

# 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.

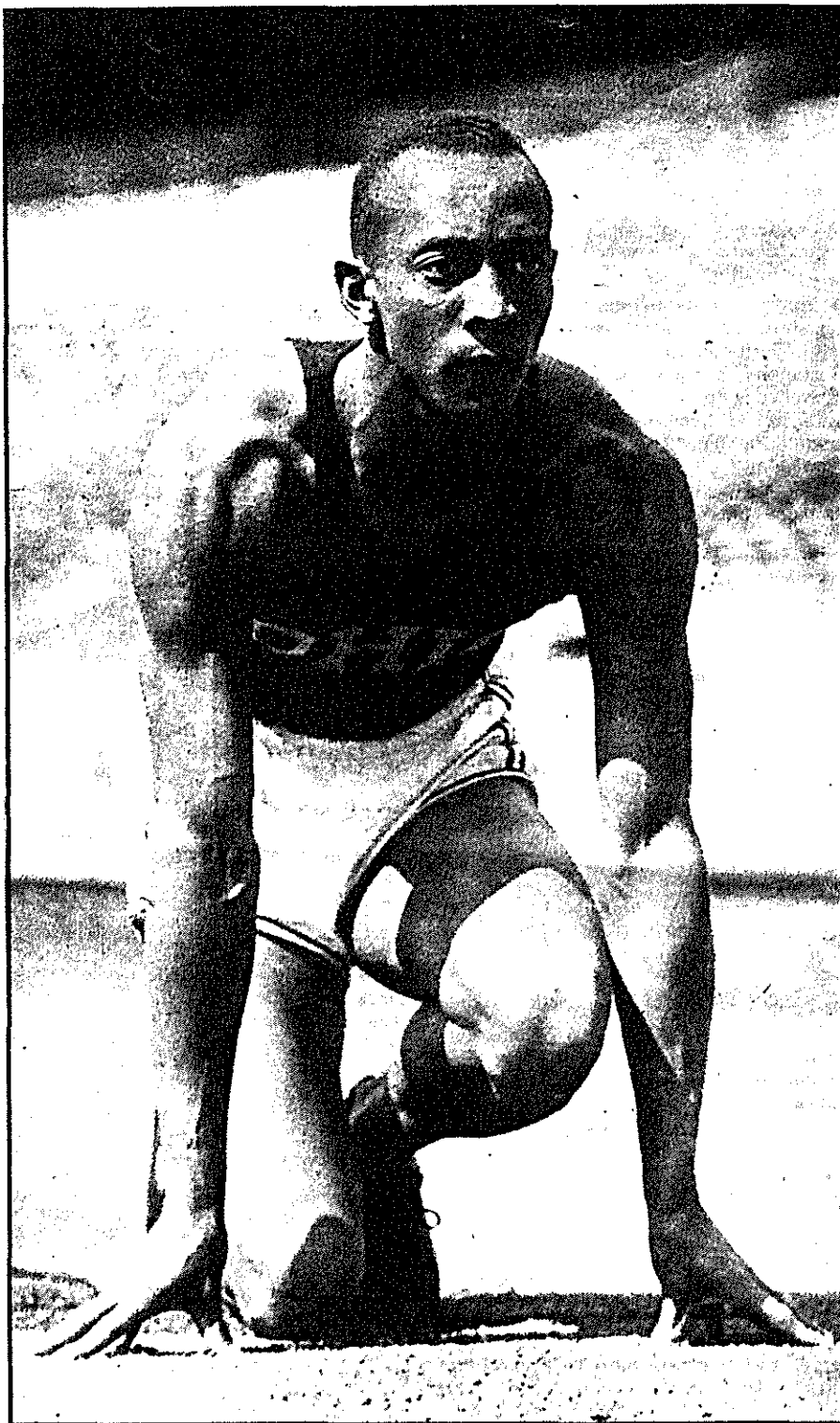
A hospital spokesman quoted Owens, 66, as saying he was fighting "the biggest battle of my life and with the help of Dr. Stephen E. Jones, I'll win this race."

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.

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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.



# 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."

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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 shortage of breath.

Mrs. Owens said he suffers shortness 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 grandchildren.

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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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

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

*The Columbus Dispatch*

3-31-80

DISPATCH

(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.

DISPATCH 3-31-80



*In Oct.  
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



← 1936

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

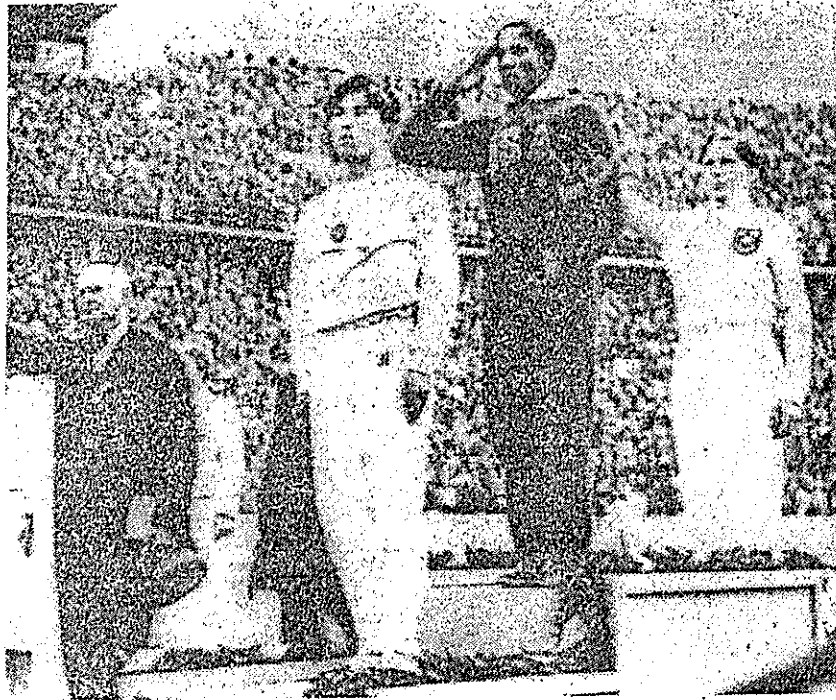
Aryan superiority in the event, which Hitler hoped would showcase his "master race."

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

The Ohio State University

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102 Administration Building  
190 North Oval Mall  
Columbus, Ohio 43210  
Phone: 614-422-2711

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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 9-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

## 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."

Tues., Apr. 1, 1980 / VALLEY NEWS



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.

