and Tuesday because of filming for "The Jesse Owens Story."

Warning notices will be placed on

the windshields of cars parked in those areas today and Friday, said David Fillhart, business services officer for University Public Safety.

Faculty members should park their cars in the 11th Avenue or the Ohio Union parking ramp, Fillhart said.

Cars that are not moved by 6:30 a.m. Monday will be towed, and owners will be fined \$25, said Caleb Brunson, manager of traffic and parking.

"Students can walk freely to and

from classes. When filming begins — usually (each shot) lasts only one-and-a-half minutes — students will be momentarily held back," Fillhart said.

Paramount and university officials will control the crowd during filming, said William Wahl, coordinator of visitor information.

Filming will take place on the Oval, inside Pomerene Hall and near Mirror Lake.

House lands a role in TV film

Steve Berry

High Staff Reporter

2-23-84

Katherine Wooten didn't get to watch soap operas, but she wasn't complain-

ing. Television — the *real* television, with the-flesh actors — had come to pay a visit.

The cast and crew of *The Jesse Owens Story* descended on Wooten's Clintonville home Monday to film scenes for the made-television movie.

And while the cameras rolled, she and her husband, Glenn, sipped coffee in their kitchen and stargazed through a doorway.

"It's like a dream," said Mrs. Wooten. "It still doesn't seem like it really opened."

But Mrs. Wooten didn't take time to catch herself. She was too excited about meeting actors Dorian Harewood, who plays Owens, and George Kennedy, who plays Owens' high school track coach.

"Here, have a seat in the rocking chair

George Kennedy sat in," Mrs. Wooten said proudly to a visitor.

The Wootens' brush with show biz began last month when their two-story white frame house caught the eye of Paramount Television producers.

"They knocked on the door and said they were considering our house for the movie," Mrs. Wooten said. "They took a lot of pictures and said they liked our bay windows and the big double lot."

"I said 'Oh, me. They'll go off and we'll never hear any more about it.' "

But a week later, the movie people were back with the good news: The Wootens' family room had landed a role.

Then, it was the scene designers' turn to transform the 1980s family room into a 1960s living room for a scene involving Owens' coach in his later years.

The designers carted off the Wootens' furniture and put it in storage. Then, they hung drapes, curtains and pictures and moved in armchairs, a rocking chair, a rug and end tables. An ornate wooden china

cabinet that belongs to the Wootens also was used in the scene.

No detail was overlooked: A book of matches was placed beside an ashtray; the overstuffed chairs came complete with worn spots on the arms; and although the Wootens' television set was left in the room, the Qube control box was quickly hidden.

While antique autos lined the street outside for a 1930s scene, Kennedy — playing the aging coach — paced the Wootens' living room and practiced his lines for the '60s scene.

"Everyone was so gracious," Mrs. Wooten said. "The actors were just like one of us."

"In the 24 years we've lived here, this is the most exciting thing that has happened."

And if George and Dorian want to drop by some other time, well, Mrs. Wooten will be more than willing to miss her soap operas again.



Katherine and Glenn Wooten in room redecorated for movie

Dispatch photo by Mary Circelli

Staffer picked for mini-series

by Shawn Summers
antenn staff writer

Art Martin worked with Paramount Television for almost two months before he was hired.

Martin, assistant coordinator for OSU Visitor Information, helped Paramount locate film sites on and off campus for the television mini-series *The Jesse Owens Story*.

Saturday, he was notified he was picked to portray the minister who married Owens and his wife, Ruth.

"I never went to the interviews. I just mailed in my information sheet. It was a coincidence I was selected — I had no idea," said Martin, a middle-aged man with wide, twinkling eyes and a sliver of a gray mustache.

"I was taking applications for the rest of the staff in the office down to the Hyatt (where the production crew was located). I passed Jody Hummer's office (local casting director) and someone yelled at me.

"Jody and a couple of assistants followed me and said 'that's him.' They said they wanted me for a part.

"I guess I have the look they wanted. I'm kind of graying," he said as he patted his short, peppered hair. Martin said he will appear in



Art Martin

several wedding scenes including when Owens and his wife pose for a newspaper photograph and when the wedding party poses for a family picture.

"I might be called back (to do more scenes). I have pretty good rapport with the staff — I work with them already on a day-to-day basis," he said, grinning.

"People have been teasing me, saying I'm a celebrity. Bill (Wahl, coordinator for visitor information) and my secretary have been bowing to me and really rubbing it in," Martin said.

Dee Sprouse, secretary for visitor information, said the office is very excited Martin is in the film.

"He's a very religious person — he looks like a minister so it (the role) isn't just a part for him," Sprouse said.

Martin said he has been on television before but is still excited to be involved with the Owens film.

"I had no idea so much was involved with making a movie — it's an exciting and educational experience," he said.

Martin said he worked with Owens' family last year when OSU dedicated the Jesse Owens Plaza and track at the Ohio Stadium.

Today, he has the day off so he can shoot the wedding scenes. Next week, he will continue working with Paramount as a liaison between the university and the film company.

OSU Antenn
Feb. 24, 1984 - Friday

'Jesse Owens Story' / Honest portrayal

By DAVID DRAKE
C-J Radio-TV Editor

He was the son of an Alabama sharecropper who became a record-breaking track star and a hero.

It's a life story that's a natural for the movies.

"I think that for some years, everybody's been talking about doing the life of Jesse Owens," says Harold Gast, "but nothing got made." Gast is the producer-writer of "The Jesse Owens Story," a two-part miniseries filming here that will air in July on Channel 6.

"He was a remarkably pure-minded,

good human being," Gast said of Owens. "He truly believed in the old-fashioned virtues." God, family and country. "All these things we're supposed to believe in and not everybody truly does."

Gast didn't know Owens, but he's done lots of research. ("You see that red notebook sitting over there? That's just a frac-

tion.") He went to Berlin, where, in the 1936 Olympics, the pride of Ohio State won four gold medals.

He went to Arizona, where Owens' widow lives, "in the house where they lived together." He went to Chicago to talk to Owens' three daughters.



Jesse Owens

**SKATE
FOR THE
FUN
OF IT!**

of a remarkable human being

One of them, Marlene (Ohio State's homecoming queen in 1960), suggested Dorian Harewood for the title part.

"We had to have somebody who could do the events," said Gast. "He's a very fine actor. He just had everything and it's hard to find all of these qualities in one person."

Harewood, who is from Dayton, was an athlete and honor student in school. He studied voice at the University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music and will portray Nat King Cole in an upcoming project. He can be seen in "Roots: The Next Generations," which has been rerunning on Channel 34 Wednesdays.

Debbi Morgan will portray Owens' wife, Ruth. George Kennedy plays his Cleveland high school coach. Ben Vereen was in town this week. He has a cameo part as a friend of Owens.

Greg Morris portrays a fellow athlete and lifelong friend. Georg Stanford Brown is a fictional character investigating Owens' whole life. "I don't want to go into any more detail," says Gast. But he says it is an important role.

LeVar Burton is a fictional character at the 1968 Olympics. Owens was there. It was the time two medal-winning black athletes from the

United States raised their fists in defiance during the national anthem.

Tom Bosley plays Jimmy Hoffa. Owens "got himself into some hot water," said Gast.

Other well-known actors may be added to the cast for cameo parts.

Owens' daughters will be portrayed in the story. Two of the actresses are from Cleveland, one is from Columbus.

There are about 88 speaking parts so far.

Owens, who died in 1980, will go from 17 to 55 in the movie. It will cover "the whole sweep of his life," Gast said.

It will deal with Owen's fight to keep his dignity in the face of racism, his 50-year love affair with his childhood sweetheart, and his work with young people.

Films of the real Jesse Owens running and jumping, and of the real Adolf Hitler, from the 1936 Berlin Olympics will be included in the miniseries.

A house on Blake Avenue, in the vicinity of the OSU campus, will simulate the Owens' home in Cleveland. It has that "eastern look," said Gast, not found in Los Angeles. Besides, when they try to shoot in L.A., they keep hitting palm trees.

The film crew will be on the OSU campus next week. The last day of filming in Columbus will be March 8. "The city has been extremely good to us," said Gast.

After Columbus, it's Dallas and the Cotton Bowl, which resembles

the stadium in Berlin. Then, back to L.A. About half of the miniseries will have been shot here.

Gast will have devoted about a year to the project. He has been writing for TV for more than 20 years.

Film attempts to humanize Owens



Dispatch file photos

Jesse Owens

By Jeff Borden 2-24-84
Dispatch Television Reporter

It has been almost 48 years since Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, but his story remains largely untold.

Americans are aware of his celebrity as a great black athlete at a time when blacks remained outside the mainstream of society. The history books note the records he shattered or tied in the 100-meter run, the 200-meter run, the running broad jump and the 400-meter relay race.

But what about the man?

Harold Gast, the producer and writer of *The Jesse Owens Story*, wants the made-for-television movie being filmed here to show Owens "as a human being, not just a figurehead."

Filming will continue in Columbus through March 9 with Dorian Harewood in the title role. Other members of the cast include Ben Vereen, George Kennedy, LeVar Burton, Tom Bosley, Debbi Morgan and Georg

Dorian Harewood

THE CAST AND CREW will then move to Dallas, where the Cotton Bowl will fill in for the Berlin stadium where Owens competed. After that, it is on to Los Angeles to edit and assemble the finished project for airing this summer.

The \$4 million project is unusual because it is not being done for any of the commercial networks. Instead, Paramount Pictures is selling the film on its own, city by city.

Even though it just began filming, *The Jesse Owens Story* has already been sold in 75 cities. WTVN-TV (Channel 6) has rights to the film here and will air it in July as a tie-in with the Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

There wouldn't be any project, however, if not for Gast and his research efforts. A veteran screenwriter with dozens of prestigious credits to his name, Gast quickly found that there were few books on Owens' life. He traveled throughout Europe

viewing friends, family and associates of Owens to flesh out details.

"PARAMOUNT WANTED me to write a script last spring and I said I'd be interested, but they weren't firm. I went to Europe on vacation in July and got a call in August. They said to proceed," Gast said.

He traveled to Munich, West Germany, and interviewed people who were at the fateful Olympics. In Cologne, he spoke with the widow of the man who had run the Olympics in 1936. In the United States, he chatted with Owens' family members in Chicago and with Owens' widow, Ruth, in Phoenix, Ariz.

Asked if there was a common trait cited by everyone he interviewed, Gast replied, "They all mentioned the goodness of the man. He believed in good, he believed in God and he believed in America. He thought if you did your best, you'd be a winner."

Owens was aware of the irony in his situation after winning

the gold medals — feted with ticker tape parades for a few days and then consigned to riding in the back of the bus again. "He was not unconscious of this, but he never became bitter," Gast said.

The Jesse Owens Story will detail Owens' life "practically from birth" until about 1970, Gast said. The film doesn't refer to Owens' death from lung cancer in 1980.

THE FILM TRACES how Owens' sharecropper father moved the family from Alabama

to Cleveland in search of a better life. It looks at Owens' career in high school and later at Ohio State University. After the Olympics, Owens had a hard time supporting his family in a variety of jobs since the opportunity to cash in on Olympic fame was not open to him.

Though the story is grounded in truth, Gast said viewers should remember that the project is still a docudrama,

blending real events with fictionalized happenings.

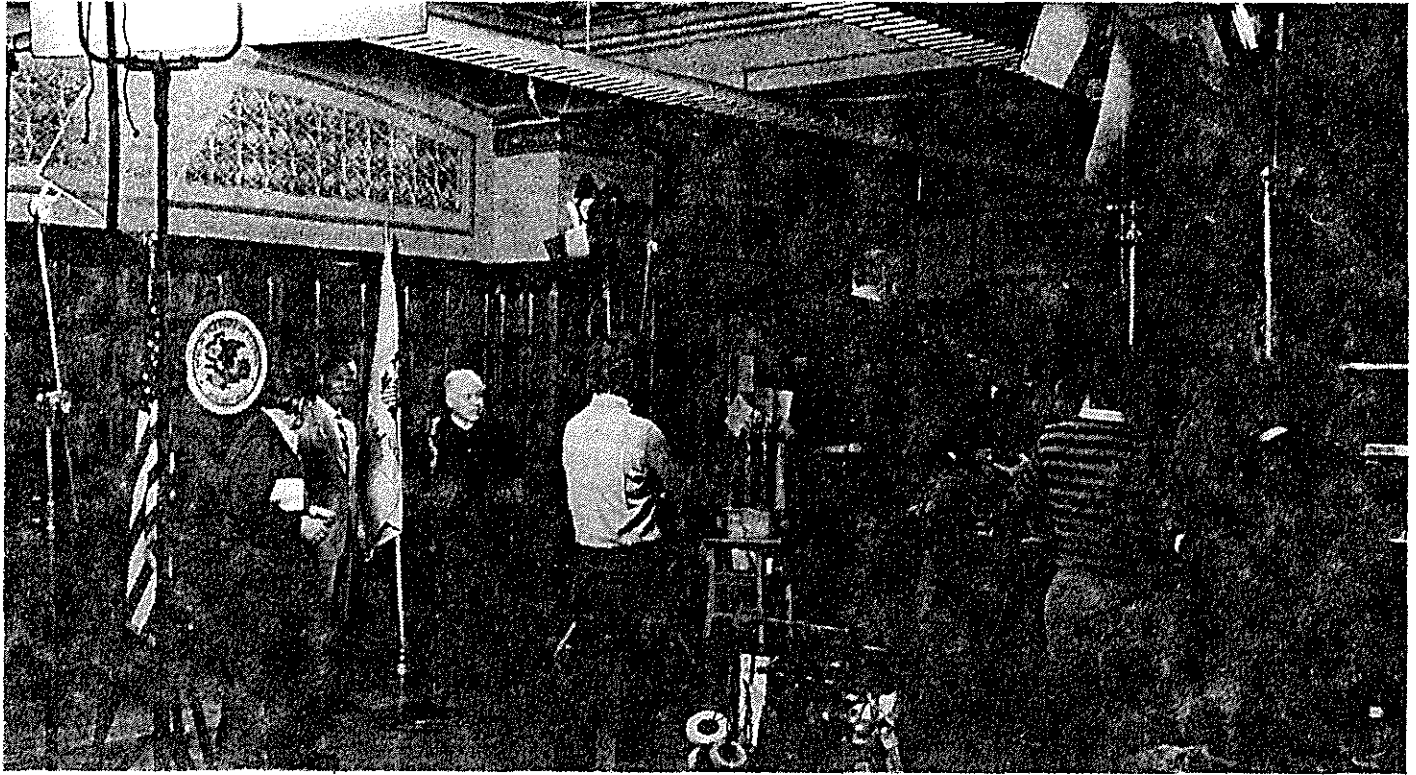
"I couldn't possibly know what Jesse said to his wife when he proposed to her, but that's in the film," he said.

GAST'S CAREER in television began in the so-called Golden Years when many of the programs aired were done live. While he believes made-for-television projects such as films and mini-series have improved since

then, he dismisses most series as worse than 30 years ago.

The problem? Imitation.

"The networks just want to duplicate, that's all they know," Gast said. "Someone has a hit so they imitate it. The secret would be to diversify those controls, like we're doing here (by making the film without a network affiliation). If you leave the controls in the hands of the creative people, you have a chance."



Owens story rolling

"Owens Campus"
3-8-84

Photo by Kevin Fitzsimons

ACTORS AND TECHNICIANS PREPARE TO FILM a court scene in Pomerene Hall for Paramount's television movie, "The Jesse Owens Story." Dorian Harewood, standing left of the flag pole, will star as Jesse Owens. Paramount recruited extras for the movie in Columbus giving members of the University community chances to be stars. Among the recruits were Art Martin, administrative assistant in the Visitor Information Center, who is cast as the minister who marries Owens and his wife, and Mignonne Whitlow, secretary in the School of Natural Resources, who plays Owens' mother. The crew filmed on the Oval and in Pomerene Hall last week and is scheduled to return this week to film in the Ohio Stadium.



DISPATCH 3-11-84

AP photo

Germans honor Owens

Eckard Lindemann, mayor of West Berlin, assists the widow of Jesse Owens at Saturday ceremonies honoring the former Ohio State athlete and winner of four gold medals in the 1936 Olympic Games. Lindemann and Ruth Ow-

ens are unveiling a sign along newly named "Jesse Owens Alle," a road near Berlin's Olympic Stadium. A television movie about Owens' life is currently being made in Columbus and other U.S. cities.



Scene One

OSU ALUMNI

March 1984

The Jesse Owens Story

It was lights, cameras, and action in the Alumni House Lounge January 11 when Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste joined President Edward H. Jennings in welcoming Paramount Television officials to the campus and state.

The focus of activity was an announcement by the television executives that they had decided to shoot the vast majority of "The Jesse Owens Story" on location. The four-hour, two-part mini-series being produced about one of the University's most famous graduates currently is scheduled for airing in July, "in time for the Summer Olympics," according to Cindy Hauser, a spokesperson for Paramount Television in Los Angeles (CA).

The television movie documents Owens' life, including his childhood in Alabama, his track and field triumphs at OSU, the 1936 Berlin Olympics where he won four gold medals, the racism he encountered after the Olympics, and his founding of the ARCO Jesse Owens Games for black youths.

Its casting director is Ruben Cannon, who worked on the television series "Winds of War" and "Roots." Its executive producer, Harve Bennett, and producer/writer, Harold Gast, both were associated with the Emmy Award-winning tele-

vision mini-series, "A Woman Called Golda."

Ohio had competed with Canada and Chicago (IL) for filming locations, with Paramount officials ultimately selecting the Buckeye State for its authenticity and because of the good working relations that developed with state officials, the Governor said.

In expressing his delight over that decision, Gov. Celeste recapped for both the reporters gathered and television executives the pride fellow Ohioans share in the accomplishments achieved by Owens:

"As an Ohioan, Jesse Owens symbolized the strength and determination of our state. This is an Ohio story that should be done in Ohio. 'The Jesse Owens Story' will also mean jobs and a large economic investment in the Columbus area." Nikki Spretnak, manager of the Ohio Film Bureau, estimates the project will generate up to \$1 million locally during production.

Following Gov. Celeste to the microphone, President Jennings reiterated the admiration University alumni and friends have for Owens: "We are, indeed, pleased that Paramount has chosen to film location scenes for 'The Jesse Owens Story' here, at his alma mater. Jesse Owens' relationship with Ohio State was a

close and life-long one."

"His incredible achievements as an athlete are well-known to all. He was called the 'Buckeye Bullet' from the time he joined Ohio State's track team in 1933. And two of his many records in track and field events remain unbroken in the Big Ten Conference today."

After highlighting examples of Owens' long-standing relationship with the University (many of which are included in the sidebar on the opposite page), President Jennings finished by saying, "Ohio State is extremely proud of Jesse Owens and his long association with the University. We believe Jesse was proud of us, too."

The OSU Alumni Association was represented at the ceremony by its president, George J. Caronis. Charles McMurray, who attended the University with Owens' oldest daughter Gloria, represented the family.

"Cap"-ing the ceremony off, Dr. Jennings presented the Paramount officials with scarlet-and-gray stocking hats bearing the OSU logo. In spite of jokes made about the typical Ohio winter weather, everyone warmed to the thought of future working relationships to be established as television production personnel take their place on campus throughout the coming months.

Athlete, Humanitarian, Alumnus

The following information is reprinted from the October 4, 1980 OSU/UCLA football program.

The seventh child of Henry and Emma Alexander Owens was named James Cleveland when he was born in Alabama in 1913. "J.C.," as he was called, was 9 when the sharecropper family went north to Cleveland (OH), where his new schoolteacher gave him the name that was to become known around the world. The teacher was told "J.C." when she asked his name to enter in her roll book, but she thought he had said "Jesse." And Jesse Owens was the name he used for the rest of his life.

Owens had a sensational high school track career and was being sought by dozens of colleges by the time he reached his senior year. He chose Ohio State over all of them, even though OSU had no track scholarships to offer at the time. He supported himself and his young wife, Ruth, with a variety of jobs — as a night elevator operator and a waiter, by pumping gas and working in the library stacks, and through a stint as a page in the Ohio Statehouse, all of this in between practice and record setting on the field in intercollegiate competition.

Owens went to the 1936 Olympics, accompanied by his OSU track coach and friend Larry Snyder, as a representative of the University, as well as the United States. After his triumphant return, Owens was invited to appear in Ohio Stadium once again, but for a football game rather than a track meet. During halftime ceremonies of the 1936 OSU-Michigan game, he was presented with a silver serving set from the Alumni Association to commemorate his Olympic victories.

Athletes didn't return from the Olympics to lucrative advertising and product endorsement campaigns in those days, and Owens supported his young family with a variety of jobs. One was of special significance — playground director in Cleveland. It was his first step into a lifetime of

working with underprivileged youth, which he said gave him his greatest satisfaction.

Later, after relocating to Chicago, he would spend five and a half years as sports specialist for the State of Illinois Youth Commission and become a board member and director of Chicago's Boy's Clubs.

Owens was always willing to serve his country and during World War II he accepted a position as Director of Physical Fitness for Negroes in the Office of Civilian Defense. While Owens was stationed in Philadelphia, Princeton University artist Joe Brown had him pose for a sculpture, which Brown included in his art exhibits for many years. In 1963, the OSU Alumni Club of Philadelphia (PA) purchased the bronze statue of Jesse the Runner and presented it to the University where it remains on permanent display in St. John Arena.

In the 1950s, Owens accepted commissions from the State Department and the President on two occasions. In 1955, named by the State Department as America's "Ambassador of Sports," he spent two months touring India, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines, meeting with government and sports officials and as always, talking to underprivileged children. In 1956, he was named the personal representative of President Eisenhower to the Olympic Games in Australia. His itinerary also included visits to schools and youth clubs.

Owens traveled widely in his post-Olympic days. He was an inspiring speaker and was sought after to address youth groups, professional organizations, civic meetings, and sports banquets, PTAs, church organizations, brotherhood and black history programs, and high school and college commencements and ceremonies.

He also was a public relations representative and consultant to many corporations, including Atlantic Richfield, which still sponsors the annual ARCO-Jesse Owens Games. Owens spearheaded the founding of the games in 1964, and over a million boys and girls aged 10-15 are reached

and participate each year.

A complete list of the many awards and honors presented to Jesse Owens by groups around the world would fill dozens of pages. An example of his international popularity comes from Africa, where the government of the Ivory Coast named the street on which the U.S. embassy is located "Rue Jesse Owens." Owens attended the dedication ceremony in 1971. While there, he also conferred with the Minister of Youth and Sports and met with the nation's top athletes, who considered Owens their greatest hero.

His own nation awarded him its highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, in ceremonies at the White House in 1976. President Ford presented the medal, with the 250-member U.S. Montreal Olympic team in attendance. Owens was a director of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

In February 1979, he returned to the White House, where President Carter presented him with the Living Legend Award. On that occasion, the President said, "A young man who possibly didn't even realize the superb nature of his own capabilities went to the Olympics and performed in a way that I don't believe has ever been equalled since . . . and since this superb achievement, he has continued in his own dedicated but mod-

(Continued on page 43)



Athlete, Humanitarian, Alumnus

(Continued from page 11)

est way to inspire others to reach for greatness."

Jesse Owens died just over a year later, on March 31, 1980, and President Carter added his voice to the tributes that poured in from around the world:

"Perhaps no athlete better symbolized the human struggle against tyranny, poverty, and racial bigotry. His personal triumphs as a world-class athlete and record holder were the prelude to a career devoted to helping others. His work with young athletes, as an unofficial ambassador overseas, and a spokesman for freedom are a rich legacy to his fellow Americans."

Jesse Owens has been called the greatest track athlete in history. Four of his Big Ten records still stand unbroken in the conference; his last world record didn't fall until 1960 — a full 25 years after Owens' spectacular two years of sprinting, hurdling, and broad jumping in 1935 and 1936 as an Ohio State University and U.S. Olympic track team member.

Owens began setting records for his age group in junior high school and won three high school state championships while a member of the Cleveland East Technical High School track team. He set three National Scholastic Records as a high school athlete. His time for the 100-yard dash, 9.4 seconds, matched the existing world record and still stands unbeaten by high school runners.

Owens continued to earn national attention from the moment he joined the track team at Ohio State as a freshman in 1933-34. Called "The Buckeye Bullet," he finished his college track career with a record of eight Big Ten and eight NCAA championships. But his greatest sports achievements came in a two-year period after he spurred to international recognition with the "The Greatest Single Day Ever in Track History," as one sports magazine headlined it.

In a 1935 Big Ten meet at Ann Ar-

bor (MI), Owens set three world records and tied a fourth, a performance never again matched by a track athlete. His times in the 220-yard dash and 220-yard hurdles also were world record times for the same events at a 200-meter distance, which is about a yard shorter than 220 yards. Under 1935 rules, credit for both event records was not allowed. Had he made those runs today, Owens would have been credited with records for both the 220-yard and 200-meter times in both events, for a total of five new world records in a single meet.

Owens was the man to beat when he went to the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936. But no one could top him. He brought four gold medals home from those games. Owens also set Olympic records in three individual events and led the 400-meter relay team to a new world record.

Owens at one time held five world records in officially sanctioned track and field events, and set several more for his indoor performances. His record events were the 60-yard dash (6.2 in 1934 and 6.1 in 1935), the 100-yard dash (9.4 seconds), the 200-meter dash (20.7 seconds), the 220-yard and 220-meter dashes (20.3 seconds), the 220-yard and 220-meter low hurdles (22.6 seconds), the broad jump (25'3¼" in 1934 indoors, 25'9" in 1935 indoors, and 26'8¼" at Ann Arbor), and the 400-meter relay (39.8 seconds). His broad jump at Ann Arbor remained the longest in the world until 1960; even his own winning Olympic jump the following year fell three inches short of that monumental leap.

A 1950 Associated Press national poll selected Owens as the greatest track athlete of the first half of the 20th century. As late as 1964, a survey by a national magazine of track and field coaches around the country singled out Owens as the best track athlete in history. The National Collegiate Athletic Association presented him with its highest honor, the Theodore Roosevelt Award, in 1974. That

same year, Owens was inducted into the Track and Field Hall of Fame. To this day, no athlete has emerged to challenge Jesse Owens' place in history as the greatest all-time performer the sport has ever seen.

Jesse Owens remained close to Ohio State over the years, returning to his alma mater many times for special ceremonies and to receive personal recognition.

He was present when the Philadelphia Alumni Club donated the sculpture of Jesse the Runner and he was present when the Jesse Owens Scholarship Fund was established at ceremonies in 1950. The scholarship, donated by W.B. Calkins, class of '98, still provides financial assistance to Ohio State undergraduates.

Students recognized him in 1956, when Owens was elected an honorary member of OSU's chapter of the Senior honor society Sphinx, and he returned to campus for the "linking" ceremony.

One of Owens' best remembered visits to his alma mater came in 1960, when he was again center stage during halftime of a football game. He and Mrs. Owens returned to see their daughter Marlene, then an OSU Senior, named Homecoming Queen. In an emotional ceremony, Owens personally presented the queen's trophy to his daughter.

Owens served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and in 1965 the association presented him with the Alumni Citizenship Award.

In 1972, Ohio State awarded Owens an honorary Doctor of Athletic Arts degree in recognition of his accomplishments as a world-renowned athlete and his lifetime of humanitarian service.

The Ohio Stadium track and the University Recreation Centers named for Owens were dedicated during halftime ceremonies of an October 1980 football game made evident the University's pride and respect for Owens' achievements, as an alumnus, world-class athlete, and dedicated humanitarian.

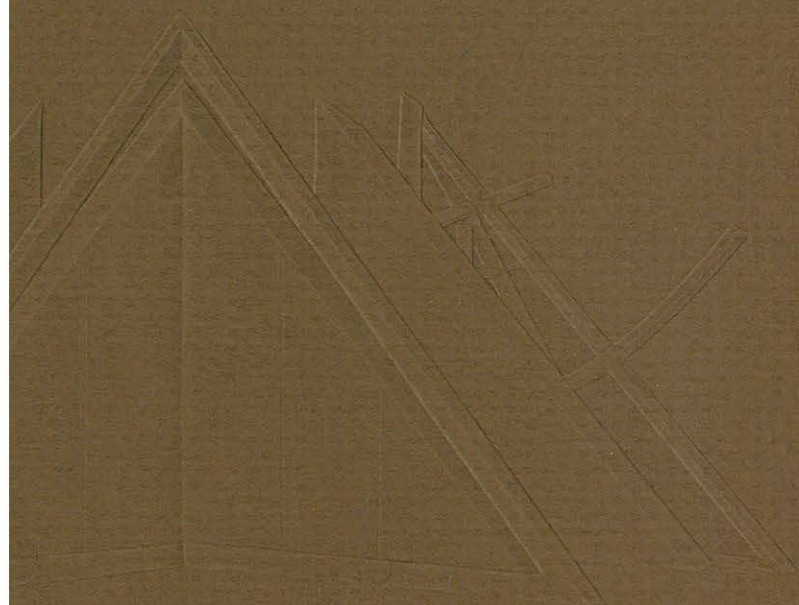
4-6-84

:Jesse Owens won 4 gold
medals at the 1936 Olympics. He won the 100 and 200
meter dash, the long jump and anchored the winning
400 meter relay team.

May 4, 1984

e Owens

TION FOR A CHAMPION





o State University

and produced by the
Arts Information and Publications
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William Harrington
Rosa E. Stolz

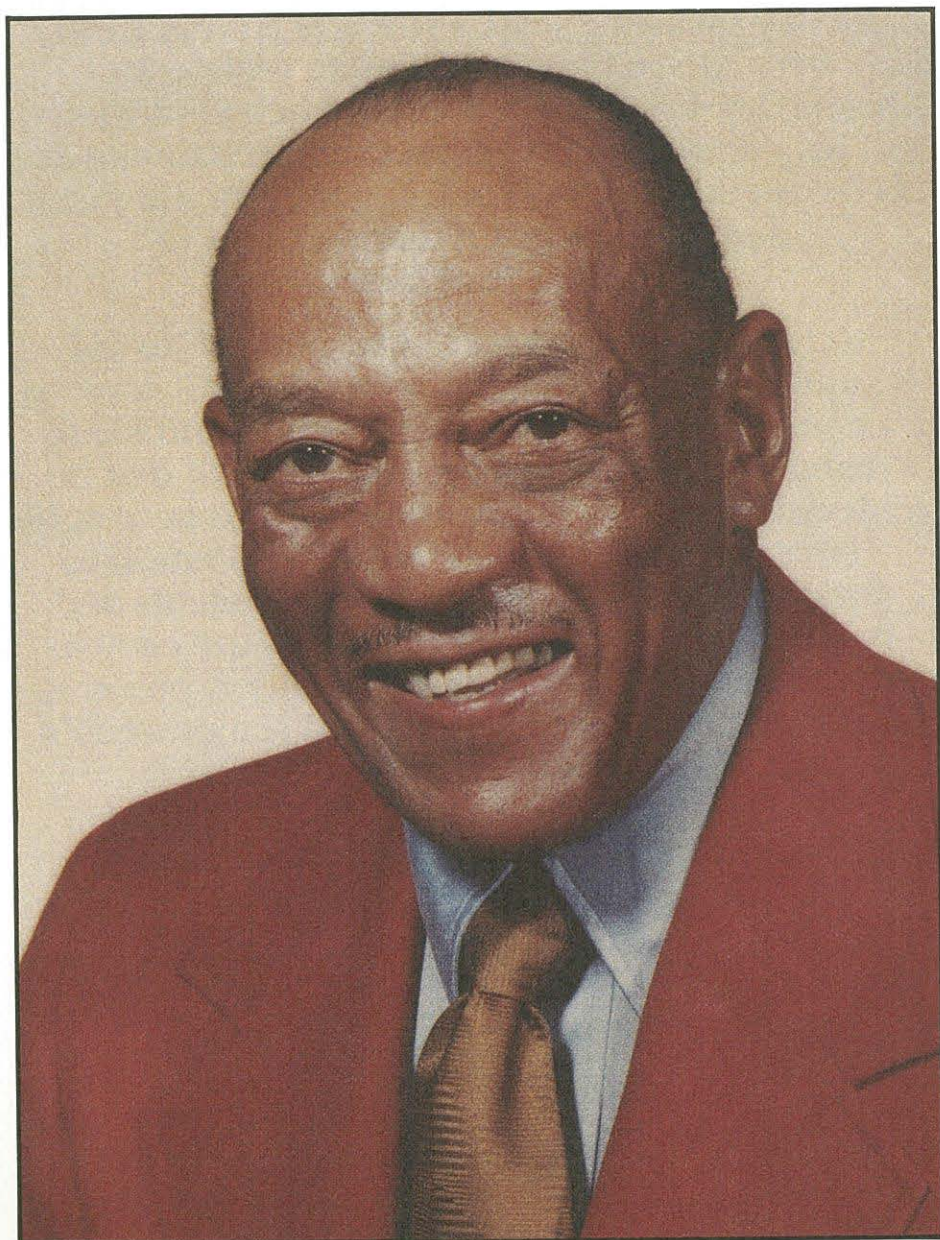
PREFACE

By any measure, Jesse Owens is an American hero. His achievements as an athlete are legendary. His tireless efforts in behalf of his country and his commitment to human understanding and betterment brought him wide acclaim among the most illustrious sons of his time. The Ohio State University.

"Celebration for a Champion" and the winning plaza on which it is located will be a continuing reminder of the beliefs that guided the life of Jesse Owens. The achievements and stood for, commemorated at The Ohio State University, will be an enduring inspiration for future generations of Ohio State students and thousands of visitors who come to the campus each year. The Ohio State University dedicates this memorial plaza and sculpture to the great American, Jesse Owens.

Edward H. Jennings, President
The Ohio State University

FOREWORD



Jesse Owens, 1913-1980

FOREWORD

Jesse would be so proud of this sculpture commemorating his life and work. I am overwhelmed by the University's action, including me in all facets of the project, and its consistent request for my advice representing our family.

I was greatly impressed by the dedication, compassion, and understanding of the artist, Curtis R. Patterson. The sculpture and plaza are indeed magnificent and truly reflect Jesse's contributions and legacy, not only to the University, but to the youth of the world.

Ruth Owens

THE LIFE OF JESSE OWENS



ics

He was born in Danville, Alabama, on September 12, 1913, one of nine children. In 1920 his father moved the family to Cleveland to improve their lot. Young Jesse went to school in Cleveland and worked after school.

Jesse Owens was, in his own words, a "skinny little kid." But with the guidance of his first track coach, he gained strength from running every day, *before* school.

He always was the first to give credit to others for his achievements. "Nobody ever reaches the pinnacle of success unless he has somebody helping him along the way," he said. "You don't do it alone."

In junior high school, Jesse Owens achieved his first athletic marks by setting national records in the high jump and broad jump. In high school, he continued to set records and achieve national recognition.

As an Ohio State University student-athlete, he won worldwide acclaim for his accomplishments in national and international competition. His hard work and dedication to his sport were unsurpassed. "Extra effort separates the winner from second place," he said.

Jesse Owens set 11 world records in the dashes, hurdles, and broad jump. One of those records lasted 25 years; another, 40 years. In 1950 he was voted "Athlete of the Half-Century" in an Associated Press Poll. The NCAA presented him with the prestigious Theodore Roosevelt Award in 1974. That same year he was one of 26 original inductees into the United States Track and Field Hall of Fame, the only one of the group to be chosen unanimously.

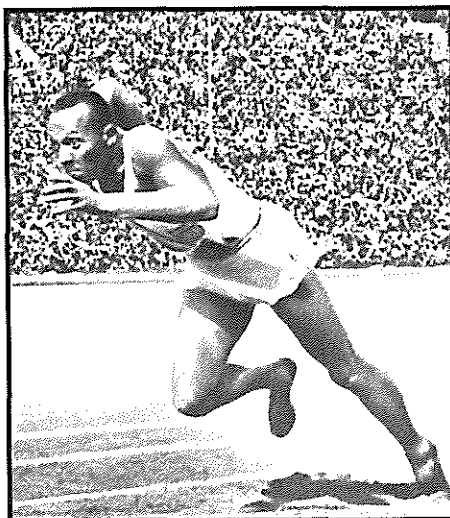
THE LIFE OF JESSE OWENS

Jesse Owens' best-known athletic achievement was winning four gold medals in track and field at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin—the first American ever to do so. While his Olympic feats won him the acclaim of his country and the world, he said his greatest single day as an athlete came a year earlier, as a member of Ohio State's track team. At the 1935 Big Ten track meet in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jesse Owens—in less than one hour—broke three world records and tied a fourth. The medals and records, however, were not what he considered most important. "Sportsmanship itself is the ultimate victory," he said.

During his student days at The Ohio State University, Jesse Owens worked to support his family and pay the cost of his education. He did not have an athletic scholarship. Throughout those years of struggle, he never lost sight of his goals. "Everyone must have a goal or dream to strive for," he explained.

His guiding philosophy can be summed up through his own words:

Here are four things you must have in order to achieve your goal: First is your determination to be able to reach your dream. Second, you have to have dedication. Then come self-discipline and sacrifice. And lastly is the attitude with which you assume your quest.



1936 Olympics

After working in tire effort during World War II, Jesse Owens spent many years working with and for youth agencies. He was director of the Chicago Boys Club and served as sports specialist for the Illinois Youth Commission. He spent countless hours in the service of youth throughout the United States and much of the world.

His concern for young people was a guiding force in his life. "It behooves a man with a God-given ability to stand six feet tall," he said. "You

know how many youngsters may be waiting for you."

Jesse Owens received many honors, not only as a world-class athlete but also as a humanitarian. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by The Ohio State University. In 1976 President Ford presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, this country's highest civilian honor.

His response to worldwide honor and acclaim was, typically, an expression of gratitude to others. "I have always hoped to be a motivating force for good," said Jesse Owens. "because people have given me so much."

JUROR'S STATEMENT

Two primary criteria were assigned jurors in the selection of a sculpture for the Jesse Owens Plaza. The first was that the sculpture reflect the contributions and achievements of Mr. Owens. The second was that the sculpture be a significant work of art appropriate to the site.

Mr. Patterson's sculpture magnificently achieves both criteria. It is monumental in scale and concept. The sculpture is a major contribution to art in public sites within the United States and a superb commemoration of the life of Mr. Owens.

Robert J. Stull
Juror

Jurors:

David Black, Professor of Art
The Ohio State University

Eugene Friley, Professor Emeritus of Art
The Ohio State University

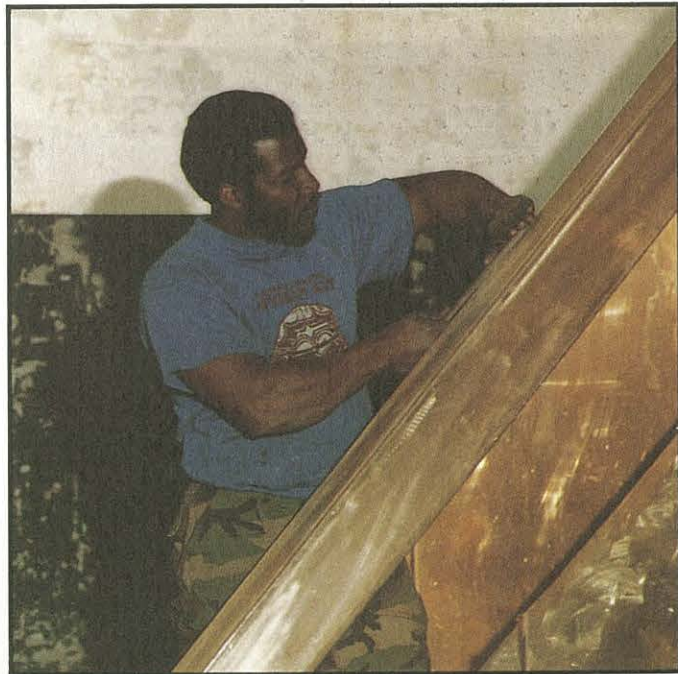
Robert J. Stull, Associate Dean
College of the Arts
The Ohio State University

Budd Harris Bishop, Director
Columbus Museum of Art
Advisor to the Jury

ABOUT THE SCULPTOR

Sculptor and educator Curtis R. Patterson is a native of Louisiana. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Grambling State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Georgia State University.

Mr. Patterson has served as chairperson of the sculpture department at the Atlanta College of Art since 1978. He has completed commissions for the cities of Atlanta and Shreveport, the Atlanta International Airport, and a variety of corporate clients. His work has been exhibited in New York and several southern cities including Atlanta.



Curtis R. Patterson at work

SCULPTOR'S STATEMENT



r a Champion"

SCULPTOR'S STATEMENT

Twelve feet high at its apex . . . 35 feet across its base . . . highly polished bronze gleaming in the sun, evoking the gold of Olympic achievement . . . open pathways that invite the viewer into and through the work . . . interior surfaces displaying notable quotations and a remarkable record—this is “Celebration for a Champion,” a monumental sculpture commemorating the life and accomplishments of Jesse Owens.

This work will help the viewer relate to Mr. Owens’ accomplishments and their continued importance in today’s world. At the inception of this piece, much consideration was given to the use of open space as an invitation to the viewer to enter the sculpture as Jesse Owens entered the hearts of people. This open space is created by four pyramidal forms representing ascendancy and strength, exemplifying Mr. Owens’ life and character.

The overall form of the work evokes the idea of reaching upward to pinnacles of performance as Jesse Owens did both as an athlete and humanitarian. The four pyramidal forms represent the four gold medals won by Owens during the 1936 Olympic Games and the four world records he set or tied as an Olympic State athlete during a single track and field season in 1935.

On the north side of the sculpture the stylized triangular piece suggests a hurdle of the track events in which Jesse Owens excelled. On the west side, the “lattice” effect represents the struggles that were part of his life in climbing to the heights of success as an athlete and world-renowned figure.

Curtis R. Patterson

FINAL STATEMENT

It was my privilege to know Jesse Owens and his family for more than 30 years. The term "world-class" aptly describes not only his athletic triumphs but also his character.

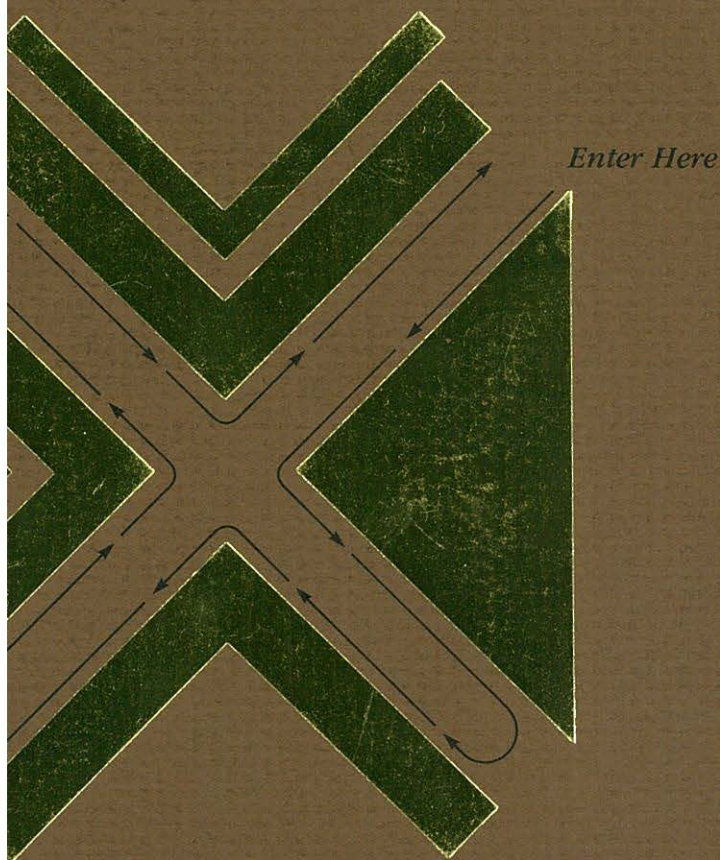
With all his fame, awards, and other successes, he did not for one moment lose the common touch. From his early days as a student-athlete until his untimely death, his keen interest in and strong affection for The Ohio State University remained constant.

I am sure many thousands of students, faculty, graduates, and friends of this great University who visit the Jesse Owens Plaza and view "Celebration for a Champion" will be reminded that excellence is our goal.

Jesse Owens often remarked, "We have social ills, but this is still the greatest country in the world." It was not always easy, but Jesse Owens brought the highest honor to his family, his University, and his country.

Charles McMurray (B.S. '50)
Member, Athletic Council
The Ohio State University

TO THE VISITOR



may enter the Jesse Owens Memorial
e at any of four points to view the
d material. However, to follow the
in sequence, it is suggested that you
the northeast and proceed as shown on
ram.

Owens almost missed 1936 Olympics

by Rusty Wilson 5-4-84
Special to the Lantern

Jesse Owens almost attended the University of Michigan instead of Ohio State and, as a result, became embroiled in a controversy that threatened his future amateur and Olympic career.

On May 25, 1935, Owens set five world-records and tied another in a span of one hour at the Big Ten Track and Field Championships at Ann Arbor, Mich.

By Sept. 3, 1935, Owens' amateur standing was being investigated by Ralph W. Bigler, a member of the Physical Education Department of the University of Michigan, according to documents preserved in the OSU archives.

When Owens was a high school senior known nationwide for his athletic talents, many colleges did not offer scholarships to athletes, especially to black athletes.

Athletes were offered work-study jobs to pay for their college education. Some of these offers extended beyond the athletes to include members of their families.

Owens' problems began with his junior high school coach, Charles Riley, who Owens credited with discovering his athletic talents.

Before Riley became a junior high coach, he was dismissed from the OSU coaching staff and held a great amount of animosity toward the university.

When it was time for Owens to attend college, Riley told University of Michigan alumnus Floyd A. Rowe, a member of the Cleveland Board of Education, that he would like Owens to go to Michigan.

After Rowe helped pay for a trip to Ann Arbor by Riley and Owens, Jesse told him

that he wanted to enroll there and that he had already gotten a job.

A few nights later, though, Owens stated on a Cleveland radio show that in order for him to go to school, his father, who had been unemployed for 18 months, needed to get a job. At the time, Jesse's part-time jobs helped support his family during the lean years of the Depression.

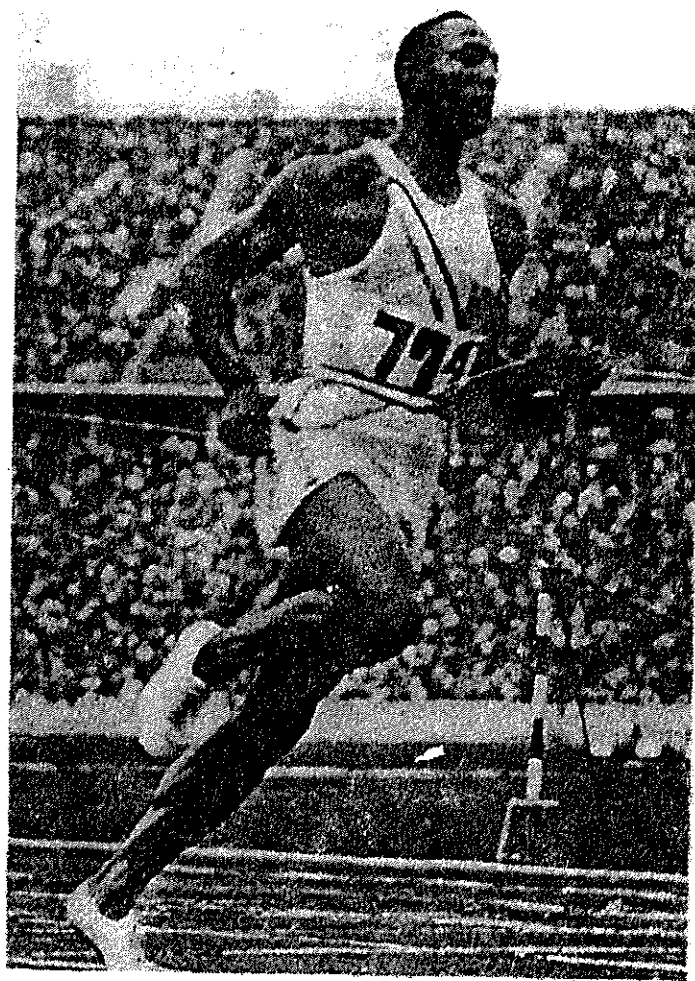
Having heard this, Rowe worked with some Detroit alumni to secure Owens' father a \$16-a-week job as caretaker in an apartment building. The elder Owens had never worked for more than \$12 a week in his life.

Owens' father turned down the offer. According to Rowe, Owens' father "was just plain and simple out-and-out looking to sell Jesse to the highest bidder, and when I found this out I told them there would be no offer . . . from the University of Michigan."

Hearing that Owens was no longer interested in Michigan, Dick Kroesen, a Cleveland sporting goods store owner, got Jesse a state job in Columbus. John L. Griffith of the University of Michigan claimed that Kroesen "hoped to get some Ohio State athletic goods business."

Eventually Owens rose to the rank of temporary page in the Legislature. After Owens proved his athletic prowess at OSU, Grant Ward, a state legislator and former OSU intramural director and coach, introduced a resolution to honor Owens' athletic accomplishments by making him a page with full pay.

Rowe said Ward, who was actively pursuing the OSU athletic director's position then held by Dr. Lynn W. St. John, felt that if he could get Owens away from OSU and thus discredit St. John he



Jesse Owens

U.S.O.C. photo

could easily acquire the athletic director's job.

A few days after Owens started receiving his fulltime pay, an undisclosed Columbus source informed Judge Mahoney, president of the Amateur Athletic Union, about Owens' new found wealth.

Owens, after being investigated by the Ohio AAU Eligibility Committee, was suspended from athletic competition for ninety days. Rowe, a member of the AAU committee wrote that "we

. . . considered Owens to be a victim of circumstances and offended, rather than offended against, any of the provisions of the AAU."

Ultimately, Owens went on to represent the United States in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. He won four gold medals and, along with his other black teammates, destroyed Hitler's myth of racial superiority by winning every flat race from the 100 through the 800 meters.

The Ohio State Lantern

JESSE OWENS—

When athletic officials at The Ohio State University decided to host a quality invitational track meet in 1983, it was only fitting that the event be called the "Jesse Owens Track Classic," for Jesse Owens and Ohio State track are synonymous.

Owens attended Ohio State University and it was in Ohio Stadium that Owens developed and perfected a style and performance level that was to win the acclaim of a national sports magazine as "The Top Track Athlete in the Last 50 Years" and to be called "The Champion of the Century" by a national wire service.

In 1983, a new Rekortan track in Ohio Stadium, made of the same materials as the Olympic track in Los Angeles, was named the "Jesse Owens Track," and the attractive, landscaped approach to the Stadium, was named the "Jesse Owens Plaza."

In this, the second year for the Jesse Owens Track Classic, the order of events has been slightly modified, high school events have been dropped, but the same emphasis on quality remains. No effort has been spared to bring the top track performers in the nation to compete in today's meet.

Much has been written and spoken about Owens. We would like to share some of the background and highlights of this superb athlete and remarkable human being.

Born September 12, 1913 in Danville, Alabama, James Cleveland Owens was the seventh of nine children of Henry and Emma Owens. Life for the Owens family was a never-ending struggle with poverty, and in 1922, at the suggestion of relatives, the Owens family relocated in Cleveland, Ohio, hoping to find more opportunity and a better life.

It was in a Cleveland elementary school that a teacher misunderstood the initials "J.C." for Jesse, and accordingly entered the name Jesse Owens in her roll book. From that day on James Cleveland became "Jesse."

His athletic career began in Cleveland when he was in junior high school. With no knowledge of starting techniques or jumping form, he set national junior high records in the high jump and the broad jump (now called long jump) events. At East Technical High School in Cleveland, Owens set scholastic world records in the 220 yard dash, in the broad jump and tied a third world mark in the 100 yard dash.

Owens entered The Ohio State University in the fall of 1933. He was fortunate to have the late Larry Snyder as his coach. Snyder had been a track star in his undergraduate days at Ohio State, and was a keen student of proper techniques. Owens and Snyder were a perfect mix. Snyder with the knowledge and patience, Owens with the seemingly limitless talent and burning desire to excel.

The two worked long and hard on starting techniques. Snyder felt it was mandatory that Jesse improve in this area if he was to excel in short races, especially in indoor competition.

Jesse mastered this quickly, for as a sophomore, he set world indoor marks in the 60 meter event with a time of :06.6 and in the 60 yard dash with a time of :06.1.

As a sophomore, Owens scored an incredible 255 points for Ohio State, with 45 firsts, five second place finishes and four thirds. His world record in the 60 yard dash was March 9, 1935 at the Big Ten Indoor Championship Meet in Chicago.

The best was yet to come. Jesse Owens achieved track immortality on that epoch day, May 25, 1935, at The Big Ten Outdoor Championships at Ann Arbor, Michigan, when, within a two-hour period, he set three world records and tied a fourth. All this, by a college sophomore, in a pressure situation, in one afternoon. No other track and field athlete in history had set three world marks and tied for a fourth in a single meet.

Owens set a world record in the 220 yard dash with an incredible time of :20.2. He smashed the 220 low hurdle record with a time of :22.6 and his broad jump distance of 26' 8 1/4" stood for many years. His time of :09.4 in the 100 yard dash, tied the existing world mark.

In 1936, as a junior at Ohio State, Jesse Owens was clearly the premier track athlete in the world. Never in track history has an athlete been so dominating. Owens competed in 42 events and was never beaten. He won four firsts in the Big Ten Championships Meet; four in the N.C.A.A.; two in the N.A.A.U. Championships; three in the Olympic Trials and three individuals firsts in the Olympic Games plus running on a winning U.S. relay team. His incredible performances, his flawless form and his humble, gracious manner made him one of the most popular and respected athletes of our time.

What had been national recognition became worldwide acclaim as a result of the 1936 Olympic Games. Germany hosted the event, and while a thin veneer of hospitality and friendliness was portrayed, in reality the setting was tense and grim. For Nazi Germany and its



Owens accepts special award at Ohio State

22 From: *Jesse Owens Track Classic Program, May 6, 1984, Second Annual,*

TRACK LEGEND



Jesse Owens

Daughter
Chosen
Homecoming
Queen



recently elected Chancellor, Adolph Hitler, extolled the superiority of the Aryan race, and firmly believed the Olympic Games would offer convincing proof of this belief.

Jesse Owens shattered this myth. His individual brilliance and his warm, charming manner, completely dominated the 1936 Olympics. So convincing and so overwhelming that a shocked and stunned Hitler, mysteriously left Berlin Stadium failing to congratulate Owens for his accomplishments.

Reports vary as to why Hitler did not meet Owens. But one thing leaves no doubt, Hitler's boast of racial superiority went down to ignominious defeat.

Owens won four Gold Medals at the Berlin Olympics. He won the 100 meter dash, the 200 meter event, the broad jump and was an anchor man on the winning 400 meter U.S. relay team. His performance was unmatched in Olympic history.

Owens became the center of worldwide attention. He felt a deep personal responsibility to his country and to his sport. Demands for appearances became excessive and took a heavy toll on Owens and on his future. He was in constant demand for speeches, clinics, demonstrations, banquets, etc. As a result, his health reflected the strain. He was unable to finish the final year of college and he was nearly broke.

He gradually brought things into a proper perspective and pledged for the remainder of his life to help the less fortunate develop a meaningful purpose in life. He returned to Cleveland as a playground director working with underprivileged youth. His warmth, his concern and his sincere dedication made him an immediate success.

During World War II, Owens accepted a position as Director of Physical Fitness in the Office of Civilian Defense. After relocating to Chicago, he spent six years as sports specialist for the Illinois State Youth Commission. He opened his own public relations and consulting firm in Chicago and was in heavy demand as a speaker.

In 1955, Owens was assigned by the State Department as America's "Ambassador of Sports." He spent considerable time touring the world meeting with government and sports officials and selling the virtues of amateur sports programs. He was President Eisenhower's personal representative to the 1956 Olympic Games in Australia. Here again, Owens insisted upon visiting schools and youth clans on behalf of amateur sports.

In 1976, President Ford presented to Owens, The United States Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. A humble, deeply-moved Owens, trying to fight back tears of joy, gratefully accepted the Medal, in the presence of 250 members of the U.S. Olympic team that competed in Montreal along with many top dignitaries of the U.S. government. In presenting the Medal, President Ford told Owens, "Your character, your achievement, always will be a source of inspiration."

The toll of travel and the endless demands for his time proved costly, and once again his health failed. Owens and his family moved to Phoenix, Arizona, hoping the sun and warmth would have a medicinal effect. His health showed some improvement and he again started a public relations business.

Jesse and his devoted wife, Ruth have three daughters, Gloria, Beverly, and Marlene. Two are graduates of Ohio State University.

Marlene was named Ohio State Homecoming Queen in 1960. The Owens family was present. Before a capacity crowd in Ohio Stadium, a proud, beaming Jesse Owens presented the homecoming crown to his daughter, Marlene, and told her over the stadium public address, "There is only one thing you must always remember, this could only happen in America." He repeated many times that presenting the homecoming crown to his daughter in Ohio Stadium was one of the most touching experiences in his life.

Honors continued to be bestowed upon Owens. They came from all over the world. In 1972, The Ohio State University conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Athletic Arts Degree. This had special meaning to him because of his deep attachment to Ohio State University.

He continued to serve amateur sports and the youth of the world till his death, March 31, 1980. Inscribed on the plaque of the Jesse Owens Track in Ohio Stadium are these words:

James Cleveland (Jesse) Owens 1913-1980
Ohio State University Track and Field Star
Olympic Champion and Ambassador of Sports
Humanitarian — Friend of Youth

"As long as athletes compete in sports, or people strive for excellence in any undertaking, the life and accomplishments of Jesse Owens will remain an enduring inspiration."



The Ohio State University

College of Administrative
Science

1775 College Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Phone 614 422-2181

May 31, 1984

Mr. Raimund Goerler
University Archives
2121 Tuttle Park Place
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Raimund:

Here is the letter I talked to you about on the
phone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert G. Kennedy
Development Officer

RGK:mjp
Enclosure

6510 Covington - Apt. 335
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
May 22, 1984

Mr. Robert G. Kennedy
The Ohio State University
Director, Annual Giving
2400 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Sir:

Referring to our conversation of May 19th regarding Jesse Owens, here is the story I was referring to:

The state used to have an indoctrination camp for selected freshmen just before they entered the university. The year that Jesse Owens entered it was held down in the Hocking valley at a camp, I believe, on Clear Creek. Another chap, A.L. Crockett, and I were talked into going as helpers in the kitchen as the enrollment was increasing, in fact to the extent that he and I were also upper class counselors, and placed in an emergency "cabin" set up in the main lodge, whereas everyone else was in cabins lined back up the hill.

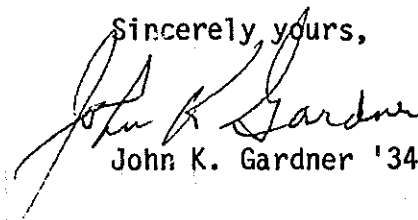
We were working in the kitchen from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a half hour or so between meals for counseling. Needless to say we were worn out.

There was a tradition of sorts that on the last night the freshmen would "rebel" against the upper classmen. Suffice it to say that this time it got way out of bounds.

By the time they came to get us (to throw in the lake or whatever), Al (who was next to the door) was sound asleep and snoring, and I was almost asleep. They tried some to wake him and couldn't. Needless to say I gave every impression of sound sleep. It was Jesse who said, "These boys are hard workers. Let's not bother them", and they didn't all night.

I don't know who was with him or who can confirm this, but I believe it should be in Jesse's story. Can you please pass it to someone who has the story on him.

