The Tax Plans: What They Mean for You

Olympic Legends

How some athletes become mythic figures

Why records are falling faster than ever

SEPTEMBER 4, 2000

COVER: JESSE OWENS AT THE BERLIN OLYMPICS IN AUGUST 1936
Good as Gold

The Olympics always offer drama, but only in the rarest moments are we privileged to view the exploits of legends

BY BRIAN DUFFY

In the newspapers of the day, he was referred to, ubiquitously, as "The Indian." Over the reach of decades, the yellowing clips speak achingly of the young man's bewilderment and horror as his world came unhinged. In July 1912, in Stockholm, Jim Thorpe won gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon, the most grueling combination of track and field events. With a staggering 8,412 points out of a possible 10,000, Thorpe's record would stand for 15 years.

On presenting the medals to Thorpe, Sweden's King Gustaf V said, "You, sir, are the greatest athlete in the world. I would consider it an honor to shake your hand."

Half a year later, it was Thorpe who was shaking. It had been disclosed that he had accepted money—really, just pocket change—for playing baseball three summers before. The jig, as they liked to say back then, was up.

Never mind that Thorpe had never been about money. After Stockholm, in fact, he had received a number of lucrative offers, turned them all down, and returned home to America by steamer, "dead, flat broke." Rules were rules, however, and Thorpe manfully acknowledged the fact. He had not accepted the baseball money because he needed it, he explained (he had a modest income from a small property he owned), but "because I liked to play ball." Part Sauk and Fox Indian, Thorpe expressed the wish that he would "be partly excused by the fact that I was simply an Indian schoolboy and did not know all about such things" as the minute distinctions between amateur and professional competition. "I have always liked sport," Thorpe wrote, "and only played or run races for the fun of the thing."

It may seem quaint now, the notion of fun commingled with sport. But contemplating those Olympians who have left the deepest imprint on the games, on the eve of this year's opening ceremonies in Sydney, fun—the pure revelry and absorption in great performance—is among the things that come most readily to mind.

There are other important factors, of course. Like competitiveness, which, in the purest and highest sense, may be competition against oneself. A Greg Louganis, when he has to nail the perfect dive to earn the gold, has, in a real sense, to beat only himself. So, too, a Florence Griffith Joyner. There are other great Olympians on the track with her, but when a competitor like Flo-Jo's in the zone, legs pumping, arms flashing, they may as well not even exist.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the Frenchman credited with founding the modern games, in 1896, saw them as "a sort of athletic starting point for the 20th century." At the back end of that century, for all the broken records and eye-popping feats of athleticism, only a relatively small number of Olympic athletes can be said to wear the mantle of...
legend. There is no shortage of greats and near greats, to be sure, and true fans of the games will debate endlessly over the claims and merits of their favorites. But a look back yields only a few of the stature of a Thorpe or a Flo-Jo.

Fate's hand. Such a review is necessarily impressionistic, of course, the impressions left variously by things that occurred on and off the fields of play. In Thorpe's case, it was not just the astonishing breadth he created between himself and the other athletes of his day. It was the cruel hand fate dealt him in depriving him of his medals and, literally, expunging his name from the history of the games for the better part of the century. One conjures the exuberant Thorpe at Stockholm, accepting his medals, casually shaking the Swedish monarch's hand: "Thanks, King." After, the toothy smile is wide as all outdoors. Not a year later, the smile and the exuberance are gone, snuffed like guttering candles. "I am very sorry to have it all spoiled this way," Thorpe concluded, in his letter to the Amateur Athletic Union, "and I hope... the people will not be too hard in judging me." Happily, they were not. Sportswriters voted Thorpe the greatest athlete of the first half of the 20th century, above Jack Dempsey and Babe Ruth. Nearly 30 years after his death, and almost 70 after he returned the Stockholm golds, Thorpe's amateur status was restored, his record scores reaccredited. On a freezing January day, Jim Thorpe's children accepted the two medals that had first been bestowed by King Gustaf. It doesn't take an epic like Thorpe's to create a legend, although morality plays that find an audience in the bigger theater of public life certainly don't hurt. The '24 Olympics in Paris are a case in point. Paavo Nurmi, the "Flying Finn," bagged five golds, and Johnny Weissmuller three in swimming, including one for being the first ever to break the 1-minute mark in the 100-meter freestyle. But odds are, despite Nurmi's dominance of the distance events and Weissmuller's celluloid success as Tarzan, most will recall Paris for the feats of Harold Abrahams. Memorialized (if inexact) in Chariots of Fire, the slender sprinter from Cambridge, England, was an obsessive, burdened man. The story of his cherished piece of string is a matter of fact and, now, lore. (The movie did get that right.) The string measured the length of Abrahams's first stride. Before each race, Abrahams pulled the string from a pocket and stretched it fastidiously to mark the exact spot where he would plant his first step. In Paris, his trusty string aboard, Abrahams ran faster than he ever had in his life, covering 110 yards in a lightning 10.2 seconds. The record would stand for nearly 30 years, but waiting for the final heat in the Stade Colombes, Abrahams took no joy in it. He felt, he said, "like a condemned man feels just before going to the scaffold." No matter; in the final, Abrahams claimed a dramatic 2-foot victory. He never
ran as well again, injuring himself the following year, then hanging up his track shoes for good.

Retirement, or the timing of it, had nothing to do with the athlete to whom most Americans probably, and properly, accord the status of legend. The mere fact of his presence in Berlin in 1936 obviously undermined Hitler's Aryan-race claptrap and did much to ensure Jesse Owens's place in history. But, like Thorpe, Owens's utterly superior athleticism had few parallels. Owens turned up in Berlin the holder of seven world records, all but one of them entered into the books one improbable May day at Ferry Field in Ann Arbor, Mich. In late afternoon, twilight no more than a promise, Owens shattered or equaled six world records in 45 minutes. It was, he said after the fact, "quite a day."