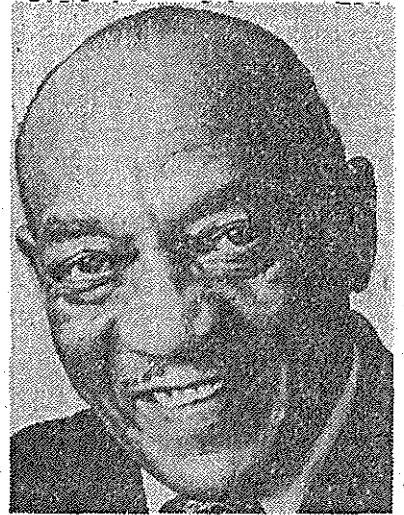
● Greenberg cartoon, section 2, page 2.

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  
Phone: 614-422-2711

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-

*Clive PD 4-5-82*

## 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.

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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%.

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

*(Ed.'s Note. The following is a statement by Jack Gibbs, director of the Fort Hayes Career Center. Gibbs was one of the first who proposed 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 our 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.

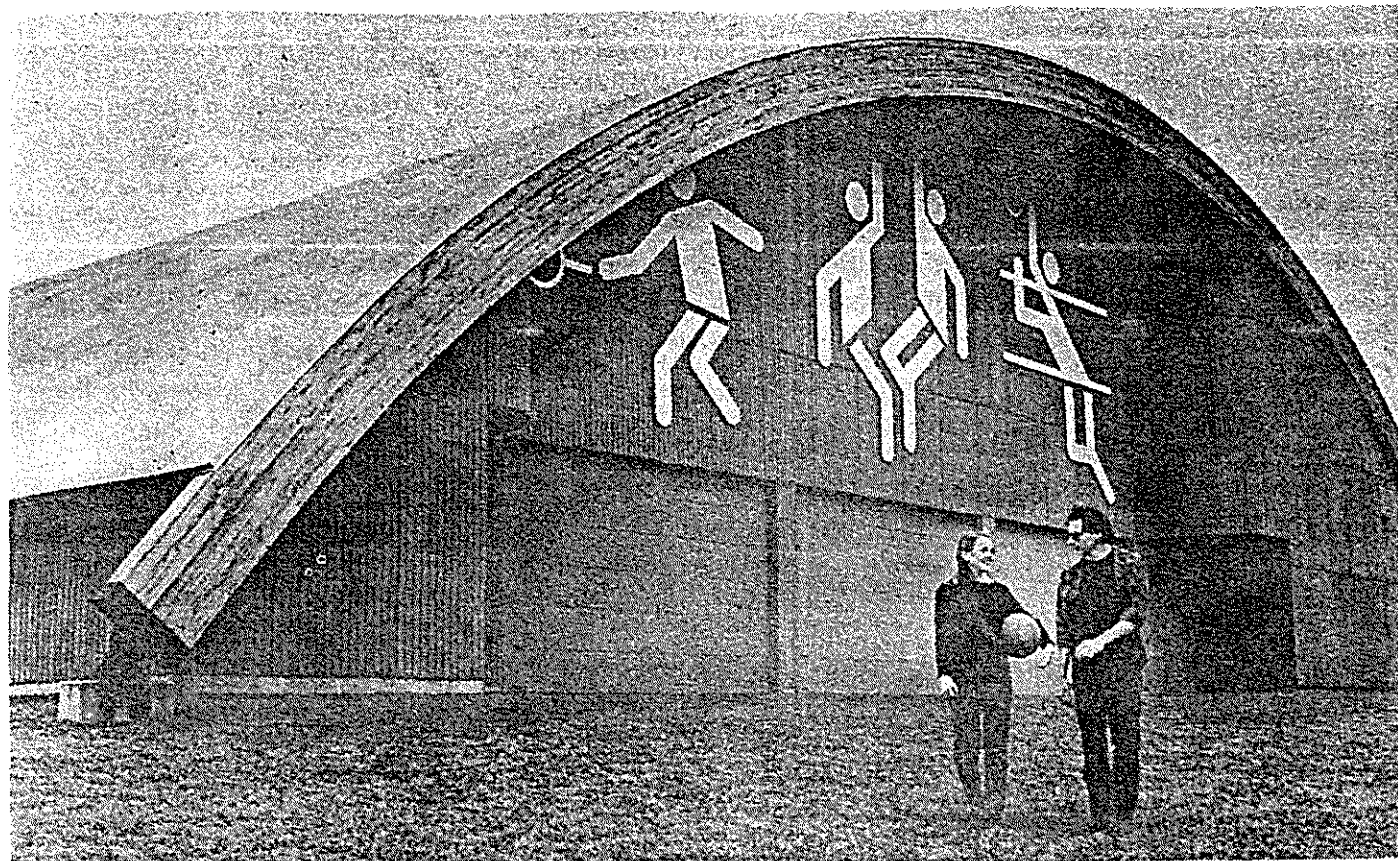
The board's resolution said the action was taken "as a measure of the admiration and continuing affection in which Jesse Owens will always be held by his alma mater."

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 Camps" 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.

PAH

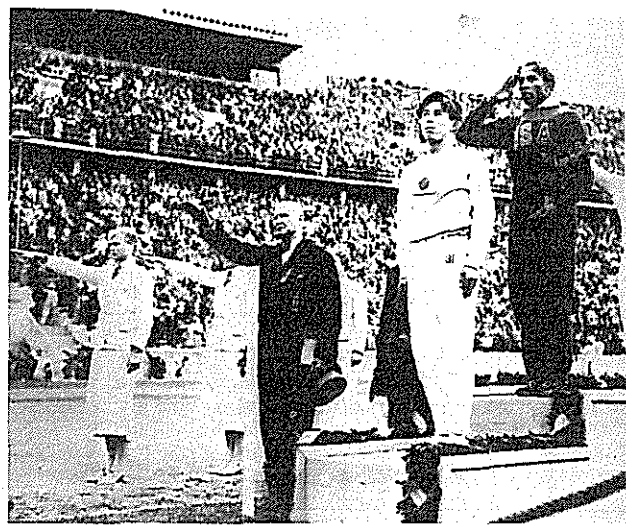
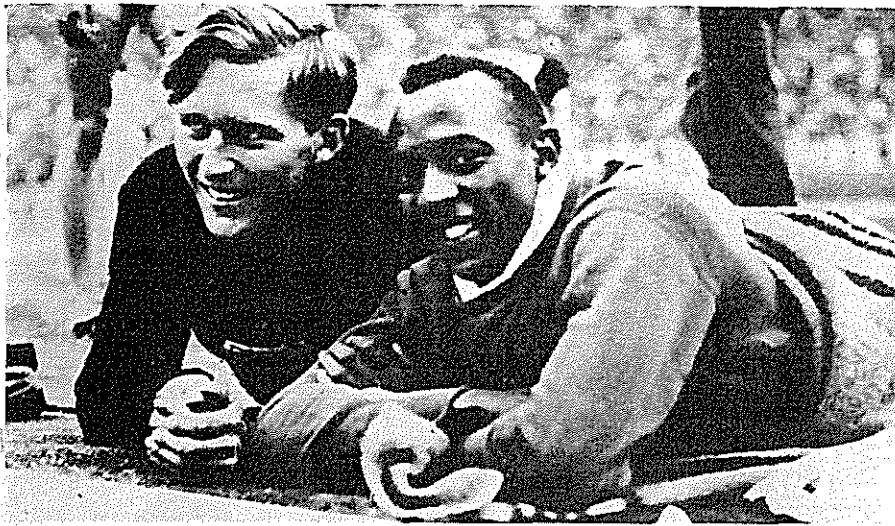
# NICE GUYS NEVER FINISH LAST