Sincerely yours,


John K. Gardner '34

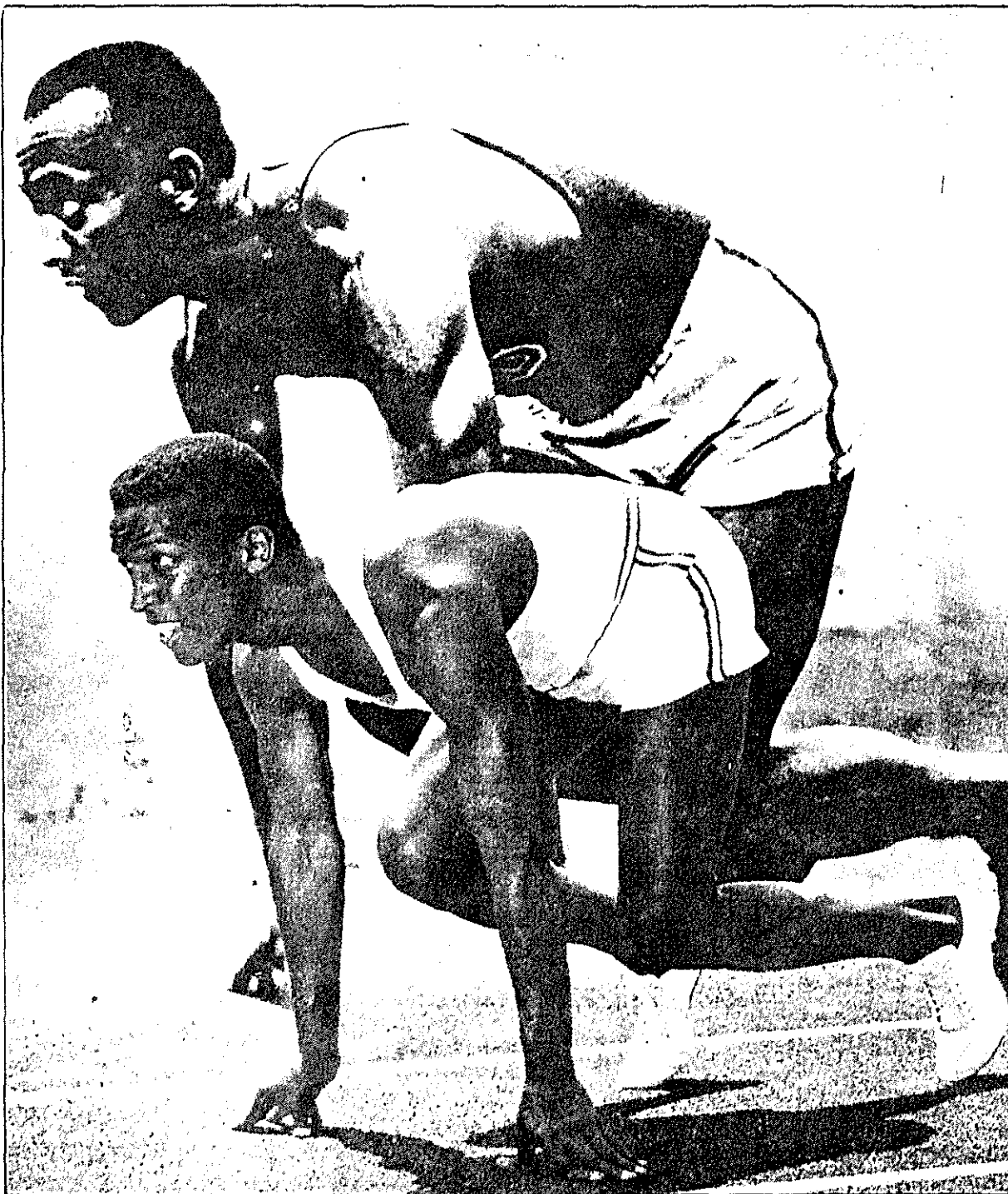
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P.S. Al Crockett is dead

July 4-18, 1984

TELEVIEW

The Columbus Dispatch Broadcast & Cable Guide

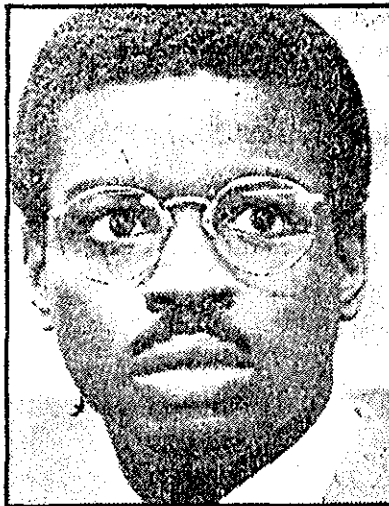


Warner-Amex Qube Edition

Week of July 8-14, 1984

DISPATCH 8 July 1984

'Jesse Owens Story' a winning TV tale



Paramount Television photos

The Jesse Owens Story stars, top photo, Dorian Harewood as Owens and Debbi Morgan as Owens' wife, Ruth. The cast also includes, bottom photos from left, Georg Stanford Brown, LeVar Burton and James B. Sikking.

By Jeff Borden
Dispatch Television Reporter

8 July 1984

Put simply, *The Jesse Owens Story* is a great tale, a thoroughly enjoyable dramatization of an American folk hero with all the classic elements: triumph, disappointment and redemption.

Local interest in the syndicated, four-hour special, which airs tonight and Monday night, is especially keen because much of the movie was filmed in Columbus. The campus of Ohio State University is featured prominently, as are a number of Columbus neighborhoods, many of them substituting for Cleveland neighborhoods.

Don't watch *The Jesse Owens Story* out of any sense of provincial pride, however. This project, with this cast and production team, would be a winner no matter where it was filmed. It's a class act from start to finish.

Dorian Harewood is superb as Owens. Lean and muscular, he is convincing as a healthy young athlete and natural competitor. More important, he remains believable while Jesse ages almost 40 years through the film.

HAREWOOD ENDOWS the character with a quiet dignity, an almost maddening tendency to avoid confrontation and controversy. Yet this quiet man holds our attention throughout. When Jesse finally gives vent to his emotions toward the end of the film, we feel his catharsis.

Harold Gast's script doesn't deify Owens. It gives the man his due, on and off the field of athletic endeavors, but it also shows his faults, most notably his inability to say "no." The dialogue is crisp and clean, free of overly dramatic manipulation.

Owens' exploits at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, where he earned four gold medals, are well-known. Other facets of his life, including his tax troubles, ideological clashes with black leaders and financial difficulties, are unknown to most. While Gast has admitted taking a few minor dramatic liberties, the story that unfolds is rooted in fact.

As the film opens, Owens is standing before U.S. District Judge J. Sam Perry (Barry Corbin). Accused of failure to pay his income tax for four consecutive years, Owens pleads no contest and faces a penalty of up to four years in prison and \$40,000 in fines. Perry calls for a pre-sentencing investigation into Jesse's background.

PROBATION OFFICER Lewis Gilbert (Georg Stanford Brown) gets the assignment. "It's my job to go back through your life and turn over every rock," Gilbert tells the former Olympic star.

Gilbert admits that he views Owens as a crook and an Uncle Tom, a black pawn of the white power structure who never worked hard enough for the civil rights movement. Owens refuses the chance to request another probation officer. He asks only that Gilbert do his best.

Through Gilbert, we meet the people who knew Owens best. Their recollections form the backbone of the tale.

First on the list is Charlie Riley (George Kennedy), the high school track coach who first saw the immense potential in Owens. The young man quickly becomes the school's track star.

AT AN important Midwest track meet, Owens attracts the attention of Larry Snyder, track and field coach at Ohio State. Owens is convinced that his poverty will prevent him from attending college, but Riley is determined to see that the young athlete is enrolled. There are no track scholarships, but a sympathetic Snyder — goaded by Riley — helps Owens' father find work as a maintenance man at OSU.

Though he juggles a number of small jobs and his studies, Owens breaks three world records at the Big Ten track and field championships while just a sophomore at OSU. He marries his high school sweetheart, Ruth (Debbi Morgan), before competing in a national Amateur Athletic Union meet.

His performance there brings greater national attention and a chance to compete in the so-called "Nazi Olympics" in Berlin.

Owens is a hero in Berlin, not just to Americans but to the world. He wins four gold medals, shatters records and effectively destroys the myth of Aryan supremacy created by Adolf Hitler. But Owens' triumphs are short-lived.

WHEN HE and other American standouts are put on a whirlwind tour of European competitions by the American Olympic Committee, exhaustion and homesickness take their toll. Owens leaves the tour and is shocked to learn that a vengeful Avery Brundage (James B. Sikking), president of the AOC, has suspended him.

The suspension is never lifted. Jesse Owens, the greatest athlete of his day, runs exhibition races against horses and cars.

Product endorsements, film roles and other offers made after the Olympics quickly evaporate. He scrapes up the money to care for his growing family in whatever way he can yet refuses to complain about the indignities heaped upon him.

Owens, now living in Chicago, loses a good state job when he speaks at a Teamsters union function at the request of labor leader Jimmy Hoffa (Tom Bosley). Owens agrees to make a speech only after Hoffa promises to hire 25 percent more black cab drivers and truck drivers,

but critics charge that Owens was paid off. The scandal leads to his resignation.

WHEN A number of black American athletes demonstrate at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, Owens is sent by the American delegation to act as intermediary. A militant college professor named Preston (LeVar Burton) blasts Owens for being too quiet, for not going far enough in the fight against racial injustice. Owens is deeply hurt, but again, remains silent.

As Gilbert sifts through the recollections of those who knew Owens best, he wonders if Owens is sincere in his beliefs of accommodation or confrontation, or is he simply a pawn of a dominant white society? His report to Perry leads the judge to an interesting and satisfying conclusion.

The Jesse Owens Story clarifies a number of minor myths and sets the record straight. It does so quietly, earnestly and compellingly — in a way that Owens probably would have admired.

FBI once probed Owens

1-20-85
PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — Former Ohio State University and Olympic track and field hero Jesse Owens was the target of a 1956 FBI investigation that included interviews with people about such personal areas as Owens' sex life and background checks to determine if he was "a loyal American."

The *Arizona Republic* reported Saturday that the investigation was ordered by then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. The investigation is outlined in documents obtained by the newspaper under the Freedom of Information Act.

THE DOCUMENTS were declassified after Owens, a Phoenix resident, died of lung cancer in Tucson in March 1980 at age 66.

The FBI suspected that Owens might have been involved in subversive activities, according to the documents.

All Hoover's agents ever found was that:

- Owens' name appeared on one occasion in the *Daily Worker*, a Communist Party newspaper.

- Owens was listed in a Michigan newspaper as a member of the "Committee to Seek Unity of Racial Groups," which Hoover believed was a subversive organization.

- Owens sent greetings in 1937, a year after winning four



Jesse Owens

File photo

gold medals at the Olympics in Berlin, to the National Negro Congress, which Hoover also regarded as an un-American organization.

A SHOCKED Ruth Owens said, "My husband is resting in his grave, so he can't speak for himself. But I followed him all over, and I know he was loyal to America. He loved his family and his country.

"Jesse was a good man. He always tried to do what was right. But he went to his grave being dogged. His crime was that he was black."

The FBI documents show that background investigations and credit checks were also run on Owens' wife, his parents, his three daughters, his brothers and his sisters.

Dozens of people were interviewed by the FBI during the course of the investigation, including former employers and others who knew Owens or knew about him. Hundreds of records were checked.

The Ohio State Lantern

Tracking a legend

By Wendy Wallace
Lantern staff writer

"I fell in love with her some the first time we ever talked, and a little bit more every time after that until I thought I couldn't love her more than I did. And when I felt that way, I asked her to marry me, even though we were only in the fourth grade, and she said she would."

Ruth Owens remembers her first encounter with Jesse a little differently than he recounts in his autobiography. Yet her recollection is no less romantic. Ruth met Jesse at Fairmont Junior High School in Cleveland when she was 13.

"He was in my sister's class. He gave my sister a note to give to me." The short message scrawled on the note, "I want to walk you home," sparked a romance that lasted more than 50 years.

And walk her home he did, she said. He met her after school and carried her books.

"The little girl I had met, the little pigtailed girl without prejudice, had become my wife secretly when we were only 16-years-old."

Jesse and Ruth eloped on a rainy day in April, 1930. "We decided all of a sudden," Ruth said. Ruth and Jesse jumped into a car piloted by Jesse's best friend, Dave Albritton.

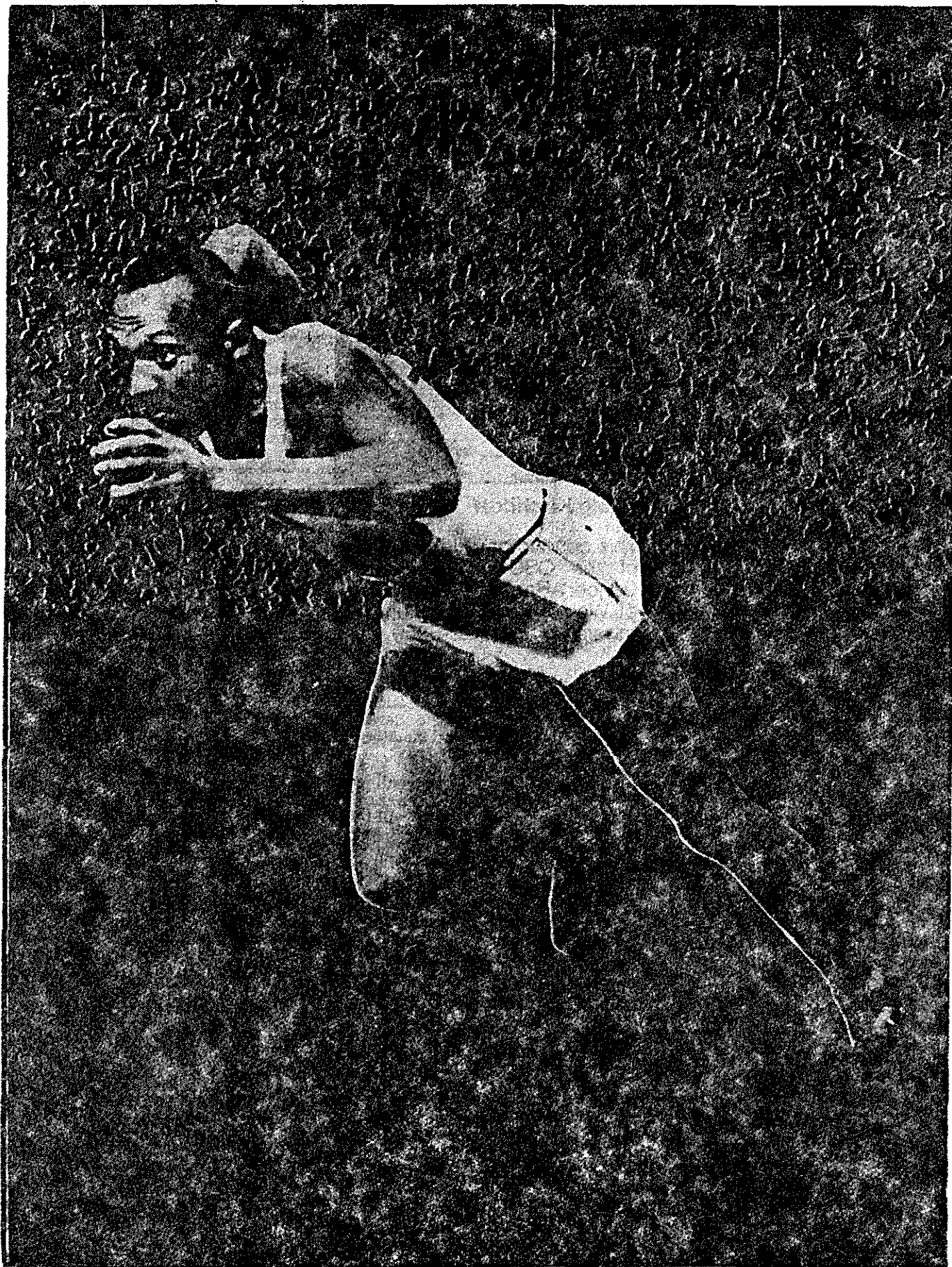
Albritton drove them from town to town in Pennsylvania until they found a justice of the peace who would marry such a young couple; Jesse was 18 and Ruth was 16.

After sharing a hotdog, the newlyweds and their driver headed as quickly as possible back to Ohio.

Ruth and Jesse didn't disclose their marriage until she became pregnant with the first of their three daughters. In fact, Ruth said, she and Jesse didn't live under the same roof until after Jesse brought home four gold medals from the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

While Jesse studied at Ohio State, Ruth continued to live with her family and baby, Gloria, in Cleveland. Typically, she only saw her husband when he wasn't in training or at a track meet. "That situation existed all through our lives," Ruth said.

"His travels kept us a very loving couple," Jesse's wife said. "He was like a date when he was coming home."



Jesse from the cover

Ruth Owens



*He was like a date
when he was coming
home.*

I would be getting the house ready for him and getting the kids together and putting in the kinds of food he enjoyed eating."

"One couldn't ask for a finer husband," she said.

Jesse's track career took him all over the world, but he is best known for his accomplishments in the 1936 Olympics.

Jesse Owens won gold medals in the 100 and 200-meter dashes, the broad jump, and the 400-meter relay, setting three Olympic records and casting doubt on the Nazi racial propaganda promoted at the games.

Ruth Owens does not believe Jesse tried to prove anything to Hitler or

anyone else.

"I have often heard him say he went over to Germany to run, and run he did," she said.

"Jesse was an athlete and it meant a lot to him to go over there and represent the United States and to come out with such honor."

Ruth Owens did not see her husband compete in Berlin. Instead, she listened as reports came across the Atlantic on the radio.

"Then, of course, Jesse was always very close to the sports writers and there were two from Cleveland, one from *The Plain Dealer* and the other from the *Cleveland News* who would always keep me informed," she said.

Ruth Owens did not comprehend the magnitude of her husband's accomplishments at the time.

"It wasn't really brought home to me until he came back from the Olympics with all the hoop-dee-doo and the ticker tape parades."

After the Olympics, Jesse and Ruth Owens returned to Germany several times. "The German people love him and they rolled out the red carpet every time we returned," she said.

"Last October, they named a street after him in Berlin," she said.

As a father, Ruth said, Jesse was loving and very strict. "He had dreams of how he wanted his girls to be raised and we lived with that."

"There were certain things that he demanded of them — get an education, always be a lady, and carry out the rules and regulations of the home."

"Although Jesse was often out of town, his image was in the home at all times. I would tell the girls 'listen to me or I will call your father on the phone and he will take care of it,' she said.



Jesse Owens

Courtesy OSU Photo Archives

"I guess maybe that was my hammer, but it worked very well for me."

Ruth Owens described an incident that occurred with their youngest daughter, Marlene, when she was about five years old. Jesse was out of town.

"Our youngest daughter was flipping over the couch and she broke a lamp. She was so upset because she knew 'Oh no, Daddy's going to get me when he comes home,' that she went outside and hid in the bushes and we couldn't find her for a long, long time. Everybody was panicking — where's Marlene? where's Marlene?"

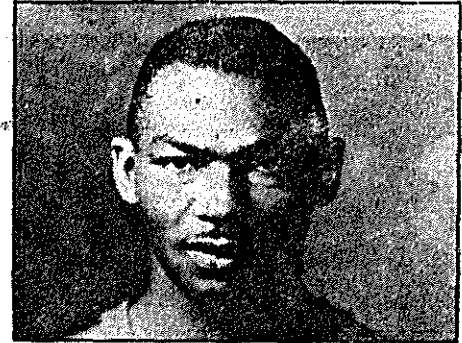
"That's how strong he was in the household even though he was absent," Ruth Owens said.

When Jesse's track career ended he made several business ventures including establishing the Jesse Owens Cleaning Stores and a public relations agency.

However, more than anything, Jesse was a speaker — a motivator. He spent a good part of the rest of his life touring the world, delivering speeches and touching the lives of thousands.

Ruth Owens is currently living in Phoenix where she and Jesse moved in 1972. Since Jesse's death March 3, 1980, Ruth has continued to be active in organizing the Arco-Jesse Owens Games held every year in Los Angeles. She is chairwoman of the board of the Jesse Owens Foundation that each year awards scholarships to college-bound seniors. She is also a board member of the Phoenix Memorial Hospital that recently built the Jesse Owens Memorial Clinic.

Dave Albritton



***I was his biggest booster
and he was mine***

"One of my buddies, Dave Albritton, somehow got hold of a car... and we drove into Pennsylvania..."

"I was always the front man," Dave Albritton said, "because I could get a car."

Albritton recalls the times he and Jesse would double date. "I would have the money to buy the tickets to the theater," he said. "And of course we would sit way up in the back corner."

Albritton said he first met Jesse when they were kids in Alabama. "He was from Oakville and I was from Danville. They were within walking distance of each other, about four or five miles. We met on a Sunday afternoon when our brothers got together to play baseball, Albritton said.

"He and I were too young to play (5-years-old,) so we used to sit and watch our brothers."

Strangely enough, both Dave's and Jesse's families left farming in Alabama and migrated to Cleveland in search of more prosperous lives.

"Even though we met each other in Alabama we didn't really socialize until we got to Cleveland," Albritton said.

Albritton's and Owens' paths began crossing again during sporting events when they were in junior high.

Eventually Albritton transferred to the same junior high school Jesse attended and from then on, they were fast friends.

Both attended Cleveland East Tech High School and were members of the track team. Both competed in the state track meet in 1931, 1932 and 1933, winning state championships.

"We did everything together," Albritton said. "We even dated two sisters — he married Ruth."

Albritton said after successful high school track careers, he and Jesse were encouraged to attend the same college. "We were a pair," he said. "I was his biggest booster and he was mine."

Albritton still remembers the time when he and Jesse were scouting different colleges, trying to decide which to attend. On their way to Indiana University, they passed through Kokomo, Ind. The day before, a black man had been lynched there. They ruled Indiana out.

"My dream was something I had heard about from the boss' son when we weren't fighting one day . . . It was called college."

Jesse didn't decide to come to Ohio State until Larry Snyder, Ohio State's track coach, offered him what he wanted most — a job for himself and for his father. He enrolled in 1933.

Even in college, "We were synonymous," Albritton said. "We lived, practiced, worked and competed together."

"We used to thumb rides home on the weekends," he said.

Then, in 1936, Jesse and Daye shared an experience few people have ever known — the Olympics.

Albritton competed in the high jump, and in a close competition, captured a silver medal. He cleared the same height as his teammate from California, Cornelius Johnson, but Johnson did it in fewer attempts.

Jesse's competition in the long jump, like Albritton's in the high jump, was formidable. Hitler's sandy-haired, blue-eyed Luz Long, stood before Jesse and the world as an example of Aryan perfection.

He may have been my archenemy, but I had to stand there in awe and just stare at Luz Long for several seconds.

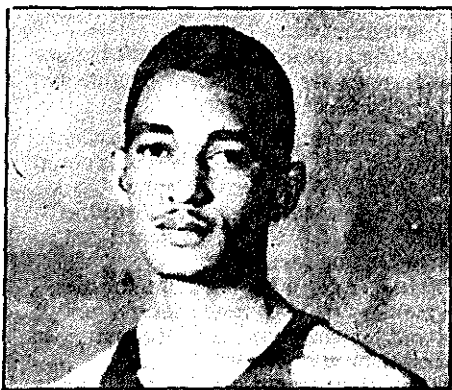
In a rare moment, Jesse struggled. He was one leap away from not qualifying for the finals. He fouled on his first attempt and fell short on his second.

Before Jesse's final attempt, his archenemy became his coach. Luz Long, Jesse said, placed his hand on Jesse's shoulder and talked him through his final attempt. Jesse not only qualified, but set an Olympic record.

In the finals, Jesse again struck gold, setting a world record of 26 feet 5.5 inches. Even better though, Luz Long and Jesse Owens left Berlin after the Olympics as friends.

After graduating from Ohio State in 1938 with a degree in education, Dave Albritton worked for the War Department in the 1940s, and also went on to become a state representative for Montgomery County for 16 years. He recently retired as head track coach from Dayton Dunbar High School. The track program he built while he was there produced three state championship teams.

Melvin Walker



*He would reach
his hand in his pocket
and give you his last
nickel.*

"I've had some time since his death to really think about Jesse Owens the individual. My conclusion is that Jesse was first and foremost a humanitarian," said friend and teammate Melvin Walker.

Melvin Walker should know.

In 1935 the track team was scheduled, for the first time, to travel to Los Angeles for a dual meet with the University of Southern California.

Walker, wanting to look his best, went downtown and ordered a new suit. This suit, tailored from grey plaid material, included a side vested jacket and trousers. Total cost — \$22.50.

Working as a janitor at the state office building, Walker made enough for living expenses but not enough to pay for the suit.

"All I could get together was \$15," the former high jumper said.

The day before the team was to leave Columbus, Walker bumped into Jesse on High Street near 11th Avenue.

"He said (to me), 'Well how's it going? Did you get yourself ready to make this trip to California?'"

Walker told Jesse about the suit and Jesse said, "How much do you owe?"

"Seven dollars," Walker answered.

"He reached his hand in his pocket and brought out seven dollars and gave it to me," Walker said.

"Of course I went out and I bought the suit, and if I must say so myself, I was real sharp."

"Jesse was that kind of person," Walker said. "He would reach his hand in his pocket and give you his last nickel."

Jesse was an immaculate dresser himself, he said. "He always wanted (a person) to make his best appearance."

Aside from being a great humanitarian, Walker said, Jesse was a perfectionist.

"He was probably the most beautiful sprinter who ever lived."

"When we were in a track meet and Jesse's events came up, don't you know everybody stopped!" Walker said.

"He's the only track athlete I know, even today, who could fill a stadium with people."

Walker recalled how 50,000 fans filled the stadium when they competed against Southern California. He attributes a good part of the crowd to Jesse's performance two weeks earlier, at the Big 10 outdoor championships in Ann Arbor, Mich.

In the space of little more than two hours at that meet on May 25, 1935, Jesse set three world records and tied a fourth.

Despite Jesse's hectic life — practice, competition, school, work and a wife and child in Cleveland — he never let his worries or problems bother him, Walker said.

"I used to marvel at him. Hell, he could hit the bed (we roomed together) and before the light was out he'd be asleep."

"He may have had problems-but you would never know it. He was just as cheerful and jolly and had a big smile on his face all the time."

Mel Walker remained in competition after he graduated from Ohio State in 1937 and did not quit until 1942 when he married and moved to Chicago. After World War II, he started a trade school, worked in the cosmetic business and for the past 10 years was a personnel manager for Kraft Foods.

Charlie Beetham



Through his whole college career, I never heard anyone say a derogatory word about him.

The first time Charlie Beetham was really touched by discrimination was when he and Jesse Owens went to Milwaukee for a track meet. They booked a room at the Pfister Hotel which, unlike many hotels of that day, allowed black people to stay there.

However, where meals were concerned, the Pfister was not so open-minded. Jesse was not allowed to eat in the hotel dining room so he and his roommate had to dine in their room.

Ohio State's policy toward blacks was not much better. They were not allowed to live on campus, Beetham said. So, the three black men on the track team, Jesse Owens, Melvin Walker and Dave Albritton, lived in a rooming house at 11th and High, he said.

To complicate matters, the trio was not allowed to eat in any of the restaurants off campus, Beetham said. At a time when a person could get a T-bone steak, a potato, a salad, three vegetables and dessert for \$.45 at the Blue Moon restaurant on High Street, Jesse and his roommates had to eat on campus.

But there was no racism on the track team. Every athlete had the same chance to win. All faced the same hardships.

For Owens, Beetham and the rest of the team, the indoor season began in January, but Ohio State had no indoor track for practices.

Instead, the members worked out on a cinder track underneath the west side of the stadium. "It was six laps to a mile,"

Jesse Owens hurries to catch a train to make it to the 1936 Olympic Games.

said Beetham, a middle and long-distance runner.

The temperature sometimes dipped below zero, he said. "The facilities weren't good for performance but they were good for getting in shape."

"They used to spray down the track with water to keep the dust from rising," Beetham said. "But they had to be careful that it didn't freeze."

For lack of an indoor track, Ohio State was always the visiting team during the indoor season. The team and coaches would load into several vehicles and go in a convoy. One Packard touring car had no windows; just curtains, Beetham said. "It got awfully cold sometimes."

When the team arrived at its destination, coach Larry Snyder and the white team members would check into a hotel. Most often, Jesse and the other two black men would have to go to the local YMCA and stay there, Beetham said.

"No one really thought about it," Beetham said. "That was just accepted."

When they were not competing or going to school, Beetham said, most of the team members worked. Jesse had three jobs, including working in the state office building as a janitor and at the Statehouse as a page.

During the depression, there was no money, Beetham said. "Nobody worried about the future, really; we had enough to eat everyday," he said.

Beetham made \$50 a month working part time. He paid about \$15 a quarter for university fees. "There were no (athletic) scholarships then. Some schools did, but the Big 10 frowned on it," he said.

One thing Beetham remembers about Jesse Owens was his uncanny knack for staying healthy. "He never once missed a meet and he was never injured," he said. He also never lost a college race during the outdoor season, Beetham said.

"He was very supportive of the other athletes," he said. "Through his whole college career, I never heard anyone say a derogatory word about him."

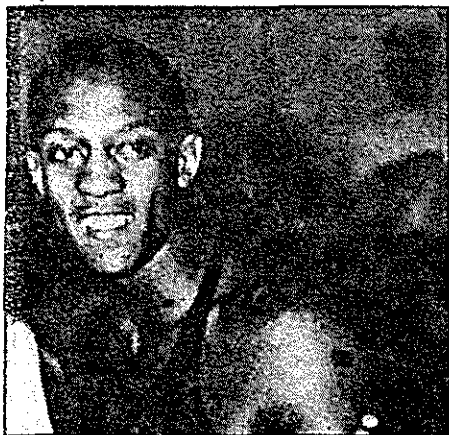
Charlie Beetham eventually returned to Ohio State and coached the cross country team until 1966. He retired as the assistant director of intramurals in 1973.



Courtesy OSU Photo Archives

Jesse from page 7

Ben Johnson



*We just went out
and did what we could do*

Only a handful of men ever had the opportunity to feel the tape draw taut across their chests when they crossed the finish line ahead of Jesse Owens.

Ben Johnson and Eulace Peacock are among an elite group who knew the feeling.

Johnson ran all the sprints for his alma mater, Columbia University, squaring off against his fellow competitor and friend many times.

"Jesse was one of the finest humans I ever met, although I spent most of my time looking at his back," Johnson said with a laugh.

Johnson said he never beat Jesse in the 100-yard dash but had more luck in the 60-yard dash. Eulace Peacock,

however, said he beat Jesse seven out of 10 times in the 100-meter dash.

This Temple University sprinter also beat Jesse by one-fourth of an inch in the broad jump in 1935 at the National Championships in Lincoln, Neb.

Both men developed friendships with Jesse Owens. In fact, Peacock said, the only time there was no conversation between him and Owens at a meet was when the starter said, "Take your mark."

"Everybody was on his own then," he said.

"We never had a rivalry," Peacock said.

Because Johnson went to school in New York, he would show Jesse around when he came there for track meets. "After the meet we would go to parties together," Johnson said.

"When Jesse came home from Berlin in 1936, Eulace Peacock and I were there to welcome him home," Johnson said.

While Jesse was in New York, Johnson took him shopping. "I was looking at a beautiful topcoat," Johnson said.

However, he did not have enough cash to buy it so Jesse loaned him the money.

"I tried to repay him but he would never take it back," Johnson said. "I have always remembered him for that."

Eulace Peacock, who ran a liquor store for 25 years, is now retired and lives in Yonkers, N.Y.

Ben Johnson taught high school after graduating from Columbia University. He entered the army, and before retiring from it attained the rank of full colonel. He was the director for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Welfare until 1960.

Owen's daughters



*As kids growing up,
we didn't realize how
famous he was, he was
just our dad.*

Marlene Owens

He was a joke-teller, an armchair cowboy and a stern disciplinarian — not a track star. He was fair, supportive and understanding — not presumptuous or conceited. Above all, to Gloria Hemphill, Beverly Prather and Marlene Rankin, Jesse Owens was a father.

All three sisters agree they never really thought of their father as someone who was famous or a national hero.

"We were never really a part of that life," said Marlene, his youngest daughter. "He very deliberately kept us away from all that."

Marlene said she has no regrets about this. "Some of the experiences could be

beyond belief. To have to live that constantly could create problems in distinguishing what's real."

"As kids growing up, we didn't realize how famous he was, he was just our dad," said Gloria, Jesse's eldest.

"I'll never forget when I went away to orientation for college. When I arrived they said, 'We heard Jesse Owens daughter was coming,' and I said, 'Oh yeah?' Then they said, 'We heard you're driving a Thunderbird.'"

"I said, 'I got a big surprise for you, I don't even drive, so now that we got all that out of the way, are we going to associate or are we not?'"

"Then they found out I was actually human," Beverly said.

"I get dressed just like you do, you know? I put on all my underclothes first; then, I put my clothes on."

Ironically, when she was 19, Beverly eloped with her high school sweetheart, just as her parents had done. When she told her father, he was shocked.

"I think he had to stay in bed for a day or two," she said.

"They, (Jesse and Ruth) really set a positive example for us. My sisters and I have all been married for 20 years plus," Gloria said.

When he was on the road, Ruth always kept his presence in the home, she said.

"Ma Bell was his best friend. They talked every day when he was away."

Gloria, however, did get to travel with her father one summer when he was promoting a black baseball team. They arrived in Sheboygan, Wis., for a ball game only to find they should have been in Cheboygan, Mich., Gloria said with a laugh.

Eventually, Jesse curtailed his travels and moved his family to Chicago so he could spend more time with them. When he was at home, he loved to watch TV westerns.

"Daddy watched every western that

came on TV. In life, I really think he wanted to be a cowboy," Beverly said.

Marlene believes she had the advantage of having more of her father's time because she was only 10 when they moved to Chicago.

When she began searching for colleges, her father wielded a great deal of influence. "I always said, there was grade school, high school and Ohio State," Marlene said.

One of Jesse Owens' proudest moments was when he crowned his youngest daughter OSU Homecoming Queen in 1960.

Jesse had a strong belief that young people should attend college. Gloria recounted the time her father helped a Loyola law student. The woman was an acquaintance of Gloria's and told her the story one day when she gave Gloria a ride downtown.

"I'll bet you don't know this," the woman said. "But when I was a student in law school, I didn't know how I was going to make it.

"I had heard so much about how your dad liked to help young people that I gave him a call and he bought my books," she said.

She told Gloria giving her a ride downtown would never be going out of her way. "It's a pleasure to be able to do this for you," the woman said.

"I never knew about that," Gloria said. "He did so much of that kind of thing, I don't think anybody realized."

Gloria, Beverly and Marlene all live in Chicago. Gloria is an administrator for the Chicago Public Schools and Beverly works for the city comptroller. Marlene is the director of personnel for United Charities and is also on the board of directors for the OSU Alumni Association.

This article is a tribute to Jesse Owens' accomplishments 50 years ago at the Berlin Olympics.

•1933—Owens entered Ohio State.

•1935—Big 10 Outdoor

Championships.

—3 World Records.

—220 yd dash 20.2 sec.

—220 yd. low hurdle 22.6 seconds.

—Broad jump 268.25.

—Tied a fourth World Record

100 yd dash 9.4 seconds.

•1936—Olympics, Berlin

—4 Gold Medals

—100 m dash 10.3 seconds

—200 m dash 20.7 seconds

—400 m relay 38 seconds

•1942—Appointed Director of Physical Fitness for Blacks Civil Defense Department.

•1950—Named Greatest Athlete of the first half of the 20th Century by AP.

•1955—Named by State Department as Ambassador of Sports.

•1970—OSU Centennial Award

•1976—Medal of Freedom from President Ford; highest Civilian Award.

—Inducted into OSU Sports Hall of Fame as a charter member.

•1980—Track in Ohio Stadium renamed Jesse Owens Track.

All photos courtesy of OSU Photo Archives

Fifty Years After Jesse Owens: What's the Score?

by Chuck Stokes

We asked Chuck Stokes, a former sportswriter for the Washington Post, to give us an overview that would get this new department, Sports and Society, off to a good start. We'll be looking at each of the topics he touches on—and many others—in greater depth in future issues. Our goal is to deal with sports issues that should—and do—concern every thoughtful American, even those who don't know the difference between a T formation and a T square.

—The Editor

August in Berlin. It was unseasonably cool that month in 1936. The thermometer inside Germany's new Olympic stadium read 61 degrees as James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens warmed up for the first of the four events he was scheduled to compete in. Moments later, his quest for gold that shook the world—and perhaps changed race relations and the future of sports—had begun. But Owens' path to greatness really started before that summer in Europe.

May in Ann Arbor. The University of Michigan plays host to the annual Big Ten track and field meet. Representing Ohio State University, Owens dazzles with what has been called "the greatest single day in man's athletic achievements." Within a span of only 45 minutes, the "Buckeye Bullet" tied his own world record for the 100-yard dash (9.4 seconds), then broke world marks in the broad jump (26 feet, 8 1/4 inches), the 200-yard dash (20.3 seconds) and the 220-yard low hurdles (22.6 seconds).

It was a Herculean task indeed, but one that would soon be overshadowed



Jesse Owens, delivering his spectacular best for his alma mater, Ohio State.

by a string of athletic events on Chancellor Adolf Hitler's turf.

Tuesday, August 3. The second day of Olympic competition. Amidst a backdrop of Nazi flags, a confident 22-year-old crouches down behind the white-chalked line across his lane. He takes a deep swallow. With his eyes locked on the finish line straight ahead, he waits for the signal. He's off. A capacity crowd of 110,000 has 10.3 seconds to observe Jesse run a perfect race. No facial expression. No strain. Like well-oiled automotive pistons, his arms and legs pump effortlessly. Number 733 glides over the red-clay track, finishing one yard in front of his closest competitor, (later Chicago congressman) Ralph Metcalfe.

A *New York Times* headline carried the results: "Owens Captures Olympic Title, Equals World 100-Meter Record."

By the games' end, he had also shattered two Olympic records, set a world mark and stood on the "Platform of Champions" four times to receive gold medals (100 meters, broad jump, 200 meters, 400-meter relay).

More important, this black runner, born in the cotton fields of Alabama, had single-handedly (although not by personal design) destroyed Hitler's propaganda of Aryan superiority.

"Fantastic! I just think he was fantastic," says Ed Temple, the famous Tennessee State University track coach who has tutored 23 Olympic champions. "He was a great example for society...a national hero on the track and off the track."

Americans welcomed Owens back with ticker-tape parades in New York and Cleveland, his boyhood home. Everyone wanted to meet and shake the hero's hand, but no one offered him a job to help support his family of four; at least not at first.

Unable to pay his tuition at Ohio State—at that time the school didn't offer athletic scholarships—he dropped out before the start of his senior year.

Finally, he found work as a Cleveland playground instructor for \$30 a week. It wasn't enough to make ends

meet, so the "world's fastest human" eventually buried his pride and accepted a public relations job of sorts, for Negro baseball. Three times a week, before the start of each game, Owens challenged a thoroughbred horse to a 100-yard dash. Five cents of every dollar the people paid went into his pocket.

"It was degrading and humiliating. But it meant next fall I could go back to college," Owens would later write in one of his books.

As the old adage goes, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." Just two years ago, about a month before the Olympic games opened in Los Angeles, a San Francisco television crew recorded Jim Hines—100-meter gold medal winner at the 1968 Olympics and unemployed at the time—trying his luck against a horse. He lost the race and, like Owens, probably much more.

History's winningest college football coach, Eddie Robinson of Louisiana's Grambling University, is one black who drew strength from Owens' successes and, undeterred by the sadnesses in his later life, learned how to succeed.

"I think Jesse and Joe Louis—Detroit's heavyweight boxing legend—were the first two blacks to be recognized in this country on a national level," he recalls. "They were the first two (black) people I had ever seen in white newspapers. They were the first two people to let me know within my heart that I was as good as, and could compete with, anybody in the world."

Louis and Owens were the psychological force that black America so desperately needed. They were its role models—that is, until April, 1947, when Jackie Robinson stepped across the major league baseball colorline.

As he was followed by names like "Satchel," Campanella, Newcombe ... then Mays, Aaron, Clemente, Gibson and McCovey, the floodgates were finally opened. Professional baseball would never be the same again. Neither would sports in

In a searching article in the May 19 issue of *New Republic*, Malcolm Gladwell assembled some devastating statistics on the fate of black college athletes:

- ◆ At Memphis State University, not one of its many black basketball players has graduated.
- ◆ Only one in four black athletes playing for colleges graduates.
- ◆ Of some 200 blacks playing for the University of Georgia since 1969, when blacks were first admitted, records show as few as 15 graduating. Georgia has just lost a landmark court case over the firing of a teacher who refused to change athletes' failing grades.

America—or other walks of life, for that matter.

Half a century has blown by since Owens took Berlin by storm. Most will concede there's been tremendous change for America's athletes, and in particular, its black icons.

Today, it doesn't surprise anyone to learn that Edwin Moses, the man who never loses, hurdles his way to an annual six-figure salary.

Hey, look, there's Magic Johnson shooting another television commercial for his basketball shoe sponsor and Buick. Why not? After all, professional basketball today is overwhelmingly black—75 percent. The starting lineups for the 23 National Basketball Association (NBA) teams work out to 81-percent black. And what did the average player take home last year? How does \$375,000 sound?

Times aren't bad on the college level, either. Last year, 55 percent of the Division I scholarships went to blacks.

Although the NBA leads the way, the National Football Association is not far behind. More than half of its athletes—57 percent—are black. According to the NFL Players Association, \$190,000 without bonuses was the average check carried to the bank for last year's work. That sum fell

short of what major league baseball stars tucked under their belts for 1985—\$371,157.

Bygone stars Jim Brown, Elgin Baylor and Maury Wills would probably like to spring from retirement for these figures. Needless to say, today's salaries are light years away from the days when the Cincinnati Reds signed Curt Flood, Vada Pinson and Frank Robinson for "\$4,000 apiece."

Folks, step right up. See the 1980s jock. With a basketball in one hand, a briefcase in the other, this fella has it made...or does he? The 50th anniversary of Owens' great triumph is a good moment for careful assessment. Dr. Harry Edwards, a noted black sociologist, an author and the architect of the 1968 Olympic boycott by blacks, doesn't believe it is time to cheer.

He warns in a matter-of-fact tone that progress can't be tracked as a straight line upward. "We cannot look at numbers of athletes who were in mainstream American sports during Jesse Owens' era and the number of athletes today and say, 'Gee, there's been tremendous progress.' There's been change but there's not been commensurate progress."

Edwards points to head coaching positions and says blacks are still "woefully" underrepresented. The NFL is a classic example. In its 64-year history, there has never been a black head coach, a black owner or a black general manager. The highest ranking black to date is Tank Younger, the first NFL star from a black college (Grambling). Younger is assistant general manager for the San Diego Chargers.

On some fronts, it appears that minorities are losing ground, not gaining. There have been only three black managers in major league baseball. None is active today.

In 1966-67, Bill Russell, the former Boston Celtic great, became the first black playing coach in the NBA. Seventeen years later, only two—Don Chaney (Los Angeles) and K.C. Jones (Boston)—are currently at the helm.

Edwards and others attribute this lack of progress to two things: racism and a lack of role models. "Blacks have not had commensurate opportunities," he says. "We're piling up in four or five sports in the rank of the gladiator, the entertainer, the producers, the laborers. They [whites] have a plantation system operating."

While these are pressing concerns for sports figures, even bigger, or at least more controversial, problems loom. Sports in America is under attack. Many charge that this megabucks industry is dominating society, corrupting the youth of this nation. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has imposed sanctions on some of America's most prestigious institutions. There are league strikes in the middle of a season, cocaine drug scandals in cities like Pittsburgh and gambling on a scale that causes many to conclude that it has become the nation's pastime.

As each successive shock wave of scandal erupts, hyped by the magnetism of big dollars and the power of big media to make everything, well, *big*—black athletes come in for unwelcome attention. Unwelcome, certainly. Unfair? That's harder to sort out. Harder to get at the fairness issue; harder, in any case, to prescribe cures. Take Proposition 48.

Last year, in an attempt to crack down on many colleges' callous exploitation of young athletes, the readiness to use their skills and wink at their failure to end up with an education, the NCAA instituted a controversial rule that said, "Enough is enough." The new rule, Proposition 48, sets tougher academic standards for prospective NCAA athletes. Specifically, it requires incoming freshmen to have at least a C average in certain classes and at least a 700 combined score on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or 15 on the American College Testing Program (ACT).

Coach Ed Temple has been teaching at the same, predominantly black school for 36 years. Education is his "number one priority," and it's a fact

he readily drives home. "I've put 40 girls on the U.S. Olympic team; 38 graduated, 18 have masters [degrees], 5 have M.D.s or Ph.D.s." But, even with his success and his unquestioned [belief in discipline], he doesn't like the NCAA's SAT and ACT score requirements. "Everyone can't score well on those standardized tests," he quips, "but now everyone can go to class."

Grambling's Robinson, a 45-year coaching veteran, tries not to view the rule as racist. "Black schools did what they could to change the rules, but they couldn't.... I think everyone wants high standards, but a lot of times people are not knowledgeable about what they're doing to a large group of people.... More whites are being hurt by this rule than blacks. But the reason there's such noise about the blacks is because you have fewer blacks than whites," he says.

Edwards, a former athlete now teaching at the predominantly white University of California at Berkeley, says there is no question that black athletes will be most severely hurt by Proposition 48. However, he strongly feels it's a problem blacks must fix. The average SAT score for blacks is 693. That's seven points less than the newly established minimum.

Studying the numbers elicits a charge from the professor. His voice rises an octave, his speech quickens. "If blacks can't bridge that gap," Edwards says emphatically, "that is not racism, that is a lack of educational motivation.... A situation where people are putting playbooks before textbooks."

What is a product of "racism and discrimination," Edwards contends, is the difference between whites' average SAT score of 923 and blacks' 693. "Thirty years after *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (Kansas), our schools are still largely separate and unequal," he says.

Would Jesse Owens and his contemporaries be pleased with sports in America today? ●

50 Years Later, Bitter Memories of the Berlin Games

By ARTHUR PINCUS

WHILE others marched, Marty Glickman, Sam Stoller and 381 other American athletes snarled into Berlin's Olympic Stadium on Aug. 1, 1936, in the parade of nations opening the Games of the XIth Olympiad. For Glickman, Stoller and all the athletes, the Olympics proved that the practice time and the games of youth were worthwhile, a chance to meet and maybe beat the world's best.

Perched in his box, wearing his gray storm trooper's uniform, Adolf Hitler looked on and the Games began. There were 120,000 people in the stands, overhead the Hindenburg sailed in an overcast summer sky. Richard Strauss led an orchestra and a chorus of 3,000 in a new Olympic hymn that Strauss had written for the occasion.

The Summer Games of 1936 were to be a testament to German recovery from the devastation of World War I, a chance for the Nazis to show their industrious face to the world.

The stadium was the centerpiece of a huge Olympic complex; the grass on the infield was clipped to perfection; the red clay track contrasted brilliantly with the arena's gray concrete. Although the months preceding had brought talk of an American boycott to protest German persecution of Jews, the Americans were there that day.

Teams enter the Olympic stadium alphabetically; the host nation comes in last. So the German language put the United States (Verenigten Staaten) just before the Germans. The Americans' lack of military precision in their stride and their tradition of not dipping the Stars and Stripes to a foreign leader brought boos and catcalls.

The track and field competition began the next day; when it ended a week later, Marty Glickman and Sam Stoller, the only Jews on the track team, were the only members of that team who hadn't competed. On the day they were to begin trial heats in their event, the 400-meter relay, they were pulled from the competition. Jesse Owens and Ralph Metcalfe replaced Glickman and Stoller, and the Americans won the relay in record time. But they would undoubtedly have won anyway had Glickman and Stoller been allowed to run; there were no super runners for other teams.

The pain of his chance denied still stings the memories of Marty Glickman, whose voice is so well-known to New York sports fans for his years broadcasting college basketball, the Knicks, the Giants and the Jets but whose athletic skill has faded in memory. He was back in Berlin last summer for the first time since 1936, serving as a consultant for the Jesse Owens invitation track meet this weekend. Despite having talked about the incident many times over the years, Glickman was unprepared for what happened that day he returned.

"My anger was overwhelming," says Glickman, now 68 years old. "When I walked out of the tunnel under the stands I began looking around, looking at this powerful place, looking at the box where Hitler sat. And then I started to shake. I found myself wanting to shout out at the people who took away my chance and



Three American gold medalists at the 1936 Berlin Games, from left, Cornelius Johnson, Jesse Owens and Glenn Hardin. Marty Glickman is at far left and Foy Draper is second from right. At right, Owens taking baton from Glickman during pre-Olympic relay race.

pic gold medal. I almost passed out with the rage."

There were nine Americans in a bungalow in the Olympic Village in Berlin on Aug. 8, 1936—two coaches, seven athletes. The coaches had made a decision and were letting their sprinters know that the American 400-meter relay team was being changed.

Glickman, born in Brooklyn to Rumanian immigrant parents, believes that their religion was the reason he and Stoller were denied their chance. The switch enabled Owens, a black American, to win his fourth gold medal.

"We thought we were going to go over the order and strategy for our race," Glickman recalls. "But Lawson Robertson, who was the head coach of the track team, said he had been hearing rumors that the Germans were hiding great runners to stop us in the relay."

"Well, Jesse had already won the 100 meters and the 200 meters; Ralph Metcalfe had finished second to Jesse in the 100 and Mack Robinson had finished second to Jesse in the 200. How could the Germans have any runners to beat us?"

Glickman, about to enter his sophomore year at Syracuse University, and Stoller, soon to be a senior at the University of Michigan, were stunned. They had finished fifth and sixth in the United States Olympic trials, and tradition said that the first three sprinters in the 100 at the trials would compete in the 100 at the Games in the

100; the next four would make up the 400-meter relay team after the trials; that was the assumption as the team traveled to Europe on the luxury liner Manhattan; that was the assumption as they trained throughout those days of pomp and circumstance in Berlin. Stoller and Glickman had practiced in the relay with Foy Draper and Frank Wykoff, both products of the University of Southern California, where the coach was Dean Cromwell, who was serving as Robertson's assistant.

In a craggy 100-meter race to set the relay team, Stoller was first, Glickman second, Draper third. It seemed that if anyone needed to be replaced it was Foy Draper. When Robertson announced his decision, Owens, who had already won the 100 and 200 meter dashes and the broad jump, stood up to speak. "Coach, I've won three gold medals. I'm tired. Let Marty and Sam run. They deserve it."

"Cromwell pointed his finger at Jesse and said 'You'll do as you're told.'"

That was the end of it. Owens and Metcalfe replaced Stoller and Glickman in the 400-meter relay team. They won by 15 yards with the Germans third. They set a world record despite having the two fastest runners, Owens and Metcalfe, run the first two legs and the two slower runners, Draper and Wykoff, finish the race. Owens and Metcalfe were black; Draper and Wykoff were white. —Mack Robinson, the only other person

across the finish line and take a little of the sting away from the Nazi boos? They had already seen Owens win the broad jump, the 100 and the 200. There were other black American gold medalists: Cornelius Johnson, Archie Williams and John Woodruff.

For what purpose were Marty Glickman, an 18-year-old from Brooklyn, and Sam Stoller, on his 21st birthday, denied the chance they believed they had fairly won?

Stoller seemed more serious than Glickman. Photographs of the two together from 1936 show the difference. Glickman was a wavy-haired 18-year-old who had experienced almost nothing in his life to stifle the ever-present wide-mouthed grin. Stoller's look is determined, almost grim.

"This is one day in my life that I'll remember to my dying days," Stoller wrote in a diary that he shared with William O. Johnson in Johnson's 1972 book, "All That Glitters Is Not Gold." Stoller, who died in May 1985, called the incident "the most humiliating episode in my life."

The Olympic Games would never be the same after Berlin. They became an opportunity for nations to prove something to the world, even if that proof came in so simple a form as who won a foot race.

There had been questions whether the United States would even take part. The Germans had adopted the Nuremberg laws in September 1935, limiting Jewish citizenship rights, and in the States there was a call to boycott. The dispute centered on whether the Germans had accepted all the Olympic codes for their grand show, including a guarantee that all athletes could compete for a spot on their teams.

Avery Brundage, president of the American Olympic Association, praised the German methods and accepted their propaganda. He said he was given assurances that "there will be no discrimination against Jews."

But there was. The best women's high jumper in Germany those years was a 21-year-old named Gretel Bergman. On June 30, 1936, she tied the German high jump record at 5 feet 3 inches; that height would have earned her a silver medal in the Olympics. But she was Jewish and she didn't compete.

Brundage cast pro-boycotters as radicals with "Communist antecedents."

When the American Olympic Association met in New York in December 1935, Brundage carried the day, albeit by the slim margin of 564 votes to 534.

Dean Cromwell, the assistant coach who Glickman believes was the instigator in the change, came in for criticism just weeks after the Games when in a speech he made a complimentary reference to Hitler that was taken seriously by many. But, according to Cromwell: "It was all said with a laugh and received in the same mood. If I referred to Hitler as that 'handsome boy,' it was poetic license and jovially received by my listeners as such."

Was it Brundage who forced the hand of the American coaches? Or did Cromwell act on his own? In effect he was running the American track team as the assistant to Robert-

son, an older man in ill health.

The day after the relay team won the gold medal, Glickman was walking across the immaculate lawn of the village, which was to become housing for Wehrmacht troops. He heard someone call.

"I turned and saw Lawson Robertson lumbering towards me," Glickman says. "He walked with a cane and moved very slowly. He came up to me and said, 'I just wanted to apologize to you. We have caused a terrible injustice. I'm sorry.'"

Stoller's diary recalled a conversation he had with Robertson on board the Roosevelt on the trip home: "Coach Robertson came up to me today on board ship and very apologetically admitted that he had made a terrible mistake not letting me run—in place of Metcalfe!"

But Robertson had given neither man a reason for the shift.

Glickman watched the 400-meter relay heats and final from the stands and from the press box. There he told the American press his story, saying politics and favoritism for the two Southern California sprinters was the overriding reason for his removal.

"I told the coaches there would be a big stink over Sam and me being pulled since we were the only Jews on the track team," Glickman says.

"Cromwell said: 'We'll worry about that.'"

But there was virtually no furor. The reporters were more interested in covering the event than the people involved. The only non-competition story that got much mention in the American press during the games was Eleanor Holm's removal from the swimming team by Brundage. She had been seen sipping champagne on the voyage to Germany.

Sam Stoller left Berlin saying he would never run again. But in fact he did, competing for Michigan and winning the college sprint championship. He had a fling at the movies, known as Singing Sam Stoller, and became a broadcast executive.

Owens became an American hero. During a ticker tape parade in New York, someone ran up to him and pressed an envelope into his hand. Hours later he opened it and found \$10,000. He bought his seedlings home to Ohio.

Glickman figured: "I'll show these guys in 1940." But by 1940, World War II had begun and the Games, scheduled for Tokyo, were canceled. In the fall of 1936 he returned to Syracuse where he became a football star. One day a local haberdasher asked him to do a radio program sponsored by his clothing store, hoping to cash in on the football player's notoriety, and Glickman became a broadcaster. Over the years he became the most familiar voice to New York sports fans. He maintains the tightly wound athleticism of his youth by sculling and sailing. His home is filled with mementos of his success as an athlete and broadcaster: there is no Olympic medal. He remains a consultant to HBO as well as NBC Sports.

"I still firmly believe the Olympics is one of the most important methods of bringing together the youth of the world to know each other, to love each other and understand each other," Glickman says. "I did that. But Sam and I became the unfortunate object of bigotry."

Jesse Owens legacy clouds real events

By Jean Schulte

■ **JESSE OWENS** by William J. Baker. Free Press, \$19.95.

How we Buckeyes like to crow and preen when Jesse Owens' name comes up. After all, he was a student at Ohio State University when he brought home a fistful of gold medals from the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

But we should take a closer look at what William J. Baker, a history professor at the University of Maine, has to say about the way Columbus treated its track star. Columbus, and particularly OSU beginning with the dynasty of athletic director L.W. St. John, does not win any medals under this spotlight.

In a carefully documented work, Baker relies on newspaper articles from both the black and white presses, personal interviews with Owens' friends and relatives and drawing from Owens' own books about his life.

IN 1933, when Owens first came to Ohio State, it was known among blacks as "a cracker town," a place "just like Jackson, Miss." Owens was given a job as an elevator operator in at the Statehouse to help pay for his education. He ran the freight elevator out of sight, in the back of the building, while white athletes ran the one that carried legislators. Owens was barred from a room in the dormitory because of his color. He had to live off campus on 11th Ave. in a boarding house with other black students.

The book says Owens ran into academic problems at OSU but, in the interest of a fledgling track program, he was given extra attention to maintain athletic eligi-

BOOKFARE

bility. "Self-interest and benign paternalism coexisted comfortably in the office of athletics at Ohio State," says Baker.

Baker lands hard on the motives of university officials who tried to honor Owens after he died in 1980. OSU President Harold Einarson seemed opportunistic, Baker says, when he announced, on Owens' funeral day, that three campus buildings would be named in the track star's honor. Baker sees it as a thinly veiled public relations ploy to nudge a tightfisted legislature.

BAKER DOESN'T show much sympathy for Owens either. Skeptical of Owens' accounts of his childhood, Baker seems bent on refuting them. He calls Owens, "strong on imagination."

Under Baker's scrutiny, Owens turns out to be a pathetic figure, given a brief moment of glory before being victimized by it. After Owens' Olympic victories, he received numerous offers, but somehow most vanished when he tried to track them down. At one point, for example, he was reduced to running against horses during exhibitions to make money to support his family.

In spite of the author's lusty scholarship, reading this account of the track star's life gives the same feeling as hanging over the fence with the backyard gossip. Somehow we are intrigued and tantalized by feet of clay. But at the same time we come away a little demoralized.

Jean Schulte frequently reviews books for The Dispatch.

JESSE OWENS

HE, JAMES CLEVELAND "JESSE" OWENS, WAS THE OLYMPIC LEGEND, THE MAN WHO SYMBOLIZED AMERICA'S FIRST-SALVO RESPONSE TO ADOLF HITLER'S WARPED IDEOLOGY, THE WORLD'S GREATEST TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETE, MANY HAVE SAID, OF THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY. SHE, RUTH OWENS, WAS THE LOVING WIFE.

BY DICK FENLON



COLLECTION

TIM REVELL PHOTO

They met at Fairmont Junior High School in Cleveland and wed as teen-agers in 1931. And over his lifetime, which ended on March 31, 1980, she became the unofficial curator of the Jesse Owens Collection.

It was not an easy job, for they moved several times, and along life's trail some items were loaned and never returned. Some were lost. Some merely disintegrated and disappeared, victims of the wear and tear of everyday life. Jesse Owens' track career had begun at Fairmont, continued at Cleveland East Tech and flourished at The Ohio State University — in whose behalf, on May 25, 1935, within a space of 70 minutes, he set three world track and field records and tied a fourth. It culminated during those meteoric days of August 1936, when he won four gold medals in the Berlin Olympics, intended by Hitler to showcase Nazi Germany. Then Owens returned to the young wife he had left behind and to a post-athletic career of being required, with the inevitable mixed record, to fulfill everybody's expectations of a hero.

His life was not made easier by the color of his skin, for he was a black man making it in a white man's world. He started businesses that failed. He got into trouble with the Internal Revenue Service. He displeased some who did not think he was aggressive enough in advancing the black cause. He represented clubs and charities and causes. He became, in later life, a professional speaker, delivering a standard, yet compelling, spiel on the lessons of athletic endeavor and the amateur ideal. It rarely failed to move his audiences and to further cement his special place in Olympic, and world, history.

"Dear Mr. Jesse Owens," a young man wrote on March 25, 1980, as Owens lay dying of cancer at his home in Phoenix, Ariz. "I wish you could get better but there comes a day when you go to sleep for the last time and I will keep you in my heart the rest of my life because there probly wouldn't be a Boys Club if you wouldn't have been born."

It was written on Boys' Club of Wake County, N.C., stationery and signed by "your fan" Lance C. Johnson, who added a P.S.: "Please send me a picture of you with your autograph."

We don't know if Jesse Owens ever saw it. It resides now, with many other Owens' artifacts, in OSU's Jesse Owens Collection, pre-



Below: Lutz Long, German broad jumper, left, and Jesse Owens. Bottom: Owens wins broad jump, 1936 Olympic games in Berlin. Both photos on this page are taken from cigarette-pack cards.



sented this spring to the university by his widow. It is only part of what he left behind. More will come later when she breaks down the family room at her home in Phoenix.

There are, in what Ohio State now has, items of significance and items of no significance. Photos, letters, pieces of personal clothing, trophies and reissues of lost trophies, medals, awards, commendations, reams of business correspondence, even a diary Owens began the day he and his teammates boarded ship for Berlin in 1936. Four inches by six inches, in a black leather cover, with autographs of many of his American teammates and of Larry Snyder, his coach at Ohio State and in the Olympics. One begins to read it with anticipation.

Here, at last, you suppose, is Jesse Owens's own personal account, written the day it happened, of his Olympic experience. Did Hitler really snub him? And, if he did, did Owens realize it? Did he realize the symbolism of his accomplishments — an American black striking an unwitting blow at the very foundation of Nazi Germany's racist foundation? Would there be a mention of Lutz Long, the German broad jumper who befriended him (who would later, as part of the Nazi war machine, die in Sicily, whose widow and son would after the war be visited and consoled by Owens)?

The diary sheds no light. Almost as soon as he reached Berlin, Jesse Owens stopped keeping it. The entries, until then, are of a lonely man who misses his wife and of a penny-wise traveler who paid 93 cents to have his clothes done by the ship's launderer. The last notation is for July 27, 1936. "Bull sessions with some of the boys," writes Owens. "What liars they are."

Perhaps at this point, Ruth Owens thinks, her husband merely became too busy with the challenge at hand to continue it. Seven days later, on Aug. 3, Owens won his first gold medal, in the 100 meters. The next day, he won the broad jump. The next day, he won the 200 meters. Later, he ran the first leg for the gold medal 400-meter relay team.

Whether Hitler actually snubbed Owens and the nine other blacks (they included silver medal high jumper Dave Albritton, an Ohio State teammate of Owens who lives in Dayton) is a matter of dispute. "Jesse always said the German people were very, very good to him,"

says Ruth Owens. "He always said he had nothing to say about Hitler, because he went over there to run, and run he did. Whenever he was speaking, he'd always say, 'And I'm here having a wonderful time in such-and-such a place, and where Hitler is is no concern of mine.'"

Back home, Ruth Owens became a celebrity herself. "There was only radio at the time," she recalls, "and we kept up with what was going on through it and with the help of some good newspaper friends. I stayed in Cleveland. They were having an exposition there then, and I was put onstage to greet the people and for them to see who Jesse Owens' wife was. They invited me to New York to be on Rudy Vallee's radio program. I was to talk to Jesse by telephone from there. But something went wrong with the connection. So I didn't see or talk to him until he came back."

Ruth Owens met the ship, the *Queen Mary*, 12 miles out and boarded it for the gala welcoming. Jack Dempsey, the former heavyweight champion, and Bill Robinson, the entertainer, were among other members of the American committee transported to the *Queen Mary* by tugboat. There was a celebration and parade for Owens in Cleveland and, later, a ceremony at an Ohio State football halftime in Columbus. Ruth Owens was presented a silver service "I still have and cherish," she says.

Even with the wear and tear of the years, there is much that she cherishes in the way of mementoes — but no single one, she says, of greater importance than another. "That's why I still have so many of them still hanging on the wall. Because during his illness, I could see him sitting there and gazing around. And I often wondered what was going on in his mind when he looked around and saw all that. And so I cherish it all, to the point that I think the only time I'll give it up will be when I move into smaller quarters. The children will have some of the pieces they want, and the rest of it will go to the university."

The children are Gloria, Beverly and Marlene. Marlene in 1960 was the first black woman elected homecoming queen at Ohio State. Says Ruth Owens, "That was a *real* proud moment, because when we lived in Columbus you couldn't even go

Downtown to the show or even think of staying in a hotel. So it was quite a thrill for her father and me."