Besting Hitler. And so it was in Berlin. Owens is rightly remembered, as a runner, for his balletic grace. In the long jump, however, he was all raw power, but it was in that event, in Berlin, that he achieved his most sublime moment. He had flubbed his first two jumps and was preparing for his last when his German opponent, Luz Long, suggested a change in his run-up. Owens cleared 26 feet. The day came down to Long against Owens. Fate, inexplicably, frowned on Long, and the German fouled out. The gold was Owens's. Long had to settle for the silver. Afterward, the American and the German strolled arm in arm, until the latter was finally led away to be congratulated by his Führer. Much was made at the time of Hitler's snub of the non-German medal winners, but Owens ignored the chatter. He would remain close to Long until the German was killed on the Eastern Front.

History plays funny tricks on some Olympians. Owens, on his return to America, turned pro, toured with the Harlem Globetrotters, and entered himself in a series of stakes-races against horses. After her star turn in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, Mildred "Babe" Didriksen did pretty much the same thing. Women had been allowed to compete in track and field events only since '28, but the "Dallas Cyclone," as she styled herself, would have turned heads even if women had been competing for decades. Her two golds, in the javelin and 80-meter hurdles, and a controversial silver (she was robbed of the top honor in a judge's decision that, today, is still entirely indefensible) made Didriksen a celebrity. Los Angeles, however, left a bad taste in her mouth. Blowing off the '36 games, where she would doubtless have contributed to the American medal count, Didriksen joined a vaudeville act, then took up golf. Before long, she was the U.S. amateur champion.

Perhaps more so than in other endeavors, image bulks large in sport, shaping who and what we remember, and why. The results can be cruel, comic, sometimes haunting. Sebastian Coe,
for example, is widely remembered as a loser for his disappointing second-place showing in the 800 meters in Moscow in 1980. The intense Brit had broken three world records the year before, including the 800 meters, and his face-off in Moscow with Steve Ovett, another Brit with a world record in his pocket, had the track and field world buzzing. In the event, Ovett bested Coe in a sluggish, sloppy contest. “I chose this day of all days,” Coe said, “to run the worst race of my life.” The world forgets, however, that Coe was the first man to win repeat golds in the 1,500 meters; unfairly, it’s the image of him floundering in the 800 that lodges in memory.

Beamon’s leap. Not so with others. Mexico City in ’68 was a feast for the eyes. Certainly, one of the most enduring Olympic images ever is that of Bob Beamon soaring above the spectators, above the scoreboard almost, a look of absolute disbelief on his face. He was fast and he could leap, but the gangling 22-year-old long-jumper had fouled twice and missed twice in the qualifiers. In late afternoon, clouds gathering, Beamon whooshed down the runway, hit the board with a final, thunderous right push... and was airborne. The rest, as they say—well, it’s still rather hard to believe. For more than 30 years, the record distance in the event had, quite literally, inched forward. Precisely 8 1/2 inches, to be exact, over 33 years. Beamon’s jump, of 29 feet, 2 1/2 inches, shattered the existing record by 21 3/4 inches.

The ’68 games also gave us, of course, Tommie Smith and John Carlos—and Mark Spitz. The former are remembered for the “black power” salute, protesting racial prejudice in the United States. As with Coe, but in a different way, the image obscures their achievements. Smith shattered the 200-meter world record in Mexico City, Carlos a few steps behind him for the bronze. Both accepted their medals with hands sheathed in black gloves. When the “Star-Spangled Banner” was played, they bowed their heads, raising clenched fists in the air. As for Spitz, he arrived in Mexico City, a mouthy, callow 18-year-old. He claimed two golds in relays, but it wasn’t until Munich, Germany, four years later, that the mature Spitz turned up. Debuting with a ferocious 200-meter butterfly, Spitz finally left the pool with a record seven golds—all in world-record times.

This month in Sydney, it will probably be a different story. There are no obvious Owenses or Spitzes this go-round, but who knows, there may be a surprise Beamon, a budding Louganis, or a heartbreaking Coe. But will we know? NBC, with its cable affiliates, will offer more than 300 hours of coverage of the games. Great, in theory. But the small screen has an unfortunate tendency to trivialize, so if there are legends in the making in Sydney, it may be only by dint of luck that we learn of them.

With Andrew Curry
Emma and Henry Owens named their son James Cleveland. He was born in the Oakville community near Decatur, Alabama. Siblings called him "JC" and over time everyone called him "Jesse."

Jesse Owens earned the world's admiration when he won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. The phenomenal thinclad claimed track and field immortality as he equaled or bettered nine Olympic records and four world records.

Fourteen months before Berlin, Jesse was competing for the Ohio State University track team. The Western Conference (now Big 10) Track and Field Championships were scheduled on May 25, 1935, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. It was doubtful that Owens would compete. He was recovering from a back injury after falling down stairs and had not practiced for over a week. Treatment for his injury continued during the day. Jesse convinced Coach Larry Snyder that he was well enough to run, and by 3:15 Owens was at the starting line for the 100-yard dash finals.

The starting pistol fired and the most amazing 45 minutes in track and field history began. Ohio's super sophomore exploded from his footholds in the cinder track. Exactly forty-one steps later he completed the dash in 9.4 seconds, tying his own world record. Jesse's nearest competitor was five yards behind.

Fans at Michigan Stadium endured their wooden seats a few minutes longer for Jesse's next event. Before his first attempt at the running broad jump, Owens placed a mark at the world record distance held by Chuhei Nambu of Japan. He walked back down the runway and paused to concentrate on his approach. Sprinting down the runway, Jesse hit the take-off board with precision. Time seemed suspended as he soared then
stretched with a forward roll at the landing. No foul was indicated by the judge, and it was an acceptable jump. His first and only attempt of the day carried him 26 feet 8¾ inches; six inches past Nambu’s world record. This new world record would stand for 25 years.

Jesse’s next feat followed about nine minutes later when he ran the 220-yard dash. The 160-pound speedster led from the start and out-ran the second place finisher by ten yards. His time of 20.3 seconds smashed the existing world record.

Thousands of fans watched as 4 o’clock neared. The "Buckeye Bullet" would end his Saturday afternoon competition with the 220-yard low hurdles. Owens had established his sprinting superiority, his only foes now were ten hurdles, each two feet and six inches high. It took Jesse just 22.6 seconds to run the distance and set another world record.

Twenty-one-year-old J.C. Owens, a native of Oakville, Alabama, had completed an unbelievable performance. In less than an hour this amazing athlete set three world records and tied another. Arthur Daley, a sports columnist for the NY TIMES called Jesse’s feats at Ann Arbor, "the greatest day in track history." The man from Oakville is the only track athlete in the 20th century to set or equal four world records in a single day.