*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.

**T**HE 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

*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<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches) in the long jump. This gold medal was one of four won by Owens in the 1936 Berlin games.*

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

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 G. 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 hear 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?

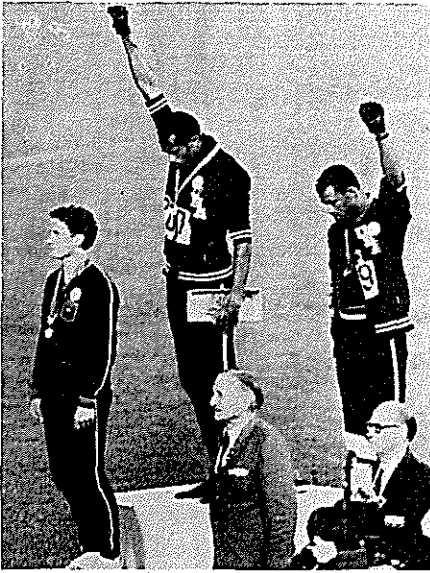
President Eisenhower had merely tied the match, but he had won a friend. A crucial head of state from an important nation now trusted Ike, whatever their future disagreements might be.

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.



For release

9-30-80

(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.

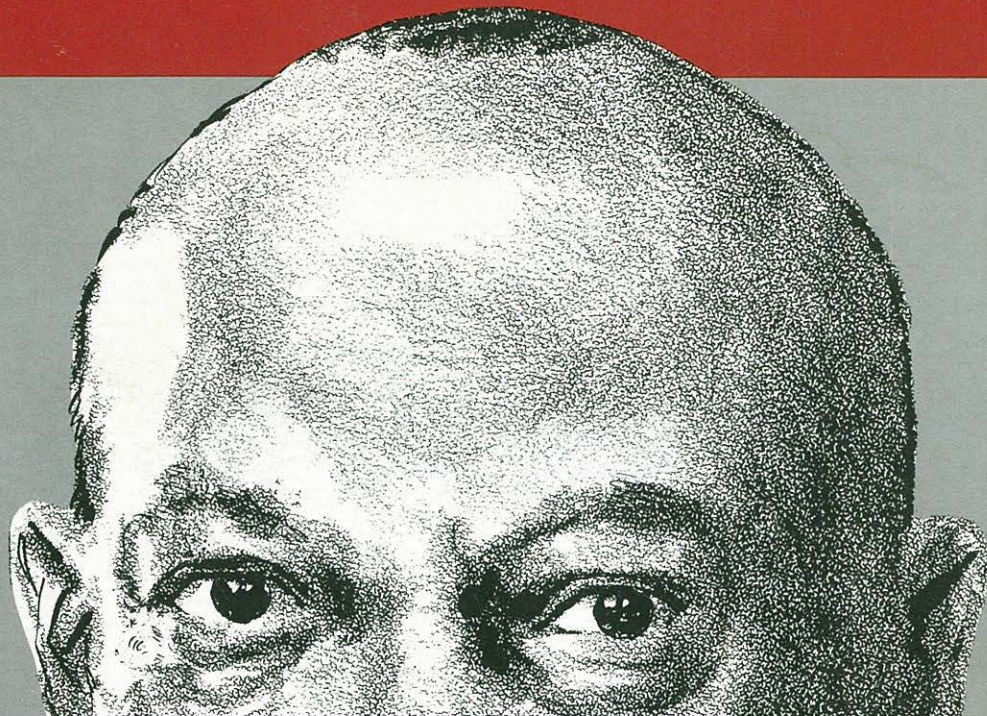
The painting was commissioned by the Miller Brewing Company as the cover of its 1980 Black American Olympic Champions calendar, the seventh in Miller's Black American Heritage Calendar series. The 13 portraits of Black Olympians were painted by Ben Ortero of Moomey Ward Creative, Inc., Milwaukee.

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.

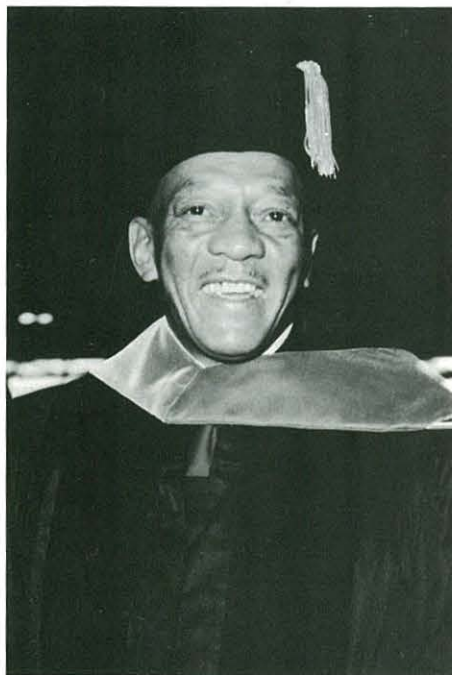
In 1972, Ohio State awarded Owens an honorary Doctor of Athletic Arts degree in recognition of his accomplishments as a world-renowned athlete and his lifetime of humanitarian service.