There were many theater owners who wouldn't consider letting Jesse Owens watch their movies, hotel keepers who wouldn't want him sleeping there, restaurateurs who wouldn't dream of serving him a meal. Even as an Olympic legend, he remained a black man trying to capitalize on his fame and make it in a white man's society. See Jesse race the locomotive. See Jesse race the racehorse. See Jesse perform for the Harlem Globe Trotters. See Jesse quietly and with dignity struggle and cope.

"He was not a complainer," says Ruth Owens. "He had his ideas about things, and he kept them to himself, and he just tried to do good for somebody else. Once in a while, he and Dave Albritton and Mel Walker (another Ohio State teammate) would get together. And they'd talk about when they were traveling and how they couldn't eat in different places. But I only remember him showing what really happened once. When we lived in Chicago, I belonged to a bridge club that would entertain the husbands at a party every Christmas. One time, it was going to be held at the Windemere East. He absolutely refused to go. He said, 'Do you know, when I used to come here for a track meet, the white boys stayed there, and we had to stay at the Wabash Y?' And that was the only time I really ever heard Jesse say anything."

Fifty-two years later, even as another Olympiad is about to begin, this one in Seoul, South Korea, Jesse Owens' memory lives.

Ruth Owens: "He could never go anywhere without being recognized. Do you know that still exists where I'm concerned? There isn't a day that I'm in someplace and somebody doesn't say, 'There's Jesse's wife' and that someone doesn't come over and say, 'He was a wonderful man.'"

"I like to hear that. So, you see, he never dies." ■

Dick Fenlon is a DISPATCH sports columnist. Tim Revell is a DISPATCH photographer. The Jesse Owens Collection is housed in the Division of Rare Books and Manuscripts in The Ohio State University Libraries. Persons interested in examining the collection can call 292-5938.

House panel considers bill for Jesse Owens gold medal

By R. Chris Burnett
Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A House subcommittee is considering legislation to authorize a congressional gold medal honoring Jesse Owens, a former track star at The Ohio State University and Olympic gold medalist in 1936.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio (Cleveland), and supported by 229 other House members.

In testimony yesterday before the House Banking Consumer Affairs and Coinage Subcommittee, Stokes, former Republican Rep.

Samuel A. Devine of Columbus, and Owens' widow, Ruth, endorsed the bill. At OSU, Devine was a teammate of Owens, who died in 1980.

Stokes said, "In 1936 black ghetto youth such as myself had few heroes to look up to or aspire to be like."

Stokes recalled being in Cleveland and watching Owens ride by and wave to the crowd. Owens was from Cleveland.

Owens, in 1936, became the first athlete to win four gold medals in a single Olympic Games.



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JESSE OWENS EXHIBIT OPENS

COLUMBUS -- A collection of photographs and memorabilia from Jesse Owens' life -- beginning with his junior high track days and continuing through the Olympics and beyond -- will be displayed for the first time anywhere at The Ohio State University Libraries' Philip Sills Exhibit Hall.

The exhibit opens Friday (4/7) and will remain in place until June 9. The Sills gallery is located in the Main Library at 1858 Neil Avenue Mall.

Jesse Owens sprinted, hurdled, and broad jumped for Ohio State in 1935 and 1936. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the university in 1972.

"The exhibit includes a facsimile of the bronze Olympic torch used in the 1984 games. The torch was given to Owens' wife, Ruth, by the Los Angeles Olympic Committee. The Berlin games in 1936, where Jesse Owens won four gold medals, were the first games for which the torch was lit in Olympia, Greece, and carried to Berlin by 1,000 runners, running 1,000 meters each," explained Raimund Goerler, university archivist and compiler of the Jesse Owens exhibit.

-more-

Also included in the exhibit are trophies, photographs and awards documenting Owens' life during and after the Olympics.

"One of the photos taken at the Berlin Games shows Jesse standing on the stage with the other winners. While Germany's long jump silver medalist, Luz Long, is giving a Heil Hitler, Jesse is in the foreground clearly saluting the U.S. flag," said Goerler.

The collection also includes drawings of Owens' running form sketched by the late Charles Riley, Owens' Fairmount Junior High School track coach in Cleveland.

"Riley coached Owens into the best possible form for his physique," Goerler said.

One case in the exhibit is devoted entirely to the Owens family's Ohio State connection. Not only did Owens attend Ohio State, but two of his three daughters are alumnae. His daughter Marlene Rankin serves on the board of directors of the university's Alumni Association.

Ruth Owens has placed the Jesse Owens collection in Ohio State's care. Portions of the collection that are not included in the exhibit, including letters, speeches and a diary kept by Owens during the Berlin Games, are available for review in University Libraries' Special Collections area in the Main Library.

The exhibit may be viewed during regular hours at Main Library. The library is open weekdays from 7:45 a.m. to midnight, Saturday from 8 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to midnight.

#

Contact: Raimund Goerler, university archivist, at (614) 292-2409.

Written by Toni Robino

(Toni/128)



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UNIVERSITY HONORS RUTH OWENS

COLUMBUS -- Ruth Owens, widow of track star Jesse Owens, will be honored for her support of The Ohio State University at 4:30 p.m. May 12 in 102 Main Library, 1858 Neil Avenue.

Owens' visit coincides with the Jesse Owens exhibit in the library and the Jesse Owens Track Classic May 13 in Ohio Stadium.

The exhibit, which opened April 7, features a collection of photographs and memorabilia from Jesse Owens' life -- beginning with his junior high track days and continuing through the Olympics and beyond.

Jesse Owens sprinted, hurdled, and broad jumped for Ohio State in 1935 and 1936. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the university in 1972.

Ruth Owens did not attend Ohio State, but two of her three daughters are alumnae. Marlene Owens Rankin serves on the board of directors of the university's Alumni Association.

The reception honoring Ruth Owens and the library exhibit are free and open to the public. There is an admission charge for the Jesse Owens Track Classic.

#

Contact: Liz Wheatley, director of Friends of the Libraries, at (614) 292-3387.

Jesse Owens' widow to visit star's display

By Tara Anne Powers
Lantern staff writer

Students can view some of the history made in 1936 by OSU track star Jesse Owens in the lobby of the Main Library. But if students want a first-hand account, Mrs. Ruth Owens, widow of Jesse Owens, will be visiting the exhibit today.

"We decided to put an exhibit out in conjunction with the Classic and we wanted to have Mrs. Owens here to thank her and show her that we appreciate it that she thought of Ohio State," said Elizabeth Wheatley, director of Friends of the Libraries.

Mrs. Owens agreed to store memorabilia with the university in 1987.

Included in the collection are memorabilia from Owens' years at Ohio State as well as the diary he kept on his trip to the 1936

Olympics in Germany.

"Technically the collection is on deposit," said Raimond E. Goerler, university archivist.

Because of the Owens' long-standing ties to the university and the positive response to the exhibit, Goerler said he hopes the exhibit will become a permanent part of the university archives.

The exhibit, on display until June 9, includes a chronological account of Jesse Owens' accomplishments, as documented by photographs, papers, medals and other artifacts.

"When you walk through the area, you usually can get an idea of how popular an exhibit is . . . there have always been a lot of people in this area looking at the exhibit," Wheatley said.

The reception will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the administrative area of the Main Library. The event is open to the public and refreshments will be served.



Photo by Lloyd Lemmermann

A classic moment

A DISPLAY of four Olympic gold medals brings back memories for Ruth Owens, widow of legendary runner Jesse Owens. Ruth Owens, visiting Columbus for the Owens Classic track meet May 13 and 14, discusses the display in the Main Library with Raimund Goerler, University archivist.

CAPTIONS FOR THE JESSE OWENS EXHIBIT

NOTE: The numbers that preface each caption represent exhibit location destinations for the captions and should not be typed on the actual caption.

1.1 Wes Boomgaarden, Preservation Officer for the OSU Libraries, with Mrs. Ruth Owens and the Owens Collection in Scottsdale, Arizona (November 1987).

1.2 Mrs. Ruth Owens and Raimund Goerler, University Archivist, reviewing the travel diary that Jesse Owens kept on his way to the Olympics at Berlin in 1936.

1.3 Two of the four gold medals won by Jesse Owens during the Olympic Games of 1936.

2.1 Torch given to Mrs. Ruth Owens at the Olympic Games at Los Angeles in 1984.

2.2 Trophy awarded to East Tech High School in Cleveland by the Ohio High School Athletic Association in 1933. Jesse Owens was a stellar member of the track team.

2.3 Tankard presented to Owens in 1955 as ambassador of sport during his tour of India, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

2.4 "Hard Hat" worn by Jesse Owens during ground-breaking ceremonies for the 1976 Olympics at Montreal.

2.5 Trophy awarded by the Boy Scouts of America, an organization for which Jesse Owens spoke frequently.

3.1 Fairmount Junior High School had an extraordinary influence upon Jesse Owens. There he met his track coach, Charles Riley, who did much to help Jesse excel in track. This early photograph shows Riley (top center) with the Fairmount track team and Owens (3rd row seated, 3rd from the right) in approximately 1928. He also met his future wife, Ruth, at Fairmount Junior High.

3.2 Charles Riley coached Jesse Owens into the running style best suited to him. This photo and the drawing by Riley illustrate the scrupulous attention to form that influenced Owens.

3.3 Jesse Owens (first row, right center) with the championship track team at East Tech High School, ca. 1933.

3.4 Jesse Owens with OSU track coach Larry Snyder, who also helped Owens at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. Owens was a running sensation well-before the Olympics, having broken three world records and tied a fourth at Ann Arbor on May 25, 1935.

3.5 Owens ready to run in 1934.

3.6 Hurdling in 1936.

4.0 The Olympics at Berlin in 1936 more closely resembled the games of today than any of its predecessors. Adolf Hitler had intended that the Olympics would serve as a showcase for Nazi Germany and spared no expense in the lavish preparations.

Owens and other male athletes stayed at a specially constructed and elaborate Olympic Village, complete with a library, hospital, theatre, and swimming pool. Meanwhile, the female athletes were at a dormitory near the Olympic Stadium.

The ceremonies and contests of the Olympics were filmed comprehensively and artistically by Leni Riefenstahl. Her film, "Olympia" was the fullest pictorial record of the Olympics ever created to that time. An effort was even made to "televis" the games to the Olympic Village and to eighteen locations in Berlin but with unsatisfactory results.

In the Olympic games at Los Angeles in 1932, the tradition of beginning the games by igniting the Olympic flame was begun. In 1936 at Berlin the lighting of the Olympic flame actually began with the lighting of a torch at Olympia in Greece, where a thousand runners, running one kilometer each, carried the torch to Berlin.

This exhibit case and the one to the left concern the Olympics of 1936.

4.1 Owens (right) running laps on the Manhattan, on the way to Berlin in 1936. During that voyage, he kept a diary which is part of the collection received from Mrs. Owens in 1987.

4.2 Owens with OSU coach Larry Snyder in Berlin.

4.3 Owens in full stride in the final heat of the 200 meters dash, in which he set a new Olympic record and a new world record.

4.4 Owens setting record of 8.06 meters in the long jump. Signs show previous Olympic and world records.

4.5 Owens receiving the baton in the 400 meter race, for which he and the U.S. team won the gold.

5.1 Owens relaxing with Luz Long of Germany, the silver medalist in the long jump.

5.2 Worker recording the feats of Owens in the mall of honor at Hitler's Reichssportsfeld in Berlin. Owens won gold medals for his victories in the 100 meter dash, the 200 meter dash, the long jump, and the 400 meter relay race.

5.3 Ticker tape parade in Cleveland, 1936.

6.0 Even though Jesse Owens was a hero to his country and to the world, it proved to be difficult for him, or any black athlete in the Great Depression, to transform Olympic fame into a livelihood that would support him and his family.

Following the Olympic of 1936 and during the remainder of the 1930's, Owens organized and managed a black basketball team "the Olympians," worked for the Parks and Recreation Department in Cleveland, owned a dry-cleaning business, worked as a salesman of men's clothing, and finally returned to OSU as a student in 1940, withdrawing in 1941.

When World War II began, Jesse Owens became director of the National Fitness program in the Office of Civilian Defense. From 1943 to 1945 he worked for the personnel office of the Ford Motor Company in Detroit. Finally, in 1949 Owens moved to Chicago and established a public relations agency. Much of his livelihood came from speaking engagements where he talked about the importance of athletics in fostering pride, discipline, and teamwork. While in Chicago, he was very active in youth groups, becoming a director of the Chicago South-Side Boys Club in 1951. His involvement with youth and athletics led to his appointment Secretary of the Illinois State Athletic Commission.

The Olympics and the world of international competition remained an important aspect of the life of Jesse Owens. In 1955 he toured India, Malaysia and the Philippines as part of the International Educational Exchange Service of the U.S. Department of State.

In 1956 President Eisenhower appointed Owens his personal representative to the Olympics at Melbourne. Thereafter, Owens attended the Olympic contests with regularity. Interest and involvement led to his joining the Board of Directors of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Owens did much to publicize the Olympics and to raise money in support of U.S. participation.

This case and the one to the right illustrate the post-Olympics career of Jesse Owens.

6.1 In 1937 Owens signed a contract with Consolidated Radio Artists as an entertainer.

6.2 Owens with the troops, 1940's.

6.3 At a track clinic in Munich, West Germany, 1953.

6.4 Demonstrating good running technique in India, 1955.

6.5 With a youth group in Rockford, Illinois during the 1950's.

6.6 Demonstrating the proper use of the hands while running. This demonstration took place during a news conference in 1965 when the New York Mets baseball team hired Jesse Owens as a running and fitness coach during spring training.

7.1 Relaxing in Olympia, Greece, 1969.

7.2 Jesse Owens played an important role in the design and publicizing of the sale of Olympic commemorative coins, which helped to finance the participation of athletes from the United States in the Olympics.

7.3 Another major activity during the 1960's and 1970's was the ARCO Jesse Owens games. Sponsored by the Atlantic Richfield Company, the games began in 1964 as athletic contests for boys and girls from ages ten to fifteen. Beginning first in Chicago, the annual event now involves more than a million youngsters each year in many towns and cities.

7.4 Medal awarded in the ARCO Jesse Owens games.

7.5 Four years after the death of Jesse Owens in 1980, a movie, "The Jesse Owens Story" appeared on television. Dorian Harwood played the role of Jesse Owens.

8.0 Jesse Owens and his family have had close ties with The Ohio State University. During his lifetime, Jesse Owens spoke frequently to alumni groups. In 1953 his daughter, Gloria, received her BS in Education from OSU. In 1960 daughter Marlene was the homecoming queen and graduated in 1961 with a BS in Social Work. Students elected Jesse Owens an honorary member of the senior honor society Sphinx in 1965. Owens served on the OSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and in 1965 received its Alumni Citizenship Award. So active and known for his good works was Jesse Owens that OSU awarded him an honorary doctorate of Athletic Arts in 1972.

After his death in 1980, the University renovated and dedicated the Jesse Owens track in Ohio Stadium and renamed its four recreational facilities in his honor. The Jesse Owens Track Classic has been an annual event since 1983. In 1984 the university dedicated Jesse Owens plaza and its sculpture in front of Ohio Stadium. Finally, in 1987 Mrs. Ruth Owens deposited the papers, medals, photographs, and artifacts of Jesse Owens with the OSU Libraries.

8.1 Jesse, Ruth and Marlene Owens at Homecoming Ceremonies in 1960.

8.2 Jesse Owens receiving honorary Doctorate of Athletic Arts, December 1972.

8.3 Mrs. Owens, OSU President Harold Enarson, and daughters Gloria, Marlene and Beverly during dedication ceremonies for the Jesse Owens track and recreation centers, October 1980.

8.4 Commemorative Plaque for the Jesse Owens Track.

8.5 Dedication program for Jesse Owens sculpture and plaza, 1984.

8.6 Boxes containing the Jesse Owens Collection awaiting shipment from Scottsdale, Arizona to the OSU Libraries (1987).

8.7 Football program for the game during which the Jesse Owens track was dedicated.

President awards Owens with honor

By Mary R. Hale
Lantern staff writer

President Bush will be presenting Ruth Owens, widow of past Ohio State and Olympic athletic hero Jesse Owens, with Congress' highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, this morning at the White House.

Owens is being awarded the medal posthumously for recognition of his athletic achievements as well as his work for civil rights and humanity.

In addition to becoming the first athlete to receive four gold medals in an Olympics, Owens devoted much of his life speaking on the virtue of fair play and advocated the power of sports to bridge differences between races, classes, and cultures.

"Jesse Owens' contributions to American sports, society, and history are invaluable," said Rep. Louis Stokes, (D-Ohio), creator of the legislation authorizing the medal for Owens. "It is only fitting that the congress and the president should honor this American with his fifth and final gold medal."

The ceremony will be attended by President Edward H. Jennings, Stokes, and several of Owens' teammates from his years on the OSU track team, including former

Ohio congressman Samuel Devine.

Joyce Larkin, spokeswoman for Stokes, said in order to award the medal, legislation must be introduced and accepted by two-thirds of Congress. She said Stokes introduced the bill in 1986.

The bill was passed in September 1988 by the Senate, and Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, (D-Ohio), served as the author.

"The reason for the delay since the time the legislation was passed is because the Bureau of Mint, which produces the medal, confers with the family of the recipient for the design of the medal," Larkin said.

The medal is given as a tribute for what are considered to be distinguished achievements, Larkin said.

The medal contains a facial picture of Owens on the front, and a picture of Owens competing in one of his Olympic events on the back, she said.

The first medal was given to George Washington in March of 1776 when he served as commander of the Continental Army. About 108 medals have been awarded since that time, Larkin said.

Owens joins baseball Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente and heavyweight champion Joe Louis as sports legends to whom the medal has been awarded.



Four-time Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens.

file photo

Medal honors Owens

By George Embrey
Chief, Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Bush, presenting a special Congressional Gold Medal to the widow of the late Jesse Owens yesterday, compared it to the Nobel Peace Prize given to former President Theodore Roosevelt.

Bush recalled that Owens' track triumph at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin "was an unrivaled athletic triumph, but more than that, it really was a triumph for all of humanity."

"The Berlin games were to be the showplace of Hitler's theories on the superiority of the (Aryan) master race until this 23-year-old kid named Jesse Owens dashed to victory in the 100, the 200 and the 400-meter relay," Bush said.

Those victories and his win in the broad jump made Owens the first Olympic competitor to win four gold medals. The fact that he was a black shattered Hitler's racial claims.



AP file photo

Jesse Owens

Bush showed Owens' widow, Ruth of Cleveland, the Nobel Peace medal in the White House's Theodore Roosevelt Room given for Roosevelt's contribution to world peace, helping end the Sino-Soviet War.

"This gold medal sends the same kind of a message," Bush said.

Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio (Cleveland), sponsored the legislation to strike a special medal honoring Owens.



POSTAL NEWS

FOR RELEASE ON JULY 9, 1990

Contact: Art Shealy

(with one photo)

(202)268-2783

OLYMPIC SPONSOR, U.S. POSTAL SERVICE HONORS FIVE OLYMPIANS WITH COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

WASHINGTON, DC (July 9, 1990) Jesse Owens, Ray Ewry, Hazel Wightman, Eddie Eagan and Helene Madison, five of America's greatest Olympians, are achieving renewed recognition on the U.S. Postal Service's newest commemorative stamps. The stamps launch the Postal Service's expanded international philatelic program and signify its worldwide sponsorship of the 1992 Olympic Games in Albertville, France and Barcelona, Spain.

The featured athletes, all Olympic competitors from the first half of this century, earned gold medals and acclaim long before the age of television brought instant and lasting fame. The latest stamp issuance marks the first time that individual Olympians have been honored on commemorative postage stamps.

"These were five outstanding athletes and their accomplishments are deserving of additional recognition," says Gordon C. Morison, Assistant Postmaster General for Philatelic

- more -

and Retail Services. "With the exception of Jesse Owens, their names and their Olympic achievements have, for the most part, been lost in time. The issuance of these stamps is one way that we, as an official Olympic sponsor, can pay tribute to our American Olympic heritage."

Born near Decatur, Alabama, James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens' feats are legendary. At the 1936 Berlin Games, his four gold medals in the long jump, 100 and 200 meter runs and the 4x100 meter relay shattered not only records but also Hitler's myth of racial superiority.

The five Olympic commemorative stamps were issued July 6, at the opening ceremony of the U.S. Olympic Festival in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Olympic theme was highlighted on postage stamps as early as 1932, then again in 1960, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1984 and 1988. Previously, Olympic stamps featured generic images of athletes performing in events ranging from skiing to long jumping to kayaking.

In order for individuals to appear on postage stamps they must have been dead for a minimum of ten years. Deceased U.S. Presidents can be commemorated on stamps as soon as the first anniversary birth date following their death.

PRINT FILE
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JESSE STAMPS: July 1990
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COLUMBUS RECOLLECTIONS

Owens' feat still vivid in memory

For The Dispatch

The annual **Jesse Owens** Classic always stirs memories of my former classmate.

I recall one evening in the '70s when Jesse sat in our living room and said, "When I was at Ohio State, the old Ohio Union on 12th Avenue was the only place, on or off campus,

where I was welcome to eat my hot dogs."



**BOB
THOMAS**

I asked John Moore, captain of the 1935 OSU track team, for some memories about his teammate.

"The greatest day in track history," Moore said, "was made on May 25, 1935, in 70 minutes at the Western Conference (Big Ten) meet in Ann Arbor, Mich., where Jesse Owens broke three world records and tied another."

Owens' records that day were made in the 220-yard dash, the long jump and the 220 low hurdles. He tied the world mark in the 100-yard dash.

Not to be forgotten is the role of Larry Snyder, Owens' track coach at OSU. He helped develop Owens into the winner of four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics.

TIMELINE





In his schoolboy years, James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens became an unparalleled track star, dominating meets for Cleveland's East Technical High School. *Cleveland State University, Cleveland Press Collection*





THE GREATEST DAY

Jesse Owens at Ann Arbor

by Steven P. Gietschier

Countries around the world have their Olympic heroes, the men and women who streaked to fame by winning the coveted gold medal in the international games. Long after the quadrennial flame has been extinguished, these champions live on, honored for their triumphs and admired across the generations.

Ohio has had its share of victorious Olympians, as well. From nearly every sport in which Americans have excelled — archery, basketball, boxing, figure skating, ice hockey, rowing, swimming, and track and field — have come superior Buckeye athletes who have used their special talents to reach the pinnacle of success and celebrity.

But even fame is relative, and at the peak stands Jesse Owens. For more than a half-century, his four gold-medal performances at the 1936 summer games in Berlin have stood as a supreme Olympic achievement. In the track-and-field competition,

Owens led East Tech to state high school championships in 1931, 1932, and 1933. The 1932 season was also marked by numerous personal achievements. Owens equaled or broke records in the long jump, 100- and 220-yard sprints, and as anchorman for relay events. *Ohio State University Libraries, Rare Books and Manuscripts*

Herman Sued, Photographer



he won the 100 meters, the 200 meters, and the long jump as well as running the first leg in the four by 100-meter relay. As one of a group of African-American athletes belittled in the German press as the “black auxiliary,” Owens poked an irreparable hole in the myth of Aryan supremacy. At the games’ end, Owens left Nazi Germany not just a hero but a legend.

The most casual sports fan knows of Owens’s place in the Olympic pantheon. As politics and sports seem to become more intertwined, the black sprinter’s showdown with the twisted theories of Adolf Hitler stands out as an eloquent statement against bigotry. But few remember that Owens’s Berlin exploits did not catapult him from obscurity. He was already a hero, perhaps the most famous amateur athlete in the world, a status he had attained while competing for Ohio State University at the 1935 Big Ten championships in Ann Arbor.

When James Cleveland Owens was born on September 12, 1913, his hometown was just a speck on the map of northern Alabama. Oakville was, as Owens recalled later, “more an invention of the white landowners than a geographical place.” The center of town was a store where black sharecroppers like Henry and Mary Emma Owens could buy on credit the things they needed to plant a crop and

feed their families till “picking time.” Come each December, the storekeeper, who also happened to be the landlord, would total their debt and conclude that the revenue from the cotton and the corn they had harvested just didn’t seem to cover it. The Owens family with its ten children — James Cleveland was the youngest — was bound to the land, seemingly forever.

Henry Owens had seven sons to help him with the farm work and to tend the family vegetable garden. But the boys also played. They swam, hunted, fished, and joined in baseball games against neighboring communities. The youngest brother, soon called J.C., took a particular pleasure in running. “I wasn’t very good at it,” he remembered, “but I loved it because it was something you could do all by yourself.”

Simple pleasures aside, sharecropping kept families on the rack, and the Owenses were no exception. Henry grew to loathe his fate but equally to fear any alternative. When Mary Emma suggested that they abandon Oakville and join the northward exodus of other blacks, Henry recoiled. “We’d never make it,” he insisted. “We’d starve.” His wife persisted, though, and set her sights on Cleveland, Ohio. Soon enough — the exact year is uncertain — the family was on its way.



At the beginning of his senior year in September 1932, Owens joined East Tech's football backfield. Although the sprinter later suggested that he might have become a star halfback, at the time he found the contact sport not to his liking, and he soon gave it up.

Cleveland State University, Cleveland Press Collection

Owens did not compete as a high jumper in high school, stepping aside for his friend Dave Albritton. Instead, he focused on the long jump. His best jump as a high school student, although not recognized by the high school athletic association, was 24 feet 11 1/4 inches. It was completed at an intracity meet in Cleveland in 1933. Owens set Ohio's high school long jump record of 24 feet 3 3/4 inches at the state meet that same year, a record unbroken for forty-four years.

Cleveland State University, Cleveland Press Collection



According to Owens's biographer, William J. Baker, more than sixty-five thousand Alabama-born blacks lived in the north by 1920. Many settled in the industrial Midwest, and nearly a third wound up looking for employment in Ohio factories. One of the Owens daughters had moved to Cleveland earlier and found both a job and a husband. After their arrival, Henry and three of his sons went to work in a steel mill, and young J.C., still of elementary school age, took a job in a shoe repair shop. More importantly, he got a new name as his teacher at Bolton Elementary School transformed his drawled "J.C." into "Jesse."

Southern black migration accounted for more than a third of Cleveland's population increase during the 1920s. African-Americans coming north were undoubtedly swayed by tales of racial tolerance, but the illusion faded as the black presence grew larger. A color line was drawn in the city's public accommodations, and some Clevelanders were eager recruits for the revived Ku Klux Klan.* Bolton was an integrated school, but black students were a minority. The principal, guessing that the new arrival from Alabama could not read, put Jesse in the first grade with children two and three years younger.

Jesse never developed into more than a marginal student, but, after a few years, he moved on to Fairmount Junior High School. There he met

Charles Riley, the school's track-and-field coach, a man who would influence his life substantially. Riley befriended Jesse and nearly made him a member of his family. Jesse returned the affection and later called his white mentor "as much a father to me as Henry Owens was."

Riley got Jesse to come out for the track team and to take extra practice before school each day. Soon the coach's training techniques and motivational parables meshed with Jesse's natural talent. He ran two unofficial 100-yard dashes in an astounding 11 seconds, and in 1928 he set world records for junior-high athletes in the high jump and the long jump. Riley also introduced Jesse to Charley Paddock, winner of the gold medal in the 100 meters at the 1920 Olympics and an early claimant to the title "the

*See: *TIMELINE*, March 1994.

world's fastest human." When Jesse expressed his desire to emulate Paddock, Riley encouraged him but counseled patience. "Train," his motto was, "for four years from next Friday."

To Jesse's great good fortune, Riley was able to move with his protégé when he enrolled in the vocational curriculum at East Technical High School. Track appeared to be his only escape from a life demarcated by the deepening economic slump that gripped Cleveland before the Great Crash and threw his father and brothers out of work. Riley hooked on at East Tech as an assistant to a rookie track coach who had never run competitively. From this vantage point, he guided the maturing sprinter to a string of triumphs that caused the *Cleveland Gazette* to laud him as "the outstanding track man in northeastern Ohio." The coach matched his charge against superior competition whenever possible. After Jesse's junior year, he tried to qualify for the 1932 U.S. Olympic team, but came up empty in the 100 meters, the 200 meters, and the long jump. After the games, though, he met a group of touring Olympians in Cleveland, won both sprints, and took second in the long jump.

In 1933, Jesse's senior spring, he proved that Riley's four years from next Friday had arrived. He put the icing on an extraordinary scholastic career by winning all his events at the state championships and setting a national high-school record in the long

Owens's greatest performance as a high school athlete took place at the Amateur Athletic Union's national interscholastic track meet in Chicago in mid-June 1933. His 220-yard dash in 20.7 seconds and long jump of 24 feet 9 5/8 inches both destroyed world records for high school boys. Owens also anchored his school's half-mile relay team, which set a new meet record. But his personal climax and the meet's, shown here, was running the 100-yard dash in 9.4 seconds, equaling the world record. Owens had been bothered by severe leg cramps the night before and competed with only twenty minutes rest between events. *Ohio State University Athletic Department*

jump. His leap of 24 feet, 3 3/4 inches eclipsed the old mark by more than 3 inches. At a June meet in Cleveland, he extended his long-jump standard to 24 feet, 11 1/4 inches, won the 100- and 200-meter dashes, and anchored a victorious 880-yard relay team.

Later that same month, Jesse led East Tech to the national high-school championship in Chicago. He won the long jump, set a scholastic world record in the 220 (20.7 seconds), and tied the world record of 9.4 seconds in the 100-yard dash. As a postscript to these superlatives, Jesse took on Olympic silver medalist Ralph Metcalfe in the 100 meters at the national AAU championships. Metcalfe nipped him at the tape.

When he finished high school, Jesse Owens was as close to a national sensation as a young athlete could

East Tech's celebrated relay team consisted of Dave Albritton (upper left), Owens, Jerry Williams (crouching), and Alfred Storey (seated). Coach Ed Weil (right) was a former college gridiron player who welcomed Charles Riley's aid with his fleet-footed charges. *Cleveland State University, Cleveland Press Collection*





Coach Riley

Owens acknowledged Charles Riley, coach and physical education instructor at Cleveland's Fairmount Junior High, as the man "who made all the difference in his life," training him "to become a man as well as an athlete." Riley, a slight, taciturn man who, when he did

speak, "had some little saying to fit the situation," hailed from the eastern Pennsylvania mining town of Mauch Chunk. Neither of his own sons were athletes, and Riley enthusiastically took the young Jesse under his wing, investing long hours outside the classroom in his training and bringing him food to supplement the meager fare he was getting at home.

The "spindly little colored boy" first caught Riley's eye when, as a seventh grader, he ran 220 yards in 27 seconds flat. None of Riley's previous students had ever done it in less than 30. Initially, Jesse's running form was terrible, his stomach out and his head down. Riley rigged up a "harness," a broad belt connected to the gym wall by a rope, to teach the runner to keep his stomach in, his chest out, and his head forward. Jesse was a quick study; still, it took years to refine and establish consistency in his form. To Riley, his most significant contribution was teaching Owens to relax during a sprint, a point he demonstrated by taking the youth to observe horse races. This fostered the smooth, fluid style for which Owens would later be known. Evidence of its success can be seen in the innumerable photographs of Owens's remarkably tranquil countenance as he crossed the finish line in front of wildly grimacing opponents.

David A. Simmons



He'll Go to the Post in Press-A. A. U. Meet Sunday



Black, Miami Superior Press-A. A.

Holder of State Record Entered for Duke at West Tech

UNTIL today, brilliant legian who holds the pionship and the existing a class by himself for The on West Tech Field Sund. But when the complete list of scheduled today by Jimmy Lee, unpretentious-sounding name of. Therewith arose the prospect ever witnessed in the pale vault arena.

A product of the farm near to Miami University in south Ohio, not long ago and made started the populace by hoist himself over the bar at 12 feet inches, within nine inches world record, to set a new 11 footman record. When it is remembered that vaster vaulting the highly respected Buckeye C. Terence had for many years been drawing raves of awe by merely penning the 12-foot mark, the performance can be better appreciated. It can be still better appreciated by comparing it to the north Ohio district record of 12 feet, inch which was registered by Lee Allen last year. Lovell has scored to 12 feet 4 1/4 inches this season that makes Sunday's prospect still all the more promising.

The Ravens athlete, incidentally, is also a broad jumper of merit, best mark for this event is 22 11 inches.

White Path Tendon, Disappoints Owens

Just when sprint fans were wiring their appetites for the meet of Jesse Owens and the only 11 boy who has ever conquered him senior high school, Frank White Lakewood, the latter informed J my Lee today that he had pulled tendon in his leg and will be unable to run.

Jack Keller, the cyclonic C State hurdler, is another who miss the meet because of an injury. He fell in one of the preliminary heats in the national intercollegiate carnival at Chicago last week.

Marathon Runners Drive at Case Club

Plans for the 10-mile marathon from the Art Museum to West Tech field and arrangements for dining accommodations of all athletes in the meet were drawn up yesterday by the A. A. U. committee charge. Chuck Immel will marshal of the endurance event.

The Cleveland Press and the Northeastern Ohio AAU co-sponsored a statewide track "carnival" in June 1933. Newspaper executives took advantage of Owens's fame to hype their event. Anticipating some record-breaking performances, the meet's manager sent the five official stop watches off to be factory-certified.

Ohio Historical Society

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Lower but Higher

ed to .500 Mark by Indians, Nearer Than They Were Year Ago

CLARK BELL, The Press Sports Editor, current baseball gossip, supply excellent proof of the American League pennant race has tightened up yesterday, 11 to 1, the Mackmen dropped to the even today the Macks were in second place, nine games out they were eight and one-half games behind the ace.

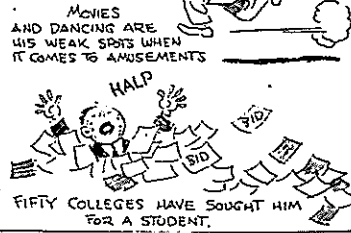
et, the Mack and one-half game and they are that close to fault team and staff.

c Indiana were comes behind today they are ers behind. A even closed up ed their rivals.

the mound berth after Earnshaw had departed in favor of a punch-hitter.

The Indians probably will not have the services of Dick Putter for a day or two, the outfielder wrenching a knee yesterday in one of three half-slides into second base. Joe Vannik got back into the ball game and delivered himself of a double that scored a run.

Canzonieri and Ross End



Champ Florio Reminds of

By DON GODLEY

SPRINGFIELD, O., June 22.—and consequent unpopularity ran- bat

Johnny Florio, Ohio state amateur, lies. With both the stigma set had

as a spur to better golf.

Rarer is just one of eight pretty good Cleveland golfers who were in the field at the start of the first round of match play this morning. He qualified with 79-76-135.

Daring Cycle

Explosion



Owens, here registering, did not disappoint the promoters, stealing the show from the more than three hundred athletes, many of them collegians. His time of 10.4 seconds in the 100-meter race was only a tenth of a second short of the world record. Cleveland State University, Cleveland Press Collection



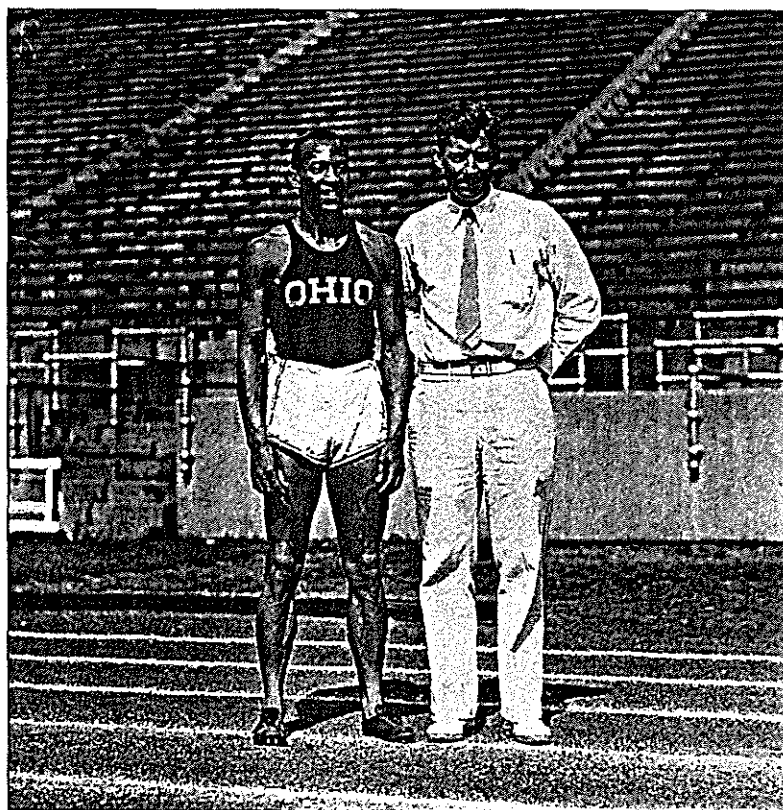
The Owens family was living in a frame duplex at 2178 East One Hundreth Street when Jesse left for college. His mother, brother, and two of his sisters were posed on the steps of their home by a newspaper photographer. Henry Owens was absent, out looking for work. The publicity brought job offers, and Henry accepted a position at the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company's garage. *Cleveland State University, Cleveland Press Collection*

be before the advent of television. His records would be good enough to last more than twenty years. But more important was his sleek, graceful style and quiet demeanor, qualities that captivated those who saw him compete in person. The *Gazette* offered the opinion "that the spectators scarcely realized that anyone else was on the field." A victory parade staged by the city of Cleveland completed Jesse's transformation from local phenomenon to celebrity.

To the dismay of African-American leaders in the Midwest, Owens decided to continue his track career at Ohio State, a school with a reputation for racial intolerance. Several colleges had approached Owens, but no traditional black institution was among them. Riley expressed a preference for the University of Michigan, but Owens chose Columbus. His reasons were complicated, but they apparently included, in the era before track scholarships, a position for himself as an elevator operator in the statehouse and some promise of a job for his father.

Ohio State had only one men's dormitory in 1933, and Owens was not allowed to live in it. Neither he nor any other black student was welcome in the restaurants along High Street, the main thoroughfare bordering the campus. At the statehouse, Owens was assigned to a freight elevator, out of public view. Still, the young man from Cleveland persevered, under the guidance of Larry Snyder, a former Buckeye track star who had become head coach in 1932. Even before Owens could run for him, Snyder arranged a series of paid public speaking engagements and other odd jobs that, in combination, brought Owens a healthy monthly income.

Continued on page 17

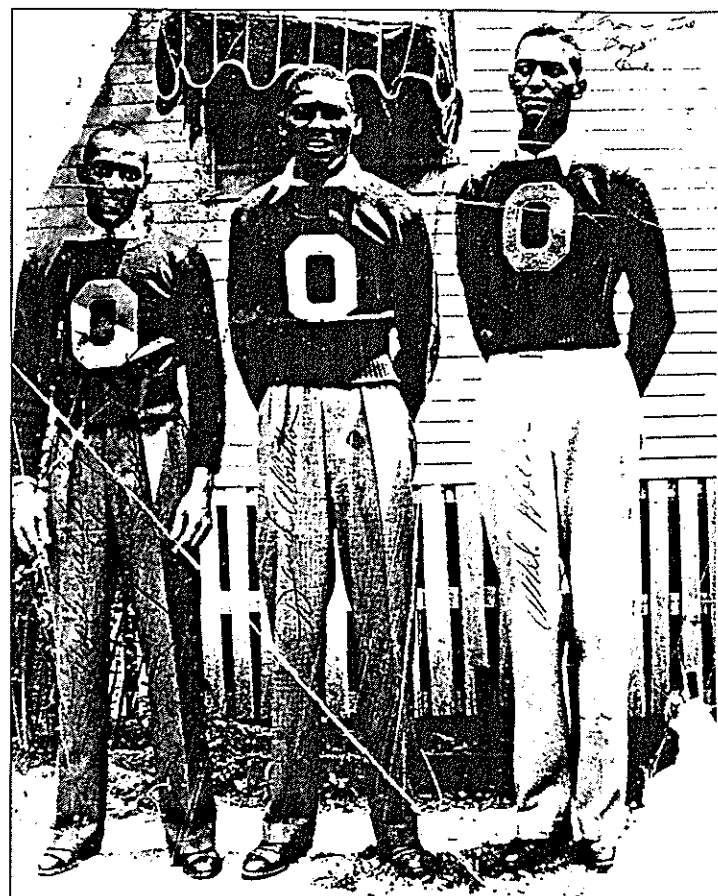


Owens's OSU mentor was track coach Larry Snyder. Snyder was himself a former standout at the university. He barely missed qualifying for the 1924 Olympics as a high hurdler because of an injury and held Ohio State records in the hurdles, high jump, and long jump. He was, nonetheless, an inexperienced coach when Owens enrolled and, because of the runner's fame, felt pressured. Snyder focussed on Owens's starts, improving his concentration on the starter himself and tightening up his stance. Snyder also worked to correct Owens's arm motion while sprinting and insisted on a vigorous leg movement during long jumps. Coach and pupil became lifelong friends. *Ohio State University Photo Archives*

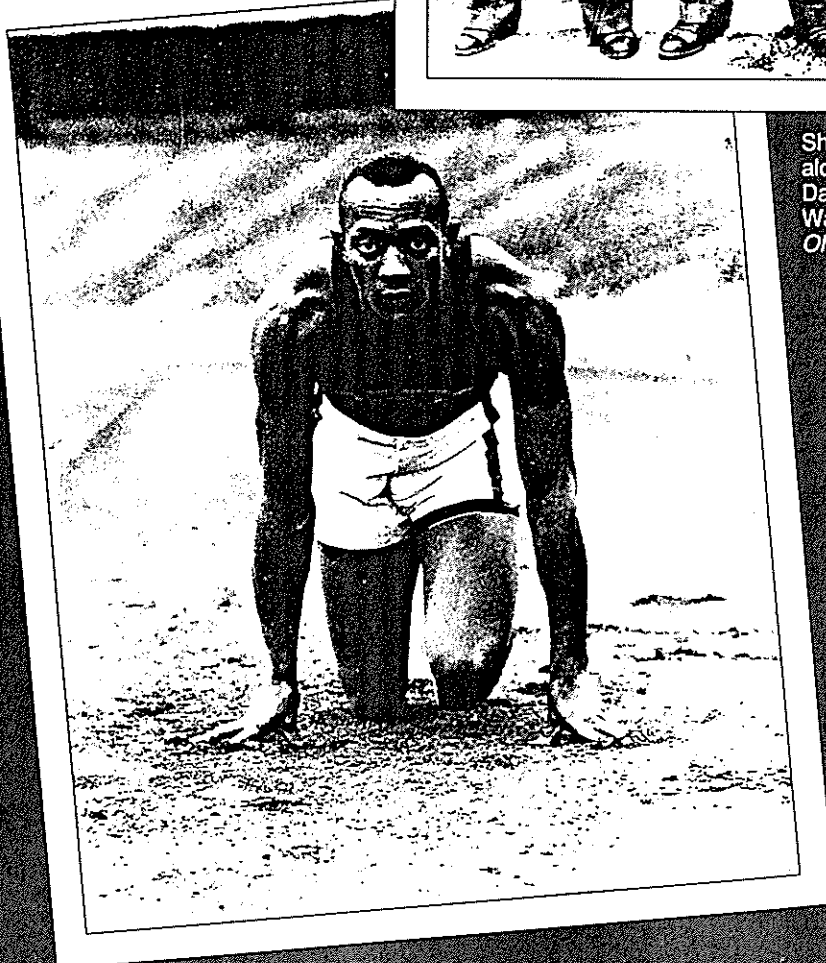
A Jesse Owens Album



Riley and Owens at a Hamilton, Ontario, track meet in the late summer before classes started at Ohio State
Ohio State University Libraries, Rare Books and Manuscripts



Showing off his new letter sweater alongside Ohio State classmates Dave Albritton (center) and Mel Walker (right)
Ohio State University Photo Archives

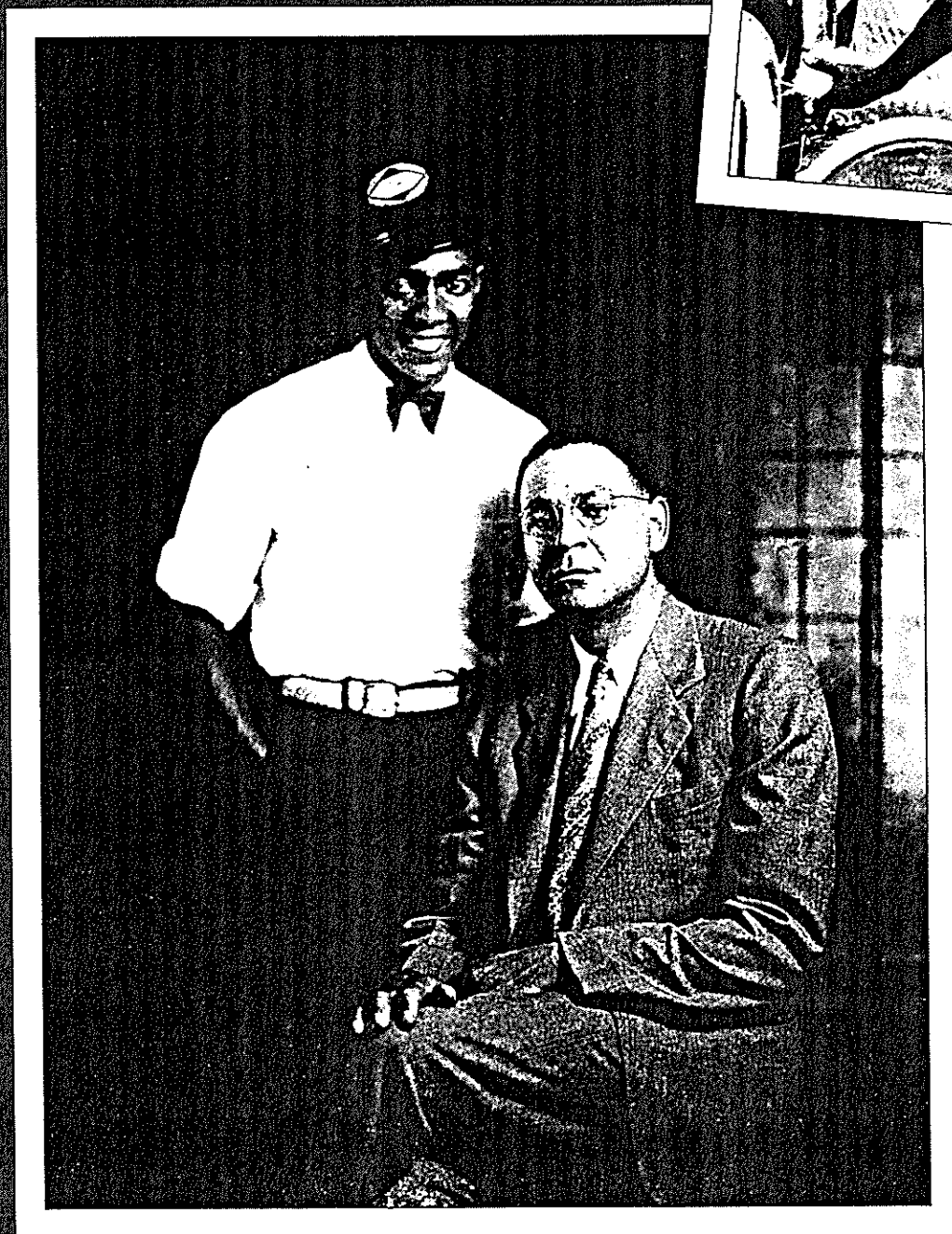


Getting ready in Ohio Stadium, 1934
Ohio State University Photo Archives

At the Sohio station on the corner of East
Ninety-second and Cedar in Cleveland
*Ohio State University Libraries,
Rare Books and Manuscripts*



With a part-time employer during his college years,
Cleveland businessman Alonzo Wright
Western Reserve Historical Society





Crossing Ohio Stadium's finish line, 1935 *Ohio State University Photo Archives*

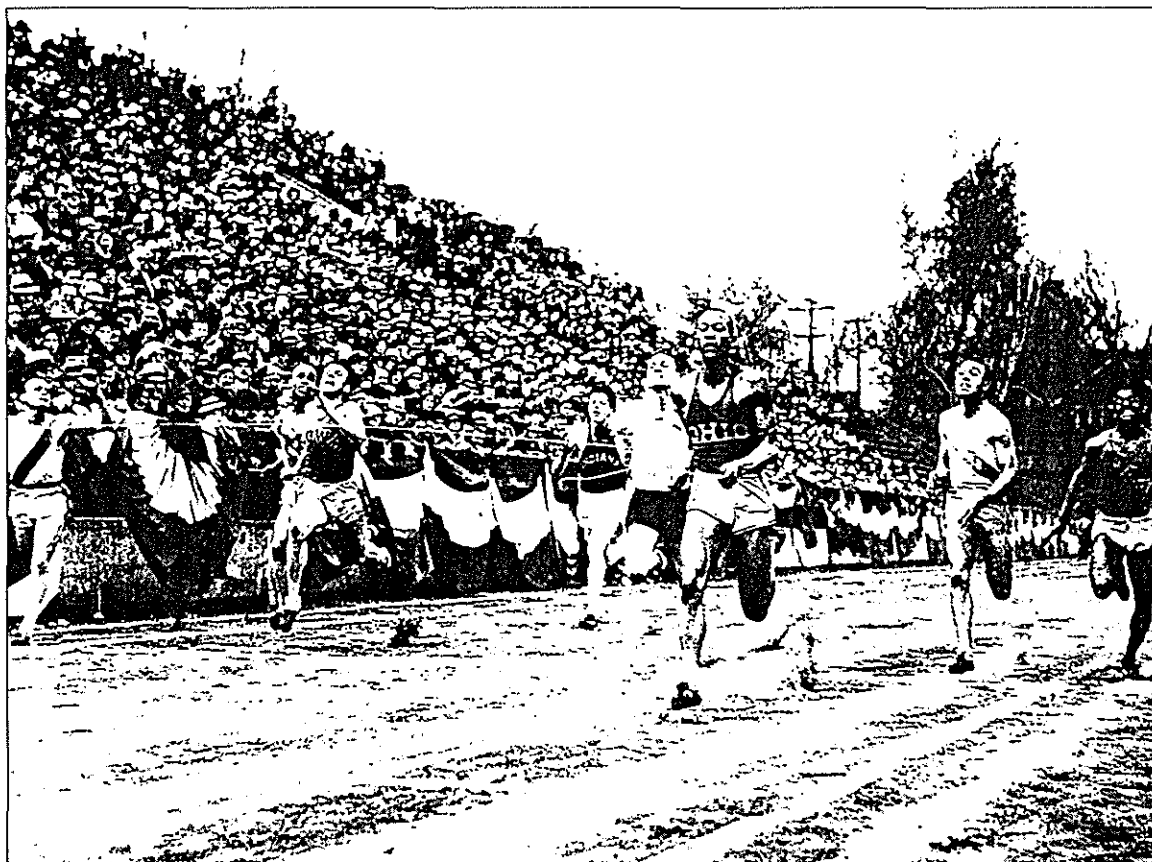


Thrilling fans with another gravity-defying long jump
Cleveland State University, Cleveland Press Collection

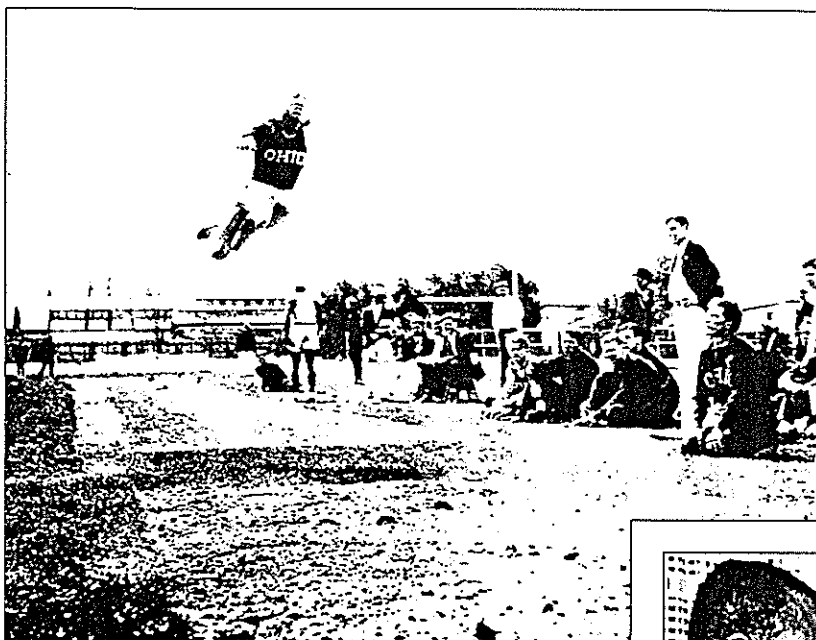


A familiar spot: the long jump sand pit
Cleveland State University, Cleveland Press Collection

Winning the
100-yard dash
at the
Drake Relays,
Des Moines,
Iowa,
April 27, 1935
Cleveland State
University,
Cleveland Press
Collection



May 25, 1935:
a new world record
in the 220-yard
dash — it stood until
1952
Cleveland State
University,
Cleveland Press
Collection



May 25, 1935: a new world record in the long jump — it stood for a quarter-century
Ohio State University Athletic Department

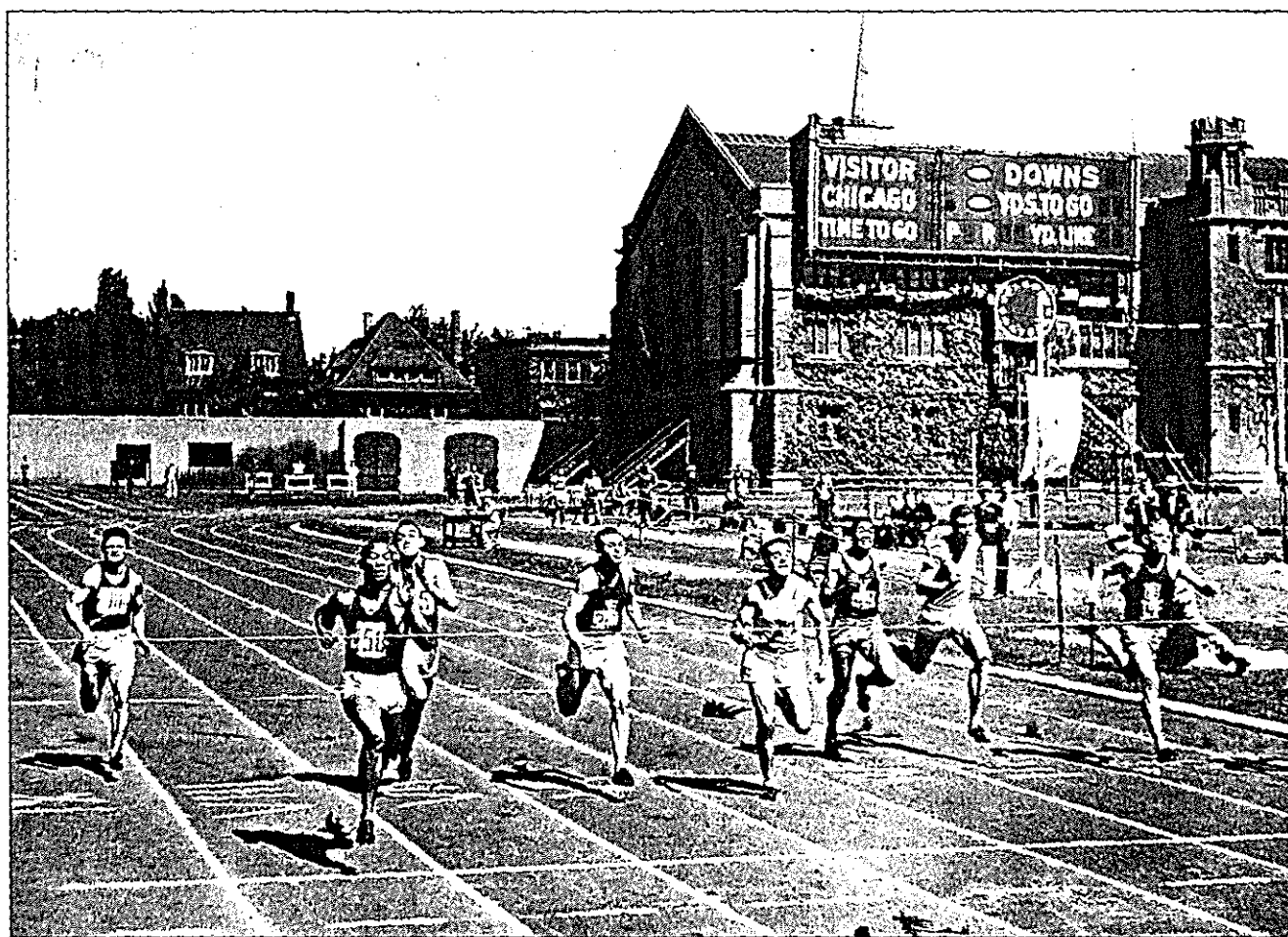
Marriage to Ruth Solomon on July 5, 1935,
 the Reverend Ernest Hall officiating
*Cleveland State University,
 Cleveland Press Collection*



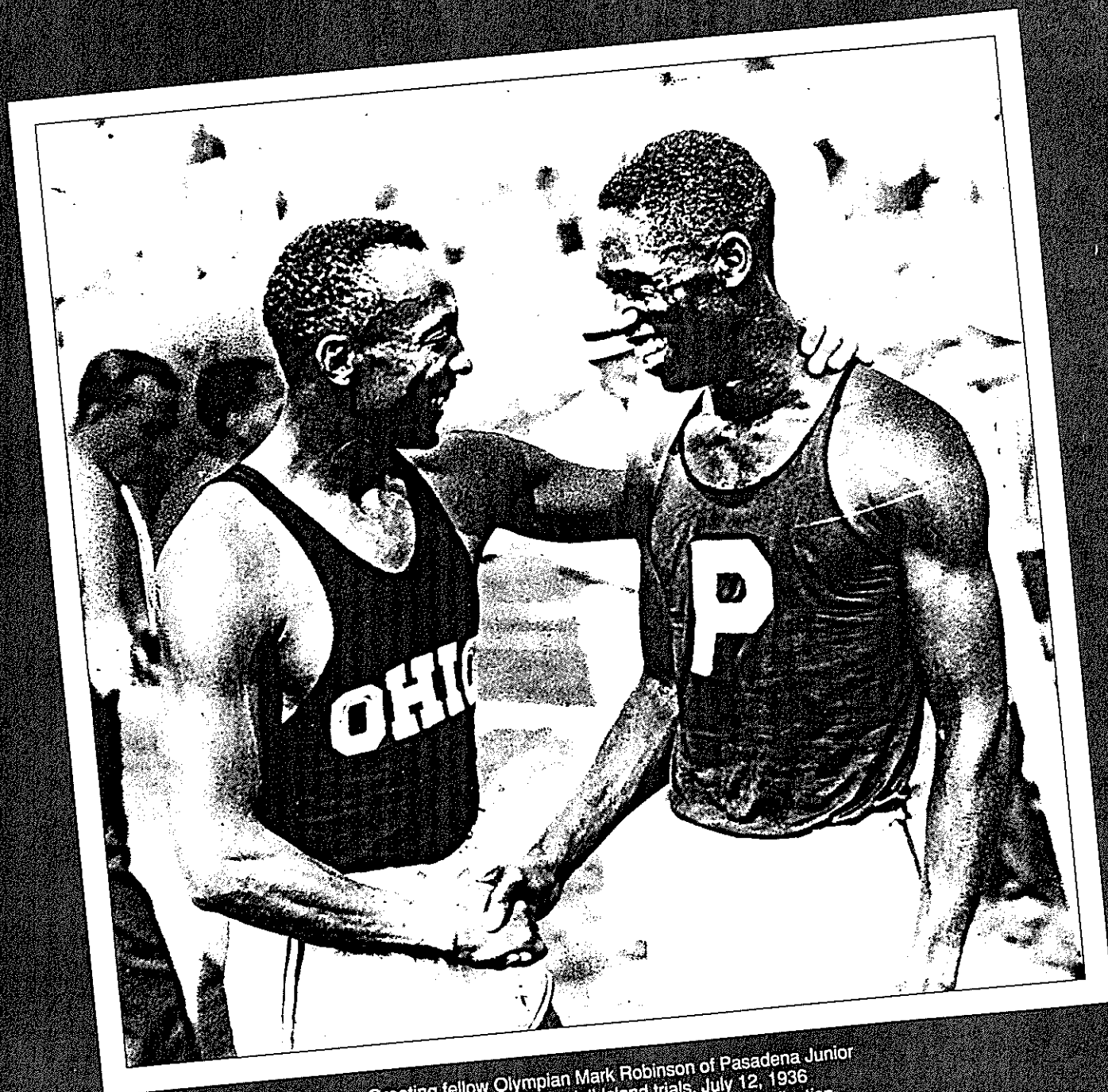
Winning the 100-yard dash at the
 Big Ten track meet in Ohio Stadium,
 April 23, 1936
*Cleveland State University,
 Cleveland Press Collection*



The Penn Relays in Philadelphia.
April 25, 1936
Cleveland State University.
Cleveland Press Collection



A new world record in the 100-meter run at the National Collegiate Athletic Association meet in Chicago, June 20, 1936
Cleveland State University, Cleveland Press Collection



Greeting fellow Olympian Mark Robinson of Pasadena Junior
College at the Randall Island trials, July 12, 1936
Cleveland State University, Cleveland Press Collection



With a family to support, the world's most famous runner attempted to cash in on his record-breaking Olympic performances. Numerous and repeated promises of jobs and contracts turned out to be nothing more than "hash." Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, shown here with Owens and the Cotton Club Chorus in Harlem, did try to foster the athlete's entertainment career.
Ohio State University Athletic Department

Continued from page 9

Snyder took over where Charles Riley left off. He liked much of what he saw, thanks to Riley's excellent tutelage. Snyder had only to correct Owens's arm motion and to improve his start. Freshmen could not then participate in varsity athletics, so Owens was limited to a series of open meets and exhibitions during the spring of 1934.