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Old Tennessee Valley
A proposed OSU Track and Field Facility should bear the name of Ohio State’s unforgettable Jesse Owens whenever it becomes a reality.

The 1996 World Olympics are now history, but Owens’ name surfaced many times during the press and TV coverage from Atlanta. Of note, the USA Today Newspaper devoted a feature story along with a bold headline which read: OWENS’ LEGACY STANDS. This tribute to Jesse triggered memories for many who recall his performance at Big Ten Track meets and when he capped his career with his historical performance at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

One of Jesse Owens team mates, Varsity “O” member, the late Johnny Moore, remembered vividly a 1935 Spring day in Ann Arbor when Jesse made track history and “stole the show” from the Wolverines.

Moore who was Captain of the 1935 Ohio State Track Team, told this writer Owens’ performance that June, when they attended the Big Ten Track Meet at Michigan will never be matched....."Bob, for the record, Jesse that day broke the 100 yard dash world’s record.....broke the world’s record in the broad jump....broke the world’s record in the 220 yard low hurdle and tied the world’s record in the 200 yard dash. As his team mates we kidded that afternoon that all we did that day was carry Jesse’s track shoes to him....after each track event."

Moore did point up the role, in Jesse’s career, of his coach, Larry Snyder. “Larry, in all fairness, played a large part in Jesse’s track success.” When the proposed track and field facility becomes a reality, we suggest that an accompanying plaque mention Coach Larry Snyder along with the list of Jesse Owens’ track achievements.

Update: USA’s Olympic track star, Michael Johnson was quoted prior to the 1996 Olympics...."Jesse was the greatest track and field athlete ever.”

Further update: Now four years later, Jesse’s bold appearance on the cover of the September 4, 2000 issue of U.S. News and World Report establishes him as the 20th Century’s track and field immortal. The cover shows him at the starting blocks, on his way to the 1936 Olympics 100 yard dash Gold Victory. Finally there are several utterances by Jesse that need retelling. When in college, Owens’ tuition was subsidized by the simple chore of handing out towels in the Natatorium under the supervision of swim coach Mike Peppe. Once, in his sophomore year, during finals, he asked Mike to be excused to take his Biology exam. When he returned, Peppe asked him how he got along. Jesse, with a smile said, “Mr. Mike, I didn’t know that frog could walk and talk.”

One evening in the 70’s, when Jesse was in town, I took this writers’ classmate to the Gloria Restaurant for supper. During the course of the supper, Jesse stared straight ahead and made this comment, “You know Bob, if there hadn’t been an Ohio Union, when I was a student, some place they would let me eat my hot dogs, I would have starved to death.”
Ruth Owens, 86, Widow of Jesse Owens

Byline: AP

DATELINE: CHICAGO, June 29

BODY:
Ruth S. Owens, the widow of the Olympian Jesse Owens and the longtime chairwoman of the foundation honoring his legacy, died Wednesday. She was 86.

She died of heart failure at her home in the Hyde Park neighborhood. She and Jesse Owens, who died in 1980, were married for nearly 48 years.

Jesse Owens jumped and ran his way to four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, defeating Adolf Hitler's claims of Aryan racial superiority. Because the trip to the Games was too expensive, Ruth Owens stayed at home with their first child.

"She protected his legacy and guarded it with all of her being," Marlene Owens Rankin said of her mother. "It was sort of the embodiment of him and how he spent his life. She was at the center of it."

Ruth Owens was chairwoman and an active fund-raiser for the foundation formed 21 years ago to give scholarships to average students active in the community.

She was also an ambassador of the Jesse Owens Games, a summer track and field competition that granted scholarships to children across the country.

She is survived by three daughters, Owens Rankin, Gloria Hemphill and Beverly Prather; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

http://www.nytimes.com

LOAD-DATE: June 30, 2001
Ruth S. Owens, the widow of Olympian Jesse Owens and longtime chairwoman of the foundation honoring his legacy, has died. She was 86.

Owens died Wednesday of heart failure in her home in the Hyde Park neighborhood.

Jesse Owens jumped and ran his way to four gold medals at the Olympics in 1936, defeating Adolf Hitler's claims of Aryan racial superiority. Owens captured gold medals in the broad jump, 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash and the 400-meter relay.

A trip to the games in Berlin was too expensive for Ruth Owens, and she stayed at home with their first child.

She told a reporter some years ago that her husband wasn't particularly concerned about the racially charged atmosphere in Germany.

"I don't think he was aware of the conditions that existed over there," Owens said.

"He was very young, and he had to work very hard to make the Olympic team. I don't think Hitler or anything else could have kept him away. You know athletes: They don't see color. And he had been an athlete all his life."

Jesse Owens returned from the Olympics on the Queen Mary, a national hero. Ruth Owens and his parents took a tugboat 12 miles out to join him before he docked in New York City. He was greeted by the great boxer Jack Dempsey and Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, and there was a ticker-tape parade. During the parade, someone handed Owens a paper bag containing $10,000 in cash.

"That's very true," Ruth Owens said in an interview some years ago with National Public Radio. "And he didn't know who was good enough to do a thing like that. And with all the excitement around, he didn't pick it up right away. He didn't pick it up until he got ready to get out of the car."

Ruth Owens said she never feared for her husband's safety while he was in Berlin, but that fall, as they campaigned in Mississippi for Republican presidential candidate Alf Landon, she grew uneasy and asked him not to speak.

The Southern trip was hard on the Owenses; they were forced to live and eat in railroad cars because there were no accommodations for blacks.

The couple met in junior high school and were married for 48 years until Owens' death from lung cancer in 1980. He was
Ruth Owens was board chairwoman and an active fund-raiser for the Jesse Owens Foundation, formed after her husband's death to give scholarships to average students active in the community.

More than 270 children have since earned the four-year, $2,000 scholarships, and 97% of those receiving the help have graduated from college, Executive Director Marlene Owens Rankin, the Owenses' daughter, told the Chicago Tribune.

Ruth Owens also was an ambassador of the Arco/Jesse Owens Games, a summer track and field competition that granted scholarships to children across the country.