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 Larkings Hall, read as shown at right.*

## The Jesse Owens Track

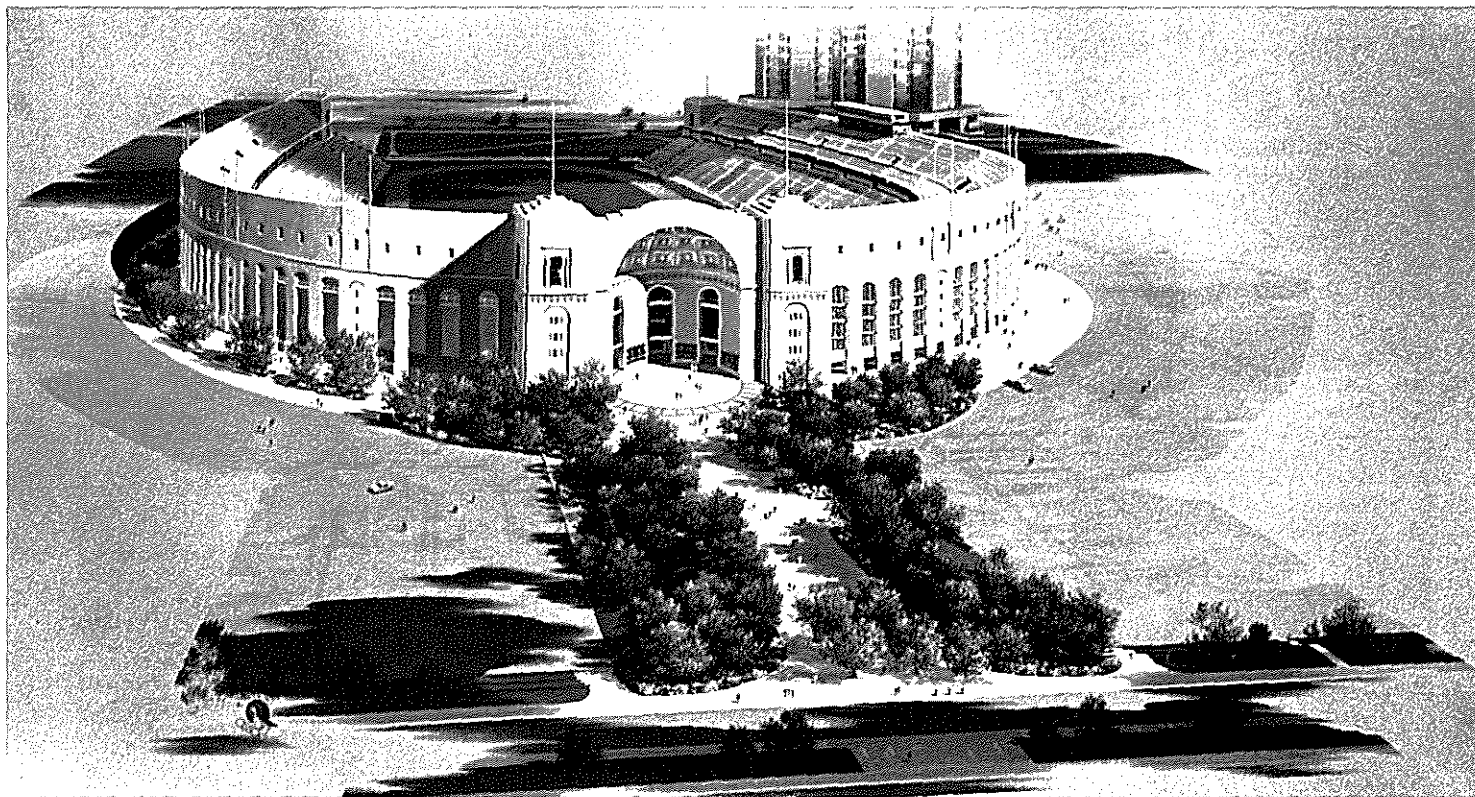
**James Cleveland (Jesse) Owens 1913-1980**  
Ohio State University Track and Field Star  
Olympic Champion • Ambassador of Sports  
Humanitarian • Friend of Youth

*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

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.

**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.

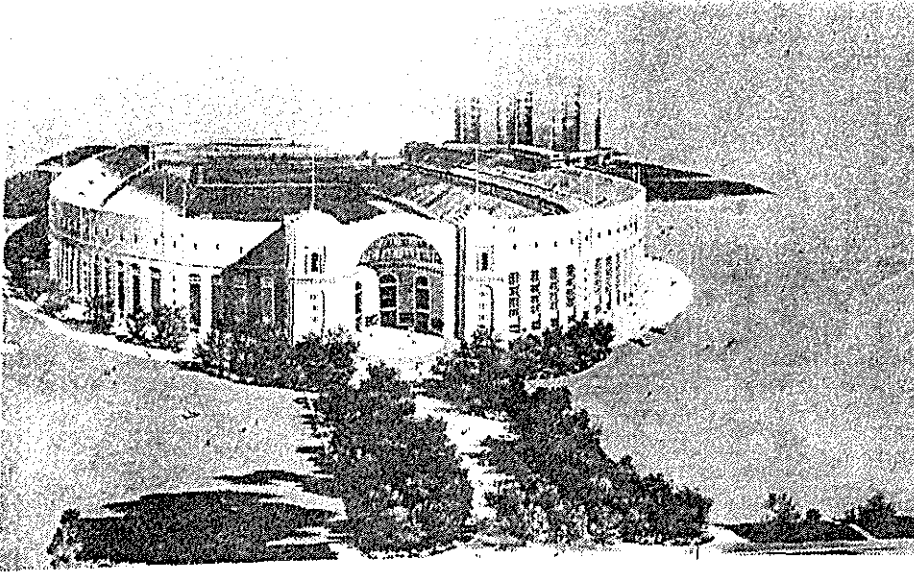
Assistant band director, Willie Sullivan, presented a specially choreographed half-time band show for the Ohio State Marching Band with music and formations focusing on the many facets of Owens' life.

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.