He wowed a large crowd on May 5 by long jumping 23 feet, 10 3/4 inches, and running a special 120-yard race against the clock. Timers stationed at 90, 100, and 120 yards caught him in two unofficial record times. Later, at a Big Ten freshman meet in Columbus, Owens set new conference records in all three of his events: 9.6 seconds in the 100, 21.0 seconds in the 220, and 24 feet, 10 inches, in the long jump.

Owens's varsity career began in February 1935 with the indoor season. Ohio State had no indoor training facilities, so his results were a bit checkered.

He often entered four events, adding the 70-yard high hurdles to his usual repertoire, and sometimes he won all four. At New York's Madison Square Garden, he beat Ralph Metcalfe for the first time in the semifinals of the 60-yard dash. But Ben Johnson of Columbia University nipped Owens in the final.

As track moved outside for the spring, Snyder attempted to hype interest in Ohio State's team by arranging another special exhibition for Owens. This time he ran a timed 100 yards, but began his sprint 20 yards behind the starting line. Three watches clocked him in an astounding 8.4 seconds, and 12,000 fans, taking the bait, turned out for the Buckeyes' next dual meet against Notre Dame.



Ruth Owens posed with the track shoe her husband wore at the Big Ten meet in Ann Arbor. The shoe had been bronzed and made into a trophy.
Cleveland State University,
Cleveland Press Collection

Thus, when the Big Ten championships rolled around on May 25, Owens was accustomed to publicity and acclaim. But nothing he had accomplished previously could have prepared the spectators at Ann Arbor's Ferry Field for what they were about to witness. Generally described as the greatest day any individual has ever had in the history of track and field, Owens's feat included setting three world records and tying a fourth, all in the space of a single hour and all achieved despite a back injury that nearly forced him to withdraw from the meet.

The 100-yard dash final came first at about 3:15 p.m. Running without benefit of starting blocks, Owens defeated Bob Grieve of Illinois by five yards, an enormous margin in this event. The announced time, 9.4 seconds, tied Frank Wykoff's mark set in 1930, but Owens truly ran faster than that. All three

official stopwatches caught Owens closer to 9.3 than 9.4 seconds, but the rules of the day mandated the higher fraction. The timers also may have heeded the head official's admonition to "watch for the back foot. See it cross the finish line, and then press the old forefinger."

The Michigan crowd applauded Owens's victory politely and gave a warmer reception to former Wolverine and double Olympic gold medal winner Eddie Tolan as he came down from the stands to congratulate the new champion. But Owens's day had just begun. He moved to the long-jump pit right in front of the stands and had a friend place a white handkerchief at the 26-foot mark. Observers knew that only three men had even reached that distance, but, on his first jump, Owens soared past the marker with graceful ease. His heel came down 26 feet, 8 1/4



Ever proud of family, alma mater, and country, Jesse returned with Ruth to Ohio Stadium in the autumn of 1960 to witness the crowning of their daughter, Marlene, as the university's first black homecoming queen. His positive outlook never faltered until he was claimed by lung cancer in March 1980.
Ohio State University Photo Archives

inches beyond the take-off board, toppling the world record of 26 feet, 2 1/8 inches, by Japan's Chuhei Nambu by more than half a foot. This time the crowd exploded in celebration.

At 3:45 Owens took off after Roland Locke's 1926 record of 20.6 seconds in the 220-yard dash. He hit the tape ten yards ahead of Iowa's Andrew Dooley and was timed in 20.3. Barely fifteen minutes later he did it again, winning the 220-yard low hurdles in 22.6 seconds, smashing the existing standard by 0.4 of a second, again a huge margin for a race so brief.

When Owens's time was announced, the crowd stormed onto the field to congratulate him. Buckeye trainer Tucker Smith rescued Owens and hustled him into the locker room. In the stands Charles Riley shed a tear of joy, left the stadium, and cranked up his Model T Ford. Owens showered and climbed through a window to avoid the crush of more admirers. Together, as they had done so many times in the past, he and Riley drove home to Cleveland. Shortly after breakfast the next morning, reporters arrived at the Owens home and, in a certain sense, they never really left. Owens went on to additional victories that spring at a dual meet against the University of Southern California and at the NCAA championships in Berkeley. Berlin lay more than a year in the future, but Jesse Owens's star was already shining brightly. **UL**

COLUMBUS RECOLLECTIONS

Two sports stars excelled — even in enemy territory

For The Dispatch

College and professional athletes are always looking for the performance that's "one for the books."

Ohio State track star Jesse Owens and Michigan football great Tom Harmon got their wish.

Interestingly, their stellar performances took place on the other's turf: Owens on the track in Ann Arbor, Mich., on May 25, 1935; Harmon, at Ohio Stadium on Nov. 23, 1940.

Many called Owens' performance "the greatest day in collegiate track history." At the Western Conference (Big Ten) meet, Owens broke three world records (200-yard dash, long jump and hurdles) and tied another (100-yard dash).

Hometown finally honors Jesse Owens

11-2-94

BIRMINGHAM — About 100 of us sit atop Red Mountain in what may well be the city's most exclusive meeting room. Heavy rain clouds hamper the spectacular trademark view from The Club, its chalk-colored, private walls a familiar landmark in the shadow of the statue Vulcan. But no matter.

Alabama Gov. Jim Folsom is here. Dr. LeRoy Walker, president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, is the keynote. U.S. Rep. Tom Beville is here. Business leaders and public relations



**RHETA
GRIMSLEY
JOHNSON**

specialists are here. Blacks and whites, high-profile and regular folk, all here, eating orange rolls and chicken with a fancy menu name.

It's a little hard to comprehend. We are gathered together in a pre-fund-raising luncheon for a 17.5-acre Jesse Owens Memorial Park in his hometown of Oakville, Ala. The dignitaries are outdoing one another in expressing support for the park project.

Beville says he's "proud to tell people I represent the county (Lawrence) where Jesse Owens was born."

Folsom says he's real excited the Olympic torch may pass through Oakville, population 200, on its way to Atlanta in 1996.

Nobody dares mention the real birth of this Owens' tribute more than a decade

ago. It began as a sadly typical racial dispute when white Lawrence County officials refused a request to allow a monument honoring Owens on the courthouse lawn. They said they feared "a flood of similar requests." Of course that wasn't it.

(As if they worried about running out of grass if every Lawrence County Olympic legend who had won four gold medals and single-handedly made a fool of Hitler wanted to stake a spot.)

No congressman took Jesse's part then. No governor. They cleared the briars from a corner of cow pasture and poured homemade walks. Before the little obelisk could be unveiled, hoodlums in a pickup truck tried to pull it down. But the ceremony came off on schedule, with singing and rejoicing. There was much

joy in Oakville.

I realize all this is ancient history. Communities and leaders can mellow, see the light. It's never too late to do the right thing. The support for a first-rate park now appears solid and bi-racial.

Even cautious white politicians sense that it's all right in 1994 to recognize the greatness of Alabama's own international star Jesse Owens.

Beville might have stumbled on part of the truth. "You know, we've got some really livewire citizens there," he said, meaning Oakville and the nearby county seat, Moulton. They have "seized upon the tourism value."

There are some \$1 million plans. There will be a statue, a playground area, a nice running track. It must sound good to a rural county that could use visitors.

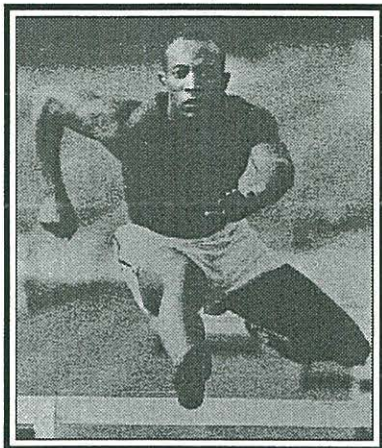
And any Alabama business or individual should be honored to contribute. Real heroes like Jesse Owens are rare, maybe even obsolete.

But I hope that somehow in the stampede to unveil Jesse in time for the 1996 Olympics that everyone remembers how this thing stumbled off the blocks. That someone gives credit to the Oakville Masons in the humble cinderblock meeting hall who didn't have money, only vision and determination.

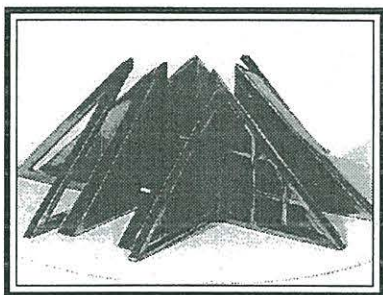
From an Oakville cow pasture to Birmingham's The Club is 80 miles or a million. Depending on the measure you use.

Rheta Grimsley Johnson is a columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and United Feature Syndicate.

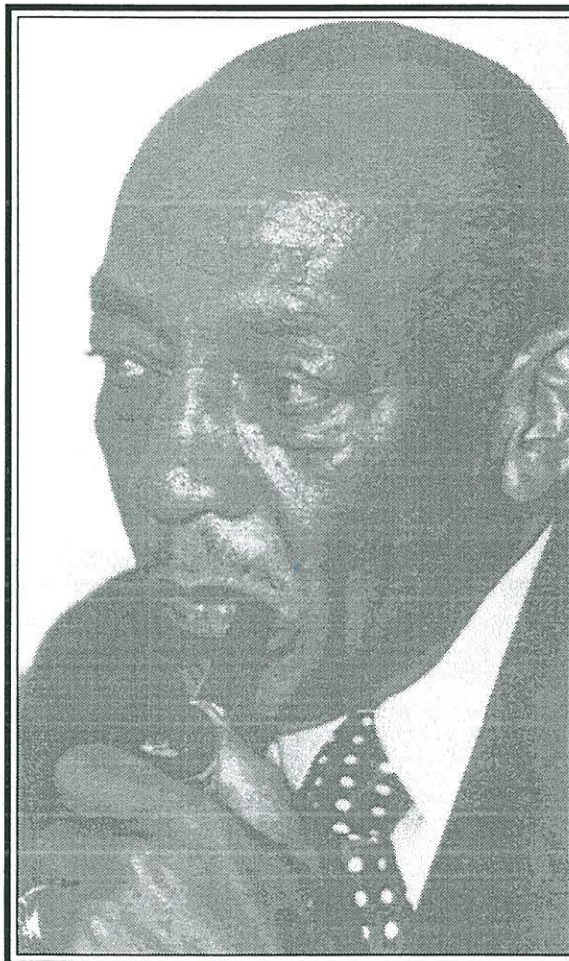
WINNERS CIRCLE



JESSE OWENS, the world's greatest track and field athlete, was also a world class hurdler.



CELEBRATION for a Champion sculpture, OSU Jesse Owens Plaza.



Jesse Owens, 1913 - 1980

One name headlines the history of Ohio State University and international Olympic track and field championships: Jesse Owens. His unparalleled accomplishments, his charisma, captivating voice, and charm, his untiring support of youth make him a true hero model for today's generation.

The legendary Owens came to Ohio State University from Cleveland in 1933. But how many people know that Jesse Owens lived on the Hilltop during those days? Yes, he stayed at 292 S. Oakley Ave., in the heart of our Hilltop community. A plaque was dedicated at the site in May to honor the Hilltop's most celebrated world sports figure.

The Hilltop Reunion Committee is pleased to proclaim the high Winners Circle honor that belongs to Jesse - his wife, Ruth - and his three lovely daughters, Gloria, Beverly, and Marlene.

Owen's fabulous career began in junior high, where he set national records in both the high jump and broad jump (now called the long jump). At Cleveland East Tech High School, he set scholastic world records in the 220-yard dash, the broad jump, and tied the world record in the 100-yard dash. As an OSU sophomore, he completed the greatest feat in the history of track competition by setting three world records and tying a fourth in only 70 minutes. The world remembers Owens for his Olympic feats in 1936. He destroyed Hitler's Aryan race superiority myth by winning gold medals in the 100 and 200 meter dashes, the broad jump, and as a member of the 400-meter relay team.

In 1976 President Gerald Ford presented him with the U.S. Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1988. Jesse best represents the character and nobility of our Hilltop Winners Circle enshrinement.

SOUVENIR PROGRAM
1995

HONOREES BANQUET

"PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK"

**HILLTOP
REUNION**

6:30 p.m., Friday, June 16, 1995
Berwick Party House

sponsored by
THE HILLTOP REUNION COMMITTEE, INC.

NOTE: The Hilltop is a neighborhood off West Broad Street in Columbus, Ohio.

Riverfront

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1995



DAILY Photo by Scott Trigg

Jesse Owens Memorial Park in Oakville getting ready for torch run.

On track

Jesse Owens' hometown readying for torch

By Lesley Farrey Pacey
DAILY Staff Writer

OAKVILLE — James Pinion could use some of Jesse Owens' speed right now. Pinion and a few others have nine months to transform an empty 17.5-acre field into an elaborate memorial park for the track and field star of the 1936 Olympics.

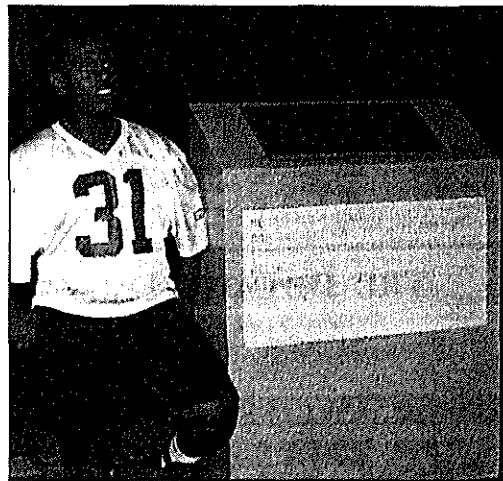
It must be ready June 29, when the Olympic torch blazes through here. If it isn't finished, the world will surely know it.

► Oakville excited about torch run, **B7**

through park plans covering his desk at the Auburn Extension Service in Moulton. "We've got a lot of unanswered questions and when you get to thinking about that, it sort of gets you worried."

Pinion, who got involved because as county agent he does rural development work, is looking for a project "engineer" to help

"Our window is getting smaller and smaller, we have just nine months and a lot to do," said Pinion, sifting



DAILY Photo by Lesley Farrey Pacey

Franklin McDaniel at the Jesse Owens monument in Oakville.

make the miracle happen. His team of helpers include 10 others on a park committee.

So far, the park honoring Owens'

birthplace is mostly on paper — plans, drawings, grants. The vac-

Please see **Track**, page **B6**

Owens Park has struggled for 13 years

By Lesley Farrey Pacey
DAILY Staff Writer

OAKVILLE — Seventeen-year-old Franklin McDaniel spent his childhood waiting for a Jesse Owens Memorial Park that never came.

"I was about this big when they started talking about it," he said, holding his hand out near his thigh. "All these years, I haven't seen nothing yet."

McDaniel — who lives across the street from the future site of the park and a cow pasture away from the Jesse Owens memorial — said tourists who visit Oakville usually share his disappointment.

Nearly 60 years after the son of a black Lawrence County sharecropper won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics, shattering Adolf Hitler's dream of Aryan su-

Please see **Park**, page **B6**

Park

Continued from page B1

premacy, the only marker of Owens' birthplace is a brick display case filled with memorabilia and two chest-high granite monuments that mark the former site of his boyhood house.

"They say, 'This is it?'" McDaniel said. "It's embarrassing to say the park hasn't gotten started yet."

But an elaborate change is on the way. A 17.5-acre memorial park for Owens — which will include a sculpture, a replica house, a museum, ball fields and other recreation facilities — is set to open June 29 for the Olympic torch run.

Some people say the county has come along way in 13 years since a Lawrence County Commission in 1983 voted 3-0-1 against putting a Jesse Owens monument on the courthouse lawn.

The decision led to the monument's placement in Oakville.

Commission Chairman Clyde Cameron recommended the commission approve of placing the monument on the courthouse square.

But Commissioners Wayne Sutton and Rayburn Beck supported Oakley Lanier's request to deny

state Rep. Roger Dutton's proposal to place the monument on the square.

Commissioner Pleas Hill, the only commissioner to openly support the proposal, abstained from voting because he said he was outnumbered by three "no" votes. All the commissioners were white.

The three commissioners who voted to deny, said the decision was not race-related.

Lanier said he voted "no" because Oakville residents wanted the monument in Oakville.

He had said he fears many groups would try to have a monument placed at the courthouse. Sutton, who seconded the motion, said "I voted my conscience."

Beck said he is opposed to honoring individuals — white or black — with markers on the lawn.

But even with the progress, things haven't changed that much, said McDaniel.

"It is quiet here at night — there's no trouble — but when things like this start or there's an article about Jesse Owens, there's prejudice."

McDaniel said residents at a recent community meeting were concerned white racists would vandalize or tear down a new bronze sculpture of Owens, which

will be unveiled at the park opening.

"They think it is going to get pulled down by the prejudice people," said McDaniel, an easy-going Speake High School football player.

McDaniel said chips in the memorial left by vandals and tire tracks in the grass nearby prove racism still exists.

He said fights between blacks and whites at a basketball court near the monument forced the community to move two basketball goals inside the empty, gated park.

When the Owens monument went up here in 1983, Oakville residents had to chase away vandals who wrapped a chain around the granite monument before its dedication, trying to rip it from the ground. The incident left chips still visible today.

But ask the chairman of the Jesse Owens Park Committee if racism is still a problem and he tries to dismiss the question.

"Negative talk isn't good for the state. It's not good for anyone," said Therman White, a community leader. "That is something we don't bother to discuss. This is brand new day and time and I don't look back or talk about it."

White, who is black, was speaking for the rest of the community when he said, "We speak with one voice — everything else has been said

before." Some residents in the community referred questions about the park to White.

Owens' cousin Marvin Fitzgerald also did not want to talk about past struggles, saying he's said too much in the past. But the Oakville resident did say, "I'm proud that the park is happening because it is long overdue. It should have happened 10 years ago."

What the men did not want to address was the County Commission vote and the vandalism attack on the monument.

Since then the community has come together, buying the 17.5-acre tract for \$17,200 in 1990 and donating it to the county for the Jesse Owens Park. It was in 1990 that park committee members asked the Auburn Extension Service for help.

Now, an 11-member committee made up of blacks and whites from the extension service and the Oakville community, is working to get the park ready to open next summer for the torch run. Members say they have full cooperation from the County Commission and state legislators.

Owens' daughter Marlene O. Rankin, who is executive director of the Jesse Owens Foundation in Chicago, said she admires the local group for overcoming racial and fi-

nancial barriers and doing something meaningful for the community.

She plans to attend the park opening with her mother, Ruth Owens, her sisters and other family members.

"We think the people of Lawrence County are to be commended for a 14 year struggle and for demonstrating perseverance in the face of such adversity and really coming close to their goal. They've really come a long way and we admire them for having undergone such a struggle."

"It's a wonderful story of a very small community pulling together with a mutual dream, bringing to bear what they had to make it happen. The fact that it is an integrated group doing it is also exciting."

Lawrence County Agent James Pinion, spokesman for the Park Committee, said the park project has put Oakville on the state map this year. He said Lawrence County is proud to claim Owens as its own.

Pinion, who is white, said he hasn't seen the racist element McDaniel is talking about. "I hope it's not out there." But he added

any vandalism would be prevented by hiring a museum curator and night watchman for the new park.

"The past 14 years don't have thing to do with what we're doing ... The only negative thing I've heard is 'Why haven't you done this sooner?' That's from blacks, white all races."

Owens' only living sibling, 81-year-old Sylvester Owens of Euclid, Ohio, is looking forward to being here for the torch run and the park dedication. His first trip back to Alabama in 72 years was in October and he said he found no more prejudice here than in Ohio.

"I think it's a long time coming under the circumstances, but I don't have any bad feelings about it," he said of the park. "There was prejudice and so on at that time. But things have changed for the better."

If they haven't, McDaniel said Oakville residents will protect the park and the memory of their most famous citizen.

"This is our community, we're not going to let anyone ruin it," he said. "Jesse Owens made something out of himself, there's no use in ruining it."

Track

Continued from page B1

ant field on rural Lawrence County 203 off Alabama 157 is freshly mowed and partially leveled, exposing its red clay.

But save for an occasional cow "moo," the future park is eerily quiet. The only indication of things to come is two rusty basketball hoops, a gate bearing Olympic rings and a "Jesse Owens Park" sign.

The park was a five-year plan squeezed into 1½ years when it was announced the torch run would come through Oakville. The local committee campaigned to get the torch run here, using the park as leverage.

Now with international attention focused on the community, the committee is feeling the weight of their task.

The plan includes a bronze statue of Owens surrounded by a Gold Medallion court representing the four gold medals Owens won in the 1936 Olympics; a replica house; a museum; a baseball field; a basketball court; a running track; a welcome center and pavilions. A street into the park, parking lots, bathrooms, and sewer and electricity also are needed.

The committee has already received about \$196,000 in state and federal grants. The group may get another \$50,000 of an Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act grant. Another \$95,000 in private and grant funding is paying for a sculpture.

But the committee still needs about \$200,000 for the museum and another \$100,000 for a running track. Pinion said he is trying to get a corporation like Adidas — which made Owens' running shoes — or Mercedes or Bell South to sponsor

the museum. He said corporate sponsorship would mean a promise of funding fast.

Pinion said despite the tight deadline, he's optimistic the committee — made of Oakville residents and Auburn Extension service employees — will have most everything together by the torch run. He hasn't ruled out cutting corners.

"If we don't have bathrooms, we could use portables," he said. "And I'm still uncomfortable about the museum."

Owens' family is donating memorabilia for the museum. Other items for the museum will come from Ohio State University, where Owens went to school. Pinion does not yet know how the museum will be set up.

Things are looking good for the statue. Birmingham sculptor Branko Medenica is a few months away from finishing a running replica of the track and field great.

Another main attraction at the park is the replica house. Pinion said he and other committee members found an old board-and-batten, tin-roof house that resembles the one Owens lived in as a boy in Oakville.

The three-room house will be moved to the park this month and restored, mostly by volunteers. The house will be placed on a spot about 300 yards from where Owens was born to sharecroppers. "They picked cotton on that hill behind where the house will go."

Owens' only living sibling, 86-year-old Sylvester Owens, described the house to Pinion and other committee members. The house has two bedrooms and a kitchen — just like the Owens' house.

Sylvester said his parents slept in one bedroom with a pot bellied stove nearby and he and Jesse slept on the floor in the other room. The

only other room was a kitchen with a wood-burning stove.

But Sylvester — who will be at the event with his family — doesn't seem worried about the status of the park project or Pinion's ability to pull it together. He said the project has "come alive" since he was here a year ago and he calls Pinion "one of the nicest men who ever lived."

"I think this is one of the nicest things that could ever happen to the Owens family — getting this for my baby brother," Sylvester said from his home in Ohio.

"The only thing that will keep me from coming to Alabama is if the good Lord takes me to heaven — or to hell," he said with a laugh.

(B7)

THE DECATUR DAILY, Sunday morning, September 17, 1995

Oakville residents excited about torch visit to city

By Clyde L. Stancil
DAILY Staff Writer

OAKVILLE — People are excited about the possibility of the Olympic torch passing through their small community, bringing the world spotlight on the birthplace of Olympic track great Jesse Owens.

"I like the idea," said Rayford Taylor, an Oakville resident. "I've never seen one before. I think the people are real excited."

The excitement is about the event and the effect on the area once the torch has passed.

"Magnificent," said Therman White, an Oakville resident and president of the Jesse Owens Park Committee. "It's going to do a lot for the whole county and the state of Alabama. We have some tourism now, but this will have an impact."

White and members of the park committee met several times with the Olympic Committee and Owens' family members to secure the torch run, beginning in March 1994. When the torch finally arrives, for however brief the moment in time, it will be



Rayford Taylor

the result of Oakville's two greatest efforts ever — Owens' striding and the committee striving.

Oakville is a tiny community easy to miss if you don't know what you're looking for. It's located seven miles south of Moulton off Alabama 157. A sign on the side of the highway directs alert drivers to Owens' memorial.

"A lot of people don't even know where Oakville is," said Franklin McDaniel, a 17-year-old resident of the community. "It's going to put a small town like this on the map. I think it would be interesting to have something like that come through here. I know a lot of people will be here to watch it because it's exciting. I think it will bring a lot of tourism to the area."

After being flown into the United States from Olympia Greece, where

it will be lighted, the torch will begin its cross-country relay April 27 in Los Angeles. A total of 10,000 runners, 5,500 selected by area United Ways, will carry the torch on the 15,000-mile, 84-day-long run.

The torch will be brought into Alabama through Huntsville. It will travel about 13½ hours each day with each runner carrying the flame for one kilometer, or .62 miles. From June 28 to July 1 the torch will travel through Decatur, Oakville, Cullman, Birmingham, Clanton, Montgomery, Selma, Troy and Dothan.

Traditionally, the torch has been carried by runners, but there are several different modes of transportation planned for this year's edition of the relay. San Francisco's cable car system, a ferry on Seattle's Puget Sound and Pony Express riders in Nebraska, all representative of American culture and history, will bear the torch.

And just how should the torch be carried through Oakville?

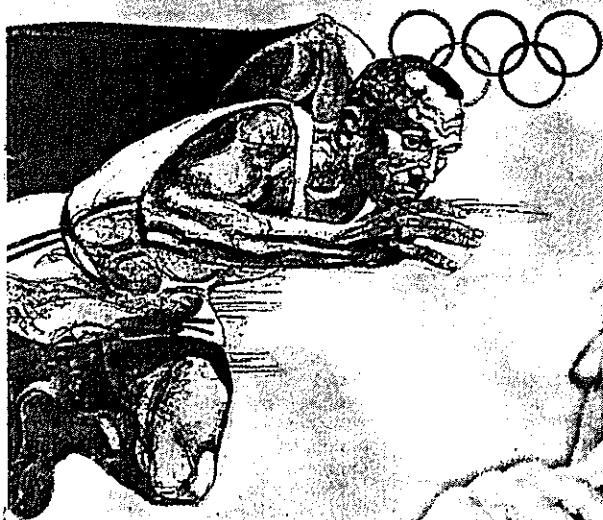
"I think they are going to run it through, because Jesse Owens was a runner," said McDaniel.

THE OLYMPIC TORCH ARRIVES ...

I

WAS
THERE

Jesse Owens
OLYMPIC HERO



The Olympic Torch

City to celebrate arrival of torch

By CHRIS WELCH
Executive Sports Editor

Huntsville's own Olympic dream officially began on Feb. 16, 1995 in an Atlanta hotel. As in a cheap spy novel, an unsuspecting member of the United Way of Madison County was ushered into a meeting room under a cloak of secrecy and interrogated.

About the Olympic Torch, that is.

"I had received a fax on Jan. 24 of last year saying they wanted the United Way to help provide support for several aspects of the Olympics," said Donna Rush, director of communications and marketing for the United Way. "So we went to Atlanta on Feb. 16 with other cities like Miami, Louisville, Montgomery and Birmingham.

"They took us into a press conference and told us we would help select 5,500 of the 10,000 torch bearers. Then, the next question was this: 'What would you do if we brought the flame to your city?'"

A cold chill came over Rush. She tried not to panic. After all, this was a once-in-a-lifetime chance for the city.

"I told them we had the U.S. Space and Rocket City and we could hold the celebration under the shuttle," Rush said. "I didn't know how I'd done, but they called back in June and confirmed that Huntsville would be on the route."

A year later, the dream is about to become reality. The Olympic Torch will make its way through Fayetteville, Tenn., on Friday from 4:38-5:30 p.m. then arrive at the Alabama-Tennessee state line near Hazel Green at 6.

From there, 153 people selected from various walks of life — 44 from the United Way Community Heroes Program — will carry the torch through the city, downtown, then out to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. There, a gala celebration will be held at approximately 10 if the heat isn't bad and everything is on schedule.

If everything goes the way the United Way would like, and if the Atlanta Olympic Committee approves, Rose Magers-Powell, a member of the 1984 Olympic volleyball team, will carry the torch the final leg and light a cauldron at the Space and Rocket Center.

The torch will remain at the center for 20 minutes, and after a big fireworks display, head to the Decatur Holiday Inn to spend the night.

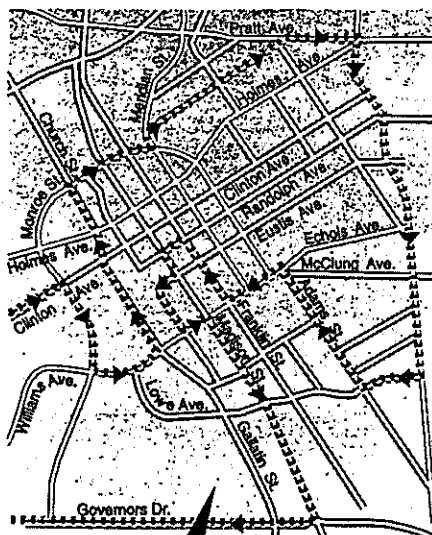
It will return to the Space and Rocket Center Saturday at 6:30 a.m. It will be carried by a U.S. teacher and Australian student who are attending the International Space Camp. Australia was chosen because it is the site for the 2000 Summer Olympics. The torch will wind its way through Madison, Decatur and eventually make it to Oakville, where the grandson of Jesse Owens, American hero of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, will carry it through the Jesse Owens Memorial Park.

Rush said she believes that one of the main reasons the torch is coming through Huntsville is due to the efforts of the citizens of Oakville and the Jesse Owens celebration. Besides Huntsville, the only other major cities in the state to get the torch are Birmingham, Montgomery, Dothan and Selma, where the torch will be carried

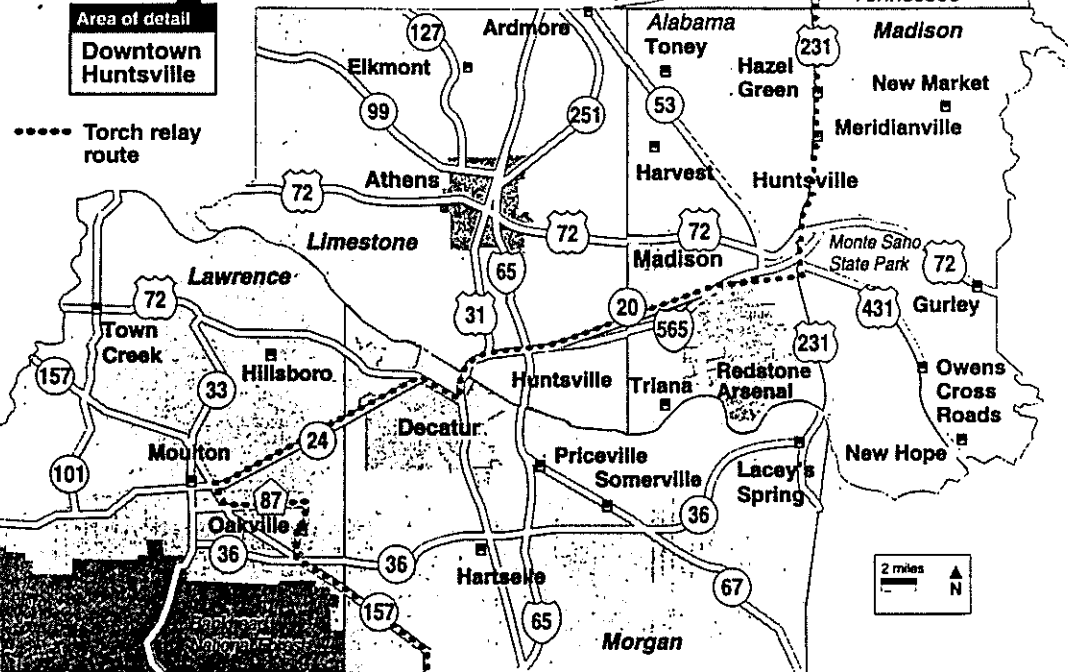
Olympic Torch Relay

Key times and points where the Olympics Torch will be passing through the Tennessee Valley area:

Friday
4:38-5:30 p.m.: Fayetteville, Tenn.
6 p.m.: Alabama-Tennessee state line
7 p.m.: Krogers at Martin Lake and North Parkway
8 p.m.: Downtown near the Coca Cola plant
8:30 p.m.: 5 points area
8:48 p.m.: Madison County Courthouse
9:04 p.m.: First Baptist Church
9:56 p.m.: U.S. Space and Rocket Center
Saturday
6:30 a.m.: Blackbird, Space and Rocket Center
6:58-7:08 a.m.: Motorola
7:33 a.m.: Old Madison Pike
8:08 a.m.: Wylie Laboratories
8:55 a.m.: Jetplex Circle
9:10 a.m.: Decatur city limits
12:52 p.m.: Oakville
12:59 p.m.: Jesse Owens Memorial Park



Area of detail
Downtown Huntsville



Dulcie Teesateska/Huntsville Times

across the Freedom Bridge.

Rush said there are several celebrations planned along the torch route. Downtown, there will be music by Madison Station, Brenda Oliver, Tony Mason and the Royal Garden Dixieland Band. Other performances will include scenes from "Cinderella" by the Fantasy Playhouse, "1776" by Independent Musical Productions and by the Huntsville Community Chorus.

The festivities also include art displays, food vendors and appearances by sports celebrities including former University of Alabama star Terry Williams, and mem-

bers of the Huntsville Stars and Huntsville Channel Cats.

The main extravaganza will be at the Space and Rocket Center. People can park in Research Park, where free shuttles will begin at 6. There will be children's activities from 6-7, with the official program starting at 6:45. There will be introductions of elected officials and former Olympians, including Harvey Glance, Peter Nordel and UAH hockey coach Doug Ross (who played on the 1976 U.S. Olympic hockey team).

Former Alabama A&M coach Joe Hen-

derson will represent some of his outstanding former athletes, including Darnette Young Stone and Jearl Miles, who have already qualified for this year's Olympics, and Grace Small.

The music will start at 7:15 and include the Huntsville Concert Band, the United Voices of Praise, and the 14th U.S. Army Band from Anniston. On Saturday morning, Motorola will host a celebration with Glance and the Huntsville Concert Band as the torch pauses for about 10 minutes before it heads toward Decatur.

Statue honors Owens

His widow
will attend
ceremony

By CHRISTOPHER BELL
Times Staff Writer

OAKVILLE — Jesse Owens' widow, Ruth, spent Thursday night near this spot in the road that the Olympic great left at age 9 and never saw again.

She is here for Saturday afternoon's ceremony when a statue of her husband is unveiled while a runner holds the Atlanta-bound Olympic torch.

The event is expected to attract national and international attention.

Mrs. Owens is staying at an area motel with relatives, including Owens' grandson, 29-year-old Stuart Owens Rankin of Boston, who is to carry the torch.

Owens was born and lived in this southeast Lawrence County community before his parents moved the family to Cleveland, Ohio.

In one day, while a track and field star for Ohio State, Owens set three world records and tied another.

At the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, he claimed four gold medals and was proclaimed the event's star athlete.

Gov. Fob James will be here for the ceremony, which begins at 11:30 a.m. with the torch to arrive about an hour later.

"What a tremendous, great human being," James said of Owens in a recent, statewide radio address. "Those of us in Alabama can be proud and can be thankful."

Owens returned to the area a quarter-century ago to speak at Calhoun Community College. But he declined an invitation to visit Oakville, about 12 miles southwest of Decatur.



Eric Schultz/Huntsville Times

Branko Medenica and Greg Bland, both of Birmingham, put the shine Thursday on the Olympic rings which are part of Medenica's sculpture of Jesse Owens in Oakville, Ala.

The Spirit of America Festival at Decatur honored Owens on July 4, 1979, with the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award. However, Owens was unable to attend the event. He died the

next year.

In recent weeks, such newspapers as the *Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* have had front page articles about the upcoming Owens ceremony.

The Jesse Owens Memorial Park began in 1983 with a marker the late state Rep. Roger Dutton, D-Danville, had erected.

Please see OWENS on B7

Owens

Continued from page B1

Dutton wanted it placed outside the Lawrence County Courthouse in Moulton, but commissioners refused that request.

Dutton got Gov. George C. Wallace to give \$2,300 in state money to build the marker, which will be overshadowed by the eight-foot statue of Owens.

James Pinion, chairman of the park committee, said he believes "the park will become a tourist attraction."

He went to Birmingham Thursday afternoon to escort Mrs. Owens and others, who had flown from Chicago, to Lawrence County.

"Today is a day of rest for Mrs. Owens," said Pinion. "But she wants to visit Boaz and do some shopping."

Torch bearers are real heroes

Approximately 44 community heroes from the Huntsville area will take turns carrying the Olympic Torch when it passes through the area Friday and Saturday.

The torch bearers were chosen earlier this year through the United Way's Community Heroes Program.

Here's a brief look at those who will carry the flame through Madison County and the Huntsville vicinity:

SARAH LYNN BOWMAN - Special Education student at Liberty Middle School in Madison. Equestrian and ice skater.

JUNE BUFF - Wife and mother. Court-appointed Juvenile Advocate volunteer. UAH honor graduate and letterman in varsity crew.

JOE HALL BURSON - Retired NASA engineer. Worked on Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab and Shuttle programs. Former president of South Huntsville Kiwanis Club.

JIM CALL - Has performed more than 450 hours of community service in Huntsville for 15 organizations and more than 200 hours in a community garden to feed the elderly.

J. MICHAEL CAMPBELL - Employed by Loral Defense Systems-East. Boy Scout troop committee member. Red Cross volunteer and marathon runner.

MARK CLOUSER - Driver engineer. Huntsville Fire and Rescue Squad. Assists with Special Olympics.

BO CUMMINGS - Employed by Bradford Health Services in Madison as alcohol and drug counselor.

EDDIE DAVIS - Attends school at the Opportunity Center. Has won ribbons in bowling and baseball on the local and state level in Special Olympics.

JOHN W. DAVIS - Owner of Davis Realty. Has worked with ALANCO, Downtown Rescue Mission and HelpLine.

JOSEPH T. DEL PONTE - Adult volunteer for Boy Scouts and has worked in Scouting's Outreach Program.

ROD DUKE - Employed by EER Systems, Inc., performing engineering-related service for Department of Defense and NASA. Winner of Governor's Award for outstanding community service.

GRADY EDWARDS - Leader in providing homes for the homeless by building or restoring homes.

MALCOLM GILLIS - Role model for healthy living and fitness. Holds 50 state records in running. Won 1995 over-60 title in Boston Marathon.

PATRICK H. GRAVES, JR. - Lawyer with the firm of Bradley, Arant, Rose & White. Received degree from West Point. President-elect of Huntsville Rotary Club.

TERRY R. "ABE" HARRIS - Pastor. Statewide United Methodist Church. Disc jockey at WNDL, Alabama A&M grad student.

WILLIAM J. HARRISON - Retired from U.S. Army and from Booz-Allen & Hamilton. Active in Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

BOB HEMBREE, JR. - Owner, Bob Hembree Motor Company. Active in many civic causes in Guntersville.

HOMER HICKAM - Employed by NASA in Huntsville. Veteran of Vietnam. Organized first diving rescue team in Alabama.

MARGARET HOOD - News director, morning news anchor, WXQ radio.

WES HOPPER - Seventh-grade student at Madison Academy. Has worked



Bowman



Buff



Burson



Call



Campbell



Clouser



Cummings



E. Davis



J. Davis



Del Ponte



Duke



Edwards



Gillis



Graves



Harris



Harrison



Hembree



Hickam



Hood



Hopper



Jennings



Keller



Lunsford



Madry



Magers-Powell



McHugh



Miller



Morrill



A. Moses



R. Moses



Nichols



Pitsis-Rush



Redmond



Renshaw



Rowe



Scott



Simmons



Steele



Taylor



Sisson



Uim



Warren



Willis



Wright

Torch celebration schedule

Some key celebrations taking place Friday along the Olympic Torch Route:
Downtown, 4-8 p.m.: Music by Tony Mason, Brenda Oliver, the Royal Gards Dixieland Band, Madison Station; performances by Fantasy Playhouse, Huntsville Community Chorus, Independent Musical Productions, Hoot 'N Holler Cloggers.

Five Points Area, 6-9 p.m.: Music by the Jazz group Omni Music Trio, food and refreshments at Encore! Encore! at 603 Pratt Ave.; 8-8:30, Enchanted Masquerade Costume Shop, 200 Andrew Jackson Way, downs, Uncle Sam, Statue of Liberty w. hand out balloons, lemonade.

U.S. Space and Rocket Center, 6:45, video highlighting Huntsville's space connection; 7, ceremony begins with introduction of Olympians and special guests; 7:11, entertainment by Huntsville Concert Band, United Voices of Praise, Gabe Netto at Crossroads. U.S. Army Band; 10, torch arrives; 10:30, fireworks.

Please see TORCH on 4

Torch Relay Includes Oakville, Hometown of Jesse Owens

By Ben Johnson, Staff Writer

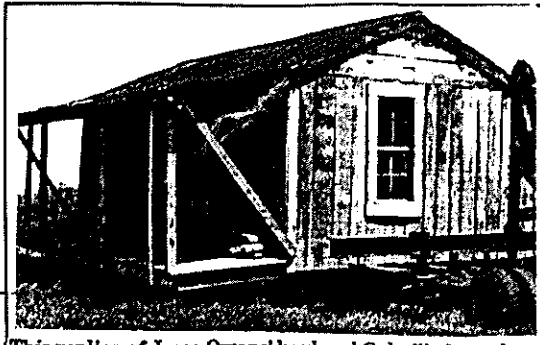
OAKVILLE — James Cleveland Owens — better known as Jesse because of his initials (J.C.) — made his mark on the world in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, winning an astounding four gold medals in track and field. Now, Owens' hometown is focusing the world's attention on Owens' legacy on June 29. That's when the Olympic Torch Relay makes a highly publicized stop in his hometown here in North Alabama.

Actually, the flame will be in North Alabama for two days (June 28 and 29) with stops in Huntsville, Decatur, Oakville and Cullman. The torch began its 84-day, 15,000 mile journey Saturday in Los Angeles, and will criss-cross the country in a zig-zag pattern whose only logic is to assure that millions of people can see it.

The torch will hit 42 states and come within a two-hour drive of 90 percent of the nation's population. With Coca-Cola as its major big-bucks sponsor and NBC providing daily updates, the torch relay will be a publicity-generating behemoth. Between now and when the torch lands in Atlanta for the start of the 1996 Olympic Games, images of the torch will be omnipresent.

The Oakville program will feature folks from Oakville and the surrounding Lawrence County community who remember Owens as well as others who have only read about Owens in history books. The arrival of the Olympic flame will be heralded by the opening of the million-dollar, 17-acre Jesse Owens Memorial Park at the junction of county roads 187 and 203.

In fact, the Torch Relay and its accompanying cars, vans, bicycles, staff, onlookers and of course, the torchbearers



This replica of Jesse Owens' boyhood Oakville home has been moved to the park and awaits installation. The sharecropper shack had just two rooms. The park's centerpiece will be a pavilion featuring a bigger-than-life statue of Owens. *Speakin' Out* photo by Ben Johnson

and media, will stop at the park for lunch June 28. While attention has been focused on the few black "community hero" torchbearers in North Alabama, one of Owens' grandchildren will carry the torch inside the park's sweeping expanse.

The park is a saving grace for the disappointment that some blacks in Lawrence County feel because there are no black "community hero" torchbearers.

The park is truly a multicultural endeavor that has attracted the support of all manner of people in the town, the county and the state. According to organizers, support for the park comes from all quarters and knows no racial or cultural bounds.

"It's magnificent, just a magnificent feeling, said Therman White, chairman of the Jesse Owens Memorial Park. "This is a county effort, a whole state effort. So many people have been involved."

Notably, then-Gov. George Wallace, pushed by long-time friend and state Rep. Roger Dutton, helped secure the initial \$30,000 funding that paid for the memorial, built in 1983, and was the seed capital for the park. Both are white. In fact, the memorial was Dutton's idea.

"From his idea, we developed the park, White said. About \$15,000 was

left from the state grant for the memorial. That money was used as part of the payment for the land, he said.

Then, of course there are the many residents of all-black Oakville who lobbied and labored for years for a fitting memorial for Owens. They were not deterred when county commissioners vetoed a plan to put a bust of Owens in the county square. In fact, some supporters now say that rejection was a blessing because it led to the park, a more elaborate and fitting tribute.

Students and faculty of all colors from Auburn University helped design the park as a class project and a community service. Staffers from Auburn's communications department helped with the park's public relations effort. The department's head is black.

The Griffin family that sold the county much of the park's land is black. The construction company is owned by a Native American. The park's architect is black. The sculptor of the Owens statue is German. The welcome center is being financed by the *Decatur Daily* publisher, who is white. Numerous other individuals and businesses also have contributed.

(Donations still are welcomed. White noted that the private, nonprofit park board will have to raise money to take care

of the park's upkeep.)

Ironically, the park is just a few hundred feet from one of the state's most significant Native American memorials, the Oakville Indian Mounds Park and Museum, site of a 2,000-year-old Woodland Indian burial mound.

"Oh, everyone's involved," White noted. "They're doing it for the memory of Jesse Owens, what all he accomplished. They're not in this for themselves, for any personal glory."

For all of the controversy, Therman White is thrilled with the park. He and others are racing to get it completed in time for the June 28 festivities. "Despite that (controversy), we've got to build a park," he said. "What has happened, we can't change it. We're proceeding on."

Owens was born in Oakville in 1913 to sharecropper parents. His father raised cotton and corn, the area's staple cash crops. Owens lived with his parents and brother in a two-room shack. A replica of the house will be a part of the park. The family moved to Cleveland when Owens was 7. He was an outstanding student athlete at East Technical High School in Cleveland.

Owens became a track star during his college years (1933-36) at Ohio State University. His feats were legendary even before the 1936 Olympics. At a 1935 track meet in Ann Arbor, Mich., Owens broke three world records and tied a fourth in the space of 45 minutes. During his track career, he set seven world records.

He wrote his name in the history books during the Berlin Olympics. With Adolf Hitler in the stands, Owens made a lie of the Third Reich's claim to white Aryan superiority.

Controversy Looms As Olympic Torch Heads to North Alabama

Only Four of 86 'Community Hero' Torchbearers are Black; Festivities Include Stop in Oakville, Hometown of Jesse Owens

By Ben Johnson, Staff Writer

In less than two months, the globe-trotting Olympic torch will arrive in North Alabama amid much hoopla and the glare of global TV coverage. But controversy surrounding this symbol of international cooperation and multicultural involvement is already here.

That's because when the torch arrives, transferred one kilometer at a time from runner to runner, there won't be many black hands touching it. Amazingly, only four of the 86 "community hero" torchbearers are black. That's a representation of just 5 percent in a 10-county region whose black population is about 15 percent. In Madison County where blacks are 20 percent of the population, there is just one black person designated as a "community hero" torchbearer.

That abysmal demographic representation flies in the face of the dominating role black athletes have had on the field in the Olympics in representing the United States. One of the most important Olympic athletes ever is a native of



Therman White, a driving force behind the Jesse Owens Memorial Park, is thrilled that the community's dream of a living legacy for Owens will finally come true next month. *Speakin' Out* photo by Ben Johnson

North Alabama. The world-startling performance of Jesse Owens in the 1936 Olympics still stands today as one of sports' most amazing feats. With Adolph Hitler in the stands, Owens grabbed four gold medals. His efforts put the lie to Hitler's assertions of the superiority of white Aryans.

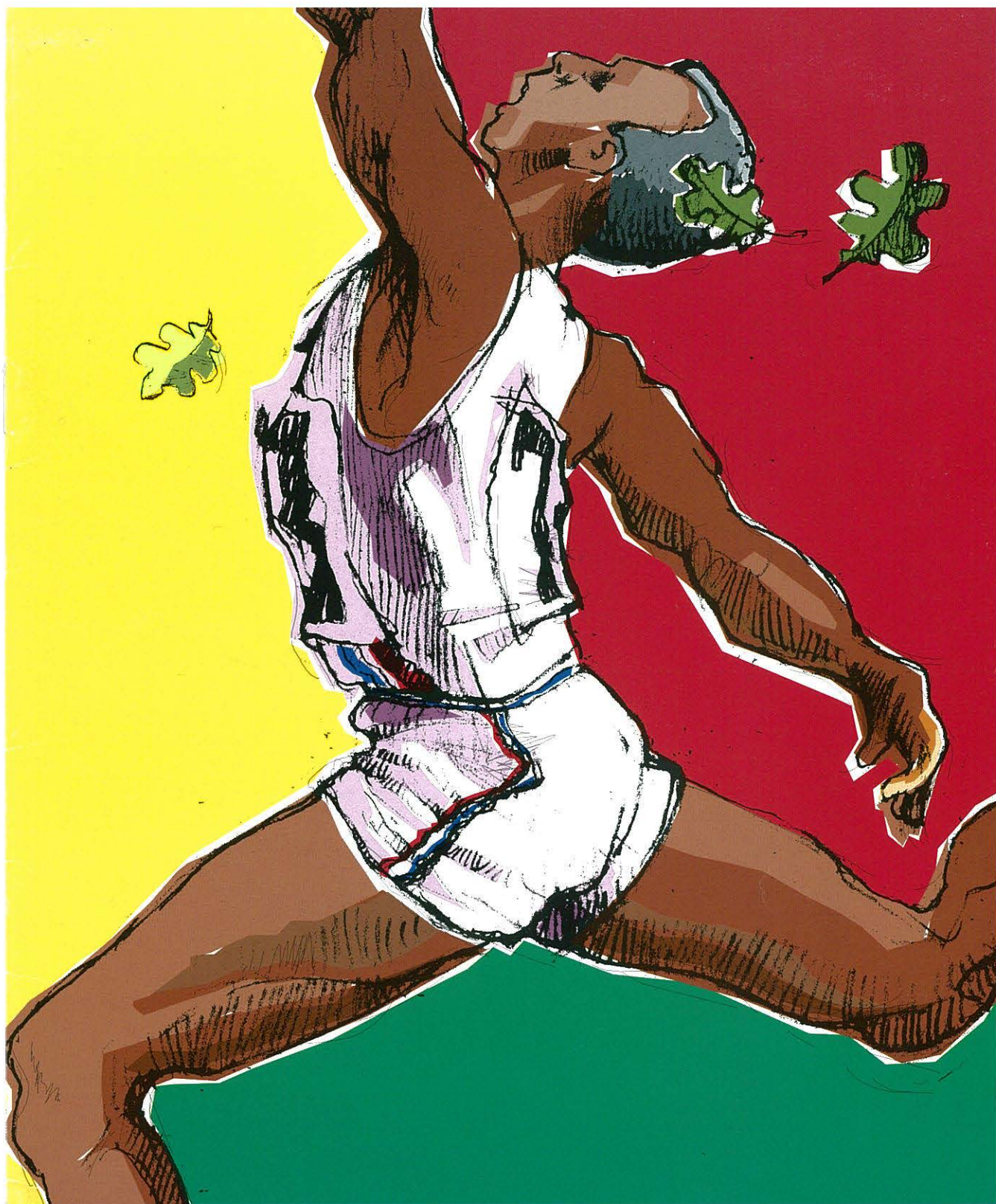
Thus, the sting of in-

adequate black torchbearer representation is particularly painful for some black natives of Oakville, Ala., hometown of Olympics superhero Owens. Olympic supporters there had hoped that at least one black person would be designated to carry the torch through Owens' hometown.

"The same thing that happened to Jesse Owens in Germany is happening to his hometown," said Hoover White, a Lawrence County black activist. White is one of several North Alabama black leaders who are complaining to anyone who will listen. He was referring to the negative and racist reception

Owens' heroics received in Germany.

However, there still is a chance that the number of black torchbearers will increase by the time the Torch Relay arrives here. Also, plans are being made to assure that a significant number of blacks are involved



JESSE OWENS

MEMORIAL PARK DEDICATION

JUNE 29, 1996 OAKVILLE, ALABAMA

Jesse Owens
Memorial Park Dedication
June 29, 1996
Oakville, Alabama

"IT BEHOOVES
A MAN WITH
GOD-GIVEN
ABILITY TO
STAND TEN
FEET TALL.
YOU NEVER
KNOW HOW
MANY
YOUNGSTERS
MAY BE
WATCHING."

JESSE OWENS



Jesse Owens Memorial Park Dedication
Oakville, Alabama Saturday, June 29, 1996

11:40 a.m. Dedication Ceremony

Masters of Ceremonies	Kenneth Brackin, <i>Professor</i> , NW Shoals Community College Rip Proctor, <i>Lawrence County Probate Judge</i>
National Anthem	Reginald Jackson, Decatur
Presentation of Colors	Local ROTC Groups
Welcome	The Honorable Fob James, <i>Governor of Alabama</i> Aubrey Miller, <i>Director</i> , Alabama Bureau of Travel and Tourism Jim Corum, Lawrence County Commission
Invocation	Bishop Gary Taylor, Oakville Christian Faith Center
Song	Patsy Blaxton, Gene Wiley, Red Wallace. In memory of late State Representatives Sam Letson and Roger Dutton.
Introduction of the Jesse Owens Family	Marvin Fitzgerald, <i>Relative</i> , Oakville, Alabama
Jesse Owens Ballad	Marshall Lewey and a group of coaches
Remarks from Ohio State University	Reggie Anglin, <i>Public Relations Coordinator</i> , OSU, Columbus, Ohio
Entertainment	Area and Local Talent (until Torch arrives)

12:50 p.m. Olympic Torch Arrival

Torch Run Through Park	Carried by Stuart Owen Rankin, <i>Grandson of Jesse Owens</i> , Boston, Massachusetts
Olympic Torch Relay Program	Atlanta Committee Olympic Games
The Jesse Owens Statue	Branko Medenica, <i>Sculptor</i> , Birmingham, Alabama
Unveiling of Statue	Mrs. Jesse Owens, Chicago, Illinois
Tribute to Jesse Owens	Melvin Walker, <i>Lifelong friend and teammate</i> , Chicago, Illinois

Olympic Torch Exits the Park

Lighting of 1936 Torch Replica	Mrs. Jesse Owens
Park Dedication, Ribbon Cutting	Lawrence County Commission Jesse Owens Family Jesse Owens Memorial Park Board

Jesse Owens Memorial Park Board

Therman White, <i>Chairman</i>	Tim Littrell	Charles Borden
Phillip Reich, II	Henry Buchanan	Linda Robinson
Marvin Fitzgerald	Janet White	James Pinion
Gregory Griffin	Rosemary Lewey	

In cooperation with the Lawrence County Commission

Wayne Anderton	Jim Corum
Dwight Gray	Mose Jones, Jr.
O'Neal Wilhite	

**and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System,
Lawrence County Office**

James Pinion	Henry Buchanan	Linda Robinson
Martha Pool	Catherine Stanton	Joe Jackson
Shelby Hanback	Gloria Hall	Janis Moats

Statement from the Board

The purpose of the Jesse Owens Memorial Park Board is to provide a living memorial to Jesse Owens, and to honor and perpetuate his athletic achievements and sportsmanship as well as his accomplishments as an individual. This will be accomplished in two ways: by providing athletic and recreational opportunities to Oakville and Lawrence County residents and by attracting visitors to Oakville to enjoy the park facilities and planned events.

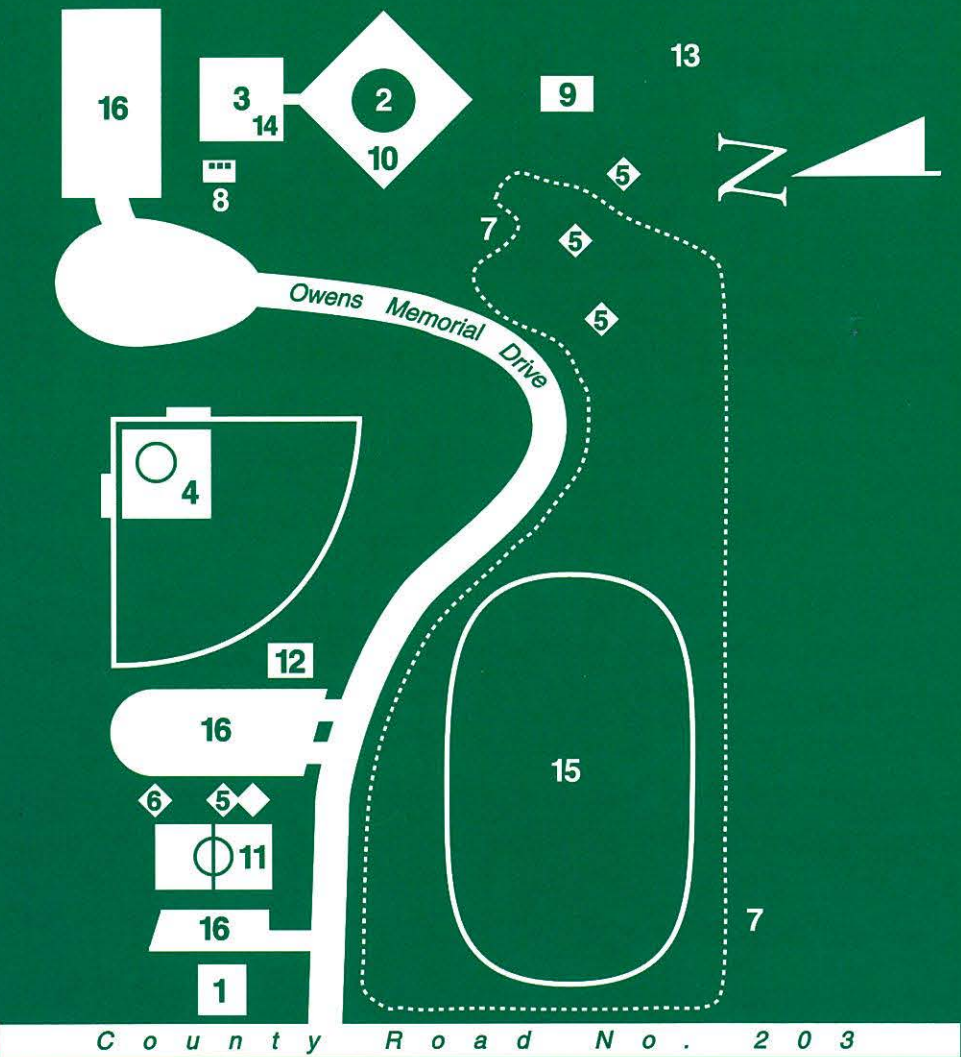
From the Jesse Owens Family

The Jesse Owens Family and the Jesse Owens Foundation wish to extend our congratulations and pledge of support to the citizens of Lawrence County, Alabama, for your untiring commitment and hard work on the Jesse Owens Memorial Park project. We embrace your vision of providing an area in your community for young and old to benefit from athletics, physical fitness and education.

How fitting a tribute to one of your own who gained international recognition and esteem because of his God-given abilities in athleticism and humanitarianism.