"She protected his legacy and guarded it with all of her being," Rankin said of her mother. "It was sort of the embodiment of him and how he spent his life. She was at the center of it."

In 1984, the Owenses' granddaughter Gina Hemphill carried the torch into the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics. Ruth Owens was later given the torch by the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee.

In addition to Marlene, she is survived by daughters Gloria Hemphill and Beverly Prather; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services are scheduled for Tuesday at First Unitarian Church of Hyde Park.

**GRAPHIC:** PHOTO: RUTH S. OWENS: The new bride is embraced by her track star husband, Jesse Owens, in 1935. PHOTOGRAPHER: Associated Press

**LOAD-DATE:** June 30, 2001
Jesse Owens was the 10th of 11 children born to Cleveland and Emma Owens, poor tenant-farmer folks, near Decatur, Ala. He arrived Sept. 12, 1913.

Names were not very important in an atmosphere where everyone knew only the creed of toiling to fill hungry mouths. For a time, the tot was merely called "the baby." Then he was given the initials J. C., for James Cannon, owner of the plantation on which the Owens family labored.

He remained plain "J.C." until, 10 years later, officials at St. Clair school in Cleveland insisted he must have a first name to enroll. They made it "Jesse," because of the similarity to J.C.

Jesse's sister Lillie Mae had previously married and moved to Cleveland. She sent back word of better fortune in the industrial north. So the family's team of mules, their cow and hogs were sold, to realize money needed for the journey to the place of new promise.

Without move, the abilities of this fantastic athlete never would have been realized. It is indisputable that the north was to bring him opportunity for athletic competition lacked by the Negro boy of the deep south when he was born.

Except that catch him in a game of tag, none appreciated his speed at grammar school. But Jesse heard older boys talk of a white-haired man who achieved fine results coaching the Fairmount Junior High track team. That was the late Charley Riley, head
That was the late Charley Riley, once coach at Ohio State.

"I got an inkling of what was coming," Riley told me, "When Jesse, in the 7th grade, ran the 220 for me over stone sidewalks, in tennis shoes, in 26.2 seconds."

Great sprinters are born, not made. You can only improve their running form, their starting and finishing techniques. But Riley knew, when Jesse was in the 9th grade, what priceless attributes the boy had. In the Cleveland junior high championship meet, Jesse ran the anchor leg of the half-mile relay in an astounding 21.3 seconds.

"I realized that here was a boy who was destined to become a super-athlete," Riley said. "He would certainly reap great praise and tremendous publicity. By past experience, I knew there were boys you couldn't talk to after they had broken a couple of records."

So it was that after school Jesse and his coach frequently sat under the trees in nearby Rockefeller Park, while the old man spoke not of form and records but about the importance of sportsmanship and right living.

Jesse always was grateful. After he reached worldwide fame, Coach Riley declared "I couldn't wish for my own son to have been a better lad or to treat me finer than Jesse has."

And Owens, after sailing home from Europe on the Queen Mary in 1936, first kissed his wife and mother, then flung his arms about Riley and hugged him joyously.

(Next— with East Tech days.)
(Third in a series on the career of Olympic star and former Clevelander Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

Jesse Owens' exceptional track and field abilities were carefully nurtured from 1931-33, his three seasons of competition at East Tech High school. Coach Ed Weil had the happy faculty of keeping team morale at high pitch.

But by then, the great depression was gripping America. Dismal times beset the Owens family, and his parents often debated whether they could afford to send the boy to school any longer. Temporary jobs were all that were available to his father brother in those years.

Jesse did his bit by shining shoes- in the days when a shine was a dime.

A mother's pride decided the school issue. Mrs. Owens finally went to a track meet, one he completely dominated. She would hear no more suggestions that his athletic career be cut short.

In his junior year at East Tech, Jesse was clearing close to 24 feet in the long jump, running the 100 in 9.8 seconds, and became one of Ohio's entries in the trials for the Olympic Games at Los Angeles.

Competing against the finest club and college stars of the midwest, at Chicago, there occurred one of the generous acts that so indelibly stamped his career.

Eddie Tolan, the University of Michigan sprinter who was destined to score a double victory for the USA in the Olympics, was nursing a strained leg muscle. He was dubious about his ability to qualify.
Jesse had heard of Tolan's misfortune. To the schoolboy, Tolan already was a hero. When starting lanes were drawn for the 100-yard heats, Tolan found himself in the pole lane, already churned up by the passage of many feet in the 10,000 meters run. Owens was in Lane 4.

"Won't you let me run in your lane?" he asked Tolan. "Switch with me. I haven't much chance to qualify anyway."

They changed places. Tolan qualified, Jesse did not. Tolan's leg was healed long before the Olympics, but he might never have got there but for the thoughtfulness of the East Tech boy.

After that Olympiad, a group of European stars, on their way back from Los Angeles, stopped in Cleveland for an exhibition meet at the stadium. Erik Brockmeyer, the German champion, had been beaten by our Olympic sprinters, and declined to run against them here.

Several local college athletes and schoolboy Owens were rounded up, as Brockmeyer's opposition. The German never had heard of Jesse. But Owens was away with the gun and gave the German a terrific trouncing.

In 1933, Jesse became a national scholastic sensation. He leaped 24 feet 11 1/2 inches at John Adams field, for a world schoolboy record. Twice he ran the 100 in 9.6.

At that time, Chicago annually held the national scholastic championships. With teammates Dave Albritton, Jerry Williams and Alfred Storey, Jesse won the championship. In the process, he equaled what was then the world record for the 100, 9.4 seconds, ran the 220 in 20.7 seconds, and spanned 24 feet 9 3/4 inches to take the long jump.

That day, I watched meet officials, plainly incredulous, remeasure the track after the 100. They found it was an inch more than 100 yards. That night, hordes of college coaches swarmed around Owens, lauding the advantages of their schools.
Sports--l-star
lead Owens

(Fourth in a series on the career of Olympic star and former Cleveland star Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

When Jesse Owens decided to keep his talents close to home by enrolling at Ohio State University in September, 1933, he came under the coaching supervision of the veteran Larry Snyder, who had aided Owens in his early days. Snyder was remarkable in one particular aspect. Later, it was on his advice that Owens turned professional right after the 1936 Olympics, while Jesse still had a year of eligibility remaining with the Buckeyes. The decision wrecked Snyder's track squad, but in a remarkably unselfish move, urged Owens to take immediate advantage of the financial offers.