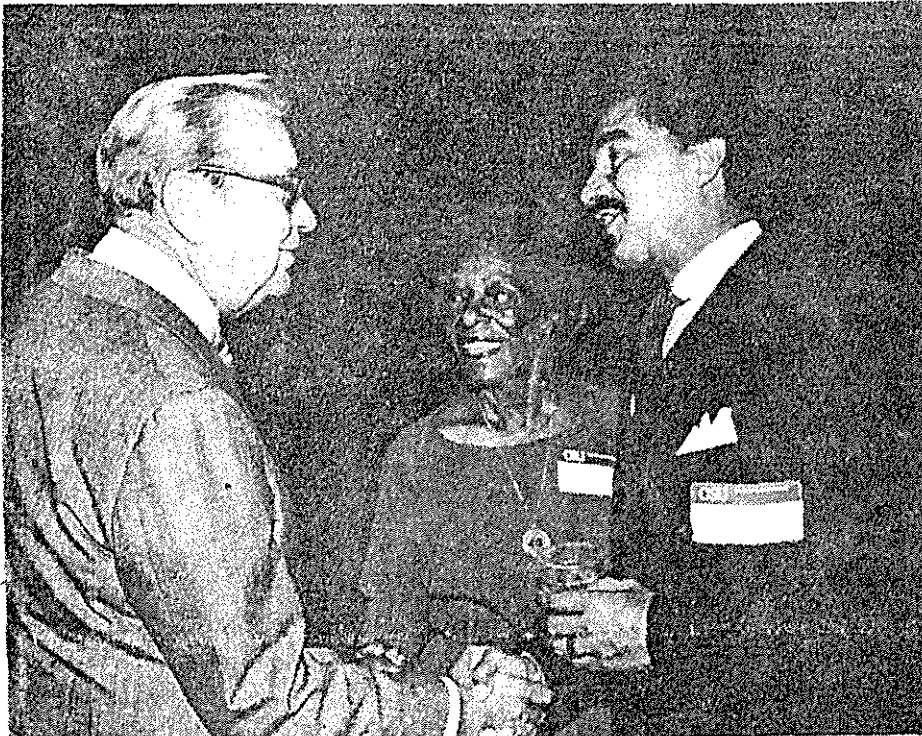
Owens remained close to his alma mater until his death, returning many times to accept awards and honors presented by the university and various alumni groups.



**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 three 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 1967. 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 and 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. Dun, judge of the U.S. District Court for Southern Ohio, and -time friend of Jesse Owens family spoke during the Oct. bute in the Alumni Lounge at the Fawcett Center For orrow, hailing his old chum as "the greatest athlete in the d." The judge reminded the assembled throng that Olym-rack and field star Jesse Owens, deceased since March till 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 mellow 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.



**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 Merry-makers' 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 Merry-makers' 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. Merry-maker 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 Pratner, (Beverly Owens.)



**NAME'S THE SAME** - But Merry-maker 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, 8¼ 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 — 19-6¼—SR, 22-1¼—AR, 23-7¼—WR  
Dorothy Scott, Atoms Track Club (21-6)  
Robin Taylor, Old Dominion University (21-0)
- 3:45 — Men's High Jump — 7-1¼—SR, 7-7¼—AR, 7-8¼—WR  
Dwight Stones, Pacific Coast Club, (7-7¼)  
Jerome Carter, Ren. Athletic Club, (7-7)
- 4:45 — Pole Vault — 17¼—SR, 18-10¼—AR, 19¼—WR  
Billy Olson, Pacific Coast Club, (19¼)  
Brad Pursley, Abilene Christian University, (18-10¼)
- 3:45 — Women's Shot Put — 47-¼—SR, 62-7¼—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, :41.50—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, Nurri-Onix Inc. (:12.79)  
Judi Brown, Michigan State University (:12.9)
- 4:20 — 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, :48.15—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*

<sup>'The Brewster' 1-16-84</sup>  
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*

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TELEVISION PRODUCTION DIVISION

**JACK CHILBERG**  
Art Director  
THE JESSE OWENS STORY

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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 wait 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

<sup>"THE BOOSTER" 2-20-84</sup>  
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 Wootens' 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" (Beckwold/Clantonville). 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

Dispatch 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 Jesse 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  
Intern 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 allowed 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 Reporter  
Feb. 24, 1984 - Friday

# 'Jesse Owens Story' /

# Honest portrayal

By DAVID DRAKE  
C-J Radio-TV Editor

He was the son of an Alabama share-cropper 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.

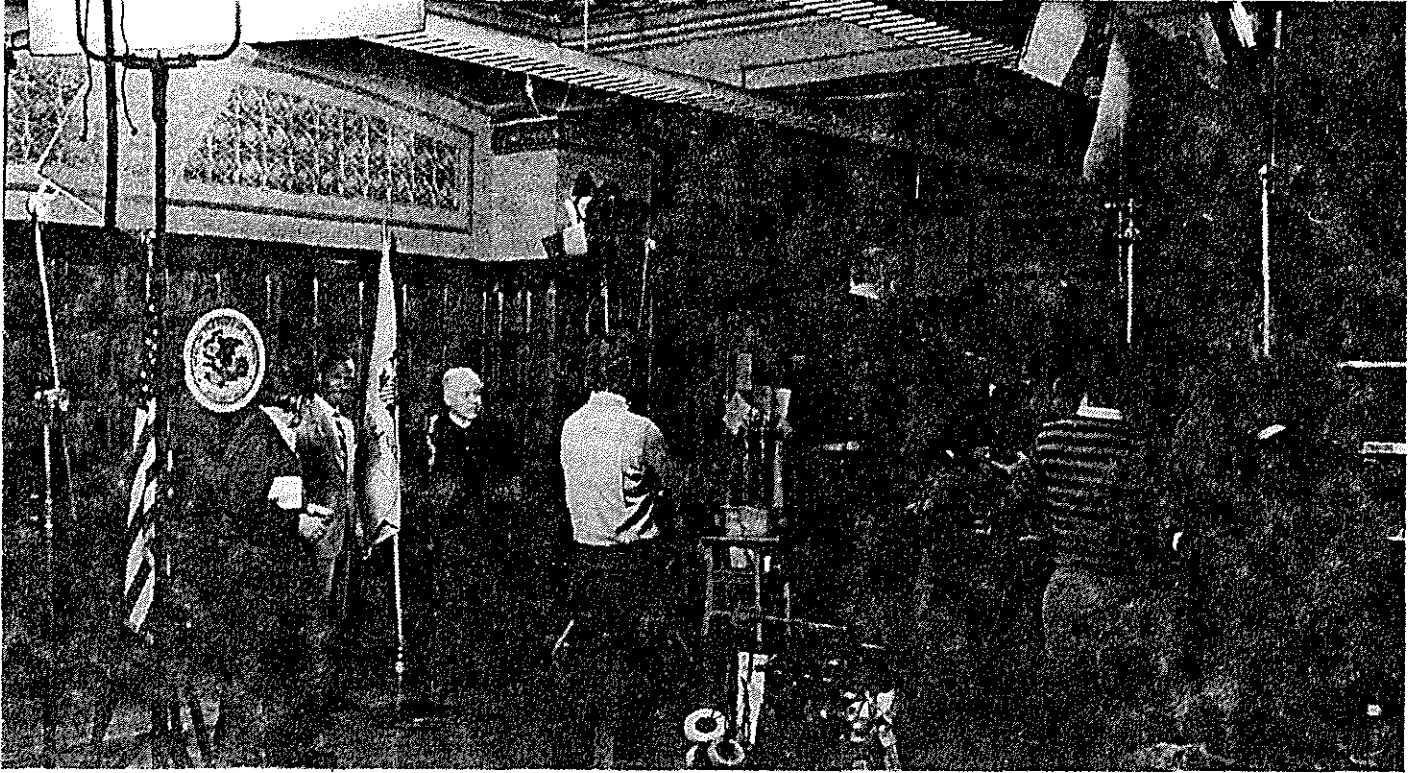
"I couldn't possibly know what Jesse said to his wife when he proposed to her, but that's in the film," he said.