JESSE OWENS MEMORIAL PARK



- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Welcome Center | 9. Jesse Owens Home Replica |
| 2. Statue | 10. Gold Medallion Court |
| 3. Museum | 11. Basketball Court |
| 4. Baseball, Softball Field | 12. Concessions |
| 5. Picnic Pavillions | 13. Future Playground |
| 6. Restrooms | 14. Souvenir and Gift Shop |
| 7. Walking Trail | 15. Future Track, Soccer Field |
| 8. 1936 Torch Replica | 16. Parking |

Park Facts

- Size: 19 acres
- Owned by: Lawrence County Commission
- Managed by: The Jesse Owens Memorial Park Board
- Tax Status: Non-profit, Tax exempt 501 (C)(3)
- Funded by: grants, businesses, corporations, foundations, and individuals

Appreciation to contributors
who made our dream possible

- | | |
|---|--|
| State of Alabama | Barrett C. Shelton, Jr., Decatur |
| Alabama Council on the Arts | Nancy Shelton and Billy Warren, Moulton |
| Alabama Power Foundation, Inc. | Shelia Sims, Moulton |
| Alabama Sports Foundation, Inc. | Wendell Sivley, Moulton |
| Appalachian Regional Commission | Willie Smith, Birmingham |
| BFI, Huntsville | H. L. Speake, Moulton |
| BankFirst, Moulton | James and Barbara Stevens, Danville, California |
| BellSouth | Teresa Summers, Hatton |
| Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church | TVA Economic Development |
| Congressman Tom Bevil | Tennessee Valley Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation and Development |
| Shelia Bishop, Moulton | Thornton Stanley Construction, Inc., Huntsville |
| Blaxton RV Sales, Moulton | Carl, Wyman and Ann Warren, Moulton |
| Brown & Root Contractors | Ed Weatherford, Hillsboro |
| Former State Senator Ray Campbell | West Morgan—East Lawrence Water Authority |
| Champion International | Wheeler Chapel Missionary Baptist Church |
| Chevron Corporation | Therman White, Oakville |
| Coca-Cola | April Williams, Decatur |
| Richard Coffee, Hillsboro | Norman M. Wilson, Oxford, Pennsylvania |
| Curtis and Joyce Cole, Moulton | |
| Community Development Block Grant | |
| David Temple Primitive Baptist Church | |
| Ebenezer CME Church | |
| First Baptist Church, Courtland | |
| Forestry Grant—Rural Revitalization | |
| Mrs. Marvin Galin, Cullman | |
| Gobble-Fite Lumber Company, Decatur | |
| Hoover, Inc., Decatur | |
| Marjorie Howlet, Town Creek | |
| Governor Fob James | |
| Jesse Owens Memorial Park Board | |
| Joe Wheeler Electric Cooperative | |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund | |
| Lawrence County Commission | |
| Lawrence County Public Transportation | |
| Lawrence County Recreation Committee | |
| Lawrence County School System | |
| Lawrence County Track Club, Moulton | |
| Lawrence County United Way | |
| State Representative Sam Letson | |
| Littrell Lumber Co., Moulton | |
| Louise Pinion Art Gallery, Tuscaloosa | |
| Anita Mason, Moulton | |
| DeAngelo McDaniel, Moulton | |
| Steve McLemore, Moulton | |
| Moulton Garden Club | |
| National Park Service | |
| North Courtland Primitive Baptist Church | |
| Oakville Citizens Recreation Committee | |
| Owens & Woods Partnership, P. C. Architects, Birmingham | |
| Piggly Wiggly, East Lawrence County | |
| Red Bank Missionary Baptist Church | |
| St. Mark Primitive Baptist Church | |
| Carl Scruggs, Hillsboro | |

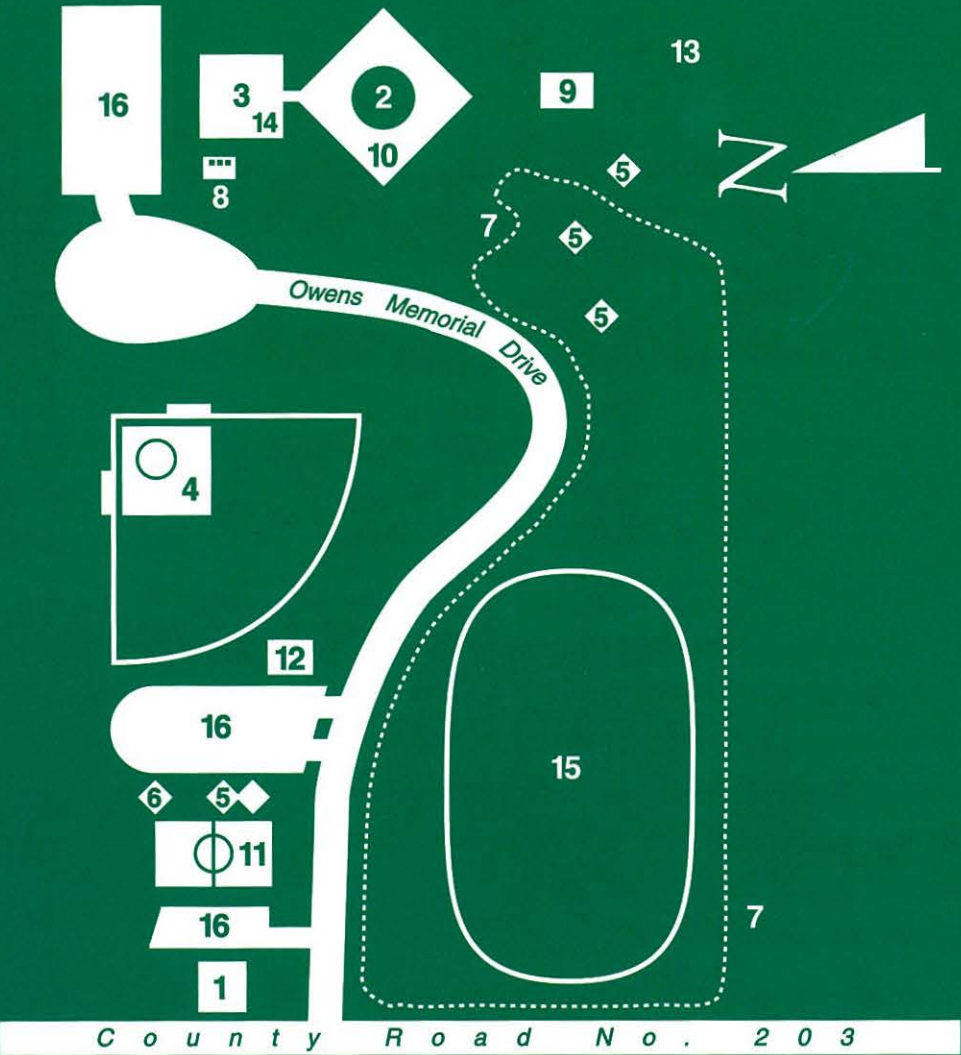
And thanks again to the many others
who helped in countless ways.

**Special thanks to the Alabama
Cooperative Extension System
staff for development and support of
the Jesse Owens Memorial Park Project**

- Beth Atkins, *Extension Development Specialist*
Thomas Chesnutt, *Extension Tourism Specialist*
Bruce Dupree, *Extension Communications Specialist, Art*
James Harvey, *Editor, TV Post Production, Communications*
Maggie Lawrence, *Producer/Director II, Communications*
Warren McCord, *Extension Assistant Director, Community Resource Development*
Virginia Morgan, *Extension Communications Specialist, Educational Methods*
Donna Reynolds, *Assistant Editor, Communications*
W.L. Strain, *Extension Assistant Director, Communications*



JESSE OWENS MEMORIAL PARK



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| Richard Coffee, Hillsboro | Norman M. Wilson, Oxford, Pennsylvania |
| Curtis and Joyce Cole, Moulton | |
| Community Development Block Grant | |
| David Temple Primitive Baptist Church | |
| Ebenezer CME Church | |
| First Baptist Church, Courtland | |
| Forestry Grant-Rural Revitalization | |
| Mrs. Marvin Galin, Cullman | |
| Gobble-Fite Lumber Company, Decatur | |
| Hoover, Inc., Decatur | |
| Marjorie Howlet, Town Creek | |
| Governor Fob James | |
| Jesse Owens Memorial Park Board | |
| Joe Wheeler Electric Cooperative | |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund | |
| Lawrence County Commission | |
| Lawrence County Public Transportation | |
| Lawrence County Recreation Committee | |
| Lawrence County School System | |
| Lawrence County Track Club, Moulton | |
| State Representative Sam Letson | |
| Littrell Lumber Co., Moulton | |
| Louise Pinion Art Gallery, Tuscaloosa | |
| Anita Mason, Moulton | |
| DeAngelo McDaniel, Moulton | |
| Steve McLemore, Moulton | |
| Moulton Garden Club | |
| National Park Service | |
| North Courtland Primitive Baptist Church | |
| Oakville Citizens Recreation Committee | |
| Owens & Woods Partnership, P. C. Architects, Birmingham | |
| Piggly Wiggly, East Lawrence County | |
| Red Bank Missionary Baptist Church | |
| St. Mark Primitive Baptist Church | |
| Carl Scruggs, Hillsboro | |

And thanks again to the many others
who helped in countless ways.

Special thanks to the Alabama
Cooperative Extension System
staff for development and support of
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Owens Immortalized in Bronze

On June 29, more than 60 years after Jesse Owens won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics, the athlete and humanitarian is being honored with the dedication of a park in his name. Owens will be immortalized in bronze by a statue sculpted by Branko Medenica of Birmingham. The \$80,000 statue is the center attraction of the Jesse Owens Memorial Park in Oakville, Alabama.

Medenica was hired three years ago by the Jesse Owens Memorial Park Board to create the sculpture. He did a lot of research on Owens, including reading books about Owens, searching through archives at Ohio State University and visiting with Owens' wife, Ruth, and three daughters in Chicago. He also used 1984 Olympic gold medalist Willie Smith as a model. Medenica took numerous pictures of Smith running, to get better muscle definition of the legs for the statue.

The eight-foot, one-ton sculpture, which shows Owens running mid-stride with one leg in the middle of the center Olympic ring, was molded with great detail, from his uniform bearing the Olympic insignia and stripes, to the spikes in his running shoes and the safety pins holding his No. 3 paper on the uniform. Once it is mounted in the six-foot granite base, the statue will stand 14 feet high.

Medenica first molded a two-foot, oil-based clay model, which took almost two months to complete. From there, a full-sized model was made. He worked closely with the Owens family to get the face just right. Once the details were right on the full-sized clay model, molds were made and the model was sent to Montoya Arts Studios in West Palm Beach, Florida, where it was cast in bronze. Three of the Olympic rings then were added to the sculpture. Medenica also used patina, a chemical applied with heat that creates different colors in bronze, to color Owens' hair and uniform.

Medenica moved the statue to a small Southside studio in Birmingham in early February to complete the last two Olympic rings and prepare the base support.

He almost had to sculpt Owens with both feet on the ground, because of the Olympic Committee's exclusive rights to the Olympic rings. However, Medenica says, once the Jesse Owens Foundation got behind the project, the Olympic Committee agreed to let him use the rings with the statue.

A native of Germany, Medenica, 45, has been sculpting professionally since 1976. He is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College. Although he has works displayed throughout the world, Medenica says the Owens project is his biggest. He delivered the sculpture to the park site just a few days before the dedication.



Jesse Owens

(1913-1980)

The seventh child of Henry and Emma Alexander Owens was named James Cleveland when he was born in Oakville, Alabama, in 1913. "J.C.," as he was called, was nine when the family moved to Cleveland, Ohio. It was there his new schoolteacher gave him the name that was to become known around the world. The teacher was told "J.C." when she asked his name to enter into her roll book, but she thought he had said "Jesse." And Jesse Owens was the name he used the rest of his life.

His athletic career began in 1928 in Cleveland, where he set new world records for junior high schools by jumping six feet in the high jump, and 22 feet, 11¾ inches in the broad jump.

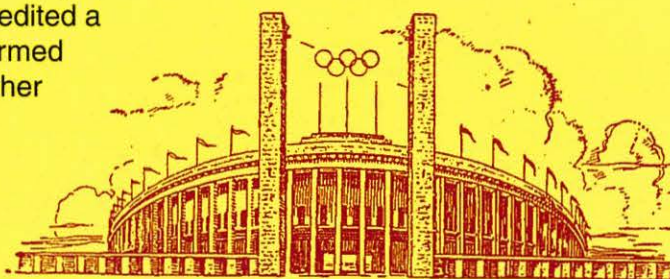
During his high school days, he won all of the major track events, including the state championship for three consecutive years. At the national interscholastic meet in Chicago, Owens set a new world record for high schools by running the 100-yard dash in 9.4 seconds to tie the accepted world record, and he created a new high school world record in the 220-yard dash by running the distance in 20.7 seconds. A week earlier Owens had set a new world record in the broad jump by jumping 24 feet, 11¾ inches. After this sensational high school career, he was sought by dozens of colleges.

Owens chose to attend Ohio State University over all the colleges pursuing him, even though it had no track scholarships to offer at the time. He supported himself and his wife, Ruth, with a variety of jobs — he was a night elevator operator, waiter, gas station attendant, library attendant, and a page in the Ohio Statehouse — all in between practice and setting records on the field in intercollegiate competitions.

Owens stunned Adolph Hitler and delighted the world when he won four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

In doing so, he not only discredited a heinous dictator, but also affirmed that individual excellence, rather than race or national origin, distinguishes one person from another.

He won a gold in the broad jump with his world-record-breaking leap of 26 feet, 5²¹/₆₄ inches. On the opening day of the Olympics, Owens won another gold and tied a world record of 10.3 seconds in the 100-meter dash. Owens won his third gold medal with a record-breaking run of 20.7 seconds in the 200-meter finals. His fourth gold medal was won in the 400-meter relay. He was the lead-off man for the American team.



Athletes didn't return from the Olympics to lucrative advertising and product endorsement campaigns in those days, and Owens supported his family with a variety of jobs. One was of special significance — playground director in Cleveland. It was his first step into a lifetime of working with disadvantaged youth, which he said gave him his greatest satisfaction.

After relocating to Chicago, Owens devoted much of his time to disadvantaged youth as a board member and former director of the Chicago Boy's Club, an organization that served more than 1,500 youngsters. For five-and-a-half years he was a sports specialist for the State of Illinois Youth Commission.

In 1955, named by the State Department as America's Ambassador of Sports, Owens spent two months touring India, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines, where he met with government and sports officials and, as always, talked with disadvantaged children. In 1956, Owens was named the personal representative of President Eisenhower to the Olympic Games in Australia. His itinerary also included visits to schools and youth clubs.

Owens traveled widely in post-Olympic days. He was an inspiring speaker and addressed youth groups, professional organizations, civic meetings, sports banquets, schools, parent-teacher organizations, commencement ceremonies, church organizations, and brotherhood and black history programs.

He was also a public relations representative and consultant to many corporations including Atlantic Richfield, which still sponsors the annual ARCO/Jesse Owens Games. Owens spearheaded the founding of the games in 1964, and more than a million young people between the ages of 10 and 15 participate each year.

Owens was admired all over the world. For example, the government of the Ivory Coast named the street on which the U.S. Embassy is located "Rue Jesse Owens." He attended the dedication ceremony in 1971. While there, he also conferred with the Minister of Youth and Sports and met with the nation's top athletes, who considered Owens their greatest hero.

In Berlin, the street leading to the Olympic stadium is named Jesse Owens Allee. The Owens family attended the dedication ceremony as guests of the German government in 1982.

The United States awarded Owens its highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, in ceremonies at the White House in 1976. President Ford presented the medal, with the 250-member U.S. Montreal Olympic team in attendance.



In 1979, Owens returned to the White House where President Carter presented him with the Living Legend Award. On that occasion, President Carter said, *"A young man who possibly didn't even realize the superb nature of his own capabilities went to the Olympics and performed in a way that I don't believe has ever been equaled since...and since this superb achievement, he has continued in his own dedicated but modest way to inspire others to reach for greatness."*

Jesse Owens died March 31, 1980, and President Carter added his voice to the tributes that poured in from around the world:

"Perhaps no athlete better symbolized the human struggle against tyranny, poverty and racial bigotry. His personal triumphs as a world-class athlete and record holder were the prelude to a career devoted to helping others. His work with young athletes, as an unofficial ambassador overseas, and a spokesman for freedom are a rich legacy to his fellow Americans."

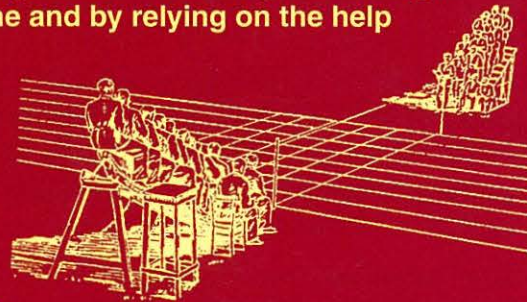
In 1990, President Bush honored Jesse Owens with the Congressional Gold Medal presented to his widow, Ruth S. Owens.

Since the 1936 Olympic games, others have broken Owens' records and accumulated gold medals, but for good reasons he is the best remembered of all the Olympic athletes. A young black man, the son of a sharecropper and grandson of a slave, achieved what no Olympian before him had accomplished. He triumphed through determination and self-discipline and by relying on the help he received from others.

He proved in Berlin and afterward that he was a dreamer who could make the dreams of others come true; a speaker who could make the world listen; and a pragmatist who could make the possible acceptable. Fueled by the needs of others, and despite the setbacks and poverty he faced before and after the Olympics, Jesse Owens was a citizen of the world and a source of hope, inspiration, pride and determination to the millions who knew him or knew of him and his enduring accomplishments during his 66-year lifetime.

His work with young people reflected his relentless desire to share himself and what little material wealth he had with others.

As he once said, *"It behooves a man with God-given ability to stand ten feet tall. You never know how many youngsters may be watching."* In his way, Jesse Owens was equally the champion on the playgrounds of the poorest neighborhoods as he was on the oval of the Olympic games. ■



State of Alabama

Governor's Office
Montgomery 36130

June 29, 1996

Dear Friends,

As Governor of the state of Alabama, I am pleased to welcome you to the dedication of the Jesse Owens Memorial Park—a tribute of pride to Jesse Owens, what he stood for, and the community he called home.

Today, the passing of the Olympic Torch in Oakville will signify a new historic moment and a rebirth of an old one, as we take time to honor a great Alabamian and Olympian, Jesse Owens, while we mark the beginning of the 1996 Olympic Games. It will also be a pivotal time in our state's history, as we share in this once-in-a-lifetime event for a memorial that recognizes the greatness of a past citizen and inspires dreams of achievement for future generations.

Combined with the dedication ceremony, the passing of the Torch acts like a flame of freedom for all time, just as Jesse's competitiveness served as a light of hope to the oppressed of his era. He achieved success against enormous odds, and we can face the challenges of today by again instilling a spirit of patriotism in the hearts of Americans. Therefore, we voice our goal through the Jesse Owens Memorial Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fob James Jr." The signature is stylized and fluid.

Fob James Jr.
Governor



The Modern Olympic Games

Olympiad	Year	Host City	Nations
I	1896	Athens, Greece	13
II	1900	Paris, France	22
III	1904	St. Louis, U.S.A.	12
IV	1908	London, England	23
V	1912	Stockholm, Sweden	28
VI	1916	Berlin, Germany	not celebrated because of war
VII	1920	Antwerp, Belgium	29
VIII	1924	Paris, France	44
IX	1928	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	46
X	1932	Los Angeles, U.S.A.	37
XI	1936	Berlin, Germany	49
XII	1940	Tokyo, Japan	not celebrated because of war
XIII	1944	London, England	not celebrated because of war
XIV	1948	London, England	59
XV	1952	Helsinki, Finland	69
XVI	1956	Melbourne, Australia	67
XVII	1960	Rome, Italy	83
XVIII	1964	Tokyo, Japan	93
XIX	1968	Mexico City, Mexico	112
XX	1972	Munich, Germany	122
XXI	1976	Montreal, Canada	92
XXII	1980	Moscow, U.S.S.R.	81
XXIII	1984	Los Angeles, U.S.A.	141
XXIV	1988	Seoul, South Korea	160
XXV	1992	Barcelona, Spain	172
XXVI	1996	Atlanta, U.S.A.	
XXVII	2000	Sydney, Australia	

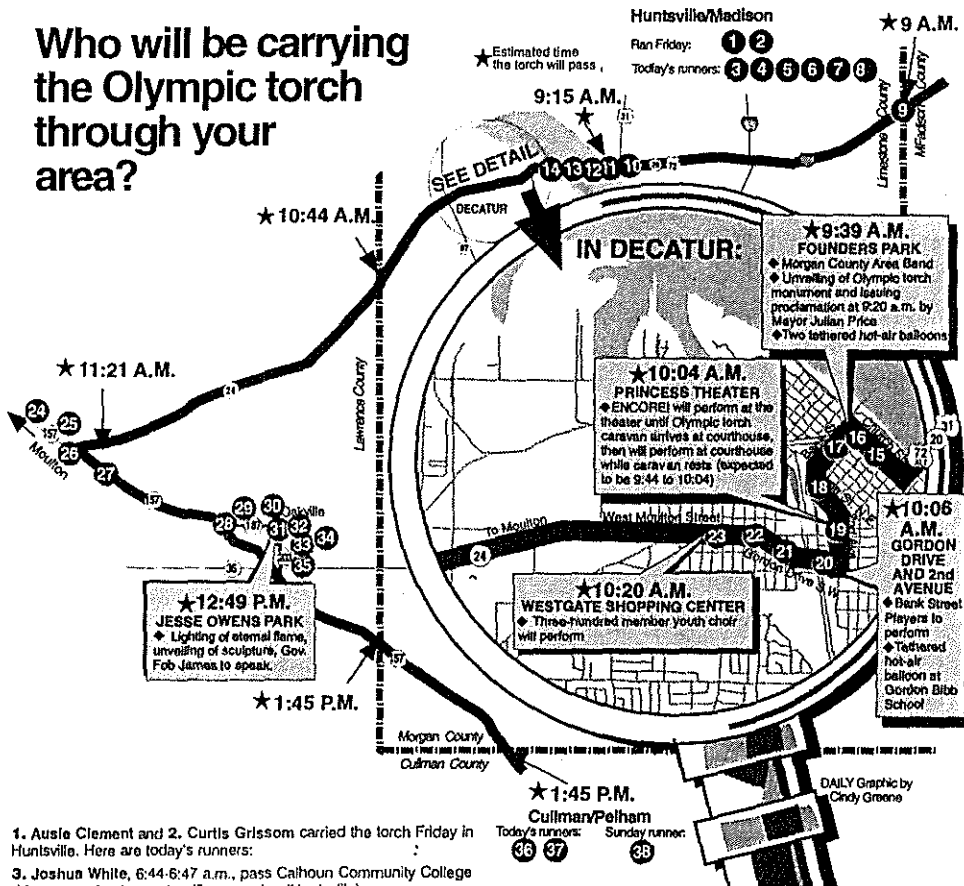
DATE:

ASSIGNMENT:

FILE NO:



Who will be carrying the Olympic torch through your area?



1. Ausie Clement and 2. Curtis Grissom carried the torch Friday in Huntsville. Here are today's runners:

3. Joshua White, 6:44-6:47 a.m., pass Calhoun Community College driveway and entrance to office complex (Huntsville).
4. Lane Barnes, 8:40-8:43 a.m. Alabama 20 West (U.S. 31) at Westchester Road in Madison.
5. Katie Harris, 8:43-8:47 a.m., Alabama 20 West (U.S. 31) in Madison.
6. Bruce Jones, 8:47-8:50 a.m., Alabama 20 West (U.S. 31) in Madison.
7. Skye Taylor, 8:50-8:54 a.m., begins at Business Center entrance on Alabama 20 and continues to pass Bobcat Machine Yard. (Madison)
8. Bethany Wales, 8:54-8:57 a.m., Bobcat Machine Yard, across Jetplex Circle, pass stop light sign. (Madison)
9. Angeline Nazaretian, 8:57-9:01 a.m., Stop light sign, enter Limestone County and cross County Line Road.
10. Lisa Montgomery, 9:15-9:18 a.m., Alabama 20 West (U.S. 31), picks up torch at Day Park and starts across causeway.
11. Sylvia Matthews, 9:18-22 a.m., Alabama 20 West (U.S. 31), carries second leg on the causeway.
12. Arthur Orr, 9:22-9:25 a.m., Alabama 20 West (U.S. 31), carries third leg on the causeway.
13. Gary Redus, 9:25-9:28 a.m., Alabama 20 West (U.S. 31), carries fourth leg on the causeway.
14. Megean Hancock, 9:29-9:32 a.m., runs the length of the Tennessee River bridge (Decatur).
15. Randall Ray, 9:31-9:34 a.m., from Keller Memorial Bridge onto Church Street to Wolf Street.
16. Anita Pahman, 9:36-9:39 a.m., Church Street, pass Wheeler Lake Marine, Wolf, Ferry and Oak streets to Canal Street (Decatur).
17. Jeremy Gaertner, 9:39-9:41 a.m., from Canal Street onto Bank Street to Cherry Street.
18. Tara Tiller, 9:43-9:46 a.m., from Cherry Street to Morgan County Courthouse steps for a 15-minute break.
19. Frank DeButy, 10:03-10:05 a.m., from courthouse onto Second Avenue Southeast to Moulton Street.
20. Kevin Hall, 10:05-10:08 a.m., from Moulton Street to the Gordon Drive overpass.
21. Charles Langham, 10:08-10:11 a.m., from Gordon Drive overpass to Second Avenue Southwest.

22. Jordan Hardwick, 10:11-10:14 a.m., on Gordon Drive from Second Avenue to Fourth Avenue.
23. John Henderson, 10:18-10:21 a.m., on Moulton Street West from 11th Avenue to Westgate Shopping Center.
24. Ronnie White, 11:25-11:29 a.m., Alabama 157, pass McDonald's, Winn Dixie and Western Sirloin Steak House. (Moulton)
25. Clyde Goode III, 11:29 p.m. to 11:32 p.m., Western Sirloin Steakhouse, Moulton.
26. Eric Warren, 11:32-11:36 a.m., Alabama 157, pass Morgan Street, Bryler Road (Moulton).
27. Charles Jordan, 11:36-11:40 a.m., Alabama 157, picks up torch from Warren just past Bryler Road (Moulton).
28. Nancy Large, 12:36-12:40 a.m., Lawrence County 187, just before Oakville Indian Mounds and Museum Park (Oakville).
29. Chad Smith, 12:40-12:43 a.m., Lawrence County 187, pass Oakville Indian Mounds and Museum Park (Oakville).
30. Neal Hall, 12:43-12:47 a.m., Lawrence County 187, pass Oakville Indian Mounds Museum Park (Oakville).
31. Jesse Owens' grandson Stuart Owen Rankin of Boston, 12:47 to 12:52 p.m., Lawrence County 187, carries torch into the Jesse Owens Memorial Park on Lawrence County 203, pass baseball diamond and to the stage (Oakville).
32. Gerald Turner, 1:22 p.m., off stage leg, Oakville.
33. James Pinlon and Therman White, 1:22-1:27 p.m., out of park, down Lawrence County 203 to Alabama 157.
34. Steve Woodward Jr., 1:27 p.m. to 1:34 p.m., Lawrence County 187, Oakville.
35. Sherree Driver, 1:34-1:40 p.m., Oakville, Lawrence County 203 to Alabama 157.
36. Charles Friedrich, 2:15-2:19 p.m., Moss Terry Funeral Home, Cullman Marble and Concrete, (Cullman.)
37. Euel James, 2:19-2:22 p.m., Cullman Marble and Concrete to Jeep Eagle.
38. Mark Wisener, Sunday, pass Texaco on Helena Road and Malas Greek Pizza (Pelham).

THE DECATUR DAILY

"Our country . . . may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong." — COMMODORE STEPHEN DECATUR

85TH YEAR, NO. 125

SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1996

25 CENTS - DECATUR, ALABAMA • 72 PAGES

The torch is here

Torch schedule

The Olympic torch spent Friday night at the Holiday Inn in Decatur and was driven back to the Space and Rocket Center to begin today's run. Here is the schedule.

Today

6:30 a.m. — Departs Huntsville Space and Rocket Center.
 6:36 — crosses stop light after I-565.
 6:42 — turns right on Wynn.
 6:51 — passes Redstone Federal Credit Union.
 6:53 — turns left on Bradford Drive.
 6:55 — turns right on Motorola Drive.
 7:10 — turns right onto front drive of Motorola.
 7:11 — bears left, turns right onto Bradford Drive.
 7:19 — turns left onto Rideout Road.
 7:33 — turns left on Old Madison Pike Road.
 7:53 — turns right onto Alabama 20.
 7:54 — passes Teledyne Advance Materials entrance.
 8:02 — crosses Slaughter Road.
 8:08 — passes Wyle Laboratories.
 8:09 — passes Madison City Limit/Texaco.
 8:22 — crosses Hughes Road, Texaco.
 8:28 — crosses railroad tracks.
 8:35 — crosses Wall-Triana Highway.
 8:47 — passes ABC Beverages.
 9:00 — enters Uimestone County.
 9:01 — crosses County Line Road.
 9:02 — merges onto I-565.
 9:05 — passes Greenbrier Road.
 9:07 — passes Mooresville Road.
 9:10 — passes I-65.
 9:10 — enters Decatur city limits.
 9:11 — I-565 ends.
 9:14 — crosses over U.S. 31.
 9:15 — passes Day Park.
 9:29 — passes stoplight at Keller Memorial Bridge.
 9:32 — passes end of bridge.
 9:35 — turns right on Church Street North-east.
 9:39 — crosses Oak Street.
 9:41 — turns left on Bank Street.
 9:44 — turns left on Lee Street.
 9:48 — arrives Morgan County Courthouse, break begins.



Brandon Key of Hazel Green waves his American flag as Ed Ricco bikes the Olympic torch into Alabama.

DAILY Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

Torchbearer ready to begin Decatur run

By Paul Huggins
 DAILY Staff Writer

You might think sleeping would be difficult for the torchbearers hours before taking charge of one of the most respected symbols in modern history.

Not so, says Lisa Montgomery, who receives the flame at Day Park at about 9:15 this morning, starting the first Decatur leg across the causeway. Today's trek starts at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville at 6:30.

"To tell you the truth, it's been so long in anticipating it, that I don't think it's really sunk in that it's actually finally going to be here. I think maybe when I put the uniform on in the morning that's probably when it will really hit me."

Though Mrs. Montgomery runs regularly, she said she's a little nervous. "I just hope I don't trip over my feet or drop it. It's like when you're graduating high school and you pick up your diploma, you always think you're going to trip going up the stairs or something," she said.

THE DECATUR DAILY

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10:03 — break ends at Morgan County Courthouse.
10:04 — turns right on Second Avenue.
10:06 — turns right on Gordon Drive.
10:13 — bears left onto West Moulton Street.
10:22 — passes Westgate Shopping Center.
10:25 — passes Beltline Road.
10:31 — crosses Woodall Road.
10:37 — enters Trinity city limits.
10:44 — enters Lawrence County.
10:55 — crosses Lawrence County Road 34, Dairy Queen.
11:12 — passes Moulton police jurisdiction sign.
11:20 — arrives Moulton city limits.
11:21 — turns left on Alabama 157.
11:25 — passes McDonald's on left.
11:35 — crosses Bryler Road.
12:02 p.m. — passes Classical Fruits and Barbecue.
12:08 — crosses bridge.
12:29 — turns left on Lawrence County 187.
12:43 — passes Oakville Indian Mounds Park and Museum.
12:49 — turns right at stop sign.
12:49 — turns left into Jesse Owens Memorial Park.
12:52 — lunch begins.
1:22 — lunch ends.
1:24 — turns left out of park.
1:34 — bears right at grain towers.
1:40 — turns left on Alabama 157.
1:40 — passes Alabama 36.
1:45 — enters Morgan County.
1:47 — crosses Darville Road.
1:53 — crosses Mount Nebo Road.
1:56 — enters Cullman County.

Owens park 'marvelous,' says daughter of legend

By Lesley Farrey Pacey
DAILY Staff Writer

MOULTON — Jesse Owens' oldest daughter admits 60 years is a long time to wait for hometown recognition of her Olympic hero father.

But joy replaced any disappointment Gloria Owens Hemphill felt when she and four generations of Owens' relatives arrived here.

"It's absolutely marvelous," Mrs. Hemphill, 62, of Chicago, said of Lawrence County's effort to build the \$1.5 million, 17.5-acre memorial park for her father, the son of a Lawrence County sharecropper who won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, shattering Adolf Hitler's myth of Aryan supremacy.

"It is so beautiful and the community spirit behind this just floored me. From the moment we hit Birmingham, I just felt so engulfed in love. I feel so much a part of this community and I've never been here."

Mrs. Hemphill, her family and friends were at home Friday morning at a back-yard breakfast at park project coordinator James Pinion's home. They sat under willow trees, autographed programs and talked about their first glimpse of Alabama and the park.

Relatives are guests of honor at today's ceremony where Owens' widow Ruth Owens will light a 1936 torch replica that will burn eternally. A 14-foot bronze statue of

Please see **Owens**, page A7



DAILY Photo by John Godbey

The family of Olympic medalist Jesse Owens posed for this portrait. Family members include, front row, Sylvester Owens, brother; Gloria Owens Hemphill, daughter; Beverly Owens Prather, daughter; Ruth Owens, widow; Marlene O. Rankin, daughter, and behind her Stuart Owen Rankin, grandson.

In case the flame is accidentally extinguished, the mother flame that travels with the torch relay caravan can be used to relight the torch.

As the flame approaches Keller Memorial Bridge, dozens of boaters are expected to announce the arrival by sounding their horns and releasing about 500 helium balloons. It's just a hint of what lies ahead.

Friday night, under the direction of Larry Counts, general manager of Balloons Above, about 22 volunteers worked feverishly for more than three hours to inflate 5,000 balloons to be distributed between 8 and 9.

It's the largest single-day inflation job Counts said he's ever done. The major logistical problems are time and heat, he said. "The biggest thing going against us is the lifetime of the balloon. They have about 20 to 24 hours of float time."

They were stored inside the air-conditioned Robinson building

Please see **Run**, page A7

Owens

Continued from page A1

Owens breaking through Olympic rings will be unveiled and the family will walk through a replica of Owens' childhood home.

"It will make beautiful, beautiful memories I'm sure," said Ruth Owens, 81, who came to Birmingham in 1970 when her husband was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame but visited Oakville for the first time Thursday. "And for the grandchildren it will be wonderful. It will be something for me to completely retire on."

Stuart Owen Rankin, 29, who resembles his famous grandfather, will run the torch into the park today. The Harvard Law School employee from Boston was impressed by the park's 14-foot bronze statue of his grandfather and the replica house.

"It's a far cry from what was across the road," said Rankin, referring to two granite monuments and a basketball court erected in 1983 to mark Owens' birthplace.

Most of the family has never been in Alabama and this is a time to replace old images with new ones.

"We've been talking for awhile about coming to the (Owens Memorial) 10K Run," said Stuart Owen Rankin Sr. of Chicago. "Probably after this experience we will come down. Everyone has been so wonderful I feel we owe it to them — and ourselves — to come back."

Mrs. Hemphill says the park effort is a testimonial to her father's faith in humankind.

"It speaks to my dad's philosophy that we are all one race — the human race — and if we all work together what a wonderful, wonderful place this would be."

Pinion, who is white, and Oakville resident Therman White, who is black, have headed an interracial park committee the past five years to make the park a reality.

Mrs. Hemphill said her father, who died in 1980, wouldn't have

expected the cotton fields of his youth to be transformed into a tribute to his life. She said he would have believed it possible, however, because he had faith in "the people of this country."

"He would say, 'I know it takes time for something like this to happen, but I had faith that it would happen,'" she said. "He never looked for anything to happen or for people to honor him — that wasn't him. He would not have tried to initiate this in Alabama. But now that this has happened he would be very pleased."

Owens' youngest of three daughters, 57-year-old Marlene Rankin said she doesn't have any feelings about the recognition being so late.

"It is not something you walk around expecting," said the executive director of the Jesse Owens Foundation in Chicago. "If it happens it's wonderful, but it is not something you expect people to do for you. I think it is great it is happening and I admire the people who have really given it their all to make this happen."

Owens' middle daughter, Beverly Owens Prather, 58, said, "Living in this world as long as I have, you realize what people are and you accept people for what they are and as they say, everything comes in its own time. And it's just sad that it had to take this long, but thank God it has happened."

Mrs. Hemphill said the park is special because it honors her father and provides recreation, education and hope for young people. Children who see the sharecropper's house alongside the Owens' sculpture will realize "they can rise to this."

"It is very important to see life is not hopeless. That the world is their oyster. We have to give them hope. I want them to see that my father did this. That he had this in his gut and he succeeded."

She said there's also a message in the park being built. "It is more than just a park and more than just a statue. It gives meaning to one's life and one's life work. It shows

people that although it took 60 years for this to happen. It happened."

While Owens got worldwide recognition for his athletic and humanitarian achievements, he was largely forgotten in his hometown.

"I didn't realize Owens was from Oakville — not until the controversy came up," said Lawrence County Commissioner Jim Corum whose district includes Oakville.

The late state Rep. Roger Dutton in 1983 attempted to get a monument to Owens on the courthouse lawn, but an all-white Lawrence County Commission blocked it.

That decision led to its placement in Oakville. A chest-high granite monument was erected on a half-acre plot. The only other markers of Owens' birthplace were a small granite monument bearing the wrong birth date and a brick display case filled with faded Owens memorabilia.

Other struggles followed. Residents of this predominantly black town chased away vandals who wrapped a chain around the new granite monument, trying to rip it from the ground. The incident left chips still visible today.

The biggest struggle was money. The park site was acquired in 1990 when White matched a \$15,000 grant with \$2,500 from his pocket, and asked Pinion for his help.

The Olympics, and the torch coming through here, were the catalyst for corporate and government funds to complete the park.

Owens' only living sibling among nine children, 87-year-old Sylvester Owens, has memories here, among them working fields and sleeping on the floor. Sylvester Owens also remembers prejudice.

"There was so much animosity between the races," he said. "... And now today, you can go anywhere you like and you can do what you like..."

Surrounded by family here, Sylvester Owens said his brother "would be one of the most proud fellows in the world that people thought enough of him to do this."

Run

Continued from page A1

Friday night because the heat would cause the latex to expand releasing the helium even faster. But today, "the heat will help us because it causes the gas to expand."

When Mrs. Montgomery receives the flame, the celebration will have been under way for more than an hour. Crowds in the thousands are expected to attend today's event, and the relay planning committee has set up entertainment throughout the morning.

From 8 to 11, simultaneous performances will be at Founder's Park (Morgan County area band), Princess Theater (Encore!) and Westgate Shopping Center (300-member youth choir).

The Bank Street Players were scheduled to perform at the corner of Gordon Drive and Second Avenue but a guitarist was suddenly called out of town and it was too late to get another group.

At 9:20, the mayor will unveil the Olympic Commemorative monument at Founder's Park and issue a

proclamation encouraging all citizens to celebrate the message of the Olympic flame and uphold its ideals.

The torch relay caravan will stop at the Morgan County Courthouse at about 9:43 allowing the crew to take a 15-minute break. While the flame rests on the courthouse's second-floor landing, Encore! will perform from the courthouse steps.

A reserved grandstand for Olympic Torch Relay officials and sponsors will be set up at Founder's Park. A public grandstand will be at Second Avenue at Moulton Street Southeast.

A souvenir truck will be traveling with the caravan selling T-shirts, pins, mugs, and other items. No private vendors will be allowed to sell near the relay route.

After making its way west of Decatur, through Trinity on Alabama 24 and Moulton on Alabama 24 and Alabama 157, the torch will head to Oakville.

Gov. Fob James will be at Oakville to greet the torch when it is carried into the Jesse Owens Memorial Park by Owens' grandson,

Stuart Owen Rankin, at about 12:49

p.m.

A sculpture of Owens will be unveiled and the late Olympic hero's wife will light the eternal flame, which is replica of the Olympic torch. Entertainment and food are planned throughout the day.

Members of the Olympic caravan will have lunch in the park and will depart about 1:22 en route to Cullman County on Alabama 157.

Limestone torchbearer Ausie Clement, who is disabled, was excited after dutifully carrying the Olympic flame.

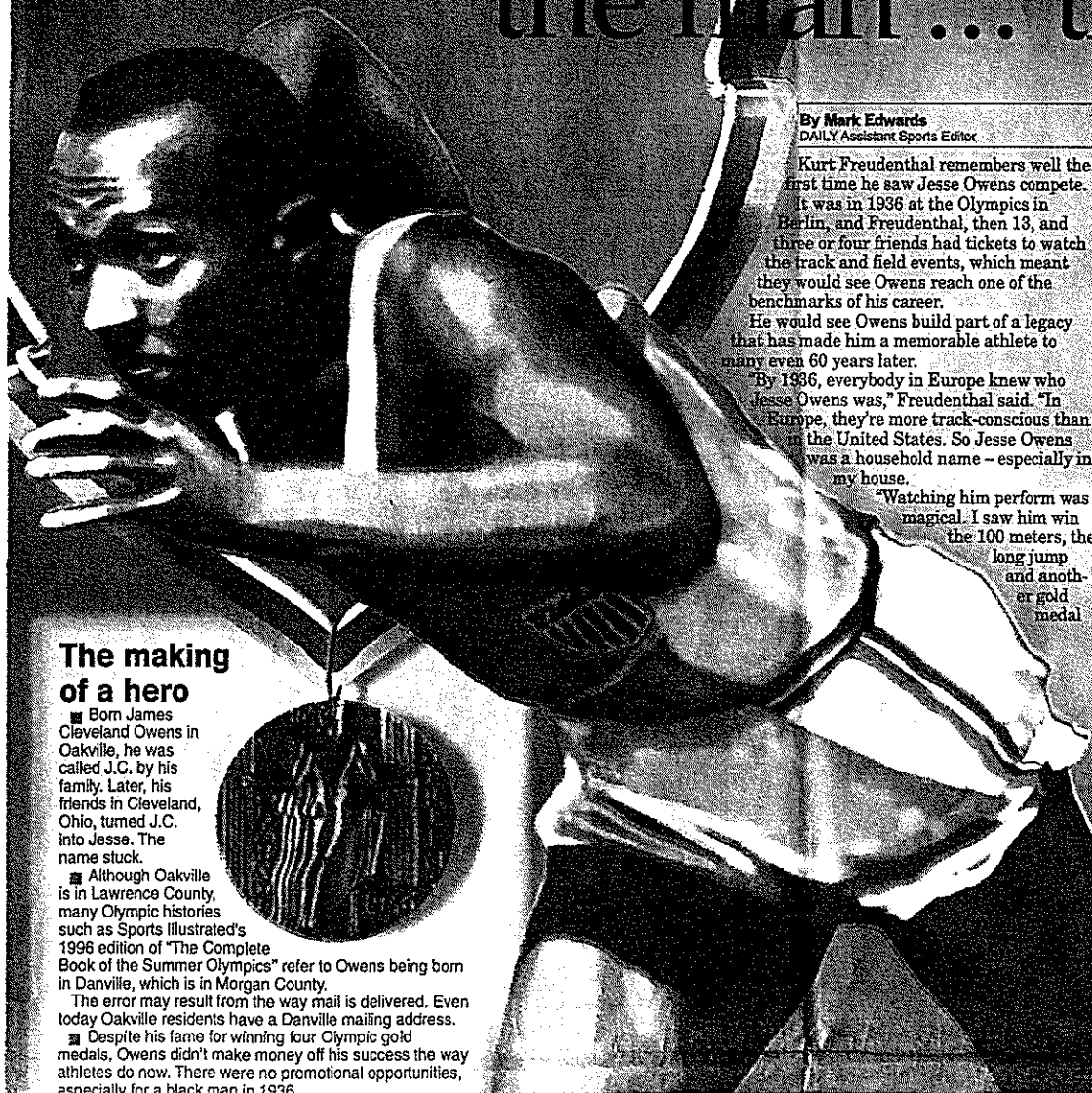
"It was exhilarating for me, seeing the person that was bringing the torch to me. We did a high-reach to light it, we shook hands and I walked my part. It was beautiful to see all the people along the way saying, 'Go USA' and waving flags," he said.

Limestone County Agent Curtis Grissom, who carried the torch in Huntsville, agreed.

"It was exhilarating. The most exciting part was to see the people participating. The crowd was tremendous. They cheered you on and made you want to soak it all up."

JESSE OWENS

the man ... the legend



The making of a hero

■ Born James Cleveland Owens in Oakville, he was called J.C. by his family. Later, his friends in Cleveland, Ohio, turned J.C. into Jesse. The name stuck.

■ Although Oakville is in Lawrence County, many Olympic histories such as Sports Illustrated's 1996 edition of "The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics" refer to Owens being born in Danville, which is in Morgan County.

The error may result from the way mail is delivered. Even today Oakville residents have a Danville mailing address.

■ Despite his fame for winning four Olympic gold medals, Owens didn't make money off his success the way athletes do now. There were no promotional opportunities, especially for a black man in 1936.

By Mark Edwards
DAILY Assistant Sports Editor

Kurt Freudenthal remembers well the first time he saw Jesse Owens compete. It was in 1936 at the Olympics in Berlin, and Freudenthal, then 13, and three or four friends had tickets to watch the track and field events, which meant they would see Owens reach one of the benchmarks of his career.

He would see Owens build part of a legacy that has made him a memorable athlete to many even 60 years later.

"By 1936, everybody in Europe knew who Jesse Owens was," Freudenthal said. "In Europe, they're more track-conscious than in the United States. So Jesse Owens was a household name — especially in my house."

"Watching him perform was magical. I saw him win the 100 meters, the long jump and another gold medal

in the 400-meter relay. We didn't have tickets for when he won the 200. Before he ran, you knew something magical would happen."

Freudenthal and his family left Germany a couple of years later. He lived in Indianapolis and spent 33 years as the sports editor of the United Press

International's Indiana bureau.

"He was such a rare athlete," he said. "He was so ahead of his time."

"I believe that if he were competing today with the improvements in equipment, diet and training, I don't think anybody could touch him — not even Carl Lewis."

Filmmaker Bud Greenspan learned plenty about Owens' Olympic legacy in 1964 when he did a documentary on his life.

"Jesse Owens was a pioneer in and out of the arena," Greenspan said from his Cappy Productions offices in New York. "In 1936, he competed in the Olympics in Nazi Germany. This was two months after German boxer Max Schmeling defeated Joe Louis."

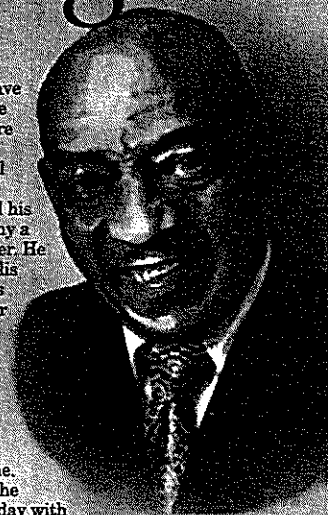
"Adolf Hitler proclaimed that victory a victory for Aryan supremacy. But Jesse Owens put all that to shame."

Auburn track and field coach Harvey Glance shared a relationship with Owens, too.

Glance competed in three Olympics and won a gold medal in the 400-meter relay in 1976. Glance respected Owens' talent, and Owens respected Glance's. In an article done for The Sporting News in the late 1970s, Owens listed Glance as one of the 10 fastest men alive.

But Glance idolized Owens for what he meant off the track as much as he meant on it.

"He was a role model for me," Glance said. "He had a fondness for kids, public speaking and children's programs. He was a good person. On the field, he motivated me, but off the track he motivated me just as much."



To make ends meet, he raced against horses and once made \$2,000 in Havana, Cuba, for such a race. He didn't like being a sideshow. "It was worse than sharecropping," he wrote in his autobiography. He eventually prospered in public relations and as an inspirational speaker.

■ The 1936 Olympics were held in Berlin while the Nazi Party and its evil leader, Adolf Hitler, were in power. He believed the Germans were a master race and referred to African-American athletes like Owens as the United States' "black auxiliaries."

When German Hans Woelke won the first gold medal of the Games in the shot put and countryman Gerhard Stock placed third, they were invited to Hitler's private box to be congratulated. Other athletes were honored similarly.

But when Germans were eliminated in the high jump later in the day, Hitler left his box and wasn't around when Americans Cornelius Johnson, Dave Albritton and Delos Thurber swept the medals. Johnson and Albritton both were black.

Count Baillet-Latour, president of the International Olympic Committee, told Hitler to honor all winners if he was going to honor some. Hitler responded that he would congratulate German winners in private during the rest of the Games. Thus, Hitler was following a directive when he never congratulated Owens in person.

■ One German became Owens' friend. When Owens fouled on his first two attempts in the long jump qualifying, Germany's Carl Ludwig "Luz" Long suggested the American jump several inches behind the takeoff line on his final attempt.

Owens took the advice and qualified by a centimeter. In the finals, Owens cleared 26 feet, 5.5 inches to defeat Long for the gold medal. Long congratulated Owens as Hitler watched.

Sadly, Long died fighting for Germany in World War II during the Battle of St. Pietro on July 14, 1943.



Major moments in Owens' life

- Sept. 12, 1913: Born to Henry and Emma Owens, sharecroppers in Oakville.
- Dec. 25, 1919: The date Jesse Owens' autobiography says his mother announced the family was moving north to Cleveland, Ohio, in search of a better life. Other historians say it was closer to 1922.
- July 5, 1930: Jesse and Ruth Solomon marry secretly. He is only 16 and doesn't try to get his parents' permission because he knows they'll turn him down.
- May 25, 1935: Owens breaks three world records and ties another while competing for Ohio State in the Big 10 championship meet in Ann Arbor, Mich. His records are in the long jump (26 feet, 8.25 inches), 220-yard dash (20.3 seconds) and 220-yard low hurdles (22.6 seconds). A 9.4-second 100-yard dash ties the world record. The long jump distance remains the world record until 1960.
- Aug. 3, 1936: Owens captures his first Olympic gold medal by winning the 100-meter dash in 10.3 seconds. He beats American teammate Ralph Metcalfe, a future U.S. congressman, by one-tenth second.
- Aug. 4, 1936: Owens gets his second gold medal of the Games by winning the long jump on his final attempt, when he covers 26 feet, 5.5 inches.
- Aug. 5, 1936: Owens earns his third gold medal with a 20.7-second 200-meter sprint. The runner-up is Matthew "Mack" Robinson, whose brother Jackie breaks major-league baseball's color barrier in 1947.
- Aug. 9, 1936: Owens gets his fourth gold medal when he runs a 100-meter leg in the 400-meter relay.
- 1976: Receives the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Gerald Ford.
- March 31, 1980: Owens dies of lung cancer in Tucson, Ariz., at age 66.

North Alabama Trackers coach Aaron Goode said he grew to respect Owens long ago.

"I respect what he did at the Olympics and how his performance made a strong statement about the attitude of Hitler," Goode said. "That was a very important thing. In his life, he represented America and Lawrence County extremely well."

Standing the test of time

How Olympic gold-medal performances in the 1936 Berlin Games and 1992 Barcelona Games compare:

Gold medalists in many Olympic events wouldn't even qualify for the Summer Games 40, 50 or 60 years later based on their winning times or distances. But Jesse Owens' accomplishments have stood the test of time. It's conceivable that he could be a gold-medal contender today with the benefit of modern training techniques, nutrition and clothing — as well as having competition that pushed him to improve.

100-meter dash		200-meter dash		400-meter dash		100-meter freestyle swim		Long jump		Pole vault	
1936	1992	1936	1992	1936	1992	1936	1992	1936	1992	1936	1992
Jesse Owens (USA)	Linford Christie (Great Britain)	Jesse Owens (USA)	Michael Marsh (USA)	Archie Williams (USA)	Quincy Watts (USA)	Ferenc Csik (Hungary)	Aleksandr Popov (Russia)	Jesse Owens (USA)	Carl Lewis (USA)	Earle Meadows (USA)	Maksim Tarasov (Russia)
10.3 seconds	9.96 seconds	20.7 seconds	20.01 seconds	46.5 seconds	43.5 seconds	57.6 seconds	49.02 seconds	26 ft., 5.5 in.	28 ft., 5.5 in.	14 ft., 3.25 in.	19 ft., .25 in.
Christie was 3.3 percent faster.		Marsh was 3.3 percent faster.		Watts was 6.5 percent faster.		Popov was 14.9 percent faster.		Lewis went 7.6 percent farther.		Tarasov went 33.3 percent higher.	
The last time Owens' time would've made the top eight in an Olympics: 1988, seventh.		The last time Owens' time would've made the top eight in an Olympics: 1992, eighth.		The last time Williams' time would've made the top eight in an Olympics: 1968, eighth.		Csik's time would've made the top eight in an Olympics: 1956, fifth.		The last time Owens' distance would've made the top eight in an Olympics: 1992, sixth.		The last time Meadows' height would've made the top eight in an Olympics: 1956, fourth.	

THE DECATUR DAILY

"Our country . . . may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong." — COMMODORE STEPHEN DECATUR

85TH YEAR, NO. 126

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1996

\$1.25 - DECATUR, ALABAMA - 260 PAGES

'It was so special'

Owens has
his day in
the sun

By Lesley Farrey Pacey
DAILY Staff Writer

OAKVILLE — A lifelong friend of Jesse Owens told a crowd that a park dedication for the Olympic great Saturday means a new day for racial harmony in Alabama.

"Today by dedicating this memorial to the memory of the world's most famous track and field Olympic athlete, the people of Alabama are taking that first step in the journey of a thousand miles leading toward the objective of creating a genuine color blind paradise on earth," said Melvin Walker, one of Owens' black teammates at Ohio State University.



Atlanta 1996

The \$15 million park in Owens' hometown comes 60 years after he won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics shattering Adolf Hitler's myth of Aryan supremacy.

But Walker, 81, of Chicago, said the dedication came when the time was right.

Five years ago an interracial park committee began working to build the 17.5-acre park and earlier struggles like an all-white county

Please see Owens, page A7



DAILY Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

Ruth Owens shows her pleasure when the statue of her late husband Jesse was unveiled at Oakville.



DAILY Photo by John Godbey

Youngsters join Jesse Owens' grandson Stuart Rankin as he carries the Olympic torch into Oakville escorted by Phillip Prince.

Owens

Continued from page A1

commission's refusal in 1983 to allow a monument on the courthouse lawn were past.

Blacks and whites gathered in the 89 degree heat and celebrated the moment that brought four generations of the Olympic hero's family to the park and put them on the same stage with Gov. Fob James and U.S. Rep. Tom Bevill, D-Jasper. The Ohio State University sent public relations director Reggie Anglin who arrived with memorabilia.

"The fact is Jesse Owens represents more than a great athlete," Bevill told the crowd estimated at 7,500 people by Chief Deputy Jim Martin. "He represents more than a great black athlete. He represents the triumph of human dignity, courage and valor in the face of cruel oppression."

James declared Jesse Owens Day and said Owens' performance at the 1936 Berlin Olympics will live forever in sports history and human achievement.

"In the midst of German storm troopers and swastikas, a 22-year-old college sophomore did what no other world statesman could do. He sent Adolf Hitler and all of Nazidom into sudden, swift retreat by standing the myth of Aryan superiority squarely on its head."

James introduced a woman who was 12 when she captured Owens on her Brownie Box camera at the

1936 Olympics. Thea Petschek Tervolino, whose Czechoslovakian, Jewish family later fled Berlin remembers Owens' "running was so elegant and effortless like a panther, his face and physique so beautiful."

She was at the dedication Saturday to photograph Owens' grandson, Stuart Owen Rankin, who sprinted through the park with the Olympic flame. Rankin's aunt, Gloria Owens Hemphill, jumped up and down, and the crowd joined his family with cheers.

"I feel like Princess Di."

Ruth Owens
Jesse Owens' widow
after signing autographs

Rankin resembles his famous grandfather and his entry flanked by a blond escort runner, Phillip Price of Russellville, was a flashback to 1936 when Owens and German long-jumper Lutz Long became friends during the competition.

Smiling, Rankin, 29, of Boston, saluted the sky with his torch. His 81-year-old grandmother, Ruth Owens, aided by a walker, stepped to embrace him.

This was Mrs. Owens first visit to her husband's birthplace and she had looked forward to the day in the park for "beautiful, beautiful memories."

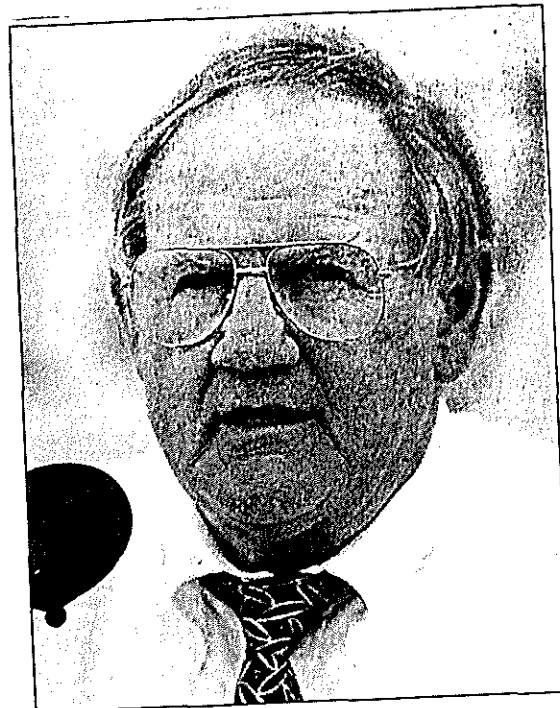
Later the crowd surged around her as she unveiled a 14-foot bronze sculpture of her husband breaking through the Olympic rings sculpted by Branko Medenica of Birmingham. Then she lit a permanent replica of the 1936 torch at the park.

"Thank you for giving us Jesse," Leon Graham, 75, of Florence told her. "He was a great inspiration for all of us in Alabama, the United States and the world."



DAILY Photo by Scott Trigg

Torchbearer Tara Tiller places her torch in a holder at the Morgan County Courthouse during a 15-minute break in the Olympic Torch Relay through Decatur.



DAILY Photo by John Godbey

Gov. Fob James honored Jesse Owens during ceremonies at Oakville.

THE DECATUR DAILY

"Our country . . . may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong." — COMMODORE STEPHEN DECATUR

85TH YEAR, NO. 126

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1996

\$1.25 - DECATUR, ALABAMA - 260 PAGES

Torch ignites patriotism throughout the Valley; thousands see flame

By Paul Huggins
DAILY Staff Writer

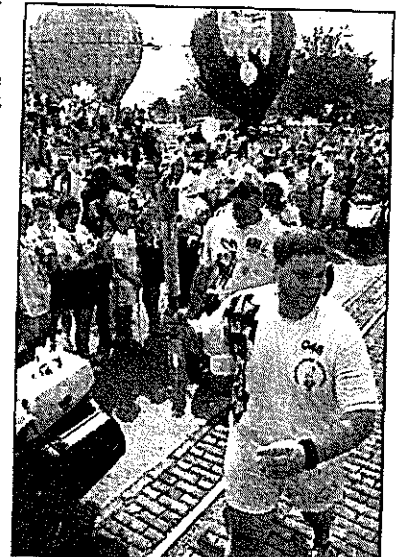
The Olympic Flame passed by like a flash, but it was long enough to stay etched in the minds of the thousands of Decatur citizens and visitors who witnessed it Saturday.

"It was just over too quick," said Melvie Billips of Athens. "I'm ready to follow it someplace else." Mrs. Billips and her family watched it go by on the causeway first. After rushing over to Second Avenue to see it again, they were debating whether to go out to Oakville and see the flame arrive at Jesse Owens Memorial Park.

"It's so special. I just want to follow it as long as I can."

It was a hazy humid morning with the sun's rays bouncing off thousands of colorful balloons and glistering on sweaty foreheads of the thousands of viewers who lined the streets. Some started arriving as early as 7 a.m.

Three Decatur residents — Lane Barnes, Bruce Jones and Katie Harris — carried the flame in Madison, but Lisa Montgomery was the first run with it in Decatur when she received it at Day Park with about 100 people cheering.



DAILY Photo by Scott Trigg

Jeremy Gaertner carries the torch past a crowd gathered at Church and Bank Streets Northeast.

As the flame crossed the Keller Memorial Bridge, more than 20 boats underneath released thousands of balloons welcoming it to the River City.

Meanwhile, Mayor Julian Price, Councilman Carter Tutwiler and Morgan County Commission Chairman Larry Bennich were

Please see **Torch**, page A8

North Alabama rides wave of emotion

By Neil Adams
DAILY Sports Writer

Patriotism. Camaraderie. Pride.

North Alabama rode a wave of emotion Saturday as the Olympic torch relay blazed through Day 64 of its cross-country trek to the Summer Games' opening ceremonies in Atlanta on July 19.

At all points along the Olympic flame's journey Saturday, thousands of spectators — many like the group under the Interstate 65 overpass — came hours early.

Cheers boomed. Still-shot and video cameras whirled. Flags — whether small as postcards or big and bold as Chevy trucks — furiously waved.

► Torchbearers recall moment, **A5**

► Decatur attorney recalls taking the flame, **B1**

► Jesse Owens Park opens with fanfare, **B1**

"It's a feeling I never had before and probably will never have again," said 68-year-old Angeline Nazaretian, who carried the torch from Madison County into Limestone County at 9:01 a.m.

"This is special for everybody."

No matter the individual's background, whether a torchbearer or spectator, those involved were

united in celebration of the torch's passing.

► A first-generation American, Ms. Nazaretian is the daughter of an Armenian father and a mother of Czechoslovakian and Polish descent.

She said she felt an intense swell of patriotism as she crossed County Line Road, smiling and waving to a roar of sustained applause.

"We have a wonderful country, and we need to keep it free," said Ms. Nazaretian, Athens State's director of alumni affairs who has worked at the school since 1958.

"This is a great show of patriotism, but we need to have this kind of feeling every day and not just at big events."

Ms. Nazaretian admitted being nervous about carrying the torch. She quickly learned she wasn't alone in her feeling while riding the torchbearers' shuttle bus to various drop-off points.

"The man who played for the Pittsburgh Steelers (Bruce Jones, the city of Decatur's director of youth services) said even he was a little nervous," said Ms. Nazaretian, who quelled her anxiety by joking with her fellow torchbearers.

"Skye Taylor and Bethany Wales are only 17 and 14 years old, and I told them I was 14," Ms. Nazaretian said.

"Add 6 and 8 together and you get 14."

Please see **Emotion**, page A8

Emotion

Continued from page A1

► Decatur lawyer Arthur Orr, who passed the torch to Calhoun Community College baseball coach Gary Redus at 9:25 a.m., discovered a surprise during his run to the north edge of Keller Memorial Bridge.

His sister, Blythe Bowman, and a group of 10 friends and family members were wearing bright blue T-shirts that read, "Run, Sunshine, Run."

"Arthur's a quiet, contemplative person, so calling him 'Sunshine' is kind of sarcastic but in a nice way," Ms. Bowman said. "He saw us cheering us when he was running."

"It was fun, and we're proud of him."

► Torchbearer Frank DeButy has seen plenty of large crowds in his 19 years with the Decatur Police Department.

Saturday surprised him.

The lieutenant, who carried the flame from the Morgan County Courthouse to Second Avenue Northeast to Moulton Street, had difficulty estimating the number of people who watched in Decatur.

"It's more than I've ever seen," DeButy said. "I've never seen anything close to the number for any function in Decatur."

"There were thousands."

► Eighteen-year-old torchbearer Jay Boles received a hero's welcome as he waited on the flame at 10:10 a.m. Long lines of spectators stood several rows deep in front of Westgate Shopping Center on Moulton Street.

"This is amazing — I must have signed a hundred autographs," said the recent Grissom High graduate, who bicycled the torch from Westgate to the city of Moulton.

"I didn't think this many people would show up."

Pedaling the torch, which was affixed behind his bicycle seat, 18 miles to Moulton in almost 90-degree weather was no problem for Boles.

Boles, winner of last year's Alabama Junior Road Race championship, pedals 50 miles every other day. But those 18 miles Saturday won't soon be forgotten, he said.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Boles said. "It's overwhelming to do this."

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It's overwhelming to do this."

Jay Boles, 18
Torchbearer

► Moulton's Tony Peeples and his sons watched the torch pass on Alabama 24 in All-American fashion.

They were on horseback and wearing cowboy boots.

Peeples, sons 12-year-old Tony Paul and 6-year-old Dave, and family friend Jeff Pettet rode horses from the Peeples' house and waited an hour and a half for the Olympic procession.

"The Olympic torch is in our neck of the woods, and riding is what we do every weekend, anyway," explained Peeples, an owner/operator truck driver and part-time horse breeder.

"This was some kind of exciting," said Peeples, peering from under a red, white and blue baseball cap.

"I almost caught enough American spirit to gallop up to the torch and take it all the way to Moulton myself."

Peeples and his group were only a part of the practically unbroken string of spectators lining Alabama 24 from Decatur to Moulton.

Chief deputy Jim Martin estimated 5,000 people lined the route through the city.

"Yep, the torch was moving to watch," said Tony Paul. "Neat."