As an OSU freshman, Jesse broke the world indoor record for the long jump, doing 25 feet 3½ inches at Madison Square Garden. At the national AAU outdoor championships, Owens was beaten in the 100 meters by two inches, in the 200 meters by four inches—both times by Marquette star Ralph Metcalfe.

The winter of 1934-35 brought Owens new headlines, however. He was a sophomore now, eligible for intercollegiate competition. He pushed his indoor long jump mark out to 25 feet 9¾ inches, and broke the world record for the 60 meters dash with 6.6 seconds.

Even so, Owens was unsatisfied with his form. Once he came back to visit Charley Riley, his old coach at Fairmount Junior High here. Jesse took a couple of practice starts and Riley knew the answer. "You're straightening up too quickly after leaving your marks," he advised.

Unusually cold weather handicapped track men in the north during the spring of 1935. But a hot sun baked Ferry Field at Ann Arbor, Mich., for the Big Ten championships that year.
Jesse Owens had many memorable days during his fantastic track and field career. But none of them exceeded May 25, 1935. That was the afternoon when Owens, as an Ohio State University sophomore, broke three world records and equaled a fourth in a space of 80 minutes at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

It was not only his physical exploits that afternoon, but his subsequent demeanor that stamped him as an athlete of extraordinary poise and self-control. Listen and we'll describe the circumstances.

The youth from Cleveland had, only a few days before the Big Ten championship meet, fallen down a flight of stairs during a playful scuffle with a friend. He had bruised his back in the lumber region, and he could feel it when he extended his stride to jump or sprint.

But the capacity throng at Michigan Stadium had come to see the new wonder boy of track, and he didn't intend to disappoint them.

Owens' first event was the broad jump. It was on a grass runway directly in front of the grandstand, and the landing pit had been dug in what had been the old football field. Jesse asked to have a handkerchief placed at the 26-foot mark. The world record then was 26 ft. 1½ inches by Sylvic Gator of Haiti.

Jesse came flowing down the runway with his matchless grace, hit the takeoff board perfectly, soared high and gave his scissors kick, then settled into the sand far beyond the handkerchief.

A mighty roar arose, for the crowd knew it had just witnessed a world record performance. It was measured at 26 feet, 8½ inches, and it was to stand for a quarter of a century before Ralph Boston broke it. Owens never took a second attempt that day.

Next came the 100-yard dash. Owens won in 9.4 sec. to equal the world record of which he was co-holder.
His third performance was the 220-yard dash. His seemingly effortless stride carried him to easy triumph in 20.3 seconds for another world mark. But he had only a relatively short rest, while the two-milers were running, before his final race, the 220-yard low hurdles. Many felt he could not put forth another supreme effort.

But he did. And the announcer, looking ahead to the following year's Olympic Games, went rapturous with excitement as he said "Ladies and gentlemen, for the fourth time this afternoon-- and now let us say the champion is Owens of the United States, with another world record, 22.6 seconds."

As Jesse trotted back up the track to retrieve his sweatclothes, his old junior high school coach, the late Charley Riley, was beside himself with emotion. He stood up and shouted "Jesse-- my boy! My boy!"

Owens never waved back to the white-haired old gentleman. Later, he said simply "I was afraid people would think of was showing off and grandstanding it."

For almost an hour after the meet, Owens signed autographs. He then got permission from Coach Larry Snyder to ride back to Cleveland for a family visit. As they neared his home town, the two stopped for a late-evening meal.

At the next table to them in the restaurant was a family devouring the news of Owens' fantastic day. It appeared across the top of page one in a Cleveland newspaper, together with a three-column picture of the OSU star.

"Wow! How about this boy Owens," gasped a man at the adjoining table. "He must be really something."

Jesse just looked up at his friend, smiled, and winked. Never did he make the slightest attempt to let the others know he was the youth they were extolling.
That day, May 25, the Ohio State meteor's feats were telegraphed and radiated to all the world. I was the only Cleveland sports writer there to see him perform them.

He began with a 9.4 hundred, equaling the world record again. His times of 20.3 and 22.6 seconds for the 220-yard dash and 220-yard low hurdles were new world marks. He took only one leap in the long jump—after a series of prodigious practice warmups.

"I felt although a bit 'knocked out' from a back injury in a fall downstairs," he said. "So I asked them to put a handkerchief out in the pit at the exact place where the accepted world record was. (It was 26 feet 2 1/8 inches by Chuhei Nambu of Japan at that time.)"

Owens sped down the runway, gathered himself like an antelope, executed his scissors-kick in midair, and landed far past the kerchief. The crowd cut loose with a mighty roar, for it had been advised over the loud-speaker about the significance of placing the marker in the pit. Owen had cleared 26 feet 3 1/2 inches, a world record which stood for a span of 25 years—until Ralph Boston came along.

Literally thousands streamed on the field at the conclusion of the meet, seeking the autograph of this superstar. He was trembling with excitement and exhaustion when he asked Coach Snyder ride back to Cleveland in my car. He wanted to visit his family for the week-end. Driving very carefully with that precious cargo, we stopped for a late snack as we reached downtown. At the next restaurant table, a group was reading the Page 1 streamer headline that had chronicled his stunning feats. Completely unaware that Owens was seated a few feet away, one of them said "Boy, would I like to see that guy run? He must be a great kid."

Jesse just winked at me. He never made a move to identify himself.  

(Next— the "Owens Olympiad."
sports--1-1-star
lead Owens

(Another in a series on the career of Olympic star Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

In June of 1935, Jesse Owens had to show his speed on the
cinderpath. He went to Los Angeles for the National Collegiate championships. While there a wire service photographer took a picture of Jesse with Quinella Nickerson, a comely daughter of a wealthy Negro insurance company chief.

The difficulty was that she was shown fondling his fraternity pin- and he was already engaged to Ruth Solomon, a neighbor of his in Cleveland. Ruth phoned this reporter. She was really upset, in no mood to stand for any jilting.