**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 statute 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.

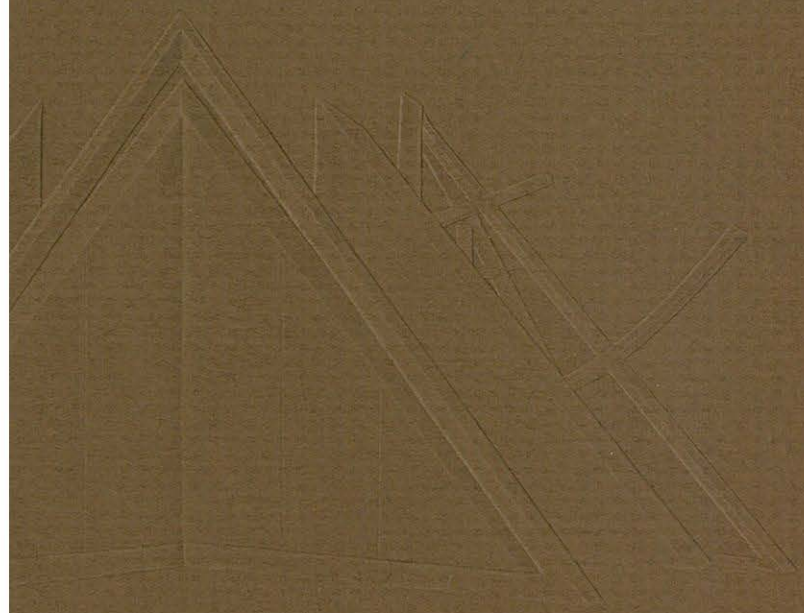
4-6-84

: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  
of the Arts

William Harrington  
Rosa E. Stolz

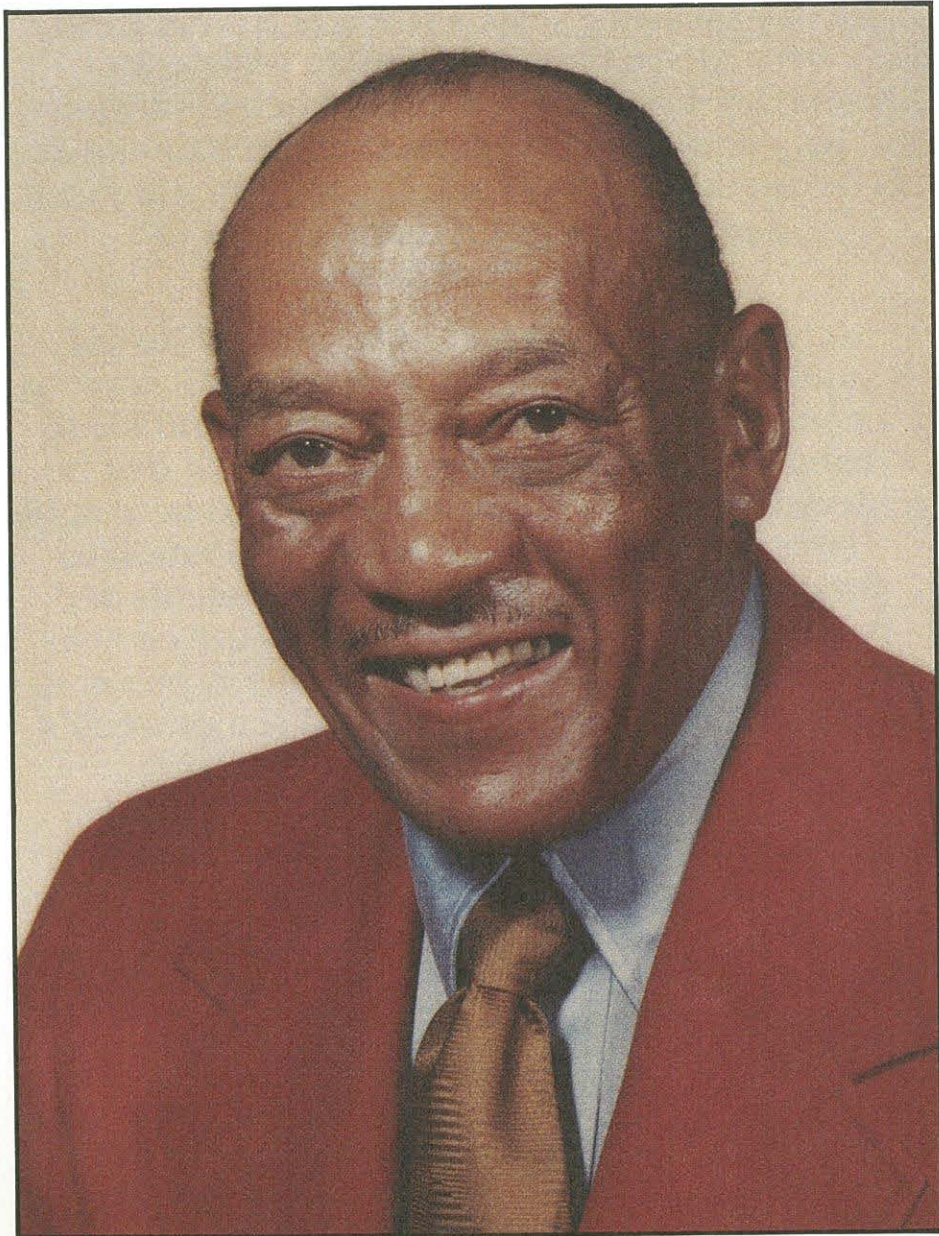
## PREFACE

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 underservice and betterment brought him wide acclaim among the most illustrious sons of 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



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.