► The day's largest crowd gathered at Jesse Owens Memorial Park in Oakville, where at 7,500 people watched Owens' grandson Stuart Owen Rankin carry the torch.

Leonard Hampton, a 33-year-old Hillsboro native, chose to ignore his camcorder as Rankin made his way the podium, raised the torch to several minutes of applause and lit the replica of the Olympic cauldron.

Instead of recording the event on video, Hampton sweated as he held his 6-year-old son Blake, 4-year-old daughter Breanna and 6-year-old niece Kanesha in a bearhug high enough so the youngsters could watch Rankin approach the podium around 1 p.m.

"I wanted them to see it with their own eyes because they may not get another chance," Hampton said. "I at least want to get it in their minds of seeing this happening."

Decatur native Erica Allen almost came to tears watching Rankin wave the Olympic flame 60 years after Owens crushed Adolf Hitler's idea of Aryan supremacy at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

"I feel this is an honor for all people, but especially for black people," said Ms. Allen, who is black and has three sons and one daughter ranging from 2 to 17 years old.

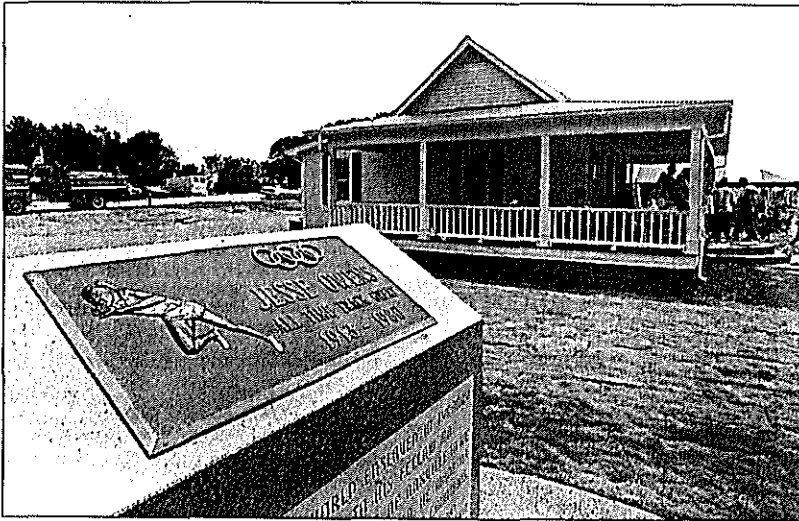
"Watching it moved me, because it's Jesse Owens' grandson and because it's important for young black boys to see a young black man do something in a positive manner," she said.

"It was just beautiful."

► After leaving Lawrence County and briefly re-entering Morgan County, the torch passed by motorcycle along Alabama 157 into Cullman County at 2:01 p.m.

The torch's final miles in Morgan County, capping a five-hour journey from Madison County, drew only a smattering of spectators. But a large outpouring of Cullman residents was only minutes away.

Where more patriotism and more pride awaited.



DAILY Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

The Jesse Owens Memorial Park Visitors Center, sponsored by DAILY Publisher Barrett C. Shelton Jr., was a popular spot for those seeking a little shade.

Torch

Continued from page A1

speaking to the crowd gathered at Founder's Park at the end of Bank Street.

Price read a proclamation and dedicated an Olympic Flame Commemorative monument, while the Morgan County area band played patriotic tunes lifting everyone's anticipation.

At about 9:45, the crowds started to cheer as the long relay caravan led Jeremy Gaertner down Church Street and onto Bank Street.

There, a few young future enterprisers were selling pink lemonade for 50 cents a glass. They sold more than 30 glasses in the first 45 minutes.

Katie Gillen, 8, said "It's just fun watching the people go by."

Though her partner, Melissa Jeffries, may have more opportunities to see an Olympic torch pass by, the 12-year-old said she still considered the day a "once in a lifetime" chance. "It's really special seeing the Olympics start right here in Decatur," she said.

Though temperatures hadn't reached the 90s, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters vending booth at the corner of Lee Street and Second

Avenue had sold more than 250 bottles of Coke in less than 2½ hours.

The relay caravan stopped at the Morgan County Courthouse for a 15-minute break, and runners who already carried the flame were met with bunches of well-wishers wanting their picture taken with the torch. All gladly obliged including Cathy Smith of Huntsville.

"It's something people don't get to see very often, so it's good to share." She was notified Friday night that she could carry the torch while riding a motorcycle from the Morgan-Limestone County line to Day Park.

It became even more special when she discovered she would receive the flame from her former teacher at Athens State College, Angie Nazarelian.

"It definitely was a Kodak moment."

In his 83 years, Wesley Hoskins of Decatur said seeing the flame go by was one of his most memorable moments. "It's wonderful. It's wonderful. I couldn't stand to be away from it."

"We were sitting at home about to go out for breakfast and I said 'Let's go. We'll never get to see this happen again.'"

The relay soon started up again and moved down Second Avenue

quickly making it to Gordon Drive then West Moulton Street. Within 15 minutes, there was little evidence that the flame passed by except for the empty bleachers and red-capped Coke bottles lying in the streets.

Befinda Lavender, Betty Weaver and Kelly Martin, however, remained for a few minutes to reflect on the morning's events.

"It was awesome," Mrs. Lavender said standing on Second Avenue. "We liked it so much we saw it on Bank Street then we ran over here."

"It's been fun seeing all these little kids out here who don't know what's going on and their parents are telling them 'In 10 years you're going to cherish this moment.' Then the little kids say 'But I'm thirsty. I wanna go home.'"

"We saw one lady who said she didn't know if she wanted to come out here but once the torch went by she started to cry, she was so overcome with patriotism," Mrs. Weaver said.

"This was just another chance for our children to be a little part of history," Mrs. Martin added.

Perhaps Tutwiler summed it for everybody in the morning before the flame even arrived. "We're all going to carry away from here some very treasured memories."



DAILY Photo by Scott Trigg

Decatur Police Lt. Frank DeButy carries the torch up Second Avenue Southeast from the Morgan County Courthouse.

Riverfront

B1

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1996

History visits Oakville

Grandson of Owens sprints with torch high

By Clyde L. Stancil
DAILY Staff Writer

OAKVILLE — The crowd cheered when Stuart Owen Rankin ran past with the Olympic torch held high.

Rankin, the grandson of Olympic great Jesse Owens, sprinted to the Owens Memorial Park stage accompanied by his escort runner. The scene must have looked like a footrace to 6-year-old Jacobie Wolfe of Hartselle.

"Mama, mama who won?" he asked.

Many of the younger children in the crowd didn't know what they were celebrating or who Owens was, but they knew it was important and fun.

"We're here to celebrate Olympic Day," said Kecenia Stevenson, 7.

A crowd estimated at nearly 7,500 by Lawrence County Chief Deputy Jim Martin braved the 89-degree heat to witness the dedication of Owens' park and the Olympic Torch Relay. The day's high was 92.

Rankin was ecstatic and his pace faster than most torchbearers as he arrived with the flame at about 12:50 p.m.

"It was a tremendous honor," he said. "I was very much happy to be a part of the whole thing. It's just great to be here."

Sabrina NeSmith of Russellville cleaned her house before waking her sons early Saturday.

"We've got to go," she said to her sons, after working the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift the previous day. "It's not often you get a chance to see history being made."

A current member of the Olympic team thought watching another sprinter enshrined in his hometown was worth a training break.

Rochelle Stevens, 29, a member of the 4x400 meter relay team and



Therman White, left, and James Pinion, the leading forces behind Jesse Owens Memorial Park, carry the flame as it leaves the park.



DAILY Photo by Scott Trigg

Arthur Orr and Gary Redus shake hands as Redus starts his leg of the torchbearer course on the causeway.

Torchbearer reflects on heroic trek

Arthur Orr is an attorney. This is his account of carrying the torch on Day 64 of the journey to Atlanta. He carried the torch on the third leg of the causeway across the Tennessee River.

By Arthur Orr
Decatur Torchbearer

Surrounded by family and friends, I waited anxiously on the roadside as I saw the entourage of vehicles slowly making its way toward me. Lights flashing — it crept ever closer.

A motorcyclist on the torchbearer staff preceded the caravan and motioned up to activate the propane filled torch in my hand. The torch hissed, leaking gas steadily, as I waited on Sylvia Matthews, who was advancing to light my torch. Sylvia, a mother through the years of over 80 foster children and still going strong, is dedicated, with her husband, to providing a loving home for any child in need.

Sylvia approached slowly — walking with the torch held high and a large smile on her face. She called out loudly as she drew near, "Arthur, are you ready?" Replying affirmatively, I stepped forward a few steps and took her free hand in mine as we joined torches wherein one flame became two. Smiling broadly still, she patted me on the back and urged me forward as I turned to carry the Olympic flame the next several hundred yards.

As I turned, however, I heard a bystander say, "Get going hero," in a lighthearted banter.

"Hero." There it was again. That word. Ever since I had been named a local torchbearer, the word or label seemed to follow me. Sometimes brought up in jest, sometimes in true admiration. Sometimes

Please see **Trek**, page B4

DAILY Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

Stuart Rankin, Jesse Owens' grandson, prepares to pass the torch down from the reviewing stand at Jesse Owens Memorial Park.



DAILY Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

Gina H. McCarley, former Oakville-area resident, sports a USA hat.

Sprint

Continued from page B1

an alternate for the 400 meter race, was at the dedication.

Ms. Stevens is a five-time winner of the Jesse Owens Classic 400 meter race and was a silver medalist on the 1992 Olympic 4x400 meter relay. She also finished sixth in the 400 meter.

The fiancée of Pierre Goode, she was supporting the torch run of her future brother-in-law Clyde Goode III of Town Creek.

"It's great to be here and (Owens) is a great role model," she said. "I think the dedication is great and hopefully one day I can get a memorial park in my honor, and maybe a statue too."

Before Rankin sprinted into Oakville's history, the mid-morning crowd streamed into the 17-acre park, with some 5,000 people arriving by shuttle bus, according to Sheila Bishop who headed the public transportation effort. Others parked on roadsides and walked in.

People strolled across the acres of baked red clay and new Bermuda grass, calling to acquaintances, buying memorabilia and listening to vocal groups.

They visited the replica house of Owens' birth which Sylvester Owens said was better than the one where the family lived. Now 87, he spent the morning in the park. A welcome center offered the only air-conditioning but some sought refuge from the sun within the unfinished museum.

Children played a game of tug-of-war and women played softball on the park's diamond.

Umbrellas were the shade trees that were missing. People wore wide-brimmed hats, baseball caps



DAILY Photo by Galy Cosby Jr.

Kyosha Yarbrough and her grandmother Jacqueline seeks shelter from the sun as they wait for the torch to arrive at Jesse Owens Memorial Park.

and even towels for protection against the sun.

"It was very hot and I've enjoyed it," said Kay Walker of Moulton.

"But now I'm ready to go home and cool off."

Empty plastic bottles littered the grounds, a testament to the Coca-



DAILY Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

Heat didn't dissuade the crowd waiting for the torch to arrive at Oakville.

Cola patrons bought to quench their thirsts.

The litter is no problem, said Owens Park committee member Henry Buchanan. Members of the Limestone Correctional Facility chain gangs will be here Monday to clean up the mess, he said.

Some vendors said the excitement was an appetite stimulant.

Kirksey Emu Farm co-owner Robert Kirksey had a good day selling his exotic Emu burgers.

"Sales are good," he said. "Everybody likes them and thinks they are just like beef."

Jo Raley sells funnel cakes and ice cream from D and J Concessions. She said sales were slow because the event was too scattered.

"We had a good crowd here, but

"I think the event speaks for itself."

Therman White
Co-chairman

they were congregated in places other than where the food was set up," said Mrs. Raley. "It was so hot, they didn't want to walk for anything other than cold drinks."

Anyone who didn't get an official T-shirt by noon took home a child's size, said Juanita Jones, a member of the park committee. Hats, programs and posters also commemorated the day.

Ashley Bradford, 12, of Falkville and Alaina Muse of Oakville, 10,

were a Kodak moment in Olympic paraphernalia. Ashley fanned with a red and white Olympic cardboard fan while Alaina showed off her T-shirt as the girls talked about "the biggest thing that ever happened in Oakville."

Therman White, co-chairman of the Owens park committee, was a tired but happy man ready for a vacation as Rankin lit a replica of the 1936 Olympic torch.

"I think the event speaks for itself," White said.

"This is a great event," said Mark Taylor, an Oakville native now living in Madison. "It took a long time, but it's here and I'm enjoying the activities. It's a great thing to see the torch coming through Alabama and through this little town called Oakville."



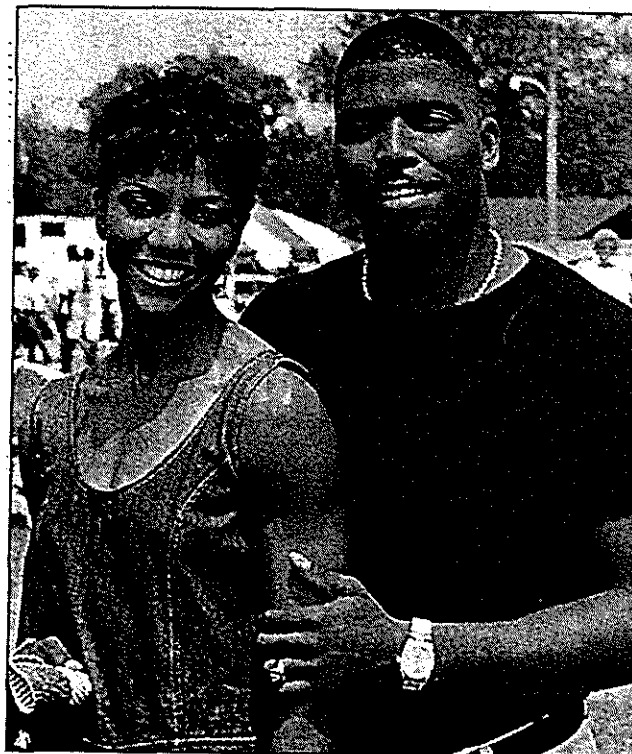
DAILY Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

Ruth Owens lights the replica Olympic torch at the Jesse Owens Museum with the help of her daughter, Beverly Prather.



DAILY Photo by Scott Trigg

Support for the torch bearers came from all sections, including these unidentified supporters who rode alongside bearers as they moved from Day Park to Decatur.



DAILY Photo by
Clyde Stancil

Olympian
Rochelle
Stevens and
Pierre Goode
during cere-
monies at
Jesse Owens
Memorial Park
in Oakville.

January 24, 1997

Mr. George B. Allison
Bureau of Environmental Services
572 E. Patton Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36111

Dear Mr. Allison:

It was very thoughtful of you to give to the Archives the photos and newspaper clippings concerning the Jesse Owens Memorial Park. These will be added to our collection.

By the way, we have been working with Mr. Pinion and the Owens family in this project.

Did we meet this fall when I made a presentation to the OSU Alumni Club in Birmingham? I do visit clubs and give a slide presentation concerning the history of OSU.

Sincerely,

Raimund E. Goerler, Ph.D.
University Archivist / Associate
Professor

REG:me

*Alabama newscippings on Touch and Jesse Owens
Park, dated 11-2-74, 9-17-75, and June 1996 from
this gentleman. Photo and program also came with clippings*

Preparing for honor

Torchbearers humbled to be in festivities

By Paul Huggins
DAILY Staff Writer

There's a good explanation for why Euel James can be spotted, running around his home while carrying a hunk of firewood over his head.

James, 62, is not headed to the funny farm. He's in training for Saturday's Morgan County leg of the Olympic Torch Relay and he doesn't want to drop the 3½-pound torch and disappoint his family and the hundreds of friends cheering him as he carries it into Cullman.

It's not a crazy idea, though the former teacher/coach/administrator at Speake High School said his brain nearly went into shock when he heard he would carry the torch. But he wasn't the only one overwhelmed by the honor.

Eighteen "community heroes" from Morgan County are joining more than 10,000 runners nationwide, carrying the flame over its 15,000-mile journey to Atlanta. Another torchbearer from Morgan County selected by Coca-Cola Bottling Co. also will carry the flame.

They range from a 12-year-old student to a 62-year-old retired teacher. There are attorneys, distinguished professional and amateur athletes, a dentist, a police officer and a mother with more than 80 foster children.

The torch will arrive at Decatur's Day Park on U.S. 31 Saturday at about 9:15 a.m. and be carried to Founders Park in front of the Old State Bank and other parts of downtown where special festivities are planned. It will depart the city at about 10:30 on Alabama 24 on the way to Oakville in Lawrence County.

Some torchbearers gathered for a torchbearers appreciation barbecue Tuesday night.

Arthur Orr, an attorney with Harris, Caddell and Shanks who served the Peace Corps in Nepal for two years, said he knows it sounds like a canned answer but the most significant thing about carrying the torch is how "humble" he feels.

Welcoming the torch

The Olympic torch leaves the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville at 6:30 a.m. Saturday. It's expected to arrive at the Tennessee River causeway at about 9:15 and leave Decatur by Alabama 24 at about 10:30.

◆ Bands and choral and drama groups will entertain from 8 to 11 at their respective sites.
★ Estimated time the torch is expected to come by each location.

★ 9:39 A.M.

FOUNDERS PARK
◆ Morgan County Area Band
◆ Unveiling of Olympic torch commemorative plaque by Mayor Julian Price
◆ Honor Guard by Decatur Police Department

★ 10:04 A.M.

PRINCESS THEATER
◆ ENCORE! will perform at the theater until Olympic torch caravan arrives at courthouse, then will perform at courthouse while caravan rests (expected to be 9:44 to 10:04)

★ 10:20 A.M.

WESTGATE SHOPPING CENTER
◆ Three-hundred member youth choir performs

★ 10:05 A.M.

GORDON DRIVE AND 2nd AVENUE
◆ Bank Street Players will perform
◆ Tethered hot-air balloon will be at Gordon Bibb School

Sources: AP, Olympic Torch Relay Planning Committee

DAILY Graphic by Cindy Greene



DAILY Photo
by Paul Huggins

Greg James, left, his father, Olympic torchbearer Euel James, and his mother, Ramona James, and Robin Byrd, chairwoman of the Morgan County Torch Relay Committee, talk Tuesday night at a barbecue cookout for torchbearers.

"I just think about all the other people out there — delivering Meals on Wheels or whatever. I know there are people much more deserving. People who are doing something not because they are

paid but because they want to."

Decatur Youth Services Director Bruce Jones, had similar sentiments. "I was definitely shocked — and pleased — just because of all the people in Decatur and Morgan

County to choose from." It's more of a tribute to the Youth Services program than it is for Bruce Jones, he said.

Please see **Honor**, page C4

Honor

Continued from page C1

During the relay, each torchbearer may choose an exchange partner to hold a flag next to him or her, signaling the approaching runner who receives the flame.

Jones said he wants a group of kids who have benefited from the program to join him. "Now that would really make me feel good. Without them I wouldn't have gotten this honor."

Lt. Frank DeButy, 42, head of the Decatur police narcotics unit and a Special Olympics and Mental Health Association volunteer, said he was "astounded" when he learned he would carry the torch and be part of its rich tradition.

"Holy cow. That fire started in Greece. I remember studying that in Latin class in high school. To wrap my hands around something like that is pretty special."

The runners were notified of their selection in February about the same time as the ice storm. John Henderson, 35, director of field services with the Boy Scouts and a deacon at 16th Avenue Baptist Church, said he had been stuck in the house for a few days at the time and was ready to get out.

His wife, Sarah, said a UPS truck drove up their driveway and "The first thing he said to me was 'What did you order now?'" It turns out the truck was delivering the letter, notifying him of his selection.

"I had cabin fever," Henderson said, defending himself.

He said he thought he could handle the situation but the patriotic feelings are starting to catch fire. "I think the closer it gets to the time to run — the more special it gets."

Gerald Turner, 42, who helped to organize relief efforts for disaster victims of the 1995 tornado in Joplin and a 1994 flood in Geneva and others before, said he was having a hard time trying to accept the honor.

But discovering he would carry the torch off the stage in Jessie Owens Park where Saturday's celebration reaches its zenith "just blew me away. I had to call Atlanta to verify that. I just couldn't believe it."

"Saturday, it's probably going to be the biggest highlight of my life."

To keep Turner and the other torchbearers' memories warm, they've been given the option of purchasing the torch they carried for about \$250.

Turner said he plans on donating his to Decatur High School where it will be displayed in memory of his older brother, Donald Turner, who was a star quarterback for the Red Raiders in the early '60s.

Orr said his family probably will use his as a tool for embellishment. "I can see the day when my grandkids drag the torch out and show it off to their friends, saying 'This was the torch my granddad used to light the big flame in Atlanta.'"

But Jones said he will have to do without his torch as "it's not in my budget this year. I'll just savor the moment for the rest of my life."

"WALKING THROUGH the exhibition, I was struck by man's capacity for hate, and how people can be swept along by it. Why can't we have that same capacity for love?"

Marlene Owens Rankin

daughter of 1936 Olympics star Jesse Owens



■ **HISTORY LESSON.**

Barbara Barnhart (left) and Betty Walters of Canton look over the "Nazi Olympics" exhibition Sunday at the Canton Museum of Art.

'Nazi Olympics' exhibition opens

Contemporary medalists view somber display

By **DAN KANE**
Repository entertainment writer

CANTON

Olympic great Jesse Owens' daughter, along with six contemporary Olympic track-and-field medalists, attended Sunday's opening of "The Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936," a historical exhibition at the Canton Museum of Art.

It was at the controversial Berlin games, presented by Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime, that black American Owens made history by capturing four gold medals.

VISITING OLYMPIANS stress need to fight racism. / B-5

"While his accomplishments in and of themselves were phenomenal, they were made that much more so because of what was going on in Nazi Germany at the time," Marlene Owens Rankin said. "Walking through the exhibition, I was struck by man's capacity for hate, and how people can be swept along by it. Why can't we have that same capacity for love?"

■ **OLYMPICS A-6**



■ **WASHINGTON WELCOME.** Sara Bloomfield, acting director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., greets visitors to the Canton Museum of Art on Sunday afternoon.

*Repository photos
by Scott Heckel*

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Olympics

■ CONTINUED FROM A-1

A touring exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., "The Nazi Olympics" had a resonance for the Olympic medalists who viewed it Sunday.

For Chandra Cheeseborough, a gold medalist at the 1984 Olympics, it brought back memories of 1980, when she was a member of the U.S. team that boycotted the Moscow games.

"It was something taken away from me," she recalled.

The Nazis' attempts to use the 1936 games as a tool for their propaganda inspired 1992 gold medalist Leroy Burrell to realize that "we have to vehemently fight against sports being used as a voice for ill will," he said.

Sara Bloomfield, acting director of the Holocaust museum, said the Nazi Olympics exhibition, which debuted in Washington, was conceived as "a sobering counterpoint" to the 1996 Atlanta games.

"Most people think of the Holocaust as gas chambers, but the genocide lasted from 1941 to 1945, and Hitler came to power eight years before that. Everything happened incrementally,

and that's what this exhibit looks at."

Ms. Bloomfield, a Cleveland native, said she "can't believe what this city has done" in terms of programming events and student tours around the touring exhibition.

"Canton has set the standard," she said. "I am overwhelmed and touched."

U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Navarre, was instrumental in securing a Canton stop for the exhibition.

"The fact that (the Holocaust Museum) gets its funding from my (congressional) subcommittee had something to do with it," he said.

"I probably got the door open, but the people in the community really did the selling for the potential of having it here.

"In another 35 years, there won't be many people left who lived through World War II and the Holocaust," Regula said. "That's why it's so important to have a way of telling this story."

"We've got 90 days here to touch a lot of hearts and feelings," Neil Berro, director of the Canton Jewish Community Center said about the exhibition's local stay through July 12.

Berro was one of about 200 runners and walkers from the

community who participated in a ceremonial torch run in Sunday's drizzle. The route ran from Malone College to the Cultural Center for the Arts. At the run's end, participants lined up to have their souvenir T-shirts signed by Ms. Rankin and the Olympic medalists.

The other Olympic medalists on hand at Sunday's event were Bill Collins, Joe DeLoach and Butch Reynolds.

Their attendance was arranged by Walter Henderson, executive director of the Stark County Community Action Agency, who as a runner qualified for the Olympic trials in 1972, '76 and '80. He explained that he invited track-and-field medalists in honor of Jesse Owens' accomplishments; Canton native Dave Wottle, a '72 gold medalist, was unable to attend.

While viewing the exhibition, Sarah Gibbs of Akron remarked, "Some things here are very eye-opening. I think it was really very strong of the Jewish athletes who chose not to be in these (Berlin) games."

After viewing the exhibition, Tom Flynn of Cleveland, remarked, "I don't think this country should have sent a team (to Berlin). It was hypocritical on our part."

Summary: this brief biography of the black athlete who won four gold medals in the 1936 olympics was compiled by Historical Arts Museum, Historian Jeanette Alexander a native of Lawrence County, Executive Director of Historical Arts Museum, 2807 Meridian Street, Huntsville, Alabama. Copies are available upon request.

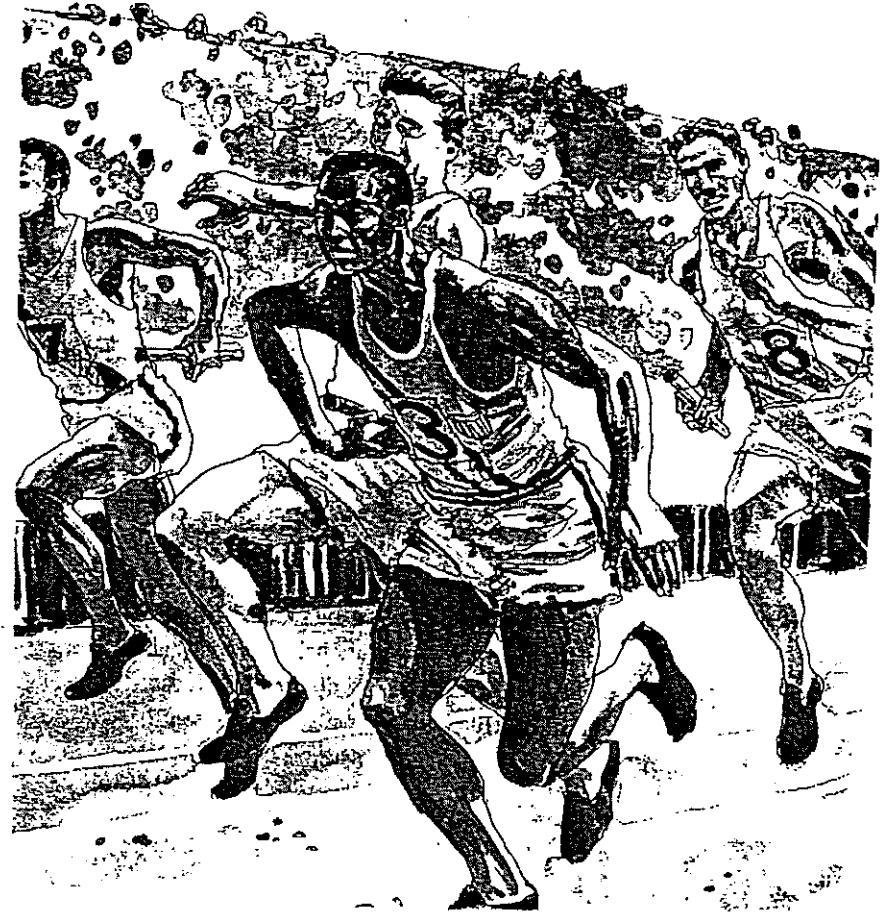


HISTORICAL ARTS
THEATRE/MUSEUM

Jeanette Alexander
Executive Director

2807 Meridian St. NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35811

TOURS
205-539-0080



Jesse Owens
OLYMPIC HERO

JESSE OWENS

OLYMPIC HERO

James Cleveland Owens was born, on September 12, 1913, in a little shack in Oakville, Alabama. It looked like he would not have a chance even to live very long. There was no reason to imagine that this child would grow up to be the world's fastest human.

Jesse's first years were spent in Oakville, Alabama living in poverty in the same area that exist today. His father and mother, Henry and Emma Owens, were sharecroppers. They lived on a fifty-acre farm, where they grew cotton for Mr. John Clannon who owned the farm.

Mr. Clannon owned two hundred and fifty acres of land which was farmed by several families of sharecropper. The sharecroppers bought seeds-usually cotton seeds-from the land owner. Then he planted the seeds, raised the crop, and harvested it. When the crop was sold the land owner and the share cropper shared the profit. Sharecropping may have sound like a fair arrangement, but it was not.

The sharecroppers were forced to buy food, clothing, seed, tools and every other necessity from the landowner. The owner figured up the amount owed to him at the end of the year. He subtracted that amount from the profit the sharecropper was suppose to have received. It worked out that what the sharecropper owed was more than what any profit made on the crops. Year by year, most sharecroppers got deeper and deeper into debt. This was a kind of poverty from which there was no escape. Sharecroppers who complained about the landowner's bookkeeping were often told to pack up and move.

Like other sharecroppers, Jesse's parents lived in constant fear of angering the landowner. These families knew that they were being cheated by Mr. Clannon, but there was nothing they could do. They were not able to read or do arithmetic, which meant they had no way to check Mr. Clannon's numbers and store bills. Mr. and Mrs. Owens were lucky, they had six children who could work fields. James Cleveland's nickname was J.C., who was a sickly and scrawny child who could not help much. His job in the family was just to live and try to get strong enough to do his share.

Every winter J.C. had pneumonia, he coughed and ran fevers throughout those winters but there was no medicine to give him, there were no doctor's in Oakville, even if there had been the Owens family could not afford to pay for medical bills. J.C.'s poor health did not improve because of his living conditions, the shack they lived in was made of cardboard and old wooden planks. When it rained the roof leaked, in cold weather ice winds blew right through the house.

Mr. Owens cooked the meals on a fireplace where the only heat in the house came from. The shack had no stove, no running water, no bathroom and hardly any furniture. During the winter nights Ms. Owens wrapped J.C. in a blanket and put him to sleep next to the fireplace.

Getting enough to eat was another problem. Ms. Owens had a tiny vegetable garden behind the shack. She planted potatoes, beans and corn in the garden which made up most of the family's meals. J.C.'s older brothers killed rabbits for meat on the table. The family bought all their other food at Mr. Clannon's store, this included the ham the Owens family had twice a year Easter and Christmas.

In 1919, J.C. was six years old and during this winter his health worsened, his pneumonia returned, he developed a large lump on his left leg, which made him limp and hardly walk at all. Mrs. Owens was afraid the infection would kill her son. Mrs. Owens had to cut into the lump and the cutting turned out to be a real good thing in which the leg healed.

J.C. ran and played a lot because he had no toys or games and no other children his age to play with. His brother and sisters were in the fields working along with their mother and father each day. J.C. did not go to school for there was no school for black children in Oakville.

Mr. Owens talked about escaping from the life of sharecropping by moving up north for a better life. J.C.'s parents were afraid because Oakville was the only home they had ever known. They had never traveled to the small town called Decatur, Alabama.

In 1921, two things finally happened to change the family's mind. J.C. had pneumonia again and Mr. Clannon decided to take a larger share of Mr. Owens sharecropping earnings. Mr. Owens protested but Mr. Clannon gave him a choice of accepting the terms or getting off the land.

The family chose Cleveland, Ohio, as their new home. They didn't know anyone in Cleveland, but they had heard that it was a good place to live and work. In the spring of 1921, the Owens family packed their few belongings and took the Louisville and National Railroad north. When they arrived in Cleveland, they rented a small apartment in a three-story, wooden house on the east side of the city.

It was an exciting new world for young J.C. There were sidewalks, paved roads, and so many houses! People seemed to be everywhere. Why, their new apartment even had running water and electricity.

Best of all, J.C. started school. He was almost speechless with excitement on his first day at St. Clair's Grammar School. When his teacher asked the shy little boy his name, he whispered, "J.C., Ma'am." The teacher smiled, and said, "Welcome to the class, Jesse." Young J.C. was so nervous, he did not correct the teacher. As a result, his name went onto the school records as Jesse Owens. He liked the sound of it, and he used that name for the rest of his life.

Jesse enjoyed school, learning to read and write and do arithmetic. He also was glad to have so many friends his own age. Jesse's only regret was that he couldn't play with them after school. Even when he was in grammar school, Jesse had to work to support his family.

Jesse's health was better than it had been in Alabama, though he was still very thin. Despite Jesse's skinniness, there was something about him that caught the eye of Coach Charles Riley—Jesse's speed in schoolyard races during recess. Mr. Riley was the gym teacher at Jesse's school, as well as the track coach at Fairmont Junior High School and at East Technical High School.

In the fall of 1923, Coach Riley asked ten-year-old Jesse if he would like to join the track team. Jesse was thrilled and said, "Yes!"

When Jesse was attending Fairmont Junior High School, he ran in his first interscholastic track meet. The best runners from all the junior high schools in Cleveland would be at that meet, and Jesse was nervous. But his nervousness disappeared the instant the starter's gun sounded, and he won the hundred-yard dash by several yards.

While he was still in junior high school, Jesse took an important step toward Olympic glory. He ran the hundred-yard dash in ten seconds, and the time was so remarkable for someone his age that the race was reported in Cleveland newspapers the next day.



As a member of the East Technical High School track team, Jesse was the star in every dash and relay race. In addition, he began running the hurdles.

To race the hurdles, a runner must leap over a series of barriers. These barriers are slightly higher than three feet. Hurdling takes perfect timing in addition to speed, and Jesse quickly became a winner in this event, too.

Next, at the suggestion of Coach Riley, Jesse began working on the broad jump. In this event, now called the long jump, a competitor sprints toward a board set in the ground, lands one foot on the board, and leaps forward. The jump ends in a sandy area called the pit. The distance of a jump is measured from the takeoff board to where the jumper lands in the pit. Jesse soon became an outstanding broad jumper as well as a track star.

By 1933, Jesse Owens' reputation was state-wide. That year, the National Interscholastic Championships Meet was to be held at the University of Chicago, in Illinois. Jesse was on edge. He was going against tough competition, in front of sportswriters and college coaches from all over the country.

What happened at that meet is now track-and-field history. Jesse Owens won the hundred-yard dash in 9.4 seconds, setting a world interscholastic record. He also won the 220-yard dash in 20.7 seconds, and the broad jump, with a leap of 24 feet, 9 and 5/8 inches. In the words of one sportswriter—it was an unprecedented triple.

A week later, Mr. Riley had good news for Jesse. Ohio State University would be glad to have Jesse enroll there. The school did not offer athletic scholarships. However, school officials would arrange jobs for Jesse to help him pay for his room, board, and tuition.

During his college years, Jesse Owens became known throughout the world. His greatest track performance was at the National Collegiate Track and Field Championships, held at the University of Michigan on May 25, 1935. On that one day, Jesse tied the world record for the hundred-yard dash. He set a new world record for the 220-yard low hurdles, and a new world record for the broad jump. His broad jump was so long that the record leap lasted for twenty-five years.

In 1936, Germany was ruled by the Nazis, whose leader was the dictator, Adolf Hitler. The Nazis believed that all other people were inferior to them. As the Olympic Games were about to begin, German newspapers called the black members of the American team inferior. This infuriated the ordinarily calm, even-tempered Owens.

All this was a preview of Jesse's performance at the 1936 Olympic Games. In those Games, held in Berlin, Germany, Jesse Owens dominated the track-and-field action by winning four gold medals. He took first place in the hundred-meter dash and the two-hundred-meter dash, and ran the final anchor leg for the victorious four-by-one-hundred-meter relay team. Jesse's fourth gold medal was awarded for his broad-jump victory. It was the victory he treasured the most, and he liked to tell why.

Jesse Owens won the broad jump with a record leap of 26 feet, 5 and 5/16 inches. It gained him the much-desired gold medal. He also gained a warm friendship that lasted until Luz Long was killed in battle during World War II.

Following the Olympics, Jesse Owens was given a hero's welcome back in the United States. It began with a big parade in his honor in New York City. Everyone respected and admired the great athlete and fine young man. This respect and admiration continued for the rest of his life.



In his later years, Jesse Owens served on youth commissions and as a good-will ambassador for the U.S. State Department. He also remained involved in Olympic activities until he died, on March 30, 1980. The man known as "the world's fastest human" was voted the greatest track performer of the first half of the twentieth century. Although Jesse Owens' records have all been broken, his deeds are a permanent part of sports history!



April 21, 1999

Ms. Rebecca Gray
The Ohio State University
2700 Kenny Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1046

Dear Ms. Gray:

On behalf of the United States Postal Service, I want to extend our appreciation to you for participating in the Celebrate The Century program.

I have enclosed a sample of the stamps and other philatelic products featuring the Jesse Owens stamp. We hope that you will find these items interesting and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kelly L. Spinks".

Kelly L. Spinks
Stamp Development

Enclosures

THE 1930s

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
PUBLIC SQUARE
CLEVELAND, OH ~ SEPTEMBER 10, 1998



MUSIC

CATS ON HOLIDAY

WELCOMING REMARKS & INTRODUCTION OF MASTER OF CEREMONIES

DON PETERSON
DISTRICT MANAGER
CLEVELAND OHIO

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

DAVID SIDONI

NATIONAL ANTHEM

ROCCO SCOTTI

REMARKS

MICHAEL S. COUGHLIN
DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL

PROCLAMATION

HONORABLE MICHAEL WHITE
MAYOR, CLEVELAND OHIO

SPECIAL GUESTS

TIM DALY
(THE VOICE OF "SUPERMAN")

DANA DELANY
(THE VOICE OF "LOIS LANE")

OFFICIAL DEDICATION

CHILDREN OF
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES

HONORED GUESTS

JACK LARSON
(JIMMY OLSEN)

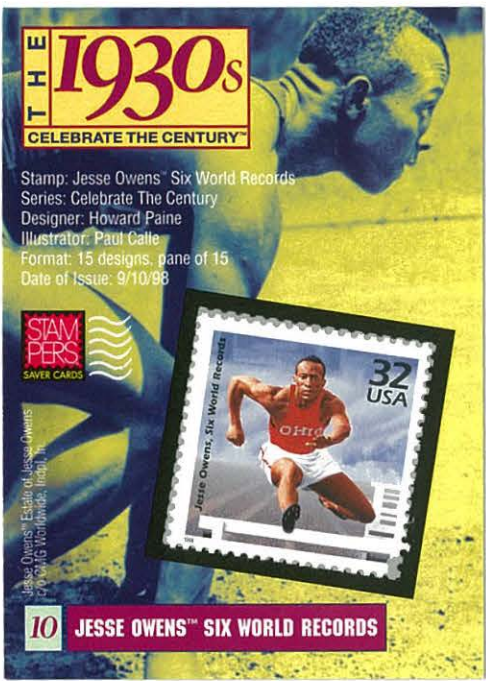
JOANNE SIEGEL
(WIFE OF SUPERMAN CO-CREATOR JERRY SIEGEL)

PATRICK DONAHOE
VICE PRESIDENT, ALLEGHENY AREA

AZEEZALY S. JAFFER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STAMP SERVICES

HOWARD PAINE
STAMP DESIGNER

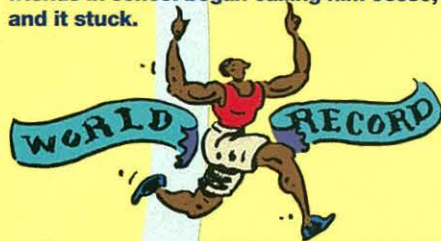
PAUL CALLE
STAMP ILLUSTRATOR



CATCH HIM IF YOU CAN

On May 25th, 1935, Jesse Owens™ became the fastest man in the world (breaking 3 world records and tying a 4th) — even though he had fallen down the stairs and hurt his back the night before! A year later, at the international games, Adolph Hitler was hoping to prove the German athletes were better than any others. But Owens showed him (and the world!) that they really weren't, by walking away with an incredible 4 gold medals!

Owens' father named him J.C., but his friends in school began calling him Jesse, and it stuck.

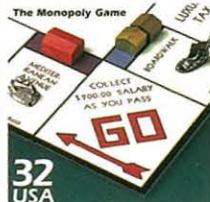
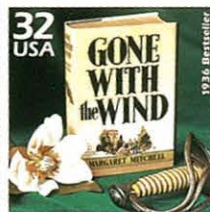


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1930s

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Depression, Dust Bowl, and a New Deal

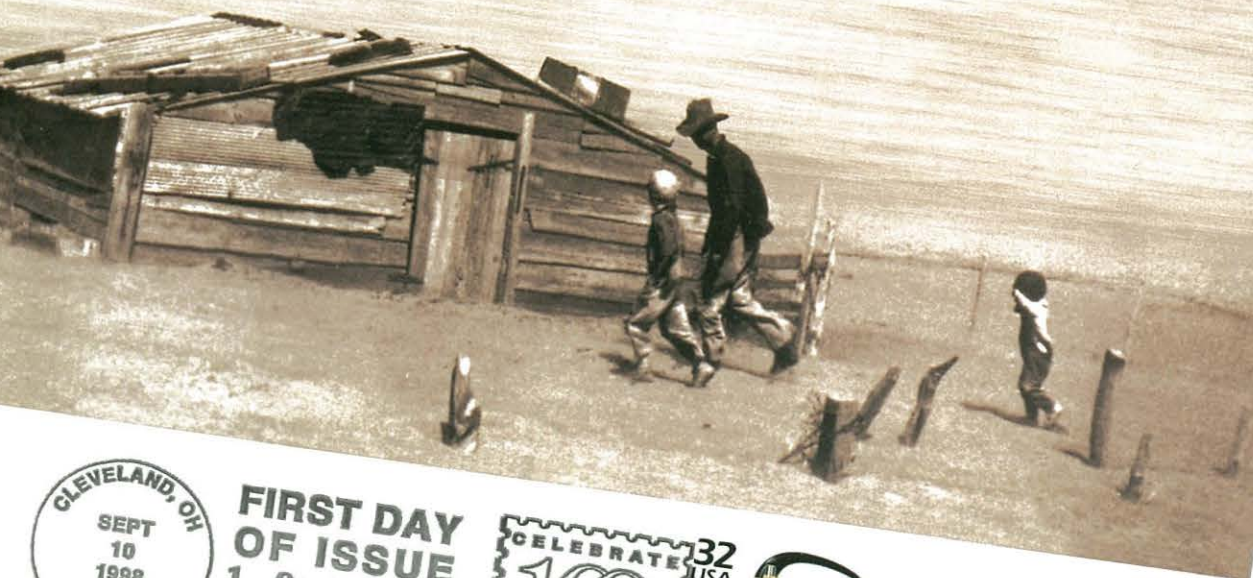
By 1933 the average wage was 60 percent less than in 1929 and unemployment had skyrocketed to 25 percent. Dust storms forced many farmers to give up their land.

Americans escaped harsh realities by playing Monopoly, reading the adventures of "Buck Rogers" and "Flash Gordon," and listening to Hoagy Carmichael's "Stardust." Popular films included *King Kong* and *It Happened One Night*. For the first time, African-American athletes became national idols: Joe Louis in boxing and Jesse Owens in track and field.

Prohibition was repealed in 1933. President Franklin Roosevelt fought the Great Depression with his New Deal programs. The "Star-Spangled Banner" was chosen as the national anthem. The Empire State Building rose above the Manhattan skyline and the Golden Gate Bridge spanned the San Francisco Bay. Back on the ground, the parking meter made its first appearance in 1935.

As the decade closed, many Americans were anxious about the growing war in Europe.

New words: all-star, oops, pizza, racism



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U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

SEPTEMBER 4, 2000

Olympic Legends

How some athletes become mythic figures

Why records are falling faster than ever

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See Page 51

COVER: JESSE OWENS AT THE BERLIN OLYMPICS IN AUGUST 1936

SEPTEMBER 4, 2000 • VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 9

U.S. NEWS ONLINE: www.usnews.com

U.S. News



Good as Gold

The Olympics always offer drama, but only in the rarest moments are we privileged to view the exploits of legends

BY BRIAN DUFFY

In the newspapers of the day, he was referred to, ubiquitously, as "The Indian." Over the reach of decades, the yellowing clips speak achingly of the young man's bewilderment and horror as his world came unhinged. In July 1912, in Stockholm, Jim Thorpe won gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon, the most grueling combination of track and field events. With a staggering 8,412 points out of a possible 10,000, Thorpe's record would stand for 15 years. On presenting the medals to Thorpe, Sweden's King Gustaf V said, "You, sir, are the greatest athlete in the world. I would consider it an honor to shake your hand."

Half a year later, it was Thorpe who was shaking. It had been disclosed that he had accepted money—really, just pocket change—for playing baseball three summers before. The jig, as they liked to say back then, was up.

Never mind that Thorpe had never been about money. After Stockholm, in fact, he had received a number of lucrative offers, turned them all down, and returned home to America by steamer, "dead, flat broke." Rules were rules, however, and Thorpe manfully acknowledged the fact. He had not accepted the baseball money because he needed it, he explained (he had a modest income from a small property he owned), but "because I liked to play ball." Part Sauk and

Fox Indian, Thorpe expressed the wish that he would "be partly excused by the fact that I was simply an Indian schoolboy and did not know all about such things" as the minute distinctions between amateur and professional competition. "I have always liked sport," Thorpe wrote, "and only played or run races for the fun of the thing."

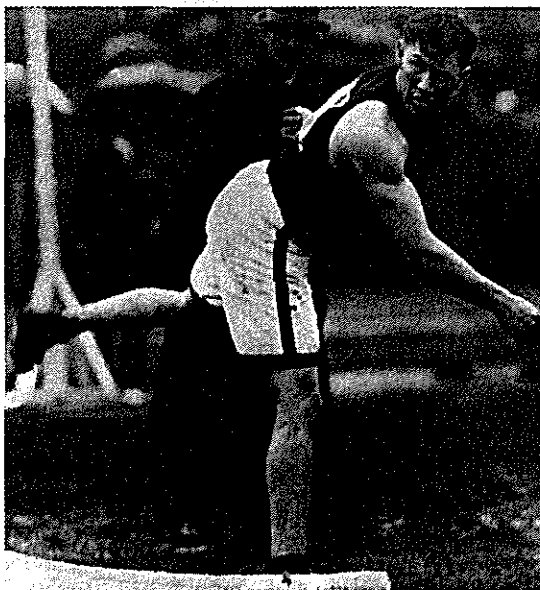
It may seem quaint now, the notion of fun commingled with sport. But contemplating those Olympians who have

left the deepest imprint on the games, on the eve of this year's opening ceremonies in Sydney, fun—the pure revelry and absorption in great performance—is among the things that come most readily to mind.

There are other important factors, of course. Like competitiveness, which, in the purest and highest sense, may be competition against oneself. A Greg Louganis, when he has to nail the perfect dive to earn the gold, has, in a real sense, to beat only himself. So, too, a Florence Griffith Joyner. There are other great Olympians on the track with her, but when a competitor like Flo-Jo's in the zone, legs pumping, arms flashing, they may as well not even exist.

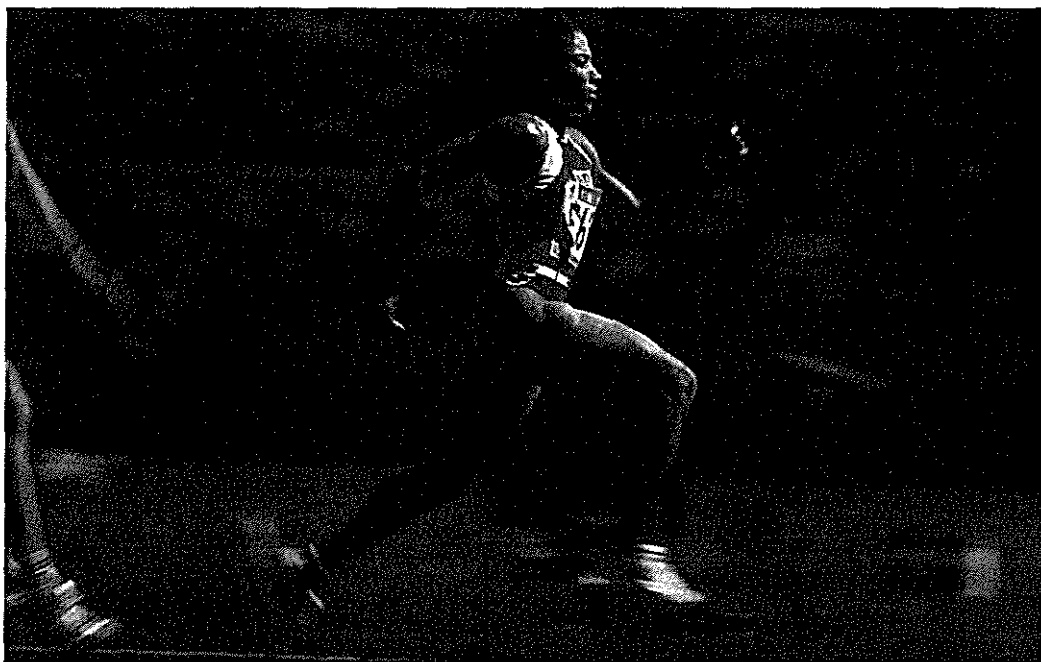
Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the Frenchman credited with found-

ing the modern games, in 1896, saw them as "a sort of athletic starting point for the 20th century." At the back end of that century, for all the broken records and eye-popping feats of athleticism, only a relatively small number of Olympic athletes can be said to wear the mantle of



Jim Thorpe throws the shot in Stockholm at the 1912 games; Greg Louganis mid-dive in Seoul, 1988

● "For the fun of the thing"



Florence Griffith Joyner on her way to victory in Seoul; Sebastian Coe in a winning moment, Moscow, 1980; Mildred "Babe" Didrikson, champion of many sports, practices the javelin for the 1932 games in Los Angeles.

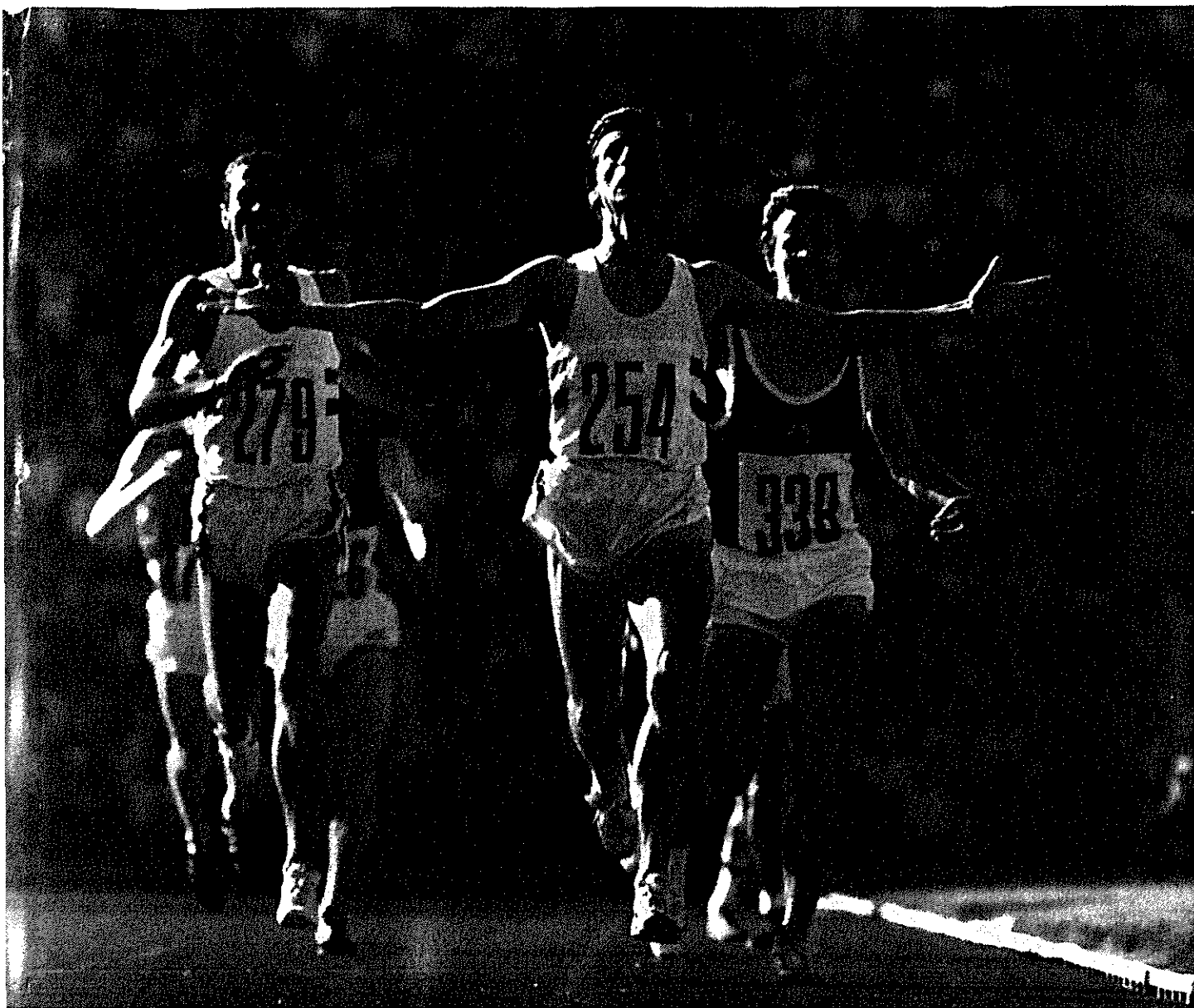
● *In sports, image shapes who and what we remember, and why.*

legend. There is no shortage of greats and near greats, to be sure, and true fans of the games will debate endlessly over the claims and merits of their favorites. But a look back yields only a few of the stature of a Thorpe or a Flo-Jo.

Fate's hand. Such a review is necessarily impressionistic, of course, the impressions left variously by things that occurred on and off the fields of play. In Thorpe's case, it was not just the astonishing breadth he created between himself and the other athletes of his day. It was the cruel hand fate dealt him in depriving him of his medals and, literally, expunging his name from the history of the games for the better part of the century. One conjures the exuberant Thorpe at Stockholm, accepting his medals, casually shaking the Swedish monarch's hand: "Thanks, King." After, the toothy smile is wide as all outdoors. Not a year later, the smile and the exuberance are gone, snuffed like guttering candles. "I am very sorry to have it all spoiled this way," Thorpe concluded, in his letter to the Amateur Athletic Union, "and I hope . . . the people will not be too hard in judging me." Happily, they were not. Sportswriters voted Thorpe the greatest athlete of the first half of the 20th century, above Jack Dempsey and Babe Ruth. Nearly 30 years after his death, and almost 70 after he returned the Stockholm golds, Thorpe's amateur status was restored, his record scores reaccredited. On a freezing January day, Jim Thorpe's children accepted the

two medals that had first been bestowed by King Gustaf.

It doesn't take an epic like Thorpe's to create a legend, although morality plays that find an audience in the bigger theater of public life certainly don't hurt. The '24 Olympics in Paris are a case in point. Paavo Nurmi, the "Flying Finn," bagged five golds, and Johnny Weissmuller three in swimming, including one for being the first ever to break the 1-minute mark in the 100-meter freestyle. But odds are, despite Nurmi's dominance of the distance events and Weissmuller's celluloid success as Tarzan, most will recall Paris for the feats of Harold Abrahams. Memorialized (if inexactly) in *Chariots of Fire*, the slender sprinter from Cambridge, England, was an obsessive, burdened man. The story of his cherished piece of string is a matter of fact and, now, lore. (The movie did get that right.) The string measured the length of Abrahams's first stride. Before each race, Abrahams pulled the string from a pocket and stretched it fastidiously to mark the exact spot where he would plant his first step. In Paris, his trusty string aboard, Abrahams ran faster than he ever had in his life, covering 110 yards in a lightning 10.2 seconds. The record would stand for nearly 30 years, but waiting for the final heat in the Stade Colombes, Abrahams took no joy in it. I feel, he said, "like a condemned man feels just before going to the scaffold." No matter; in the final, Abrahams claimed a dramatic 2-foot victory. He never



ran as well again, injuring himself the following year, then hanging up his track shoes for good.

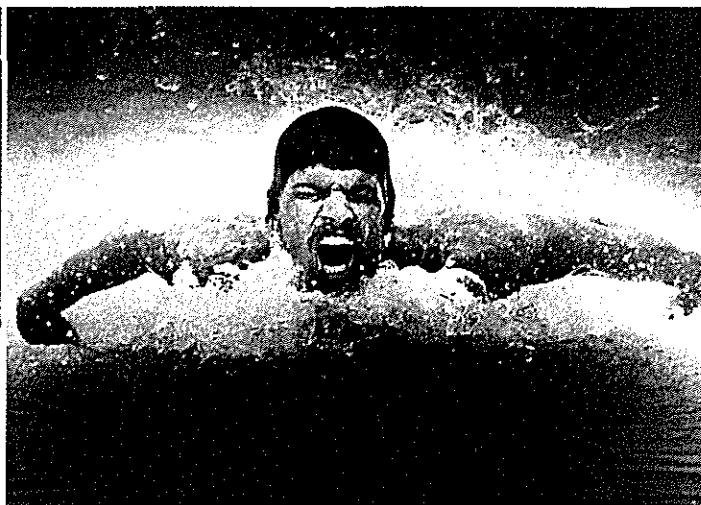
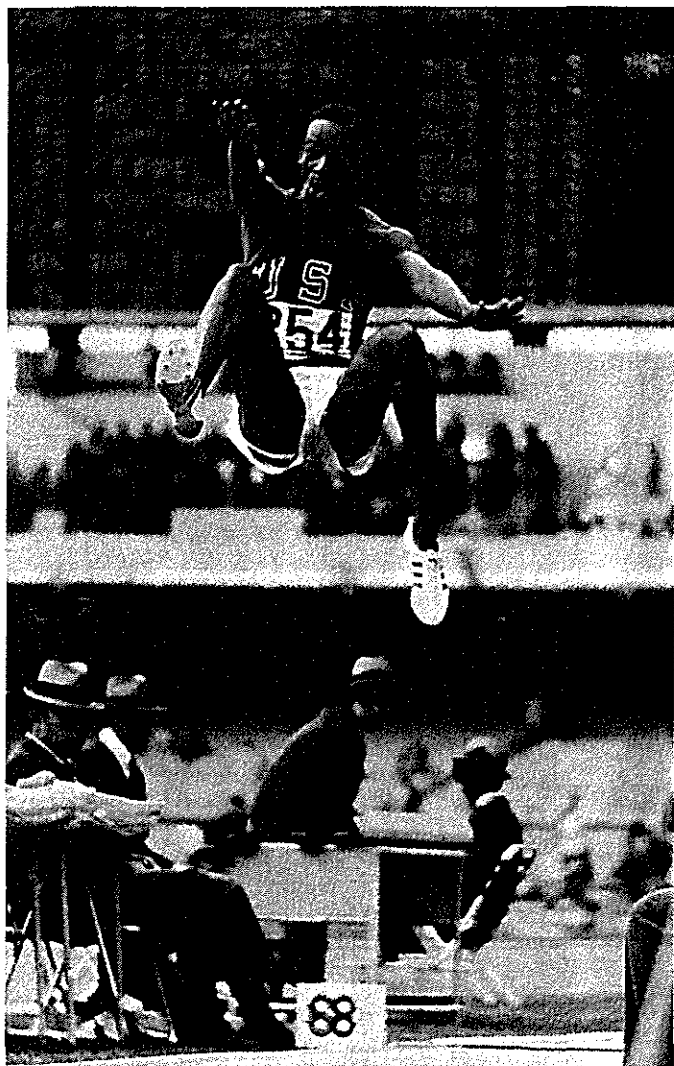
Retirement, or the timing of it, had nothing to do with the athlete to whom most Americans probably, and properly, accord the status of legend. The mere fact of his presence in Berlin in 1936 obviously undermined Hitler's Aryan-race claptrap and did much to ensure Jesse Owens's place in history. But, like Thorpe, Owens's utterly superior athleticism had few parallels. Owens turned up in Berlin the holder of seven world records, all but one of them entered into the books one improbable May day at Ferry Field in Ann Arbor, Mich. In late afternoon, twilight no more than a promise, Owens shattered or equaled six world records in 45 minutes. It was, he said after the fact, "quite a day."

Besting Hitler. And so it was in Berlin. Owens is rightly remembered, as a runner, for his balletic grace. In the long jump, however, he was all raw power, but it was in that event, in Berlin, that he achieved his most sublime moment. He had flubbed his first two jumps and was preparing for his last when his German opponent, Luz Long, suggested a change in his run-up. Owens cleared 26 feet. The day came down to Long against Owens. Fate, inexplicably, frowned on Long, and the German fouled out. The gold was Owens's. Long had to settle for the silver. Afterward, the American and the German strolled arm

in arm, until the latter was finally led away to be congratulated by his *Führer*. Much was made at the time of Hitler's snub of the non-German medal winners, but Owens ignored the chatter. He would remain close to Long until the German was killed on the Eastern Front.

History plays funny tricks on some Olympians. Owens, on his return to America, turned pro, toured with the Harlem Globetrotters, and entered himself in a series of stakes-races against horses. After her star turn in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, Mildred "Babe" Didrikson did pretty much the same thing. Women had been allowed to compete in track and field events only since '28, but the "Dallas Cyclone," as she styled herself, would have turned heads even if women had been competing for decades. Her two golds, in the javelin and 80-meter hurdles, and a controversial silver (she was robbed of the top honor in a judge's decision that, today, is still entirely indefensible) made Didrikson a celebrity. Los Angeles, however, left a bad taste in her mouth. Blowing off the '36 games, where she would doubtless have contributed to the American medal count, Didrikson joined a vaudeville act, then took up golf. Before long, she was the U.S. amateur champion.

Perhaps more so than in other endeavors, image bulks large in sport, shaping who and what we remember, and why. The results can be cruel, comic, sometimes haunting. Sebastian Coe,



Bob Beamon's great leap forward shattered the long-jump record in Mexico City, 1968; Swimmer Mark Spitz gets ready to blow away the competition in Munich in 1972; Tommie Smith and John Carlos bring "black power" to the 1968 games.