So I telegraphed Owens and suggested it would be in his own best interests if he lost no time getting home for an explanation. He did that, asserting the photographer had fouled him up.

The next day, the world record-breaker asked me to join him at city hall, with Ruth, to be his witness as the marriage license was issued. From that wedding came three daughters- one of whom many years later was elected Ohio State's Homecoming Queen in football season.

Next year, 1936, came the Berlin Olympiad. They were destined to go down in athletic lore as "The Owens' Olympics," where one man took four gold medals.

That spring, the hero-worship for this lithe and talented Clevelandender reached almost unbearable proportions. By the time of the final U.S. Olympic team trials, at New York, he couldn't appear in public without being mobbed by autograph seekers.
At the trials, Jesse did everything expected of him. He won the 100 and 200-meters finals and the long jump. His sprint triumphs automatically made him the logical man to anchor our 400-meters relay team at Berlin.

So great was the mob scene outside the dressing rooms at Randall's Island Stadium that day that Lawson Robertson, head coach of the American squad, sought ways to get him out of the place without having to be subjected to an hour of autographing.

So I phoned the New York City police department for help. They agreed to send a police boat over. An East Tech graduate who resembled Jesse was persuaded to leave the dressing room first, luring the fans with him as he penned his name unceasingly.

After a safe wait, Jesse, Coach Larry Snyder of OSU and I got our police boat ride, and Owens, who was sailing with the team to Europe the next day, had time to rest.

His sensitive nature never was better illustrated that that evening at the hotel. I walked into his room. He was gazing out over the Hudson River to the great liner which was due to carry him away. And tears were coursing down his cheeks.

"For Heaven's sake, you should be the happiest guy in the world," I said. "What's bothering you?"

"I've been praying to God," he replied, "That all this fuss doesn't make me get the big head."

It never did.

(Next- Owens' Berlin feats.)
(Another in a series on the career of Olympic star and former Clevelanders Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

The 11th modern Olympiad, at Berlin in 1936, became famed for two principal reasons. Clevelanders Jesse Owens won four gold medals there and reaped world acclaim. Adolf Hitler failed in his plot to have the Nazi party take over operation of the Games.

Hitler wanted to use the Olympics as a tub-thumping glorification to exploit his poisonous brand of nationalism. To the everlasting credit of the International Olympic Committee, it informed Der Fuhrer that it would cancel the games unless it could run them as usual.

In fact, the IOC went so far as to bar Hitler from using the Nazi emblem on German uniforms. The man who was soon afterward to plunge the world into war had to back down. Sportsmen of the world beat back his aims.

Owens and other Negroes on the U.S. team were particularly irritating to Hitler. They confounded his preachments about the "master race"—the doctrine of Aryan superiority.

The Ohio State University junior, performing before a packed stadium seating 110,000, was superb. He won the 100-meters dash in 10.3 seconds, the 200 meters in 20.7 seconds, long jumped 26 feet 5 5/16 inches and led off the U.S. 400-meters relay team that triumphed in 39.8 seconds. All new Olympic records, Jesse, with his tremendous competitive spark, had to come from behind on his very last jump to defeat Lutz Long of Germany—who later was to be killed fighting in Gen. Rommel's North Africa campaign.
One of Jesse Owens' typical acts of sportsmanship came during the long jump finals. It was a cold day, and his German rival felt his legs tightening up. Jesse trotted into the U.S. training room, grabbed a bottle of warming liniment, and came out on the field to personally give Long a rubdown. The enormous throng roared its appreciation.

At Berlin there was the celebrated "incident" about Hitler's refusing to shake hands with Owens after Jesse's first victory. Much as I dislike to admit it, Hitler was not to blame.

On the opening day of competition, the first winner was Hans Woellke of Germany in the shotput. It was the first Olympic track and field crown ever won by a German, and the crowd went wild. Hitler had Woellke brought to the "loge of honor" and personally congratulated him.

Hitler did the same with other winners that day. But the high jump was still going on and Der Führer had overstayed his time. He left won before Cornelius Johnson got it for America. Owens didn't win his first title until two days later.

Before that, the IOC had sent word to Hitler that if he intended to congratulate winners, he must congratulated all of them, every day. He agreed he would desist.

After the Olympics, the AAU wanted Owens to go on a tour of Europe. He declined, observing he wanted to get back to his family. The AAU suspended him, and when lucrative offers to turn pro came his way, Jesse was advised by Coach Larry Snyder to grab them while they were good, though he had another year of college eligibility remaining.

(Next- Owens' return in triumph.)
(Last in a series on the career of Olympic Games star Jesse Owens.)

By Jack Clowser

While other outstanding athletes on the 1936 U.S. Olympic track team were barnstorming Europe following the Games at Berlin, Jesse Owens returned alone. The reception, from the moment the Queen Mary steamed into New York Bay, was something unequaled for any other single sports figure.

The winner of four gold medals at Berlin was accorded a full-fledged ticker tape parade up Broadway, while countless thousands lined the thoroughfare to cheer the tan streak who had so confounded Hitler's theory of the "master race."

As the Queen Mary passed through The Narrows at the bottom of the bay, a squadron of New York State national guard planed swooped in salute over the great liner. A horde of newsmen and movie photographers were on the government ship that took us to the quarantine stop, where we clambered aboard.

Jack Dempsey was co-chairman of the mayor's reception committee that met Owens at the Hudson River pier. The parade eventually wound up at the sumptuous apartment of Bojangles Bill Robinson, famous stage dancer of that period. Bill had appointed himself Jesse's adviser, for the offers to turn pro and make a lot of money quickly were pouring in.

The finest aspect of the tumultuous reception was the realization that fame had not changed the Cleveland youngster a bit. He was his usual self, almost overfriendly in his desire to show that he liked people.
Political figures were anxious to bask in Owens' reflected glory. Two of them, representing Governor Martin Davey of Ohio, managed to get into the parade as we rode uptown. But Robinson shut the door on them when we got to his apartment, explaining "Sorry, gentlemen, this is going to be a party for Jesse's friends."

Later that year, Owens did get himself involved in politics. Governor Alf Landon of Kansas was running on the Republican ticket against President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Landon had less chance than Jesse's rivals on the onderpath, but pictures of the governor and Owens in conference flooded the country.