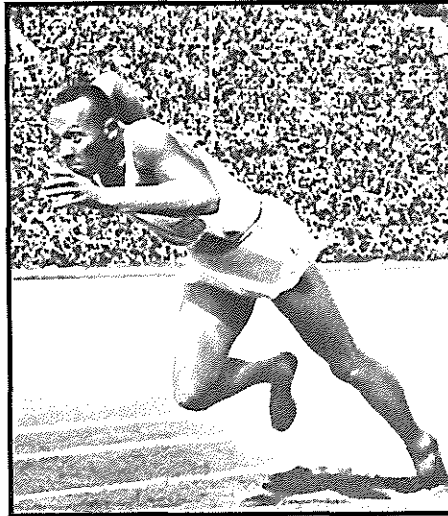
## THE LIFE OF JESSE OWENS

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 the military during World War II, Jesse Owens spent many years working with and for various 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 throughout 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 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

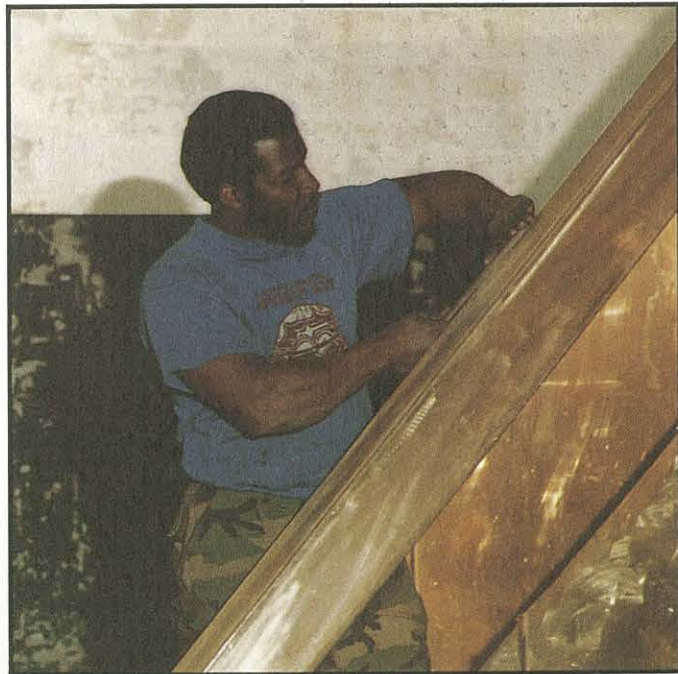
Robert J. Stull, Associate Dean  
College of the Arts  
The Ohio State University

Budd Harris Bishop, Director  
Columbus Museum of Art  
Advisor to the Jury

## ABOUT THE SCULPTOR

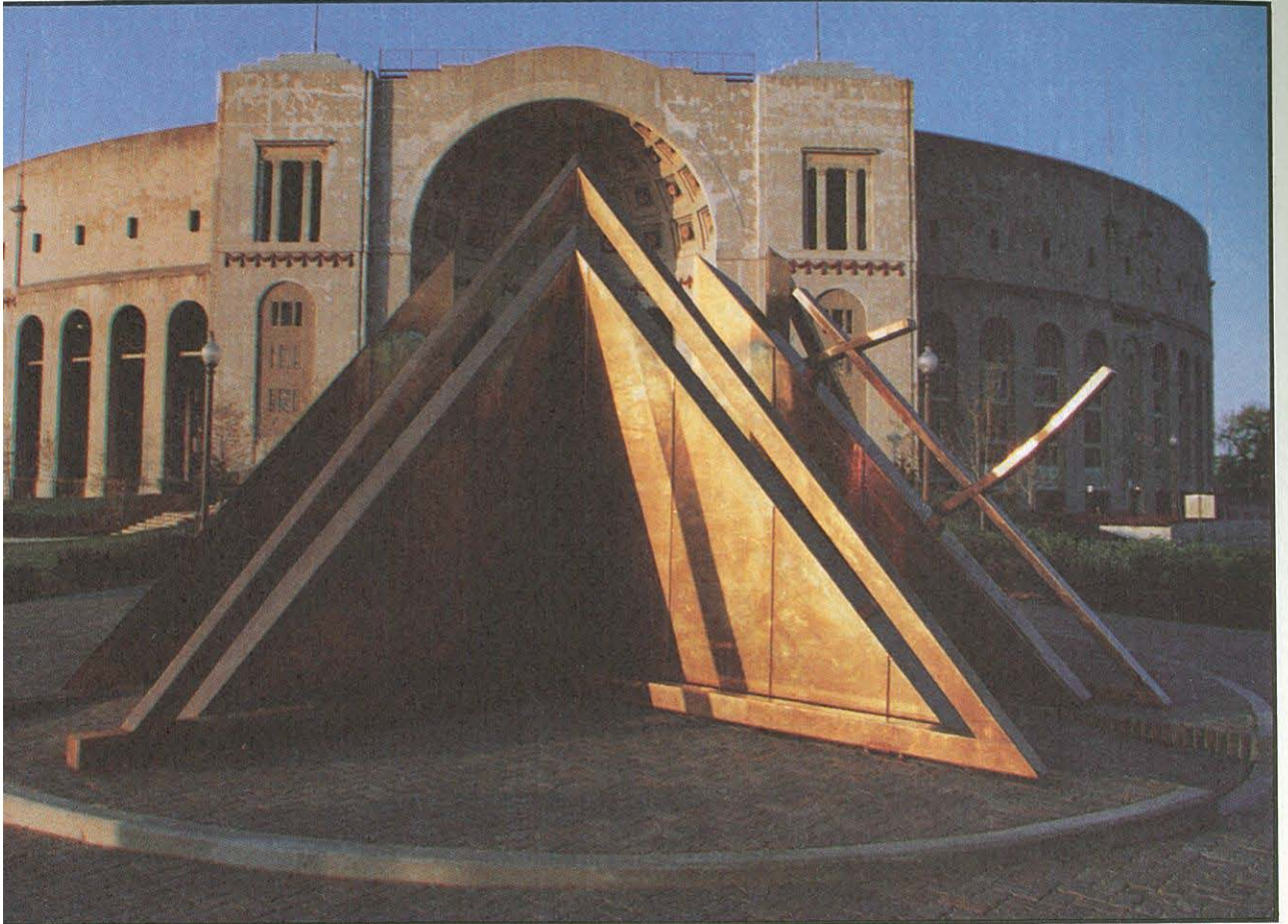
Sculptor and educator Curtis R. Patterson is a native of Louisiana. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Grambling State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Georgia State University.