● *Only a small number wear the mantle of legend.*



for example, is widely remembered as a loser for his disappointing second-place showing in the 800 meters in Moscow in 1980. The intense Brit had broken three world records the year before, including the 800 meters, and his face-off in Moscow with Steve Ovett, another Brit with a world record in his pocket, had the track and field world buzzing. In the event, Ovett bested Coe in a sluggish, sloppy contest. "I chose this day of all days," Coe said, "to run the worst race of my life." The world forgets, however, that Coe was the first man to win repeat golds in the 1,500 meters; unfairly, it's the image of him floundering in the 800 that lodges in memory.

Beamon's leap. Not so with others. Mexico City in '68 was a feast for the eyes. Certainly, one of the most enduring Olympic images ever is that of Bob Beamon soaring above the spectators, above the scoreboard almost, a look of absolute disbelief on his face. He was fast and he could leap, but the gangling 22-year-old long-jumper had fouled twice and missed twice in the qualifiers. In late afternoon, clouds gathering, Beamon whooshed down the runway, hit the board with a final, thunderous right push . . . and was airborne. The rest, as they say—well, it's still rather hard to believe. For more than 30 years, the record distance in the event had, quite literally, inched forward. Precisely $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, to be exact, over 33 years. Beamon's jump, of 29 feet, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, shattered the existing record by $21\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

The '68 games also gave us, of course, Tommie Smith and John Carlos—and Mark Spitz. The former are remembered for the "black power" salute, protesting racial prejudice in the United States. As with Coe, but in a different way, the image obscures their achievements. Smith shattered the 200-meter world record in Mexico City, Carlos a few steps behind him for the bronze. Both accepted their medals with hands sheathed in black gloves. When the "Star-Spangled Banner" was played, they bowed their heads, raising clenched fists in the air. As for Spitz, he arrived in Mexico City, a mouthy, callow 18-year-old. He claimed two golds in relays, but it wasn't until Munich, Germany, four years later, that the mature Spitz turned up. Debuting with a ferocious 200-meter butterfly, Spitz finally left the pool with a record seven golds—all in world-record times.

This month in Sydney, it will probably be a different story. There are no obvious Owens or Spitzes this go-round, but who knows, there may be a surprise Beamon, a budding Louganis, or a heartbreaking Coe. But will we know? NBC, with its cable affiliates, will offer more than 300 hours of coverage of the games. Great, in theory. But the small screen has an unfortunate tendency to trivialize, so if there are legends in the making in Sydney, it may be only by dint of luck that we learn of them. ●

With Andrew Curry



The Oakville-to-Ohio Express

by Tom Roberts III



mma and Henry Owens named their son James Cleveland.

He was born in the Oakville community near Decatur, Alabama. Siblings called him "JC" and over time everyone called him "Jesse."

Jesse Owens earned the world's admiration when he won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. The phenomenal thinclad claimed track and field immortality as he equaled or bettered nine Olympic records and four world records.

Fourteen months before Berlin, Jesse was competing for the Ohio State University track team. The Western Conference (now Big 10) Track and Field Championships were scheduled on May 25, 1935, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. It was doubtful that Owens would

compete. He was recovering from a back injury after falling down stairs and had not practiced for over a week. Treatment for his injury continued during the day. Jesse convinced Coach Larry Snyder that he was well enough to run, and by 3:15 Owens was at the starting line for the 100-yard dash finals.

The starting pistol fired and the most amazing 45 minutes in track and field history began. Ohio's super sophomore exploded from his footholds in the cinder track. Exactly forty-one steps later he completed the dash in 9.4

seconds, tying his own world record. Jesse's nearest competitor was five yards behind.

Fans at Michigan Stadium endured their wooden seats a few minutes longer for Jesse's next event. Before his first attempt at the running broad jump, Owens placed a mark at the world record distance held by Chuhei Nambu of Japan. He walked back down the runway and paused to concentrate on his approach. Sprinting down the runway, Jesse hit the take-off board with precision. Time seemed suspended as he soared then

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stretched with a forward roll at the landing. No foul was indicated by the judge, and it was an acceptable jump. His first and only attempt of the day carried him 26 feet 8¼ inches; six inches past Nambu's world record. This new world record would stand for 25 years.

Jesse's next feat followed about nine minutes later when he ran the 220-yard dash. The 160-pound speedster led from the start and out-ran the second place finisher by ten yards. His time of 20.3 seconds smashed the existing world record.

Thousands of fans watched as 4 o'clock neared. The "Buckeye Bullet" would end his Saturday afternoon competition with the 220-yard low hurdles. Owens had established his sprinting superiority, his only foes now were ten hurdles, each two feet and six inches high. It took Jesse just 22.6 seconds to run the distance and set another world record.

Twenty-one-year-old J.C. Owens, a native of Oakville, Alabama, had completed an unbelievable performance. In less than an hour this amazing athlete set three world

records and tied another. Arthur Daley, a sports columnist for the *NY TIMES* called Jesse's feats at Ann Arbor, "the greatest day in track history." The man from Oakville is the only track athlete in the 20th century to set or equal four world records in a single day.

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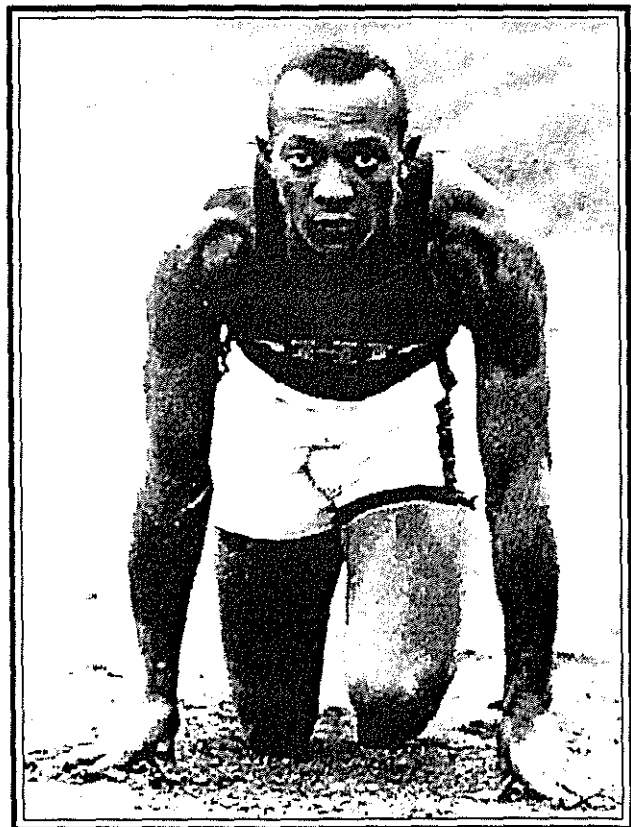


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Received from: Bob Thomas
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*Jesse Owens, my classmate
Historian Robert D Thomas '36*

A proposed OSU Track and Field Facility should bear the name of Ohio State's unforgettable Jesse Owens whenever it becomes a reality.

The 1996 World Olympics are now history, but Owens' name surfaced many times during the press and TV coverage from Atlanta. Of note, the USA Today Newspaper devoted a feature story along with a bold headline which read: OWENS' LEGACY STANDS. This tribute to Jesse triggered memories for many who recall his performance at Big Ten Track meets and when he capped his career with his historical performance at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

One of Jesse Owens team mates, Varsity "O" member, the late Johnny Moore, remembered vividly a 1935 Spring day in Ann Arbor when Jesse made track history and "stole the show" from the Wolverines.

Moore who was Captain of the 1935 Ohio State Track Team, told this writer Owens' performance that June, when they attended the Big Ten Track Meet at Michigan will never be matched....."Bob, for the record, Jesse that day broke the 100 yard dash world's record....broke the world's record in the broad jump....broke the world's record in the 220 yard low hurdle and tied the world's record in the 200 yard dash. As his team mates we kidded that afternoon that all we did that day was carry Jesse's track shoes to him....after each track event."

Moore did point up the role, in Jesse's career, of his coach, Larry Snyder. "Larry, in all fairness, played a large part in Jesse's track success." When the proposed track and field facility becomes a reality, we suggest that an accompanying plaque mention Coach Larry Snyder along with the list of Jesse Owens' track achievements.

Update: USA's Olympic track star, Michael Johnson was quoted prior to the 1996 Olympics...."Jesse was the greatest track and field athlete ever."

Further update: Now four years later, Jesse's bold appearance on the cover of the September 4, 2000 issue of U.S. News and World Report establishes him as the 20th Century's track and field immortal. The cover shows him at the starting blocks, on his way to the 1936 Olympics 100 yard dash gold medal victory. Finally there are several utterances by Jesse that need retelling. When in college, Owens' tuition was subsidized by the simple chore of handing out towels in the Natatorium under the supervision of swim coach Mike Peppe. Once, in his sophomore year, during finals, he asked Mike to be excused to take his Biology exam. When he returned, Peppe asked him how he got along. Jesse, with a smile said, "Mr. Mike, I didn't know that frog could walk and talk."

One evening in the 70's, when Jesse was in town, I took this writers' classmate to the Gloria Restaurant for supper. During the course of the supper, Jesse stared straight ahead and made this comment, "You know Bob, if there hadn't been an Ohio Union, when I was a student, some place they would let me eat my hot dogs, I would have starved to death."

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The New York Times

June 30, 2001, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 13; Column 1; Sports Desk

LENGTH: 199 words

HEADLINE: Ruth Owens, 86, Widow of Jesse Owens

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: CHICAGO, June 29

BODY:

Ruth S. Owens, the widow of the Olympian Jesse Owens and the longtime chairwoman of the foundation honoring his legacy, died Wednesday. She was 86.

She died of heart failure at her home in the Hyde Park neighborhood. She and Jesse Owens, who died in 1980, were married for nearly 48 years.

Jesse Owens jumped and ran his way to four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, defeating Adolf Hitler's claims of Aryan racial superiority. Because the trip to the Games was too expensive, Ruth Owens stayed at home with their first child.

"She protected his legacy and guarded it with all of her being," Marlene Owens Rankin said of her mother. "It was sort of the embodiment of him and how he spent his life. She was at the center of it."

Ruth Owens was chairwoman and an active fund-raiser for the foundation formed 21 years ago to give scholarships to average students active in the community.

She was also an ambassador of the Jesse Owens Games, a summer track and field competition that granted scholarships to children across the country.

She is survived by three daughters, Owens Rankin, Gloria Hemphill and Beverly Prather; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2001

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Los Angeles Times

June 30, 2001 Saturday Home Edition

SECTION: California; Part 2; Page 14; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 573 words

HEADLINE: OBITUARIES;

;

Ruth Owens; Widow of Legendary Olympian

BYLINE: From Times Staff and Wire Reports

DATELINE: CHICAGO

BODY:

Ruth S. Owens, the widow of Olympian Jesse Owens and longtime chairwoman of the foundation honoring his legacy, has died. She was 86.

Owens died Wednesday of heart failure in her home in the Hyde Park neighborhood.

Jesse Owens jumped and ran his way to four gold medals at the Olympics in 1936, defeating Adolf Hitler's claims of Aryan racial superiority. Owens captured gold medals in the broad jump, 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash and the 400-meter relay.

A trip to the games in Berlin was too expensive for Ruth Owens, and she stayed at home with their first child.

She told a reporter some years ago that her husband wasn't particularly concerned about the racially charged atmosphere in Germany.

"I don't think he was aware of the conditions that existed over there," Owens said.

"He was very young, and he had to work very hard to make the Olympic team. I don't think Hitler or anything else could have kept him away. You know athletes: They don't see color. And he had been an athlete all his life."

Jesse Owens returned from the Olympics on the Queen Mary, a national hero. Ruth Owens and his parents took a tugboat 12 miles out to join him before he docked in New York City. He was greeted by the great boxer Jack Dempsey and Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, and there was a ticker-tape parade. During the parade, someone handed Owens a paper bag containing \$10,000 in cash.

"That's very true," Ruth Owens said in an interview some years ago with National Public Radio. "And he didn't know who was good enough to do a thing like that. And with all the excitement around, he didn't pick it up right away. He didn't pick it up until he got ready to get out of the car."

Ruth Owens said she never feared for her husband's safety while he was in Berlin, but that fall, as they campaigned in Mississippi for Republican presidential candidate Alf Landon, she grew uneasy and asked him not to speak.

The Southern trip was hard on the Owens; they were forced to live and eat in railroad cars because there were no accommodations for blacks.

The couple met in junior high school and were married for 48 years until Owens' death from lung cancer in 1980. He was

66.

Ruth Owens was board chairwoman and an active fund-raiser for the Jesse Owens Foundation, formed after her husband's death to give scholarships to average students active in the community.

More than 270 children have since earned the four-year, \$2,000 scholarships, and 97% of those receiving the help have graduated from college, Executive Director Marlene Owens Rankin, the Owensens' daughter, told the Chicago Tribune.

Ruth Owens also was an ambassador of the Arco/Jesse Owens Games, a summer track and field competition that granted scholarships to children across the country.

"She protected his legacy and guarded it with all of her being," Rankin said of her mother. "It was sort of the embodiment of him and how he spent his life. She was at the center of it."

In 1984, the Owensens' granddaughter Gina Hemphill carried the torch into the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics. Ruth Owens was later given the torch by the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee.

In addition to Marlene, she is survived by daughters Gloria Hemphill and Beverly Prather; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services are scheduled for Tuesday at First Unitarian Church of Hyde Park.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: RUTH S. OWENS: The new bride is embraced by her track star husband, Jesse Owens, in 1935.
PHOTOGRAPHER: Associated Press

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2001

sports-- 1-star

lead Owens

NOTE: Jack Clowser was a sports writer for the Cleveland News and the Cleveland Press. His daughter, Jackie Fudale, sent these rough drafts to the Archives on 11-1-2010. No date was given as to when these articles were written. No "First in the Series" was included.

(Second in a series on the life of Olympic immortal Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

Jesse Owens was the 10th of 11 children born to Cleveland and Emma Owens, poor tenant-farmer folks, near Decatur, Ala. He arrived Sept. 12, 1913.

Names were not very important in an atmosphere where everyone knew only the creed of toiling to fill hungry mouths. For a time, the tot was merely called "the baby." Then he was given the initials J. C., for James Cannon, owner of the plantation on ~~which~~ which the Owens family labored.

He remained plain "J.C." until, 10 years later, officials at St. Clair school in Cleveland insisted he must have a first name ^{under which} to enroll. ^{sound-} They made it "Jesse," because of the similarity ~~to~~ to J.C.

Jessie's sister Lilliemae had previously married and moved to Cleveland. She sent back word of better fortune in the industrial north. So the family's team of mules, their cow and hogs were sold, to realize ~~some~~ money needed for the journey to the place of new promise.

Without ~~the~~ ^{the} move, the abilities of this fantastic athlete never would have been realized. It is indisputable that the north was to bring him opportunity for athletic competition ~~lacked~~ by the Negro boy of the deep south when he was born.

Except that ^{they couldn't} ~~none~~ catch him in a game of tag, none appreciated his speed at grammar school. But Jesse heard older boys talk ~~of~~ of a white-haired man who achieved fine results coaching the Fairmount Junior High track team. That was the late Charley Riley, head

sports-- 1-star

first add Owens

2

That was the late Charley Riley, once coach at Ohio State.

"I got an inkling of what was coming," Riley told me, "When Jesse, in the 7th grade, ran the 220 for me over stone sidewalks, in tennis shoes, in 26.2 seconds."

Great sprinters are born, not made. You can only improve their ~~running form~~ running form, their starting and finishing techniques. But Riley knew, when Jesse was in the ^{9th} ~~7th~~ grade, what priceless attributes the boy had. In the Cleveland junior high championship meet, Jesse ran the anchor leg of the half-mile relay in an astounding ~~21.3~~ 21.3 seconds.

"I realized that here was a boy who was destined to become a super-athlete," Riley said. "He would certainly reap great praise and tremendous publicity. By past experience, I knew there were boys you couldn't talk to after they had broken a couple of records."

So it was that after school Jesse and his coach frequently sat under the trees in nearby Rockefeller Park, while the old man spoke not of form and records but about the importance of sportsmanship and right living.

Jesse always was grateful. After he reached worldwide fame, Coach Riley declared "I couldn't wish for my own son to have been a better lad or to treat me finer than Jesse has."

And Owens, after sailing home from Europe on the Queen Mary in 1936, first kissed his wife and mother, then flung his arms ~~around~~ about Riley and hugged him joyously.

(Next- ~~the~~ East Tech days.)

sports-- 1-star

lead Owens

3

(Third in a series on the career of Olympic star and former
Cleveland Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

Jesse Owens' exceptional track and field abilities were carefully nurtured from 1931-33, his three seasons of competition at East Tech High school. Coach Ed Weil had the happy faculty of keeping team morale at high pitch.

But by then, the great depression was gripping America. Dismal times beset the Owens family, and his parents often debated whether they could afford to send the boy to school any longer. Temporary jobs were all that were available to his father brother in those years.

Jesse did his bit by shining shoes- in the days when a shine was a dime.

A mother's pride decided the school issue. Mrs. ~~Andrew~~ Owens finally went to a track meet, one he completely dominated. She would hear no more suggestions that his athletic career be cut short.

In his junior year at East ~~High~~ Tech, Jesse was clearing close to 24 feet in the long jump, ^{and} running the 100 in 9.8 seconds. ^{He} ~~was~~ became one of Ohio's entries in the trials for the ¹⁹³² Olympic Games at Los Angeles.

Competing against the finest club and college stars of the midwest, at Chicago, there ~~was~~ occurred one of the generous acts that so indelibly stamped his career.

Eddie ~~Anderson~~ Tolan, the University of Michigan sprinter who was destined to score a double victory for the USA in the Olympics, was nursing a strained leg muscle. He was dubious about his ability to qualify.

more

first add Owens

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Jesse had heard of Tolan's misfortune. To the schoolboy, Tolan already was a hero. When starting lanes were drawn for the 100-yard heats, Tolan found himself in the pole lane, already churned up by the passage of many feet in the 10,000 meters run. ~~Some~~ Owens was in Lane 4.

"Won't you let me run in your lane?" he asked Tolan. "Switch with me. I haven't much chance to qualify anyway."

They changed places. Tolan qualified, Jesse did not. Tolan's leg was healed long before the Olympics, but he might never have got there but for the thoughtfulness of the East Tech boy.

After that Olympiad, a group of European stars, on their way back from Los Angeles, stopped in Cleveland for an exhibition meet at the stadium. Erik Brockmeyer, the German ^{dash} champion, had been beaten by ~~some of our~~ our Olympic sprinters, and declined to run against them here.

Several local college athletes and schoolboy Owens were rounded up, as Brockmeyer's opposition. The German never had heard of Jesse. But Owens was away with the gun and gave the German a terrific trouncing.

In 1933, Jesse became a national scholastic sensation. He leaped 24 feet 11½ inches at John Adams field, for a world schoolboy record. Twice he ran the 100 in 9.6.

At that time, Chicago annually held the national scholastic championships. With teammates Dave Albritton, Jerry Williams and Alfred Storey, Jesse won the ^{team} championship. In the process, he equaled what was then the world record for the 100, 9.4 seconds, ran the 220 in 20.7 seconds, and spanned 24 feet 9 3/4 inches to take the long jump.

That day, I watched meet ~~some~~ officials, plainly incredulous, remeasure the track after the 100. They found it was an inch more than 100 yards. That night, hordes of college coaches swarmed around Owens, lauding the advantages of their schools.

sports-- 1-star

lead Owens

(Fourth in a series on the career of Olympic star and former Cleveland Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

When Jesse Owens decided to keep his talents ~~in~~ close to home by enrolling at Ohio State university in September, 1933, he came under the coaching supervision of the veteran Larry Snyder, ~~who had been only last year~~
~~head coach of the Ohio State track and field team.~~
Snyder was remarkable in one particular aspect. Later, it was on his advice that Owens turned professional right after the 1936 Olympics, while Jesse still had a year of eligibility remaining with the Buckeyes. The decision wrecked Snyder's track squad, but in a remarkably unselfish move, urged Owens to take immediate advantage of ^{many} ~~the~~ financial offers.

As an OSU freshman, Jesse broke the world indoor record for the long jump, doing 25 feet 3 1/4 inches at Madison Square Garden. At the national AAU outdoor championships, Owens was beaten in the 100 meters by two inches, in the 200 meters by four inches- both times by Marquette star Ralph Metcalfe.

The winter of 1934-35 brought Owens ^{new headlines,} ~~new headlines,~~ however. He was a sophomore now, eligible for intercollegiate competition. He pushed his indoor long jump mark out to 25 feet 9 1/4 inches, and broke the world record for the 60 meters dash with 6.6 seconds.

Even so, Owens was unsatisfied with his form. Once he came back to visit Charley Riley, his old coach at Fairmount Junior High here. Jesse took a ~~number~~ couple of practice starts and Riley knew the answer. "You're straightening up too quickly after leaving your marks," he advised.

Unusually cold weather handicapped track men in the north during the spring of 1935. But a hot sun baked Ferry Field at Ann Arbor, Mich., for the Big Ten championships that year.

more

6

Jesse Owens had many memorable days during his fantastic track and field career. But ~~one~~^{none} of them exceeded May 25, 1935. That was the afternoon ~~that~~ Owens, as an Ohio State University sophomore, broke three world records and equaled a fourth in a space of 80 minutes at Ann Arbor, ~~Michigan~~^{Mich.}

It was not only his physical exploits that ~~summer~~^{sunny} afternoon, but his subsequent demeanor that stamped him as an athlete of extraordinary poise and self-control. ~~Listen~~ Listen and we'll describe the circumstances.

The youth from Cleveland had, only a few days before the Big Ten championship meet, fallen down a flight of stairs during a playful scuffle with a friend. He had bruised his back in the lumbar region, and he could feel it when he extended his stride to jump or sprint.

But the capacity throng ~~at~~^{Michigan's} Old Ferry Field ~~that day~~ had come to see the new wonder boy of track, and he didn't intend to disappoint them.

Owens' first event was the broad jump. It was on a grass runway directly in front of the grandstand, and the landing pit had been dug in what had been ~~the old football field~~ the old football field. Jesse asked to have a handkerchief placed at the 26-foot mark. The world record then was 26 ft. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches by Sylvio Cator of Haiti.

Jesse came flowing down the runway with his matchless grace, hit the takeoff board perfectly, soared high and gave his scissors kick, then settled into the sand far beyond the handkerchief.

A mighty roar arose, for the crowd knew it had just witnessed a world record performance. It was measured at 26 feet, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and it was to stand for a quarter of a century before Ralph Boston broke it. Owens never took a second attempt that day.

Next came the 100-yard dash. Owens won in 9.4 sec. to equal the world record of which he was co-holder.

His third performance was the 220-yard dash. His seemingly effortless stride carried him to easy triumph in 20.3 seconds for ~~him~~ another world mark. But he had only a relatively short rest, while the two-milers were running, before his final race, the 220-yard low hurdles. Many felt he could not put forth another supreme effort.

But he did. And ~~when~~ the announcer, ~~standing~~ looking ahead to the following year's Olympic Games, went rapturous with excitement as he said "Ladies and ~~gentlemen~~ gentlemen, for the fourth time this afternoon-- and now let us say the champion is Owens of the United States, with another world record, 22.6 seconds."

As Jesse trotted back up the track to retrieve his sweatclothes, his old junior high school coach, the late Charley Riley, was beside himself with emotion. He stood up in the stands and shouted "Jesse-- my boy! My boy!"

Owens never waved back to the white-haired old gentleman. Later, he said simply "I was afraid ~~the~~ people would think of was showing off and grandstanding it."

For almost an hour after the meet, Owens signed autographs. He then got permission from Coach Larry Snyder to ride back to Cleveland with a friend for a family visit. ~~with a friend~~ As they neared his home town, the two stopped for a late-evening meal.

At the next table to them in the restaurant was a family devouring the news of Owens' fantastic day. It appeared across the top ~~of~~ of page one in a Cleveland newspaper, together with a three-column picture of the OSU star.

"Wow! How about this boy Owens," gasped a man at the adjoining table. "He must be really something."

Jesse just looked up at his friend, smiled, and winked. Never did he make the slightest attempt to let the others know he was the youth they were extolling.

sports-- 1-star

first add Owens

8

That day, May 25, the Ohio State meteor's feats were telegraphed and radioed to all the world. I was the ~~only~~ only Cleveland sports writer there to see him ~~perform~~ perform them.

He began with a 9.4 hundred, equaling the world record ~~again~~ again. His times of ~~20.3~~ 20.3 and 22.6 seconds for the 220-yard dash and 220-yard low hurdles were new world marks. He took only ^{competitive} one leap in the long jump- after a series of prodigious practice warmups.

^{on edge,} "I felt ~~much~~ although ~~much~~ ^{I was still recovering} from a back injury in a fall downstairs," he said. "So I asked them to put a handkerchief out in the pit at the exact place where the accepted world record was. (It was 26 feet ~~2 1/8~~ 2 1/8 inches by Chuhei Nambu of Japan at that time.)

Owens sped down the runway, ^{gathered himself like} ~~gathered himself like~~ an antelope, executed his scissors-kick in midair, and landed far past the kerchief. The crowd cut loose with a mighty roar, for it had been advised over the loud-speaker about the significance of placing the marker in the pit.

Jesse had cleared 26 feet ^{It was} ~~3 1/4~~ 3 1/4 inches, ~~was~~ a world record which stood ~~for~~ for a span of 25 years- until Ralph Boston came along.

Literally thousands streamed on the field at the conclusion of the meet, seeking the autograph of this superstar. He was trembling with excitement and exhaustion when he asked Coach Snyder ^{for permission to} ~~ride~~ ride back to Cleveland in my car. He wanted to visit his family for the week-end.

^{Driving very carefully with that precious cargo, we stopped} ~~stopped~~ for a late snack as we neared Cleveland. At the next restaurant table, a group was reading the Page 1 streamer headline that had chronicled his stunning feats. Completely unaware that Owens was seated a few feet away, one of them said "Boy, would I like to see that guy ~~run~~ run? He must be a great kid."

Jesse just winked at me. He never made a move to identify himself.

(Next- the ^{Italian} ~~American~~ "Owens Olympiad.")

sports-- 1-star

lead Owens

9

(Another in ~~was~~ a series on the career of Olympic star Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

In June of 1935, Jesse Owens had to show his speed ~~on~~ ^{away from} the cinderpath. He went to Los Angeles for the National Collegiate championships. While there a wire service photographer took a picture of Jesse with Quincella Nickerson, ~~a~~ comely daughter of a wealthy Negro insurance company chief.

The difficulty was that ~~she~~ she was shown fondling his fraternity pin- and he was already engaged to Ruth Solomon, a neighbor of his in Cleveland. ~~Ruth~~ ^{saw the picture and} ^{evidently} Ruth phoned this reporter. She was really upset, ~~in no mood to stand for any jilting.~~

So I telegraphed Owens and ~~suggested~~ suggested it would be in his own best interests if he lost no time getting home for an explanation. He did that, asserting the photographer had fouled him up.

The next day, the world record-breaker asked me to join him at city ~~hall~~ hall, with Ruth, to be his witness as the marriage license was issued. From that wedding came three daughters- one of whom many years later ~~was~~ was elected Ohio State's Homecoming Queen in football season.

Next year, 1936, came the Berlin Olympiad. They were destined to go down in athletic lore as "The Owens' Olympics,"-- where one man took four gold medals.

~~that~~ that spring, the hero-worship for this lithe and talented Clevelander reached almost unbearable proportions. ~~and~~ By the time of the final U. S. Olympic team trials, at New York, he couldn't appear in public without being mobbed by autograph seekers.

more

first add Owens

At the trials, Jesse did everything expected of him. He won the 100 and ~~200~~ 200-meters finals and the long jump. His sprint triumphs automatically made him the logical man to anchor our 400-meters relay team at Berlin.

So great was the mob scene outside the dressing rooms at ~~that~~ the late Randall's Island Stadium ~~that day~~ that Lawson Robertson, head coach of the American squad, sought ways to get him out of the place without having to be subjected to an hour of autographing.

So I phoned the New York City police department for help. They agreed to send a police boat over. An East Tech ~~student~~ graduate who resembled Jesse was persuaded to leave the dressing room first, luring the fans with him as he penned his name unceasingly.

After a safe wait, Jesse, Coach Larry Snyder of OSU and I got our police boat ride, and Owens, who was sailing with the team to Europe the next day, ~~had~~ time to rest.

His sensitive nature never was better illustrated that that evening at the hotel. I walked into his room. He was ~~looking~~ gazing out over the Hudson River to the great liner which was due to carry ~~him~~ the team away. And tears were coursing down his cheeks.

"For Heaven's sake, you should be the happiest guy in the world," I said. "What's bothering you?"

"I've been praying to God," he replied, "That all this fuss doesn't make me get the big head."

It never did.

(Next- Owens' Berlin feats.)

sports-- 1-star

lead Owens

(Another in a series on the career of Olympic star and former Cleveland Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

The 11th modern Olympiad, at Berlin ~~in~~ in 1936, became famed for two principal reasons. Cleveland Jesse Owens won four gold medals there and reaped world acclaim. ~~and~~ Adolf Hitler failed in his ~~ambitious~~ plot to have the Nazi party take over operation of the Games.

Hitler wanted to use the Olympics as a tub-thumping ~~medium~~ glorification to exploit his poisonous brand of nationalism. To the everlasting credit of the International Olympic Committee, it informed Der Fuehrer that it would cancel the games unless it ~~made~~ could run them as usual.

In fact, the IOC went so far as to bar Hitler from using the Nazi ~~emblem~~ emblem on German uniforms. The man who was ~~to plunge the world into war~~ soon afterward to plunge the world into ~~war~~ war had to back down. Sportsmen of the world beat back his aims.

Owens and other Negroes on the U. S. team were particularly irritating to Hitler. ~~They~~ They confounded his preachments about the "master race"-- the doctrine of Aryan ~~superiority~~ superiority.

The Ohio State University junior, performing before a packed stadium seating 110,000, was superb. He won the 100-meters dash in 10.3 seconds, the 200 meters in 20.7 seconds, long jumped 26 feet 5 5/16 inches and led off the U. S. 400-meters relay team that triumphed in 39.8 seconds.
except the 100 were

All ~~new~~ new Olympic records, ~~including~~ Jesse, with his tremendous competitive spark, had to come from behind on his very last jump to ~~win~~ defeat Lutz Long of ~~Germany~~ Germany- who later was to be killed fighting in Gen. Rommel's North Africa campaign.

spor. --- 1-star
first add Owens

12
One of ~~then~~ Owens' typical acts of sportsmanship came during the long jump finals. It was a cold day, and his German rival felt his legs tightening up. Jesse ~~was~~ trotted into the U. S. training room, grabbed a bottle of warming liniment, and came out on the field to personally give Long a rubdown. The enormous throng roared its ~~unprecedented~~ appreciation.

At Berlin there was the celebrated "incident" about Hitler's refusing to shake hands with Owens after Jesse's first victory. Much as I dislike to admit it, Hitler was not to blame.

On the opening day of competition, the first winner was Hans ~~the~~ Woellke of Germany in the shotput. It was the first Olympic track and field crown ever won by a German, and the crowd went wild. Hitler had Woellke brought to ~~introduce~~ the "loge of honor" and personally congratulated him.

Hitler did the same with other winners that day. But the high jump was still going on and Der Fuehrer had overstayed his time. He left before Cornelius Johnson ^{won} ~~won~~ it for America. Owens didn't win his first title until two days later.

Before that, the IOC had sent word to Hitler that if he intended to ~~congratulate~~ winners, he ~~must~~ ^{must} congratulate all of them, every day. He agreed ~~that~~ he would desist.

After the Olympics, the AAU wanted Owens to go on a tour of Europe. He declined, observing he ^{wanted} ~~wanted~~ to get back to his family. The AAU suspended him, and when lucrative offers to turn pro came his way, Jesse was advised by Coach Larry Snyder to grab them while they were good, though he had another year of college eligibility remaining.

(Next- Owens' return in triumph.)

(Last in a series on the career of Olympic Games star Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

While other outstanding athletes on the 1936 U.S. Olympic track team were barnstorming Europe following the Games at Berlin, Jesse Owens returned alone. The reception, from the moment the Queen Mary steamed into New York Bay, was something unequaled for any other single sports figure.

The winner of four gold medals at Berlin was accorded a full-fledged ticker tape parade up Broadway, while countless thousands lined the thoroughfare to cheer the tan streak who had so confounded Hitler's theory of the "master race."

As the Queen Mary passed through The ^{Narrows} ~~Narrows~~ at the bottom of the bay, a squadron of New York State national guard planed ~~immediately~~ ^{to Jesse} swooped in salute over the great liner. A horde of newsmen and movie photographers ~~had been waiting for him~~ ^{were on the} government ship that took us to the ~~quarantine~~ ^{quarantine} stop, where we clambered aboard.

Jack Dempsey was co-chairman of the mayor's reception committee that met Owens at the Hudson River pier. The parade eventually wound up at the sumptuous ^{Harlem} apartment of Bojangles Bill Robinson, famous stage dancer of that period. Bill had appointed himself ^{one of} Jesse's adviser, for the offers to turn pro and make a lot of money quickly were pouring in.

The finest ~~surprise~~ aspect of the tumultuous reception was the realization that fame had not changed the Cleveland youngster a bit. He was his usual self, ~~pleasant~~ almost overfriendly in his desire to show that he liked people.

first add Owens

14

Political figures were anxious to bask in Owens' reflected glory. Two of them, representing Governor Martin Davey of Ohio, managed to get into the parade as we rode uptown. But Robinson shut the door on them when we got to his apartment, explaining "Sorry, gentlemen, this is going to be a party ^{only} for ~~only~~ Jesse's ^{old} friends."

Later that year, Owens did get himself involved in politics. Governor Alf Landon of Kansas was running ~~for governor~~ on the Republican ticket against President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Landon had less chance ~~than~~ ^{than} Jesse's rivals on the cinderpath, but pictures of the governor and Owens in conference flooded the country.

Everybody wanted to see Jesse in action. Millionaires put on big garden parties ^{for charity} and invited ^{him} to run exhibitions. ~~When~~ I remember one, on a Hudson River ~~estate~~ estate, who paid Jesse \$5000 to run a 50-yard dash and take several long jumps before the admiring guests.

Money came from many sources then, but Jesse was a victim of poor advice from some quarters. He invested \$75,000 in a new Harlem ~~nightclub~~ nightclub, ~~and~~ It went ~~bankrupt~~ bankrupt soon afterward. Owens even made money running handicap races for short distances against racehorses. But it was "easy come, easy go," and after a couple of years, such contracts ceased.

Owens moved to Chicago before the ~~1930s~~ decade ended, became secretary of the Illinois state athletic commission, and put in many years of ardent work for youth guidance organizations. That was the sort of thing he liked best.

Always, wherever he went, Jesse made public speeches praising America and its way of life. He never uttered an unpatriotic word. That's why, in his present income tax evasion troubles, it is so regrettable his career is facing a blot. I fervently hope the penalty is not too harsh.



***National Statuary Collection
Study Committee***

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Sen. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo)
Sen. Karen Gillmor (R-Tiffin)
Rep. Richard Adams (R-Troy)
Rep. Tom Letson (D-Warren)
Rep. Tyrone Yates (D-Cincinnati)

You are cordially invited
to be a part of history
as The Ohio State University hosts
the Ohio General Assembly
National Statuary Collection Study Committee
for a hearing on the proposal for

Jesse Owens

to represent the State of Ohio
in the National Statuary Hall of
the U.S. Capitol Building

Friday, November 6, 2009
10:30 a.m.

11th Floor, Thompson Library
1858 Neil Avenue Mall
with lunch following at
Ohio Stadium

*Hearing begins at 11 a.m.
Luncheon concludes at 1:30 p.m.*

*Parking in Tuttle Garage
See map on back*

RSVP by November 3 to reuter.3@osu.edu

Ihnat, Bertha L.

RSS Feed: Library News
Posted on: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 8:05 PM
Author: allen.916@osu.edu
Subject: Jesse Owens Exhibition at Thompson Library through May 2

Full article link: <http://library.osu.edu/blogs/librarynews/2011/04/13/jesse-owens-exhibition-at-thompson-library-through-may-2/>

Seventy-five years ago, **Jesse Owens** became an American icon after winning an amazing four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Before he left for this historic event, Owens was a student athlete competing at Ohio Stadium; after he returned, he was the guest of honor riding in a ticker tape parade in New York City.

In honor of his accomplishments and in conjunction with OSU's celebration of his Olympic achievements, The Ohio State University Archives has created a display of Owens' artifacts, photographs, and documents that highlight each stage of Owens' life: his youth in Cleveland, his relationship to OSU as a student and life-time Buckeye, his record as an Olympian, and his service as an ambassador to the world. Students, faculty, staff, and the public are invited to come see the exhibition which includes artifacts such as Owens' Olympic diary, his bronzed shoe from 1935, and his Congressional Gold Medal.

The exhibition is located in the Thompson Library, 1858 Neil Ave., in the display area on the first floor outside the Gallery. The Thompson Library is open Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. -2 a.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. -10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. -2 a.m.

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Ihnat, Bertha L.

From: owner-liball@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu on behalf of Allen, Larry S. [allen.916@osu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 3:37 PM
To: liball@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu
Subject: Thompson Exhibition Supports University Celebration

A new exhibition now on display at the Thompson Library was developed to support an upcoming university celebration marking the 75th anniversary of **Jesse Owens'** victories at the 1936 Olympics.

In honor of his accomplishments, The Ohio State University Archives has created a display of Owens' artifacts, photographs, and documents that highlight each stage of Owens' life: his youth in Cleveland, his relationship to OSU as a student and life-time Buckeye, his record as an Olympian, and his service as an ambassador to the world. Students, faculty, staff, and the public are invited to see the exhibition which includes artifacts such as Owens' Olympic diary, his bronzed shoe from 1935, and his Congressional Gold Medal. The exhibition is located in the display area on the first floor outside the Gallery.

The Owens exhibition was developed at the request of the university-wide committee coordinating the celebration of his Olympic achievements. The celebration will take place April 21-24, in conjunction with Ohio State's spring football game and the Jesse Owens Track Classic. A dinner banquet at the Ohio Union Archie Griffin Ballroom will include nationally recognized speakers, prominent corporate and community leaders, members of the Ohio State community and members of Jesse's family.

Proceeds will support scholarships for Ruth and Jesse Owens Scholars and the men's and women's track programs at The Ohio State University.

Larry Allen
Communications Coordinator
Ohio State University Libraries
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1858 Neil Avenue
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Phone: 614/292-8999
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COMMEMORATION

Owens in spotlight

OSU events to honor
Olympic track star
who frustrated Hitler

By Leah Wynalek
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

In August 1936, Jesse Owens shattered world records and delusions of Aryan supremacy by winning four gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Berlin — a record unequalled until 1984, when Carl Lewis won the same four events.

Despite Adolph Hitler's presence at the Games, the German crowd cheered Owens as he won the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, long jump and 400-meter relay.

"The crowds loved him. . . . There were women sliding marriage proposals under the door," said David Steigerwald, a history professor at Ohio State University, which Owens attended. "In many ways, he was the toast of the town."

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Owens' record-breaking performance in Berlin. To commemorate his achievements, Ohio State is unveiling a statue of Owens and dedicating four days of events to the athlete.

"I've met people who were super-athletes, but no one even compares to Jesse Owens in track and field — or even in other sports," said Ray Hupp, 61, a former OSU track-and-field captain who met Owens.

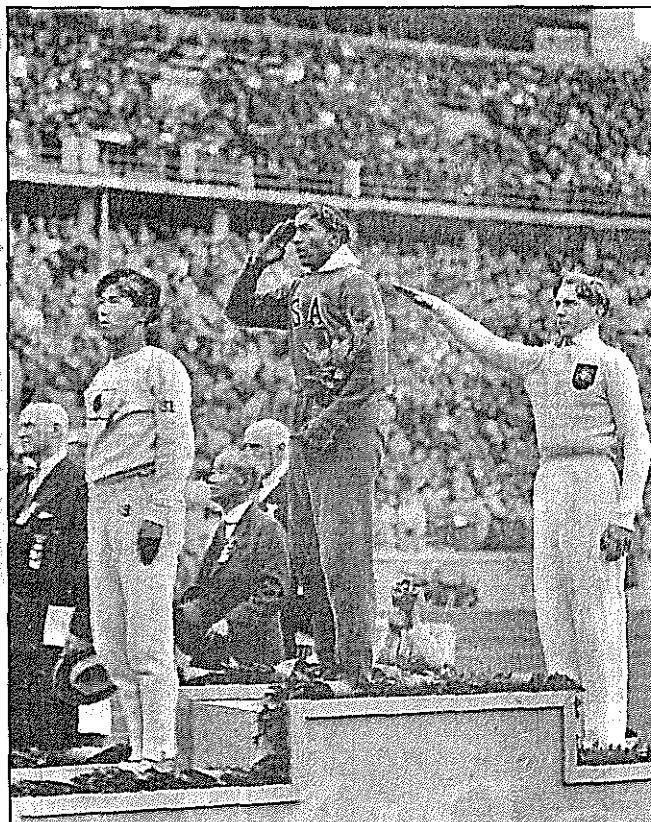
"He went over there (to Berlin) and showed them that black athletes were just as good as white athletes."

Gloria Owens Hemphill, 79, one of Owens' daughters, said her father would be humbled by the events in his honor. He never talked about the Olympics to her, she said, but instead motivated others.

"He just was a person who had a love of people," Hemphill said, "and he used his talents to do all that he could."

The schedule of events:

- **Thursday:** 1:30 p.m.: statue unveiling, Owens Memorial Stadium, 2450 Fred Taylor Dr.
- 4:30 p.m.: diversity lecture series,



FILE PHOTO

Jesse Owens, center, during the presentation ceremony for his gold medal in the long jump at the 1936 Olympics

"He went over there and showed them that black athletes were just as good as white athletes."

RAY HUPP

former OSU athlete

Drinko Hall, 55 W. 12th Ave.

7 p.m.: celebration dinner with guest Bill Cosby, Ohio Union, Archie Griffin Grand Ballroom, 1738 N. High St.; limited individual tickets: \$125 at www.go.osu.edu/jesseowens; more information: 614-292-2274

• **Saturday:** 1:30 p.m.: Jesse Owens Spring Game, Ohio

Stadium, 411 Woody Hayes Dr.; tickets: \$7, or \$15 that day, at www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com

6 p.m.: Jesse Owens Track and Field Classic, Owens Memorial Stadium

• **Next Sunday:** 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Jesse Owens Track and Field Classic, Owens Memorial Stadium

• **Through May 4:** Owens memorabilia on display in the William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library, first-floor exhibition gallery, 1850 Neil Ave.; hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, until 8 p.m. Thursdays, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays

For more information, visit www.osu.edu/jesseowens.

lwynalek@dispatch.com

[\(http://www.osu.edu/news/\)](http://www.osu.edu/news/)



OHIO STATE NEWS

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(614) 292-7276

Jesse Owens 75th Anniversary Celebration kicks off Thursday (4/21) with statue unveiling and scholarship dinner

ESPN's Jeremy Schapp and comedian Bill Cosby help raise funds for Owens Scholars Program

A statue unveiling and scholarship dinner honoring Ohio State track and field legend Jesse Owens will take place Thursday (4/21), kicking off a weekend of activities celebrating the 75th anniversary of his historic performance in the 1936 Olympic Games.

The unveiling will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Owens Memorial Stadium, 250 Fred Taylor Dr. Members of the Owens family, the Ohio State track and field teams and alumni are expected to attend. The scholarship dinner with ESPN reporter Jeremy Schaap and comedian Bill Cosby will begin at 7 p.m. at the Ohio Union, 1738 N. High St. Proceeds will benefit the Ruth and Jesse Owens Scholars program.

Owens was known as "The Buckeye Bullet" where he set three world records and tied a fourth during a brief 45-minute period at the Big Ten Championships in 1935. The following year, Owens became the first American track and field athlete to win four gold medals in one Olympiad. The feat defeated Adolf Hitler's intention of proving Aryan superiority at the Games and elevated Owens as an international hero.

The entire schedule of events planned in honor of Owens is available at:

<http://www.osu.edu/jesseowens/> (<http://www.osu.edu/jesseowens/>)

Reporters note: Contact Liz Cook (614) 292-7276 for any special arrangements needed in covering these events.

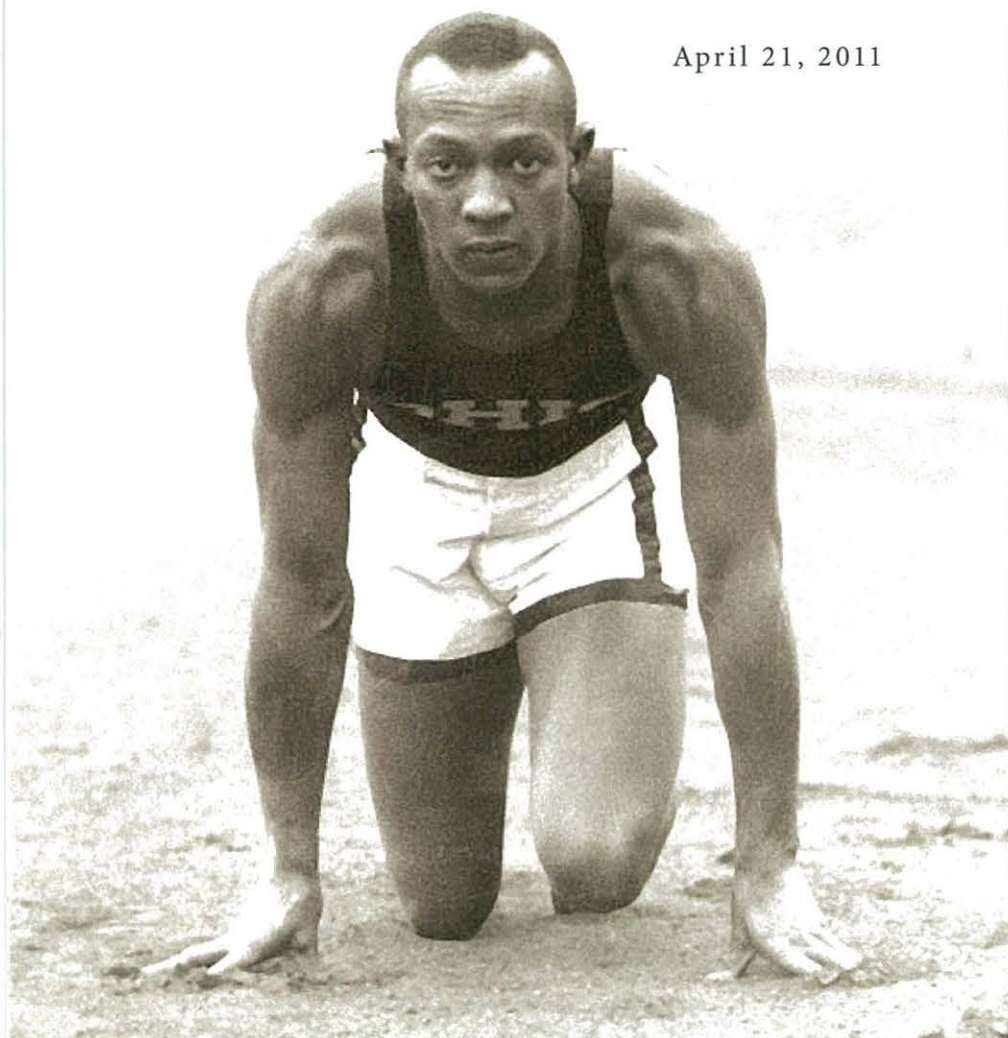
WHAT: Jesse Owens 75th Anniversary Celebration kicks off with statue unveiling and scholarship dinner on Thursday (4/21)

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Jesse Owens

75TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION DINNER

April 21, 2011



J⁷⁵

Ohio Union • Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom



At the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, Ohio State track and field star Jesse Owens achieved what no Olympic athlete before him had accomplished: he won four gold medals. His athletic victories were also triumphs over Adolph Hitler's claim that the German "Aryan" people were the dominant race. Jesse proved that individual excellence and personal dedication were what distinguished one human being from another—not race or national origin.

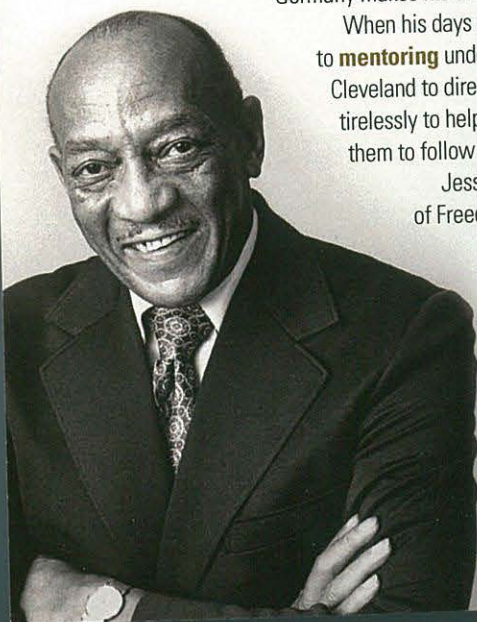
Jesse was born **James Cleveland Owens** in Alabama in 1913, the son of a tenant farmer and grandson of a slave. He was called "J.C." for short, but when his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1922 and Jesse enrolled in school, his teacher gave him the name that would remain with him for the rest of his life. Upon hearing "J.C.," the teacher mistook it for "Jesse" and so recorded "Jesse Owens" in her roll book—a name that not only stuck, but would soon make history.

Jesse's accomplishments as a track and field athlete began when he was a youngster. As a junior high school student, he set records in both the high jump and broad jump, and in high school, he won the Ohio state track championship three years in a row. At the National Interscholastic meet in Chicago, he tied the world record by running the 100-yard dash in 9.4 seconds and set a new high school world record in the 220-yard dash with 20.7 seconds.

As a college student at Ohio State, Jesse set three world records and tied a fourth in one 45-minute period at the 1935 Big Ten Championships. After this amazing feat, he was ready to compete in the 1936 Olympics. Jesse's unprecedented winning of four gold medals at the Olympics in Berlin is legendary sports history. That it wasn't just in Berlin, but in Nazi Germany makes his story even more remarkable.

When his days as an athlete ended, Jesse turned his attention to **mentoring** underprivileged youth. From playground director in Cleveland to director of the Chicago Boys' Club, Jesse worked tirelessly to help young people better themselves and to encourage them to follow their dreams.

Jesse's many **honors and awards** include the Medal of Freedom—the highest civilian honor in the United States—and the Living Legend Award, presented to him by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. Jesse died March 31, 1980, in Tucson, Arizona.





DINNER PROGRAM

Ohio Union, Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom

WELCOME

Jeremy Schaap

ESPN reporter and radio host, and author

OWENS FAMILY

Marlene Owens Rankin

Daughter and 1960 Ohio State Homecoming Queen

JESSE OWENS AND OHIO STATE

E. Gordon Gee

President, The Ohio State University

JESSE OWENS: THE LEGEND

Stephanie Hightower

President, USA Track & Field and

Ohio State Olympic hurdler

DINNER

JESSE OWENS: HIS LIFE AND LEGACY

Bill Cosby

Actor, comedian, writer, and producer

CLOSING REMARKS

Jeremy Schaap

J⁷⁵

OTHER
WEEKEND
EVENTS



SATURDAY

Spring Football Game

1:30 p.m.

Ohio Stadium

Jesse Owens Track Classic

6–10 p.m.

Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium

SUNDAY

Jesse Owens Track Classic

Field Events: 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Track Events: Noon–5:30 p.m.

Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsor

Olympian Sponsors

Alpha Phi Alpha
Steve and Lori Baldwin
Joyce Beatty
Big Ten Network
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General Sponsors

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Please visit osu.edu/jesseowens in the coming weeks for event photos and video clips.

Itinerary of Events
Jesse Owens Celebration
Thursday, April 21, 2011

Statue Dedication Luncheon, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Jack Nicklaus Museum, 2355 Olentangy River Road

Audience: Gold Level Sponsors (Reese Family & Guests, KeyBank, and Abercrombie & Fitch), Owens Family and select University Administration and Owens Committee Members -- *68 Total Guests*

Staff: Mandy Porcher (lead), Nathan Andridge, Alain Hunter, Nancy Marzella, and Matt Meyer

Committee: Geoff Chatas (chair), Floyd Akins, Joyce Beatty, Archie Griffin, Tom Katzenmeyer, Chuck McMurray, Gene Smith, Sergio Soave

University Leadership: John T. Mount (Emeritus) & Former Owens Foundation Board Member

11:00 a.m. Shuttle transports guests from The Blackwell Inn to the Jack Nicklaus Museum

11:15 a.m. Luncheon - Jack Nicklaus Museum

11:20 a.m. ***Welcome Remarks – Geoff Chatas***

- Acknowledge and thank Owens Family members (especially three Owens' daughters – Gloria O. Hemphill, Beverly O. Prather, and Marlene O. Rankin, David E. and Weezie Reese, their son, Rhett, The David E. Reese Family Foundation, and the Reese's guests, including former BOT Teckie Shackelford and her husband, Don Shackelford; KeyBank & representatives present (especially Margo Copeland), Abercrombie & Fitch & representatives present (Kelly Maddern – highest ranking rep. in attendance) for their generous support and for their attendance today
- Give a brief synopsis of the celebration and how this luncheon kicks off a four-day celebration of one of Ohio State's greatest alums, Jesse Owens
- Invite all to enjoy lunch and table conversations / back in a few minutes to introduce our special guest

Introduction of Artist – Geoff Chatas

- Geoff introduces Alan (brief background on artist) and asks Alan to come up

Artist Brief Remarks & Informal Q&A – Alan Cottrill

- give brief remarks and then open it up to a brief Q&A session

Closing Remarks – Geoff Chatas

- Thank all for coming and ask all to follow staff to out to their design

12:15 p.m. Shuttle transports guests to the Woody Hayes Athletic Center (WHAC)

12:30 p.m. Guests tour WHAC with host T.J. Shelton

1:15 p.m. Shuttle transports guests from WHAC to the Owens Memorial Stadium

Statue Dedication, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Owens Memorial Stadium, 250 Fred Taylor Drive

Audience: Gold Level Sponsors, Owens Family, University Admin., staff & students, and general public.

Staff: Liz Cook (lead), Nathan Andridge, Alain Hunter, Sue Jones, Mandy Porcher, and TJ Shelton.

Committee: Geoff Chatas (chair), Floyd Akins, Archie Griffin, Tom Katzenmeyer, and Gene Smith

University Leadership: President Gee and John T. Mount (Emeritus)

- 1:30 p.m.** Welcome – Gene Smith, Director of Athletics
Remarks
Introduce Dr. Gee
“I’d now like to welcome to the podium for remarks -University President, EGG.”
- 1:35 p.m.** University Remarks – Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee
Remarks
Introduce Gloria Owens Hemphill
“It is my distinct pleasure to introduce to you one of the beloved daughters of Jesse Owens, Gloria Owens Hemphill”
- 1:40 p.m.** Owens Family Remarks – Gloria Owens Hemphill, Daughter
Remarks
Introduce David Reese
“I wish to personally thank the Reese Foundation for its generosity and ask that David Reese share a few words on this special day.”
- 1:45 p.m.** David E. Reese, benefactor
Remarks
Introduce Alan Cottrill
“At this time, Alan Cottrill, will come forward to share his inspiration for his work.”
- 1:50 p.m.** Artist Remarks - Alan Cottrill
“I now welcome John Hammond, a member of the Ohio State track team from 1968-72.”
- 1:55 p.m.** John Hammond remarks
- After remarks, Gene Smith will return to podium to ask that Owens Family move toward statue for unveiling*
- 2:00 p.m.** Attendees invited to move to statue for unveiling – Gene Smith
Owens Family escorted first – Alain Hunter
Reese Family escorted – Nancy Marzella
KeyBank and Abercrombie & Fitch Reps. Escorted – Nathan Andridge & Mandy Porcher
Statue drapes removed – Owens Great Grandchildren

2:00-2:30 p.m. Media interviews/Photos

Note: Participants will be asked to limit remarks to 2-3 minutes.

Owens Exhibit Review 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

The Ohio State University Thompson Library

Audience: Gold Level Sponsors, Owens Family, and University staff

Staff: Tamar Chute and Mandy Porcher (lead)

2:30 p.m. Shuttle transports guests to the Thompson Library

2:45 p.m. View Jesse Owens' exhibit on display at the Thompson Library

3:15 p.m. Shuttle transports guests to The Blackwell Inn

VIP Reception, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Ohio Union Traditions Room (2nd floor)

The Ohio Union at The Ohio State University, 1739 N. High Street

Audience: Gold Level Sponsors & guests, Jeremy Schaap, Bill Cosby, select VIP's, and University reps.

Staff: Emily Burkhardt (lead), Nathan Andridge, Alain Hunter, Sue Jones, Matt Meyer, and Mandy Porcher

Committee: Geoff Chatas, Floyd Akins, Joyce Beatty, Mabel Freeman, Archie Griffin, Tom Katzenmeyer, Chuck McMurray and Gene Smith

University Leadership: President Gee

NOTE: *Space is limited to those specifically appearing on the guest list*

5:30 p.m. Registration set
Outside Griffin Ballroom on 2nd floor

Room set
Owens memorabilia in wall cases
Owens backdrop for photos along external wall

6:00 p.m. Guests arrive
Tray passed wine and hors d'oeuvres, full bar

6:30 p.m. Expected arrival time for Bill Cosby
Archie remarks: Welcomes guests
Thank Gold Level Sponsors
Key Bank
The David E. Reese Family Foundation
Abercrombie and Fitch

Photo opportunities for sponsors and others with Bill Cosby
Staff in room to facilitate getting photos

6:50 p.m. Guests begin to move into the Griffin Ballroom for dinner event

Dinner Celebration, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Ohio Union Griffin Ballroom (2nd floor)

Staff: Emily Burkhardt & Cindy Plummer (lead), Nathan Andridge, Alain Hunter, Sue Jones, and Mandy Porcher

5:30 p.m. Registration ready

6:00 p.m. Ballroom doors open
Bars ready

6:30 p.m. Guest arrival
Registration on 2nd floor outside Griffin Ballroom

6:45 p.m. Announcement for guests to take their seats
Bars close

7:00 p.m. **Program begins**
VOG introduces Emcee Jeremy Schaap
Jeremy Schaap remarks (4 minutes):
Welcome to guests

Acknowledge groups in attendance:

- Owens Family
- OSU Board of Trustees
- Elected Officials
- Olympic athletes
- Ohio State University leadership
- Thank Gold, Silver and Bronze level sponsors
- Big Ten Network for video footage

Thank Olympic sponsors and everyone who contributed to the success of this evening.

Special acknowledgement of Harrison Dillard

Jeremy Schaap departs stage – returns to table

7:04 p.m. **Video Segment 1 – Icons footage of Owens family history (3:30).**

7:07:30 p.m. **VOG introduces Marlene Owens Rankin**

Marlene Owens Rankin takes the stage

Owens family remarks: (3 min)

Family history with OSU, importance of scholarships and thanks to donors for support

Marlene Owens Rankin departs stage – returns to table

7:10:30 p.m. **Video segment 2 –OSU track Alums (3 min)**

7:13:30 p.m. **VOG introduce Dr. Gee**
Dr. Gee takes the stage

Dr. Gee remarks: (4 min)
Jesse Owens impact on OSU

Dr. Gee departs stage – returns to table

7:17:30 p.m. Video segment 3 – Owens track legend (5:30 min)

7:23 p.m. VOG introduce Stephanie Hightower

Stephanie Hightower takes the stage

Hightower remarks:
Owens at '36 Olympics

Hightower departs stage – returns to table

Jeremy Schaap takes stage

7:27 p.m. Emcee Jeremy Schaap invites guests to enjoy dinner

7:28 p.m. Dinner Served (1 hour)

8:30 p.m. Program Continues Following Dessert/Coffee Service

8:30p.m. VOG introduces Emcee

Emcee Jeremy Schaap takes the stage

Emcee welcomes Bill Cosby

Bill Cosby takes the stage

Jeremy Schaap departs stage –to table

8:32 p.m. Bill Cosby remarks: (30 min)
Thoughts on Jesse Owens

Cosby concludes and departs stage

Emcee Jeremy Schaap takes the stage as Cosby departs.