Everybody wanted to see Jesse in action. Millionaires put on big garden parties and invited him to run exhibitions. I remember one, on a Hudson River estate, who paid Jesse $5000 to run a 50-yard dash and take several long jumps before the admiring guests.

Money came from many sources then, but Jesse was a victim of poor advice from some quarters. He invested $75,000 in a new Harlem nightclub, but it went bankrupt soon afterward. Owens even made money running handicap races for short distances against racehorses. But it was "easy come, easy go," and after a couple of years, such contracts ceased.

Owens moved to Chicago before the decade ended, became secretary of the Illinois state athletic commission, and put in many years of ardent work for youth guidance organizations. That was the sort of thing he liked best.

Always, wherever he went, Jesse made public speeches praising America and its way of life. He never uttered an unpatriotic word. That's why, in his present income tax evasion troubles, it is so regrettable his career is facing a blot. I fervently hope the penalty is not too harsh.
Commemorating an Ohio Hero

Photograph courtesy University Archives
You are cordially invited to be a part of history as The Ohio State University hosts the Ohio General Assembly National Statuary Collection Study Committee for a hearing on the proposal for Jesse Owens to represent the State of Ohio in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol Building.

Friday, November 6, 2009
10:30 a.m.
11th Floor, Thompson Library
1858 Neil Avenue Mall
with lunch following at Ohio Stadium

Hearing begins at 11 a.m.
Luncheon concludes at 1:30 p.m.

Parking in Tuttle Garage
See map on back

RSVP by November 3 to reuter.3@osu.edu
Seventy-five years ago, Jesse Owens became an American icon after winning an amazing four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Before he left for this historic event, Owens was a student athlete competing at Ohio Stadium; after he returned, he was the guest of honor riding in a ticker tape parade in New York City.

In honor of his accomplishments and in conjunction with OSU’s celebration of his Olympic achievements, The Ohio State University Archives has created a display of Owens’ artifacts, photographs, and documents that highlight each stage of Owens’ life: his youth in Cleveland, his relationship to OSU as a student and life-time Buckeye, his record as an Olympian, and his service as an ambassador to the world. Students, faculty, staff, and the public are invited to come see the exhibition which includes artifacts such as Owens’ Olympic diary, his bronzed shoe from 1935, and his Congressional Gold Medal.

The exhibition is located in the Thompson Library, 1858 Neil Ave., in the display area on the first floor outside the Gallery. The Thompson Library is open Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. -2 a.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. -10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. -2 a.m.
A new exhibition now on display at the Thompson Library was developed to support an upcoming university celebration marking the 75th anniversary of Jesse Owens' victories at the 1936 Olympics.

In honor of his accomplishments, The Ohio State University Archives has created a display of Owens' artifacts, photographs, and documents that highlight each stage of Owens' life: his youth in Cleveland, his relationship to OSU as a student and life-time Buckeye, his record as an Olympian, and his service as an ambassador to the world. Students, faculty, staff, and the public are invited to see the exhibition which includes artifacts such as Owens' Olympic diary, his bronzed shoe from 1935, and his Congressional Gold Medal. The exhibition is located in the display area on the first floor outside the Gallery.

The Owens exhibition was developed at the request of the university-wide committee coordinating the celebration of his Olympic achievements. The celebration will take place April 21-24, in conjunction with Ohio State's spring football game and the Jesse Owens Track Classic. A dinner banquet at the Ohio Union Archie Griffin Ballroom will include nationally recognized speakers, prominent corporate and community leaders, members of the Ohio State community and members of Jesse's family.

Proceeds will support scholarships for Ruth and Jesse Owens Scholars and the men's and women's track programs at The Ohio State University.

Larry Allen
Communications Coordinator
Ohio State University Libraries
419C Thompson Memorial Library
1858 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210-1286
Phone: 614/292-8999
Fax: 614/292-7859
COMMEMORATION

Owens in spotlight

OSU events to honor Olympic track star who frustrated Hitler

By Leah Wynalek
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

In August 1936, Jesse Owens shattered world records and delusions of Aryan supremacy by winning four gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Berlin—a record unequalled until 1984, when Carl Lewis won the same four events.

Despite Adolph Hitler's presence at the Games, the German crowd cheered Owens as he won the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, long jump and 400-meter relay.

"The crowds loved him...

There were women sliding marriage proposals under the door," said David Steigerwald, a history professor at Ohio State University, which Owens attended. "In many ways, he was the toast of the town."

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Owens' record-breaking performance in Berlin. To commemorate his achievements, Ohio State is unveiling a statue of Owens and dedicating four days of events to the athlete.

"I've met people who were super-athletes, but no one even compares to Jesse Owens in track and field — or even in other sports," said Ray Hupp, 61, a former OSU track-and-field captain who met Owens. "He went over there (to Berlin) and showed them that black athletes were just as good as white athletes."

Gloria Owens Hemphill, 79, one of Owens' daughters, said her father would be humbled by the events in his honor. He never talked about the Olympics to her, she said, but instead motivated others.

"He just was a person who had a love of people," Hemphill said, "and he used his talents to do all that he could."

The schedule of events:

- Thursday: 1:30 p.m.: statue unveiling, Owens Memorial Stadium, 2450 Fred Taylor Dr.
- 4:30 p.m.: diversity lecture series
- Friday: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Jesse Owens Field Classic, Owens Memorial Stadium
- Saturday: 1:30 p.m.: Jesse Owens Spring Game, Ohio Stadium, 411 Woody Hayes Dr.; tickets: $7, or $15 that day, at www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com
- 6 p.m.: Jesse Owens Track and Field Classic, Owens Memorial Stadium
- Next Sunday: 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Jesse Owens Track and Field Classic, Owens Memorial Stadium
- Through May 4: Owens memorabilia on display in the William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library, first-floor exhibition gallery, 1858 Neil Ave.; hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, until 8 p.m. Thursdays, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information, visit www.osu.edu/jesseowens

Iwynalek@dispatch.com
Jesse Owens 75th Anniversary Celebration kicks off Thursday (4/21) with statue unveiling and scholarship dinner

ESPN's Jeremy Schapp and comedian Bill Cosby help raise funds for Owens Scholars Program

A statue unveiling and scholarship dinner honoring Ohio State track and field legend Jesse Owens will take place Thursday (4/21), kicking off a weekend of activities celebrating the 75th anniversary of his historic performance in the 1936 Olympic Games.