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 a sprinter and humanitarian. The four pyramidal forms represent the four gold medals won by Owens during the 1936 Olympic Games. Owens set four world records he set or tied as an Olympic State athlete during a single track and field meet in 1935.

On the north side of the sculpture a 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.

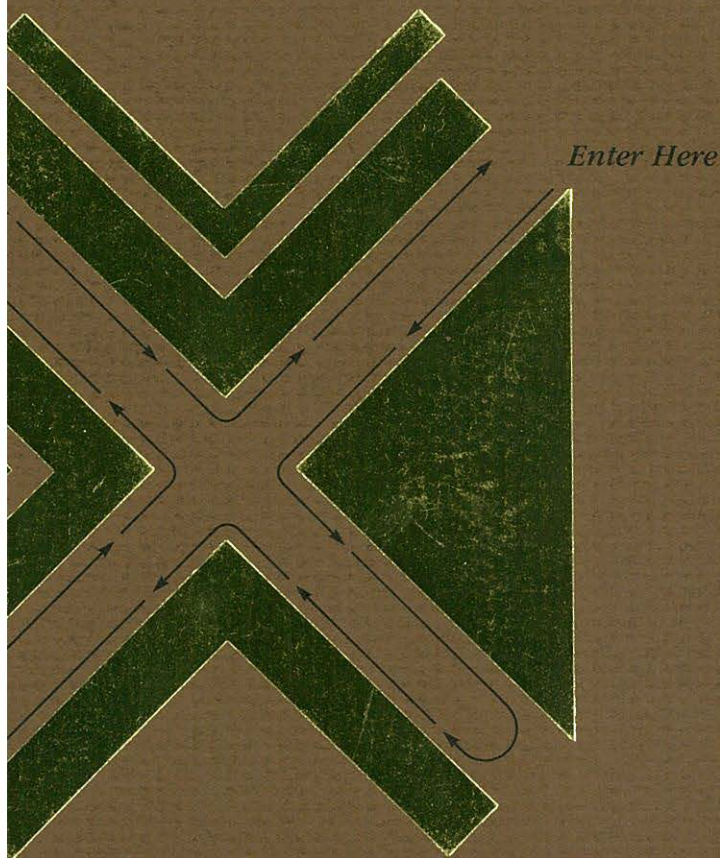
With all his fame, awards, and other successes, he did not for one moment lose the common touch. From his early days as a student-athlete until his untimely death, his keen interest in and strong affection for The Ohio State University remained constant.

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



You may enter the Jesse Owens Memorial at any of four points to view the 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 two 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. Sigler, a member of the Physical Education Department of the University of Michigan, according to documents preserved in the SU 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.

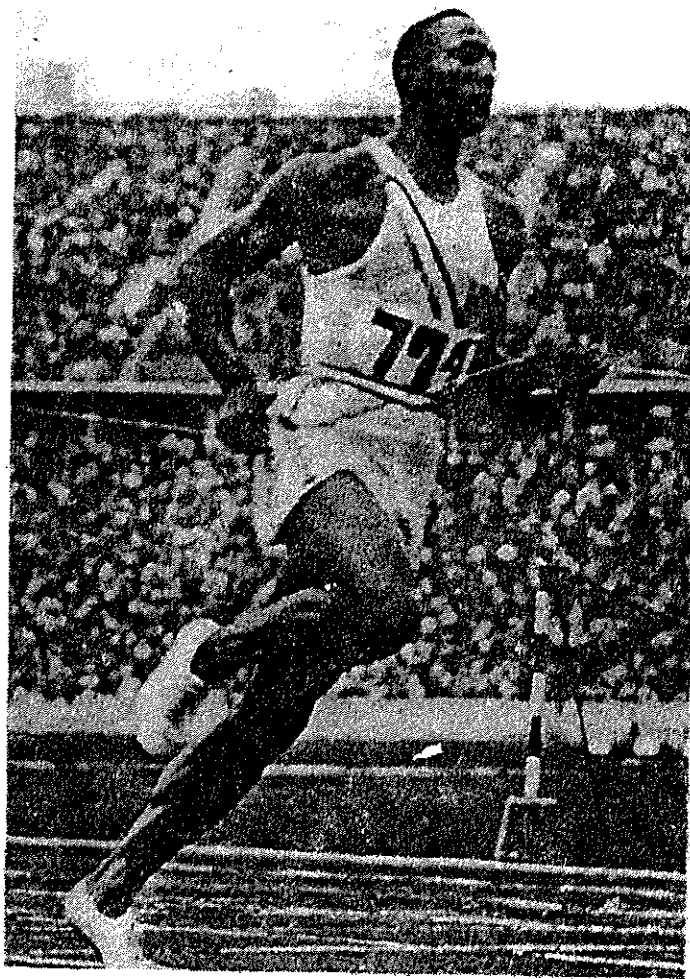
Having heard this, Rowe worked with some Detroit alumni to secure Owens' father a \$16-a-week job as caretaker in an apartment building. The elder Owens had never worked for more than \$12 a week in his life.

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 that reads 'Bob'.

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.

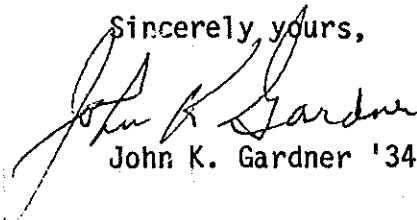
We were working in the kitchen from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a half hour or so between meals for counseling. Needless to say we were worn out.

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

jkg;dk;523S

*P.S. Al Crockett is dead*

July 4-18, 1984

# TELEVIEW

The Columbus Dispatch Broadcast & Cable Guide

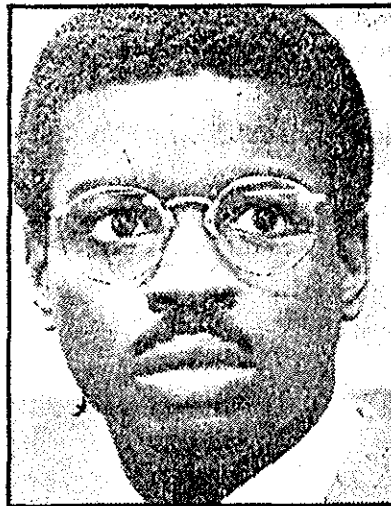


Warner-Amex Qube Edition

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

**P**ut 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.