9:00 p.m. Closing remarks by the Emcee

9:05 p.m. Program concludes
Guests receive commemorative book (1 per couple) and T-shirt (each) as they depart

**Itinerary of Events
Jesse Owens Celebration
Friday, April 22, 2011**

Presentation of Gift to Owens Family, 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Schottenstein Center (W. Loading Dock)

Audience: Owens Family and select University Administration

Staff: Alain Hunter and Denny Hoobler

University Leadership: Coach Tressel

9:30 a.m. Mrs. Hemphill, Prather, and Rankin to Meet in the Lobby of The Blackwell Inn
(Staff Contact: Alain Hunter, cell: (614) 657-9894)

9:35 a.m. Alain Hunter to transport to the Schottenstein Center (W. Loading Dock)

9:45 a.m. Denny Hoobler to meet group and escort to meeting with Coach Tressel
(Staff Contact: Denny Hoobler, cell: (614) 208-8751)

10:00 a.m. Presentation by Coach Tressel/Mrs. Hemphill, Prather, & Rankin Brief Remarks

10:30 a.m. Alain Hunter to transport back to The Blackwell Inn

Owens Family Luncheon, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Joyce Beatty's Residence

Audience: Owens Family

Staff: Phil Saken

University Leadership: Joyce Beatty

12:45 p.m. Owens Family Meet in Lobby of The Blackwell Inn
(Staff Contact: Phil Saken, cell: (847) 275-9025)

1:00 p.m. Shuttle transports Owens Family to Mrs. Beatty's residence in Blacklick, Ohio

1:30 p.m. Luncheon hosted by Ms. Beatty

4:00 p.m. Shuttle transports Owens Family to The Blackwell Inn

Itinerary of Events
Jesse Owens Celebration
Saturday, April 23, 2011

Owens Family, 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

WHAC

Audience: Owens Family and select University Administration

Staff: Alain Hunter and Denny Hoobler

University Leadership: Coach Tressel

- 9:15 a.m.** Owens Family Meet in the Lobby of The Blackwell Inn
(Staff Contact: Alain Hunter, cell: (614) 657-9894)
- 9:30 a.m.** Shuttle transports guests to Woody Hayes Athletic Center (main entrance)
- 9:45 a.m.** Denny Hoobler to meet group and escort to meeting with Coach Tressel
(Staff Contact: Denny Hoobler, cell: (614) 208-8751)
- 10:00 a.m.** Owens Family participating in team's pre-spring game meeting
Stuart O. Rankin and Gina Hemphill Strachan Speaking on Family's Behalf
(Staff Contact: Denny Hoobler, cell: (614) 208-8751)
- 10:45 a.m.** Shuttle transports guests to The Blackwell Inn

Spring Game & On-Field Presentation, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Ohio Stadium

Audience: Gold Level Sponsors (Reese Family & Guests, KeyBank, and Abercrombie & Fitch), Owens Family and select University Administration and Owens Committee Members

Staff: Alain Hunter, Mandy Porcher, and T.J. Shelton

University Leadership: Geoff Chatas, Joyce Beatty, and Archie Griffin

- 12:00 p.m.** Owens Family Meet in the Lobby of The Blackwell Inn
(Staff Contact: Mandy Porcher, cell: (614) 506-6821)
- 12:05 p.m.** Mrs. Hemphill, Prather, and Rankin to be transported by Golf Cart
Owens Family to walk to Ohio Stadium
- 12:15 p.m.** Owens Family & Gold Level Sponsors Gather Prior to Kick-off of Spring Game
Gate 23 – Media Entrance
(Staff Contact: Alain Hunter, cell: (614) 657-9894)
(Staff Contact: T.J. Shelton, cell: (614) 354-6315)
- 12:30 p.m.** Group escorted to the field for presentation

- 1:00 p.m.** Presentation of Owens Family and Sponsors prior to kick-off of Spring Game
- 1:30 p.m.** Escorted by staff from field to the suites
- 3:30 p.m.** Depart Ohio Stadium at the conclusion of the Spring Game via Gate 23
Mrs. Hemphill, Prather, and Rankin to be transported by Golf Cart
Owens Family to walk to The Blackwell Inn
- 6:00 p.m.** 2011 Owens Track Classic
* The Blackwell Inn may be able to provide transportation if family members are interested in attending.

**Itinerary of Events
Jesse Owens Celebration
Sunday, April 24, 2011**

Owens Track Classic, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium

Audience: Owens Family and select University Administration

Staff: Alain Hunter and T.J. Shelton

University Leadership: Track Coaches

- 11:00 a.m.** Owens Family Meet in the Lobby of The Blackwell Inn
(Staff Contact: Alain Hunter, cell: (614) 657-9894)
- 11:15 a.m.** Shuttle transports guests to the Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium
- 11:30 a.m.** Group escorted on to the track for presentation
(Staff Contact: T.J. Shelton, cell: (614) 354-6315)
- 11:45 a.m.** Presentation of Owens Family & Grandchildren's Gift prior to 4 x 100m Relays
- 12:00 p.m.** 4 x 100m Relays (men's and women's)
- 2:00 p.m.** Shuttle transports guests to the The Blackwell Inn



J⁷⁵

Jesse Owens

Three-quarters of a century
since his historic moment.

An Olympic athlete
like we've rarely seen.

The Jesse Owens 75th Anniversary Celebration

Partnership Opportunities for Big Ten Network
Presented by The Ohio State University Foundation



Find the good. It's all around you. Find it, showcase it, and you'll start believing it.

—Jesse Owens



Jesse Owens - "The Buckeye Bullet"

At a university known for its exceptional athletes, **Jesse Owens stands out**. In a state that is no stranger to making a worldwide impact, **Jesse Owens stands out**. And in a country whose history boasts numerous heroes who have battled injustice, **Jesse Owens stands out**.

The Ohio State University is proud to lead the celebration of Jesse Owens' legacy on the 75th anniversary of his stellar performance in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. With Adolph Hitler in the stands and the entire world paying attention, Jesse won four gold medals in the 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, long jump, and the 4x100 meter relay. In addition to the remarkable athletic achievement, Jesse's victory also struck a blow to Nazi propaganda that depicted those from African descent as inferior.

As a member of Ohio State's track team, Jesse won eight individual NCAA championships between 1935-36. At the Big Ten track meet in 1935, he set three world records and tied a fourth—truly an amazing feat accomplished in the span of just 45 minutes.

Lovingly called the "Buckeye Bullet," Jesse Owens is a revered part of Ohio State's family and tradition. After his athletic career, he gave generously of his time and modest wealth to help inspire young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to reach for their dreams.



Jesse Owens' core values and generous spirit represents the best of our university, the state of Ohio, and our nation. With support from corporate partners like the Big Ten Network, together we will celebrate Jesse's exceptional life, while looking to extend his legacy of kindness and inspiration for future generations.





Celebrating the Past with an Eye Toward the Future

The Jesse Owens 75th Anniversary Celebration will take place April 21-24, 2011, in conjunction with Ohio State's spring football game and the Jesse Owens Track Classic.

A model of a new statue of Jesse, expected to draw many each year who want to catch a glimpse of the legend's likeness, will be unveiled at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.

A banquet held on Thursday, April 21 in the Ohio Union's Archie Griffin Grand Ballroom will gather nationally recognized keynote speakers, prominent corporate and community leaders, members of the Ohio State community, as well as members of Jesse's beloved family.

Through this celebration, we will honor the memory of Jesse Owens and his trailblazing life that links us as Americans and inspires us to achieve greatness.

Jesse understood quite well that an important part of being a role model and a leader means giving back. In that spirit, all proceeds from the Jesse Owens 75th Anniversary Celebration will be used to support two passions of Jesse's: socioeconomically disadvantaged undergraduate students and the men's and women's track programs.

Support from event sponsors and ticket sales from the banquet will provide scholarships and programming for Ohio State's Ruth and Jesse Owens Scholars. These scholars have committed themselves to bettering their communities through service and leadership activities. Your support will also assist in creating an endowment that will provide recognition for the outstanding male and female athletes participating in the Jesse Owens Track Classic each year.

Jesse would have wanted it that way.

And though Jesse was a humble man, he undoubtedly would have been pleased to know that all these years later, his accomplishments are still inspiring young people to reach for their dreams.

Partnership Opportunities

The Ohio State University respectfully requests a partnership with the Big Ten Network that will allow Ohio State and our community to celebrate Jesse Owens' momentous accomplishments.

Sponsorship opportunities include:

- **Gold Sponsors: \$250,000**

Gold sponsors receive two VIP tables (seating for 16) at the dinner with university dignitaries hosting table; logo on cover of event program that will be placed at each dinner table; business logo on event banners; recognition at Ohio State Football Spring Game; invitations to VIP reception, distinguished lecture, and statue unveiling; reserved seating at the Jesse Owens Track Classic; and creation of the Big Ten Network Scholarship for Ruth and Jesse Owens Scholars.

- **Silver Sponsors: \$100,000**

Silver sponsors receive one VIP table (seating for eight) at the dinner with university dignitaries hosting table; listing in event program; recognition at Ohio State Football Spring Game; invitations to distinguished lecture and statue unveiling; reserved seating at the Jesse Owens Track Classic; and an endowed scholarship for Ruth and Jesse Owens Scholars.

- **Bronze Sponsors: \$50,000**

Bronze sponsors receive two round tables (seating for 12) at the dinner with four Ohio State students as guests at each table; listing in event program; invitations to distinguished lecture and statue unveiling; and reserved seating at the Jesse Owens Track Classic.

- **Olympian Sponsors: \$5,000**

Olympian sponsors receive one round table (seating for 10) at the dinner; listing in event program; invitations to distinguished lecture and statue unveiling.

Thank you for your consideration of a gift
to celebrate Jesse Owens and his legacy of generosity.

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Everything Cleveland

Ohio State exhibition salutes Cleveland's Jesse Owens on the centennial of his birth



By Bill Livingston, The Plain Dealer

on January 16, 2013 at 6:25 PM, updated January 16, 2013 at 7:38 PM

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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The old myths got it wrong. The shoe has no wings.

Mercury, the messenger god of the Romans, needed assistance in the form of winged sandals in getting his dispatches out on time. Jesse Owens delivered his message of athletic excellence, racial equality and human dignity in the 1930s, most unforgettably at Adolf Hitler's Berlin Olympics in 1936, without steroids or radically advanced equipment.

Performance-enhancing drugs hadn't been invented yet. Nor had cutting-edge running shoes.

The shoe, now bronzed, on display at the Ohio State exhibition, "Faster, Higher, Stronger -- Jesse Owens: 100 years of Life and Legacy," was worn by Owens in Ann Arbor, Mich., on May 25, 1935, when the sprinter from Cleveland set three world records and tied another in one afternoon at the Big Ten Championships. His long jump mark would last for 25 years. When Owens landed, it was as if he left a footprint on eternity.

Located in the William Oxley Thompson Library at 1811 Neil Ave. near Ohio Stadium, the exhibition honors the centennial of Owens' birth in 1913 in Alabama. It opened Jan. 9 and runs until May 5. Admission is free.

Raised in Cleveland, Owens was a great high school athlete at East Tech. He became the greatest athlete ever to pass through the doors at Ohio State or any Big Ten institution. USA Track and Field's highest award is named in his honor. That ignorant voters from the Big Ten Network put Owens third on the list of the conference's all-time athletic icons is an outrage, as I have written (tinyurl.com/4zarwur).

To OSU's credit, it does not hide the racial discrimination Owens faced as a Buckeye. Owens had no athletic scholarship, had to work while he was in college, had to live off-campus, and had to live and eat apart from the white members of the track team on trips. He entered Ohio State in 1933, after two African-American female students had been denied rooms in the Home Economics house.

At OSU, coach Larry Snyder quickened Owens' starts by teaching him to crouch tightly before the crack of

the starter's pistol. Snyder also taught Owens to move his legs in the air on his jumps in an early form of the hitch kick. These refinements, along with Owens' ability to run smoothly and not "tie up" under pressure, made him track and field's greatest star.

A poster and painting of the medal ceremony for the long jump at the 1936 Olympics provide chilling commentary on the political climate in which Owens competed. The story of Germany's Ludwig "Luz" Long and Owens is one of the most famous in Olympic history, a stunning display of sportsmanship across racial and national lines, with the gesture heightened by the Nazis' hateful ideology of racial supremacy and by Owens' status as a subhuman in their eyes.

After an unusually nervous Owens fouled twice during qualifying, Long advised him to make his takeoff from slightly behind the board to avoid elimination with a third foul. That way, Owens would still be able to easily clear the qualifying mark. A calm Owens jumped four inches away from the board, qualified, and went on to win the gold medal.

At Olympic medal ceremonies, officials raise the three national flags of the medalists. The long jump silver medalist, Long, stands one step lower than Owens. He is giving the "Heil Hitler" salute to the Nazi swastika. Owens, on the top step, offers a military salute to the American flag. Behind the podium, a German official also gives the stiff-armed salute.

Tall, blond, the very model of Aryan racial ideals, a symbol of an ideology in which he did not believe, Long then walked arm-in-arm with Owens to the locker room. Owens later wrote that all his trophies could be melted down, and they still wouldn't be as precious as the "24-carat" friendship he had with Luz Long.

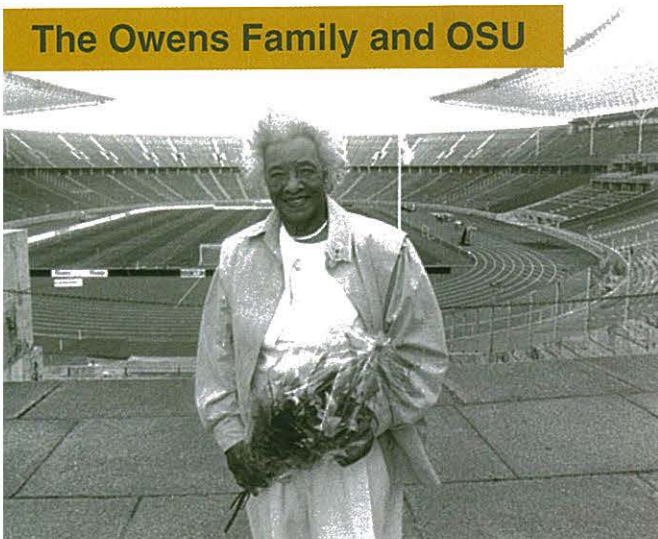
A poster at the exhibit, signed by members of the American team in Melbourne, Australia, at the 1956 Olympics, is dedicated to Owens. Two signatures that stand out are those of Al Oerter and Wilma Rudolph. Oerter won the first of his four straight discus gold medals in 1956. Four years before her triumphant performance in the sprints in Rome, Rudolph ran the opening leg of the women's 4x100-meter relay in Melbourne and won a bronze medal. Two of the greatest Olympians ever drew inspiration from Owens.

So did Ohio State senior Amanda Furrer. Her uniform from the 2012 Olympics, as a member of the American rifle team, stands near the signed 1956 poster. The point is that the connection still remains. They will always remember Jesse Owens at Ohio State. And in the world.

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The Owens Family and OSU



The 1936 Olympics interrupted Owens' studies at Ohio State, but he maintained a close relationship with the University until his death in 1980. His wife, Ruth, continued this relationship, and in 1987 graciously deposited the Jesse Owens Papers in the University Archives. The collection includes papers, photos and artifacts from Owens' life, including material from the 1936 Olympics.

Acknowledgements

Although most of the material for this exhibit comes from the University Archives' Jesse Owens papers, we would like to thank the following contributors:

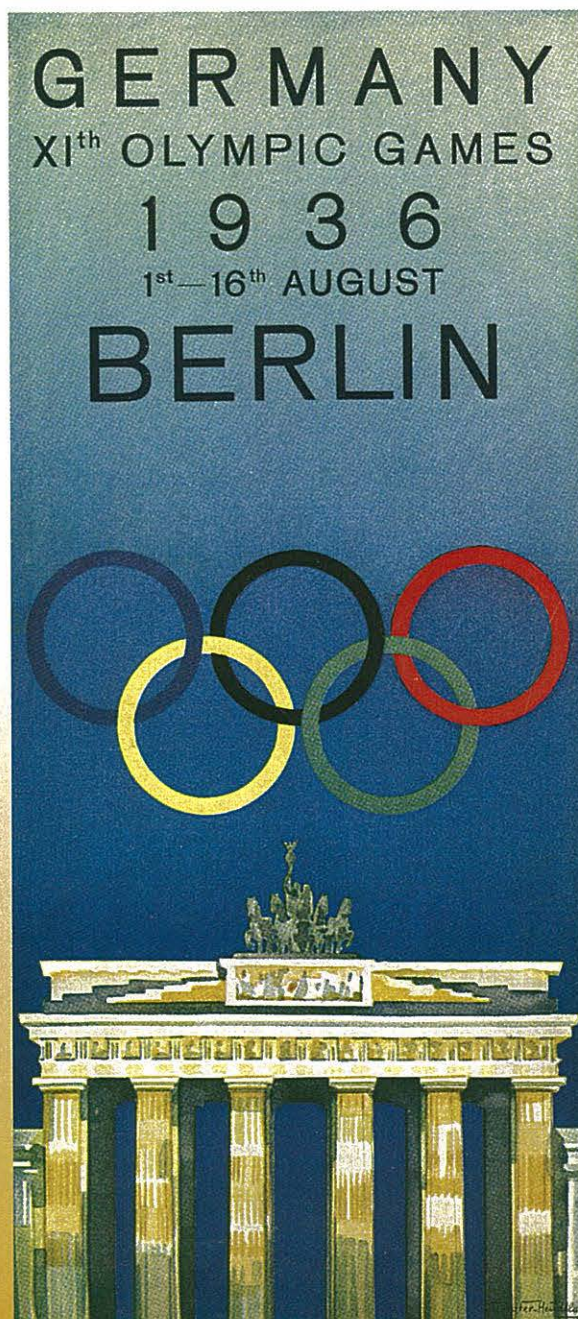
Amanda Furrer: 2012 London Olympic outfits and memorabilia

Homage: Jesse Owens T-shirt

LA84 Foundation: 1936 Olympic Torch; Torch Relay lithograph

The Owens Family: Presidential Medal of Freedom; Congressional Gold Medal

WOSU: *Jesse Owens: Enduring Spirit* documentary



Jesse Owens: 100 Years of Life and Legacy



*Faster
Higher
Stronger*

Jesse Owens: 100 Years of Life and Legacy

January 9 - May 5, 2013

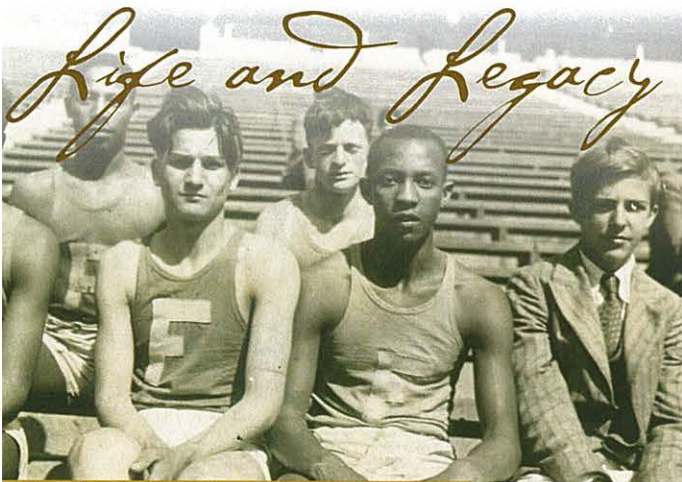


This exhibition of material primarily from the Jesse Owens Papers at The Ohio State University Archives honors the life and legacy of Jesse Owens.

Come learn about Owens' youth, his relationship to the Olympics, and his on-going legacy around the world.



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Early Years and OSU

James Cleveland (Jesse) Owens was born in 1913 in Oakville, Alabama. In the early 1920s, the Owens family moved to Cleveland, and Jesse attended Fairmont Junior High, where he met Charles Riley, the school's track coach. Owens continued running track under Riley at Cleveland's East Technical High School. In 1933, Owens arrived as a freshman at The Ohio State University. He quickly established himself as the leading collegiate track star in the nation.

1936 Olympics

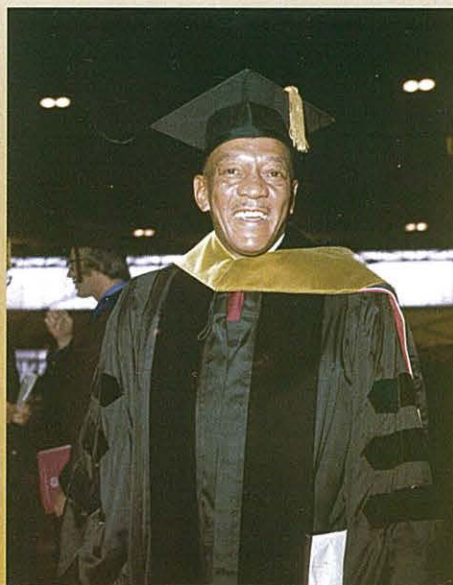


In August 1936, Owens traveled with other U.S. athletes to Berlin for Olympiad XI. There he won gold medals in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, the long jump and the 400-meter relay. With these victories – in front of Nazi leader Adolph Hitler – Owens achieved international fame.



Post-Olympics

Owens participated in a whirlwind of post-Olympic activities. He traveled the world promoting physical fitness and the Olympic ideals.



Owens spent much of his life working with young people and serving as a goodwill ambassador for the Olympic movement and the United States. In recognition of his service, Owens was awarded many honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Owens died in 1980 at age 66.

University Archives

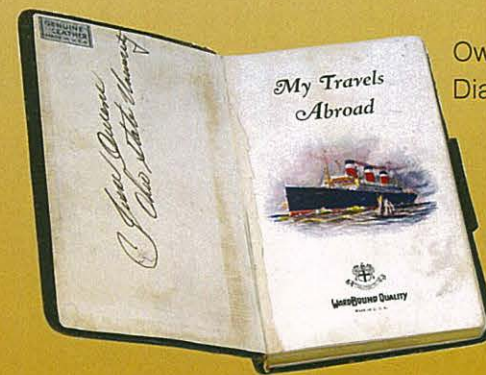
There are several ways to learn more about Jesse Owens at the University Archives:

- More than 70 cubic feet of material and nearly 2,000 photos documenting Owens' life are housed at the University Archives. For the collection inventory see: go.osu.edu/owens-inventory
- A web exhibit on his life and contributions, which includes photo galleries, can be found at: go.osu.edu/jesse-owens

In addition to the Jesse Owens Papers, the Archives houses roughly 25,000 cubic feet of materials related to the University's history. To learn more about the Archives and its collections, visit our web site at go.osu.edu/archives

There also are several ways to support the Archives:

- To donate materials, call **614-292-2409**
- To give to the Archives, visit go.osu.edu/archives-gift



Owens' Olympic Diary: 1936



THOSE FLYING FEET of Jesse Owens have "wowed" us by virtue of his brilliant exploits on the track during the last few years, but will he be able to have us "rollin' in the aisles" if and when he launches a "hoofing" career? Owens, who is considering numerous vaudeville offers, is pictured above tooting on a saxophone just before sailing for the Olympic Games.—Acme Photo.

Cantor Tells Plans To 'Father' Owens

EDDIE CANTOR, bug-eyed film comedian, tonight prepared to launch an unofficial stewardship of the professional career of Jesse Owens, world's fastest runner—providing Jesse accepts the offer.

Cantor, who cabled a bid of \$40,000 to take Owens on a tour

Up to Owens --Brundage

BERLIN, Aug. 17.—(U.P.)

—The A. A. U. has not suspended Jesse Owens, but the "Buckeye Bullet" will suspend himself if he does not appear Wednesday in a track meet at Stockholm. Avery apparent change of heart with respect to the Swedish trip "left the athletic representatives of the United States in a ve barrasing position in the eyes of Europe. Since Owens enthusiastically accepted invitations to several meets in Europe, I feel he should fulfill them."

OTHERS DEPART

"I want to make it clear that the A. A. U. is not suspending Owens, but he will suspend himself if he fails to make the trip. I never said he was suspended and he will not be until he fails to show up for the Swedish trip."

(Americans who will compete in the Swedish meet left for Stockholm from London by airplane today without Owens).

Brundage reiterated his views later in a special radio to the United States.

"There has been no action taken against Owens and I hope there will be none," he said, "it would be most embarrassing."

"The A. A. U. has a rule which provides that if an athlete promises to appear, and makes a regular entry he will be automatically suspended unless he has a legitimate excuse. I hope Owens will keep his engagements. I saw him in London Saturday, and he gave no indication that he planned not to go to Sweden and Norway."

WRONG ADVICE?

"On that occasion I complimented Owens on his performances, popularity and behavior at Berlin. He's a fine chap and I hope he isn't getting the wrong kind of advice."

Brundage pointed out that several cities in Sweden and Norway had gone to considerable pains and expense in preparing for Owens appearance.

"Owens is a free American citizen and can do as he pleases," said Brundage, "but I

he "wants to see that Jesse gets the right sort of management."

He planned to talk by trans-Atlantic telephone with the running star, now in London bickering with officials of the Amateur Athletic Union over his asserted failure to accompany a barnstorming troupe of American athletes on a trip to Sweden.

Cantor said he has instructed his London agent, William Morris, to arrange details with Owens. A cablegram received today from Larry Snyder, Owens' coach and advisor in the Negro athletes' insurrection against A. A. U. officialdom, said:

SEEK FULL DETAILS

"Your offer very attractive, but would appreciate full details of your plans for Jesse."

The veteran comedian, taking time out between acts in a personal appearance at a local theater, explained in his dressing room why he made the unexpected offer for Owens' services.

"Jesse and Larry haven't had a lot of experience along this line, and I'm afraid they might figure the most flattering sounding bid is the best one. It might not be for their best interests."

NO MISTAKES

He said he hoped to have Owens under his wing by the time the Negro runner reaches New York on the Queen Mary Sunday.

"If they sign the contract, I'll fly to New York and meet them," the actor said. "Then we can get started right away, and there won't be any mistakes made."

Carpenter Hurls Discus 174 Ft.

PRAGUE, Aug. 17.—(UP)—Kenneth Carpenter of Compton, Calif., who won the Olympic discus championship with a toss of 185 feet 7 29-64 inches, did 174 feet 1 31-64 inches in an exhibition meet today. Walter D. Wood of Summit, N. J., was second with a toss of 163 feet 10 31-32 inches.



Eddie Cantor

Care If He's Banned

LONDON, Aug. 17.—Jesse Owens, disgusted with his treatment by the A. A. U., told the United Press tonight that he didn't give "a couple of hoots" whether he was suspended by that body or not.

"I guess I might as well consider myself suspended," said Owens, "because I'm not going to participate in the track meet scheduled in Sweden starting Wednesday. I'm going home because I'm tired and I want to see my wife. It's been exactly two months and three weeks I saw her."

GUESS I AM SUSPENDED

Owens smiled and shrugged his shoulders when he was told that Dan Ferris, secretary of the A. A. U., had said the Ohio State star would be suspended automatically if he didn't appear for the meet at Stockholm August 19-21.

"I know is Ferris said I was suspended the boys to Sweden. Well, the boys went today and the meet starts Wednesday, and I sail Wednesday. So guess I'm suspended, because I shall not participate."

Larry Snyder, Ohio State coach, interrupted and joked: "Well, Jesse, after all?" to Sweden Tuesday. Jesse replied: "Shaking his head, Jesse replied: 'No, sir. I don't want to get home.'"

A. A. U. UNFAIR

Pointing out that too much running always made him go stale, as it did last year when he was beaten by Eulace Peacock, Temple University Negro, in the A. A. U. meet, Owens said that he couldn't continue to compete as often as the A. A. U. officials wanted him to.

"I certainly don't want that to happen again. I'm dog-tired and need a rest after all the running I've done. I'm not criticizing the A. A. U., but I think they're being very unfair to me. Anyway, my conscience is clear."

Owens' Absence Okey With Swedish Authorities

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 17.—(UP)—Swedish athletic authorities today said they would take no action if Jesse Owens did not compete in a meet beginning Wednesday, because they consider the matter a domestic American affair.

Handwritten signature: J. J. & J. J.



LEW BYRER'S Sportive Spotlight Owens Offers Bri Up Old Question What Is an Amateur

WHEN Jesse Owens was offered \$2500 a week for 10 appearing in an orchestra he said:

"If I'm offered enough I'll probably turn professional."

When Mrs. Eleanor Holm Jarrett was offered an un- amount for allowing her name to be signed to stories about pic games she accepted and said:

"I don't know why this should affect my amateur standing. I'm only receiving regular rates."

When A. A. U. officials announced Mrs. Jarrett had been suspended from amateur competition because she was accepting money for the use of her name signed to stories about the Olympics she denied she had received any money. Technically, if she spoke the truth, she's innocent. If she received no money she committed no offense. For she certainly didn't write the stuff to which her name was signed.

But the point I'm trying to make is the contrast between the attitude of the two individuals.

Owens might have accepted that offer and tried to preserve his amateur standing at the same time. He could have argued that he was merely making appear-

ances with a band and not izing his athletic fame.

Of course that would ripe bologna. But no i that offered by Mrs. Jar

As a matter of fact M had been technically vio spirit of the amateur ru the controversy which l dismissal from the Olym She's been singing with band's orchestra for so Of course it can be argue every right to do so. An

But the significant thi she was advertised as HOLM Jarrett—not as Jarrett or Mrs. Eleanor The obvious hope was th cash customers who m turn out to hear Mrs. A sing might be attracte beautiful and well-a Eleanor HOLM Jarrett.

* * *

Can Jesse Sing or Play?

I NEVER heard Jesse Owens try to sing. Maybe he can. I photo of him puffing into a saxophone but suspected phoney. If he can play a saxophone—or any other musical ment—I never heard of it.

But perhaps he can dance. Most colored boys can and about the nimblest feet in history.

If he could dance and would sign with an orchestra as a dancer would he be technically violating the amateur rules?

He'd at least have an argument there. It's a credit to Jesse and his advisers that he's not trying to straddle the issue. He'll do one of two things. If the offer is big enough he'll turn pro. If it isn't he'll remain an amateur.

Bobby Jones—one of the finest sportsmen I've ever met—set a fine example in this respect. When he decided to cash in on his golfing fame by making movies, writing articles and designing and endorsing golf clubs, he voluntarily relinquished his amateur status. He in't wait for the U. S. G. A. to form the painful duty of declar- him a professional.

Which also reminds or ridiculous quirks of the rules.

Johnny Dawson was a for a Chicago sporting g concern. He'd never played, decided he could do a b of selling golf clubs to p could play a round of g them. So he learned to and learned to play it wel he got good enough to be ment threat he was declar because he was using his ability to promote his bus

That has always seeme ruling to me. But it w nically correct.

Dawson was unque using his golf ability for gain. But he didn't get because of that ability.

* * *

Owens Departs for U. S. to Sift His Pro Offers

going to See Wife and Baby
First, Says Olympic Star,
Returning on Queen Mary

Copyright, 1936, The United Press
ABOARD QUEEN MARY, Aug. 19.—
Automatically expelled from the A. A.
U. the moment this liner sailed from
Southampton, Jesse Owens, winner of
three Olympic titles, was on his way
home tonight to:

1. See his wife in Cleveland, Ohio.
2. Consider offers to become a professional athlete.

"I don't know what I'm going to
do when I reach the United States,"
The Ohio state star said soon after
we left Southampton, Eng., "except
that I'm going straight to Cleveland
to see my wife and baby."

Accompanying Owens was his col-
lege coach, Larry Snyder.

Officers of the Amateur Athletic
Union had announced in Berlin Sun-
day that if Owens sailed he auto-
matically would suspend himself.

The A. A. U. had scheduled Owens
to appear in a track meet opening
today in Stockholm, Sweden. Jesse
said he had not contracted to enter
the meet and he chose to go home
immediately to investigate offers run-
ning up to \$40,000 for ten weeks.

"Right now," he said, "I intend to
return to Ohio State next month for
my senior year. But that depends
upon my professional offers. If I do
go back to college, I'll still be able
to run and jump in intercollegiate
competition, because I understand
the Big Ten has said that I still will
be eligible regardless of my difficul-
ties with the A. A. U."

Owens appeared cheerful as he
stood by the rail and watched this
boat sail at 12:40 p. m. (7:40 a. m.,
E. D. T.). It was the first time he
appeared happy since his arrival in
England last week. He was immacu-
late in a dark gray pencil-striped
annel suit and grinned broadly as
he told a new story about the bulk
of this ship.

"We got into a taxicab at Central
Station and started for her," the
Negro said. "The driver asked:
'Which end of the boat do you want
to go to? You know, it costs more
for me to take you all the way to
the stern than it does the bow.'"



LEW LITERS Sportive Spotlight

Jesse Owens Tired
Of Running Grind;
He's Coming Home

JESSE OWENS was a bit tired of Europe and track meets and cheers
and adulation and porkchops and roasts.

He was missing Mrs. Jesse Owens and Ma Owens and the rest
of his folks.

He wanted to get back to the United States and find out whether
these thousands of dollars being offered him by wire were real
money or just talk.

So he decided he was coming
home. And Larry Snyder, his
coach, decided to come along.

So Jesse is suspended by the
A. A. U. and Snyder is in bad
with the brass hats who run it.

Despite which unhappy situation
Jesse and Larry will be on the
Queen Mary when she sails for
the United States Wednesday.

And Jesse will probably sign a
professional contract shortly after
his arrival at home.

And the American Olympic
squad has started its junket to

Sweden without its outstanding
star.

All of which is very sad and to
be deplored and all that.

But I can't help laughing a bit
at the flabbergasted brass hats
who run the A. A. U.

They've suspended Owens, who
was ready to give up his amateur
standing and turn professional
anyhow.

By so doing they've exhibited a
vindictiveness which will merely
further antagonize the general
public which was already a bit fed
up on their officiousness.

* * * *

What Was Required?

I SUPPOSE, to be strictly a nice boy, Jesse should have taken the
trip to Sweden and such other trips as the A. A. U. wanted to
arrange for him.

But I'm not so sure.

As I got it, Jesse signed up to run in the Olympic games. In get-
ting ready for those games he
started, almost a year ago, train-
ing and practicing and getting
himself into the best possible
shape.

He'd been running since be-
fore the snow left the ground,
running indoors and running out-
doors. He'd drilled until he must
have wished he'd never see a track
shoe again.

He'd done everything asked for
him in qualifying meets and in

the games themselves and in keep-
ing in condition and obeying train-
ing rules. He'd won three events
individually and ran one leg on
the winning sprint relay team.

His original plans had called
for him to sail for home today.
But he'd proved the big shot—
the big drawing card—with the
American squad. All Europe want-
ed to see him. SAAU offici-
als started arranging junkets
here and there. Jesse went on a
couple of them. Then he decided
he'd had enough.

So he quit.

Maybe he shouldn't have quit.

But I believe he has the sym-
pathy of most of the fair-minded
sport fans with him.

Those side trips weren't in his
original schedule. He certainly
was entitled to choose whether or
not he took them.

And the AAU—by barring him
—has simply made it a bit easier
for him to make up his mind to
turn professional.

I'VE GOT TO RUN
THIS ROAD-AND-
WHILE MY LEGS
ARE GOOD!

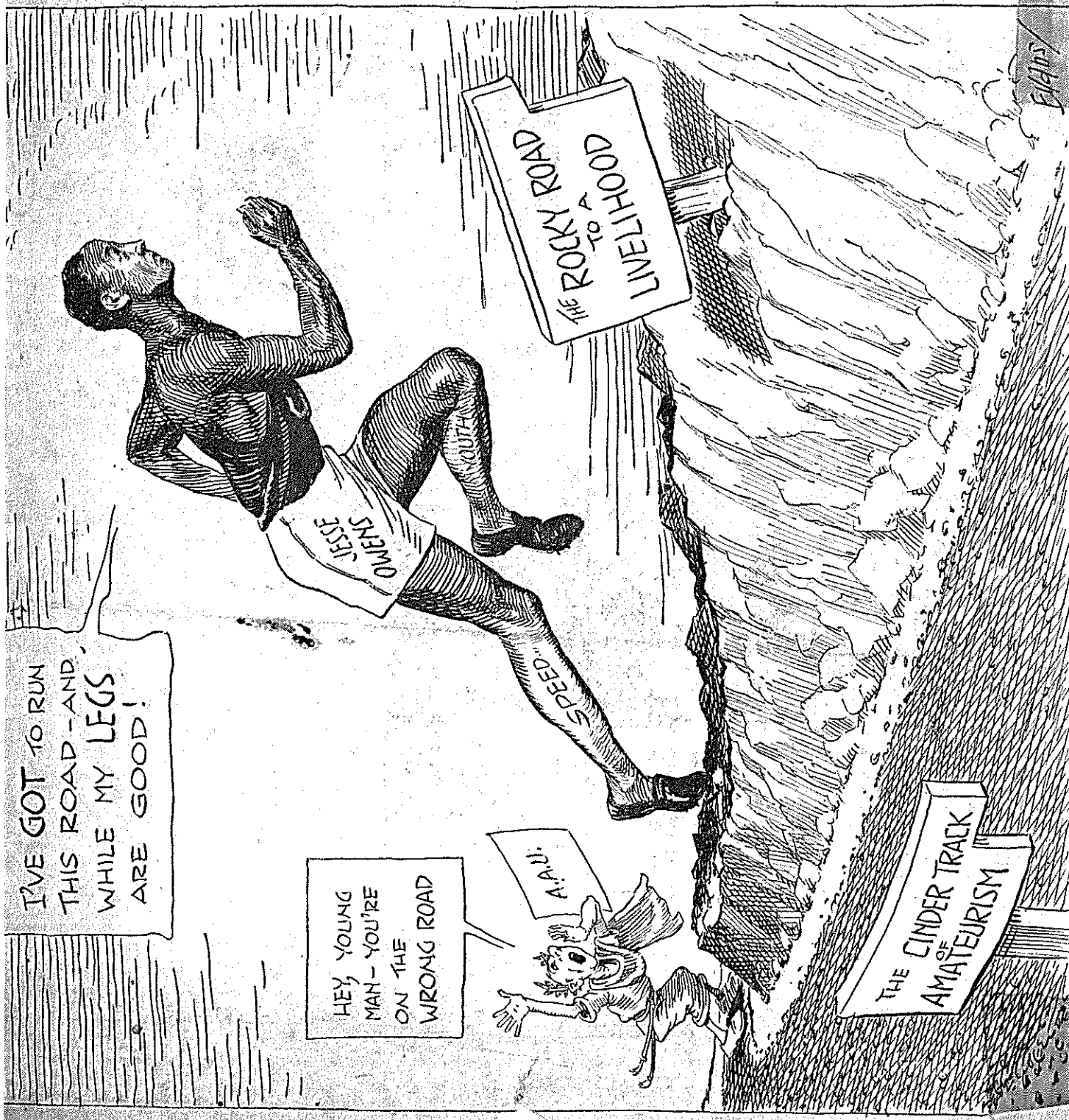
HEY, YOUNG
MAN - YOU'RE
ON THE
WRONG ROAD

AH!!

THE ROCKY ROAD
TO A
LIVELIHOOD

THE CINDER TRACK
OF
AMATEURISM

ELIOT



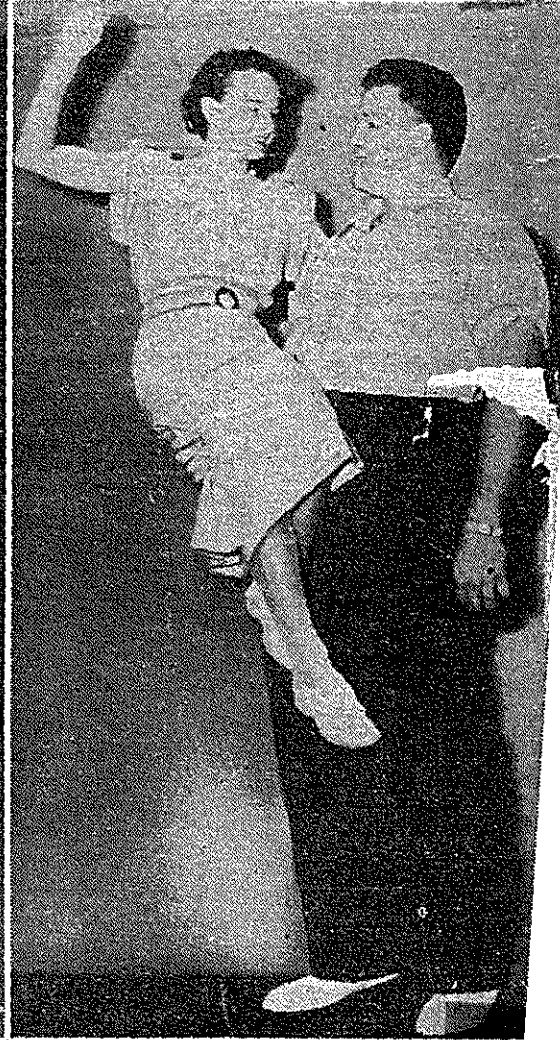
On to Berlin before Boe ding Boat for Atlantic Crossing



Jesse Owens toots his own horn. The famous speedster tunes up his sax before sailing hour.



Two famous sprinters talk it over. Jesse Owens is shown giving Helen Stephens, women's world record wrecker, a few pointers on the start.



Jack Torrance, 320 pounds, holds Katherine Rawls, 108 pounds, famous aquatic s

(A) Wire

Quit Amateur Ranks

Coach Larry Snyder Doubts if Stage Appearances Would Technically Make Him A Professional

By TOMMY DEVINE

THE flying feet that carried Jesse Owens to four Olympic triumphs and listed 12 world's marks beside his name may shuffle across the screen or stageboards within the next few months without taking the coffee-colored sprint act out of amateur track competition.

Larry Snyder, the prematurely gray and affable Young Ohio State track coach, revealed today that his No. 1 protege will not automatically retire from the amateur ranks if he accepts one of the screen, stage or radio offers made following his triumphs at Berlin.

Snyder Doubtful

"Since shortly after Jesse completed his 'grand slam' at Berlin," Snyder said, "the air has been filled with talk of him turning professional. He has a dozen or more very attractive offers and most certainly will take one of them, but I'm not positive he would thus relinquish his right to run as an amateur."

Snyder, who was one of the central figures in another celebration in honor of Owens yesterday, said the preliminary drafts of the offers made the track ace did not cast him in the role of a runner and that consequently he did not believe it could be technically interpreted Jesse was capitalizing on his track fame.

"That, however," Snyder stated, "is another thing that would have to be worked out. Jesse has assured me he will return to school upon the conclusion of the contract he signs and then we will submit his entire case to the faculty board of the Western Conference and permit it to determine whether he is eligible for any further intercollegiate competition."

Owens, accompanied by his wife and Snyder, was to leave here today for Cleveland and then go on to New York for a final inspection of the offers.

"We may have an announcement of Jesse's plans to make in 24 hours or it may not be until the middle of next week," Snyder stated.

Cantor Deal May Be Off

Close friends of Owens disclosed that it was highly improbable the sprinter would accept the most prominently mentioned proposition, one which coupled the Ohio State ace with Eddie Cantor, movie comedian. Difficulties which arose when it was discussed upon Jesse's arrival from Europe were said to have resulted in the matter being dropped for the time being.

After Owens fulfills the stage, screen or radio contract he accepts, plans call for his return to Ohio State where he needs one year's work before graduation. He has three or four offers for affiliation with Negro educational systems that are dependent upon



Bill Livingston

The man dwarfed these monuments

The little, scruffy lot in Oakville, Ala., isn't much to look at. Two modest monuments announce to the curious handful of visitors each day that James Cleveland Owens was born there. One of the markers even has "Jesse" Owens' birthdate wrong, putting it in 1914 instead of the correct date a year earlier.

Originally, there was supposed to be a 17-acre city park next to it. "It's just an empty lot, with a basketball backboard and a volleyball court," said Gloria Fitzgerald, a distant relative of Owens by marriage, who is the keeper of legacy of the East Tech and Ohio State Olympian.

Fitzgerald keeps several thick notebooks filled with newspaper clippings devoted to the grudging, small-minded way in which Lawrence County, Ala., remembers the sharecropper's son who became one of the greatest athletes of the century. Now living in seclusion in ~~Alabama~~, estranged from her husband in Alabama, she opens the notebooks and re-fights the battles of 10 years ago, when officials in Moulton, the county seat, voted down plans for an Owens memorial on the courthouse lawn. It went to Oakville by default.

The incredible reasoning was that if the county commissioners put up a memorial to Owens, wouldn't you know, sooner or later everybody would want one? Indeed, a proposal was later made to honor General Phillip Dale Roddy, who commanded the area's Confederate troops in the Civil War.

Before the markers were unveiled, a gang of vandals unsuccessfully tried to demolish one of them.

Today, Fitzgerald wonders where the \$250,000 went that she helped raise to beautify the park. A proposed 10-foot-tall statue of

"There are bootleg houses right across from the park," she said, meaning places where alcohol can be bought in the dry county. "People come from all over the place to buy drugs there, too. It's really Dope City. You can buy anything you want there, you can gamble there, you can do it all."

When he was 9, Owens moved with his family to Cleveland. His four gold medals in the Munich Olympics of 1936 revealed Adolf Hitler's theories of an Aryan master race to be claptrap. They also made Owens one of the enduring symbols of personal freedom. As the inscription on one of the commemorative markers in Oakville reads: "He inspired a world enslaved in tyranny and gave hope to his fellow man."

Fitzgerald wanted to turn the park into a place that might inspire other youngsters in Oakville, as surely as Owens, riding in pomp and glory in a ticker-tape parade through the streets of Cleveland after the Olympics, fired Harrison Dillard with the desire to become a gold medalist. She wanted his legacy to be a living one, borne onward by the strong legs of generations to come. That is why the Cleveland public schools track meet is named after Owens, why Ohio State's premier track event bears his name.

Fitzgerald has mounted a one-woman campaign to bring the Olympic torch to Oakville before the Atlanta Olympics next summer. While the torch's itinerary won't be revealed until July, Fitzgerald is convinced the same bigots who opposed the Owens memorial and skimmed on the park will succeed in diverting it, too.

"We know about Oakville," said Rennie Truitt, a spokesman for the torch relay's planning committee. "We are well aware that this is the site of Jesse Owens' birth and of his grave. On the 100th anniversary of the modern Olympics and the 60th anniversary of Jesse's four gold medals, it has great symbolic value."

"At the end of the ticker-tape parade," Owens once said, "I was still at the back of the bus."

That is the best reason of all why the torch should go to Oakville, Ala. To show how far Jesse went from such modest roots. To show how far the rest of us, even this late in the century, still have to go.

Jesse Owens' Olympic gold medal sold for \$1.4 million

Associated Press Monday December 9, 2013 9:41 AM

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. — An Olympic gold medal won by Jesse Owens at the 1936 Berlin Games has sold for a record \$1.4 million in an online auction.

SCP Auctions said Pittsburgh Penguins co-owner Ron Burkle paid \$1,466,574, the highest price for a piece of Olympic memorabilia. The online auction ended Sunday.

"We just hope that it's purchased by an institution where the public could have access to it, a museum or something like that," Owens' daughter, Marlene Owens Rankin of Chicago, told The Associated Press before the sale.

The auction house said Burkle, who also owns William Faulkner's Nobel Prize for literature, has plans for an educational tour of the historic pieces. He wasn't available for comment Sunday.

The Los Angeles billionaire investor's holdings include retail, food and entertainment companies.

Owens won gold in the 100- and 200-meters, 400 relay and long jump at the games attended by Adolf Hitler, who used the Olympics to showcase his ideas of Aryan supremacy.

According to the auction house based in Laguna Niguel, Calif., the medal is unidentifiable to a specific event. It said Owens gave the medal to his friend, dancer and movie star Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, as thanks for helping Owens find work in entertainment after he returned from Berlin.

The medal was sold by the estate of Robinson's late widow, Elaine Plaines-Robinson. SCP Auctions Vice President Dan Imler said the Owens family confirmed the medal is original; the whereabouts of the other three is unknown.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the medal will be donated to the Jesse Owens Foundation. The Robinson family had declined to comment on the auction, but Imler said they also plan to use the proceeds to pay college tuition.

Last month, IOC President Thomas Bach told the AP that the Owens medal is "a part of world heritage."

"(It has) an importance far beyond the sporting achievements of Jesse Owens, which is part of world history," Bach said. "To put this up for an auction is for me a very difficult decision (to accept)."

The record price for the Owens medal surpassed that of a silver cup awarded to the winner of the first modern-day Olympic marathon in 1896 that sold for \$865,000 in April 2012. It also topped the highest price paid for a U.S. Olympic item -- the "Miracle on Ice" jersey worn by team captain Mike Eruzione in 1980 that sold for \$657,250 last February.

"We are honored to have handled what we consider to be among the most inspiring sports artifacts ever offered at auction," Imler said. "The

12/9/13

Jesse Owens' Olympic gold medal sold for \$1.4 million | The Columbus Dispatch

inspiring sports memorabilia offered at auction, [Times said](#). The worldwide attention garnered by the auction of Jesse Owens' 1936 gold medal and the extraordinary auction result proves that Owens' triumphant legacy continues to endure."

The auction, including more than 1,000 sports memorabilia items, brought in a total of nearly \$4.5 million.

Other top lots included Jackie Robinson's game-used bats from his historic 1949 National League Most Valuable Player season and the 1955 World Series, which sold for \$183,500 and \$128,617, respectively; and a Jackie Robinson single-signed baseball attracted a record bid of \$104,765.

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1936 USA Summer Olympic Medals - An Afterthought

The Closing Ceremonies of the XI Olympiad were celebrated in Berlin, August 18th, 1936. Three days later a luncheon took place in a bar just off Broadway at 50th St. & 8th Ave. to plan a reception for the US athletes who had participated in the Summer Olympics. Travel then did not have many options and the bulk of the US contingent was returning to the US on two ships; the *Roosevelt* which docked in NY on August 28th and the *Manhattan* which landed in NY on September 3rd. Bill Robinson (Mr. Bojangles) called Jesse Owens from Jack Dempsey's Restaurant and Bar during lunch to confirm his participation in the 'Welcome Home' ceremonies. On September 3, when the second ship came in, all the athletes met up in Battery Park and they were then honored with a ticker tape parade up Broadway to Harlem and then over to Randall's Island where the official reception and the presentations of medals took place.

Each of the men and women of the American delegation got a special medal, silver for those who finished 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Berlin and bronze for those who participated. At lunch they decided the medal would bear the seal of the City of New York on one side and on the other the symbol of the Olympics - an up stretched hand holding the Olympic Wreath. The guys at Medallic Art Co. whose offices were just across town from Jack Dempsey's at 51st and 3rd must have had a good laugh. "You want what? When?" After learning that new art was impossible, the ad hoc committee looked at the designs available; found a seal they liked and settled on the Arm & Laurel, a stock design created by Julio Kilenyi in 1931 and one much used over the years. It is still available today from Medallic Art. The committee got their up thrust arm but had to settle for a laurel branch rather than an Olympic Wreath.



The medal is 2-inches wide and is edge marked MEDALLIC ART CO. NY. The obverse has the Seal of the City of New York as the central device. 2-line legend above: PRESENTED BY / FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA. then a 2-line inscription: MAYOR / TO. Beneath the seal is this 2-line legend with the first line being the engraved name of the recipient. In this case: CONSETTA A. CARUCCIO / 1936 OLYMPIAN. This composition would have been done in-house by Medallic Art Co. There is no space in 'LaGuardia,' yet there is one on the medal. Oops! Haste makes space.

Fiorello Henry LaGuardia (1882 – 1947) was the Republican Mayor of New York City for three terms from 1934 to 1945. Previously he had been elected to Congress in 1916 and 1918, and again from 1922 through 1930. Irascible, energetic and charismatic, he craved publicity and is acclaimed as one of the three or four greatest mayors in American history. Only five feet tall, he was called "the Little Flower" (*Fiorello* is Italian for "little flower.")

Consetta A. Caruccio-Lenz (1918 - 1980) the recipient of the illustrated medal was an American gymnast who competed in the 1936 Summer Olympics. She carried the US flag during the Opening Ceremonies. She was one of the few 1936 Olympians who came back to compete in the 1948 Summer Olympics where she won a bronze medal as a member of the women's gymnast team. Connie Lenz was an outspoken advocate for woman's sports and a lifelong coach and mentor to female athletes. And she was a great tap dancer. Really.

The American Olympic contingent had about 360 members. The 'about' is there because one or two members were disqualified without ever competing. Some members stayed on in Europe after the games, some, despite all the blandishments offered by New York City when the *Roosevelt* docked, couldn't get home fast enough. The final count for the ticker tape parade and municipal reception with Mayor LaGuardia was 121 Olympians, fully one third of the American team, 75 of whom had just arrived on the *Manhattan*.



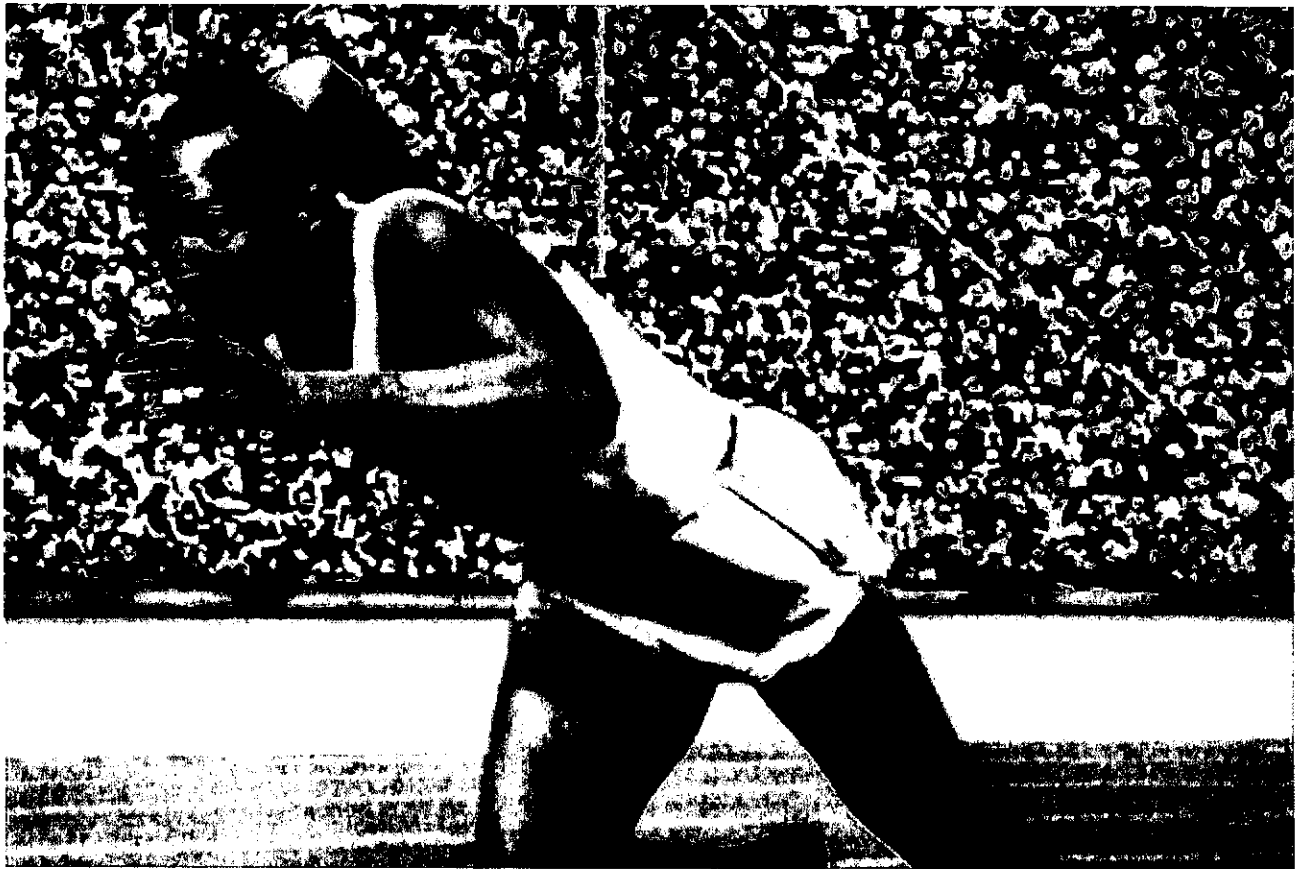
This is a picture of the medal presentation at Randall's Island on September 3, 1936. Mayor LaGuardia is just to the right of the American flag and facing him are Helen Stevens, Jesse Owens, Glenn Morris, Alice Arden and Betty Robinson in that order. Stevens and Owens won multiple gold medals, Morris and Robinson each won gold and Arden tied for ninth in the high jump. This picture is from the UK Mirror 16 July 2012, "100 Bizarre Facts About the Olympic Games" by Steve Anglesey. The source is uncredited. (Maybe Getty Images)

There were 83 American athletes who won Olympic gold, silver or bronze. This writer has never seen a NYC silver medal. He has seen a half dozen NYC bronze medals, two of which were unnamed. He, therefore, would estimate that Medallic Art struck no more than 100 silver and 300 bronze medals. Truly, quite a rare afterthought.

The log for the details of this story came from the New York Times issues of August 22nd, 28th and September 4th, 1936. And a tip of the hat to John Liffiton whose smart cover story on the Berlin Olympic medals of 1936 gave impetus to this afterthought.

THE STRAITS TIMES

Film-makers race to tell the real Jesse Owens tale



Although he died in 1980, Olympic gold medallist Jesse Owens' life story will be exhumed in the upcoming film, *Race*, which is set for release early next year. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

🕒 PUBLISHED DEC 29, 2015, 5:00 AM SGT

LONDON • Jesse Owens is about to win his last race, after his family joined a three-pronged battle for the Olympic icon's legacy.

Now an 80-year-old story will be exhumed, and it may have Middle America shifting uneasily in its seat.

The son of a share-cropper, Owens famously won four Olympic titles in Berlin in 1936, and legend has it that, with his Aryan beliefs belittled, Adolf Hitler refused to shake hands with him.

It is one myth that will be exposed in *Race*, an upcoming biopic film about Owens, who died 35 years ago.

Last year, one of his gold medals, sold by the estate of the third wife of Hollywood tap dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, fetched US\$1.47 million (S\$2.06 million) at auction, making it the most expensive piece of Olympic memorabilia.

The Owens family expressed their "sorrow" at the sale and questioned the provenance of the medal.

Jesse's wife, Ruth, had said that the original medals were stolen and had been replaced, while another was lost when he donated it to the Freedom Train, which travelled around the United States as part of bicentennial celebrations in 1976.

It was another intriguing sub-plot to a life that has often been twisted to fit an idealised template.

Owens said that he was actually snubbed by his own president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and not Hitler.

Avery Brundage, a Nazi sympathiser and president of the US Olympic Committee, then ended Owens' post-Berlin career by throwing him out of the Amateur Athletics Union.

Owens was forced into circus races against horses and worked as a playground janitor and petrol pump attendant before filing for bankruptcy.

His daughter, Marlene Owens Rankin, says that being involved in making *Race* has been hard because the family did not want a hagiography.

"We were very concerned that history wasn't rewritten," she said. "Certain information gets to be accepted as historical fact when it isn't. We do not get involved with things we're not comfortable with."

So, what of the so-called snub?

There is no doubt that the Nazi hierarchy was displeased by Owens' four-medal haul - "white humanity should be ashamed of itself", Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister, wrote in his diary - but Marlene says that there was no refusal to shake hands.

"I don't think he ever felt he was snubbed by Hitler," she said.

"He knew that Hitler might have been greeting other athletes who were medal-winners, and

he knew that Hitler said he would greet everyone or no one, but he did not feel individually snubbed. And I don't think he really cared, frankly."

The lack of an invitation to the White House cut a deeper wound.

"In retrospect, that bothered him more," Marlene said.

Several years ago Siegfried Mischner, a veteran German journalist, jolted the story into new life when he claimed that he saw Hitler shake hands with Owens behind a stand in the Olympic Stadium.

He also claimed that Owens carried a photograph of the greeting and, in the 1960s, tried to get journalists to rewrite a historical wrong. Nobody was interested.

"Jesse always had a good relationship with Germany from the time that he was in the Olympics," Marlene said. "They embraced him. I'm not sure people know how much they respected who he was and what he accomplished.

"It's partly true that he was treated better in Europe. He was admired by the black community in the USA, but given the racial divisions it was not as open-armed."

Race, which has a cast including Jeremy Irons, William Hurt and Stephan James in the Owens role, has just brought its release date forward to early next year to beat the other contenders.

With a reported three films on Owens to be shown in an Olympic year, it may get harder still to pick the fact from the fiction of arguably the Games' greatest story.

THE TIMES, LONDON

Drobik, Michelle

From: Teresa Hedgpeth <Teresa.Hedgpeth@usoc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2016 11:35 AM
To: jesseowens@charter.net
Cc: Drobik, Michelle
Subject: RE: Question about information at Jesse Owens Museum

Good morning Nancy,

Your visitor is correct.

The first time an athlete won 4 gold medals in a single Olympic Games actually occurred at the first modern Olympic Games – Athens 1896 Olympic Games. It was Carl Schuhmann from Germany. He competed in weightlifting, athletics, wrestling & gymnastics winning gold in gymnastics and wrestling events.

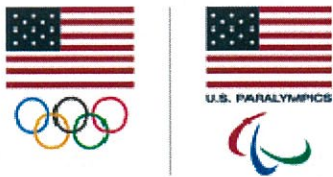
The first time an American won 4 gold medals in a single Games was at Paris 1900 Olympic Games – Alvin Kraenzlein in athletics (track & field) events.

The first time an African American won 4 gold medals in a single Olympic Games was Jesse Owens at Berlin 1936 Olympic Games.

You can use this website for to research Olympic Games, athletes, and events: <http://www.sports-reference.com/olympics/summer/1936/>

Sincerely,

Teri



Teresa Hedgpeth | Archivist & Historical Steward
United States Olympic Committee
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909
+1 719-866-3200[o]

From: Drobik, Michelle [<mailto:drobik.5@osu.edu>]
Sent: Friday, August 05, 2016 8:39 AM
To: jesseowens@charter.net; Teresa Hedgpeth <Teresa.Hedgpeth@usoc.org>
Subject: Question about information at Jesse Owens Museum

Hello Nancy and Teresa,

Drobik, Michelle

From: Teresa Hedgpeth <Teresa.Hedgpeth@usoc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2016 5:27 PM
To: Drobik, Michelle
Cc: Christa Mann (Christa.Mann@usatf.org)
Subject: Jesse Owens shoe brand.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Michelle,

Your email was forwarded to me regarding the maker of shoes that Jesse Owens wore while competing during the Berlin 1936 Olympic Games from USA Track and Field.

I have searched our records for any verification of shoe type worn at the Games. The best information I have is from the Chairman of the Uniform Committee, Frederick W. Rubien, found in the *American Olympic Committee Report, 1936, Games of the XIth Olympiad, Berlin, Germany*.

Mr. Rubien's report stated, "The white sweaters were furnished by A.G. Spalding & Bros. as were the competitive suits, both for men and women." His report further stated, "Mostly all athletic equipment was obtained through A.G. Spalding & Bro.s." I have reviewed still images and footage of Jesse Owens competing in the Olympic Games and unfortunately cannot see any identifying marks on the two different pair of shoes shown in the images which Jesse Owens wore – a white pair and a black or dark pair of track shoes.

I am sorry I cannot definitively state one way or another if the shoes Owens wore were made by Spalding & Bros. or not.

Sincerely,

Teri



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