The unveiling will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Owens Memorial Stadium, 250 Fred Taylor Dr. Members of the Owens family, the Ohio State track and field teams and alumni are expected to attend. The scholarship dinner with ESPN reporter Jeremy Schaap and comedian Bill Cosby will begin at 7 p.m. at the Ohio Union, 1738 N. High St. Proceeds will benefit the Ruth and Jesse Owens Scholars program.

Owens was known as "The Buckeye Bullet" where he set three world records and tied a fourth during a brief 45-minute period at the Big Ten Championships in 1935. The following year, Owens became the first American track and field athlete to win four gold medals in one Olympiad. The feat defeated Adolf Hitler's intention of proving Aryan superiority at the Games and elevated Owens as an international hero.

The entire schedule of events planned in honor of Owens is available at:
http://www.osu.edu/jesseowens/

Reporters note: Contact Liz Cook (614) 292-7276 for any special arrangements needed in covering these events.

WHAT: Jesse Owens 75th Anniversary Celebration kicks off with statue unveiling and scholarship dinner on Thursday (4/21)
At the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, Ohio State track and field star Jesse Owens achieved what no Olympic athlete before him had accomplished: he won four gold medals. His athletic victories were also triumphs over Adolph Hitler's claim that the German "Aryan" people were the dominant race. Jesse proved that individual excellence and personal dedication were what distinguished one human being from another—not race or national origin.

Jesse was born James Cleveland Owens in Alabama in 1913, the son of a tenant farmer and grandson of a slave. He was called "J.C." for short, but when his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1922 and Jesse enrolled in school, his teacher gave him the name that would remain with him for the rest of his life. Upon hearing "J.C.," the teacher mistook it for "Jesse" and so recorded "Jesse Owens" in her roll book—a name that not only stuck, but would soon make history.

Jesse's accomplishments as a track and field athlete began when he was a youngster. As a junior high school student, he set records in both the high jump and broad jump, and in high school, he won the Ohio state track championship three years in a row. At the National Interscholastic meet in Chicago, he tied the world record by running the 100-yard dash in 9.4 seconds and set a new high school world record in the 220-yard dash with 20.7 seconds.

As a college student at Ohio State, Jesse set three world records and tied a fourth in one 45-minute period at the 1935 Big Ten Championships. After this amazing feat, he was ready to compete in the 1936 Olympics. Jesse's unprecedented winning of four gold medals at the Olympics in Berlin is legendary sports history. That it wasn't just in Berlin, but in Nazi Germany makes his story even more remarkable.

When his days as an athlete ended, Jesse turned his attention to mentoring underprivileged youth. From playground director in Cleveland to director of the Chicago Boys' Club, Jesse worked tirelessly to help young people better themselves and to encourage them to follow their dreams.

DINNER PROGRAM
Ohio Union, Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom

WELCOME
Jeremy Schaap
ESPN reporter and radio host, and author

OWENS FAMILY
Marlene Owens Rankin
Daughter and 1960 Ohio State Homecoming Queen

JESSE OWENS AND OHIO STATE
E. Gordon Gee
President, The Ohio State University

JESSE OWENS: THE LEGEND
Stephanie Hightower
President, USA Track & Field and
Ohio State Olympic hurdler

DINNER
JESSE OWENS: HIS LIFE AND LEGACY
Bill Cosby
Actor, comedian, writer, and producer

CLOSING REMARKS
Jeremy Schaap
OTHER WEEKEND EVENTS

SATURDAY
Spring Football Game
1:30 p.m.
Ohio Stadium

Jesse Owens Track Classic
6–10 p.m.
Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium

SUNDAY
Jesse Owens Track Classic
Field Events: 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Track Events: Noon–5:30 p.m.
Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium

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Please visit osu.edu/jesseowens in the coming weeks for event photos and video clips.
Itinerary of Events
Jesse Owens Celebration
Thursday, April 21, 2011

Statue Dedication Luncheon, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Jack Nicklaus Museum, 2355 Olentangy River Road

Audience: Gold Level Sponsors (Reese Family & Guests, KeyBank, and Abercrombie & Fitch), Owens Family and select University Administration and Owens Committee Members -- 68 Total Guests

Staff: Mandy Porcher (lead), Nathan Andridge, Alain Hunter, Nancy Marzella, and Matt Meyer

Committee: Geoff Chatas (chair), Floyd Akins, Joyce Beatty, Archie Griffin, Tom Katzenmeyer, Chuck McMurray, Gene Smith, Sergio Soave

University Leadership: John T. Mount (Emeritus) & Former Owens Foundation Board Member

11:00 a.m. Shuttle transports guests from The Blackwell Inn to the Jack Nicklaus Museum

11:15 a.m. Luncheon - Jack Nicklaus Museum

11:20 a.m. Welcome Remarks – Geoff Chatas
- Acknowledge and thank Owens Family members (especially three Owens’ daughters – Gloria O. Hemphill, Beverly O. Prather, and Marlene O. Rankin, David E. and Weezie Reese, their son, Rhett, The David E. Reese Family Foundation, and the Reese’s guests, including former BOT Teckie Shackelford and her husband, Don Shackelford; KeyBank & representatives present (especially Margo Copeland), Abercrombie & Fitch & representatives present (Kelly Maddern – highest ranking rep. in attendance) for their generous support and for their attendance today
- Give a brief synopsis of the celebration and how this luncheon kicks off a four-day celebration of one of Ohio State’s greatest alums, Jesse Owens
- Invite all to enjoy lunch and table conversations / back in a few minutes to introduce our special guest

Introduction of Artist – Geoff Chatas
- Geoff introduces Alan (brief background on artist) and asks Alan to come up

Artist Brief Remarks & Informal Q&A – Alan Cottrill
- give brief remarks and then open it up to a brief Q&A session

Closing Remarks – Geoff Chatas
- Thank all for coming and ask all to follow staff to out to their design

12:15 p.m. Shuttle transports guests to the Woody Hayes Athletic Center (WHAC)

12:30 p.m. Guests tour WHAC with host T.J. Shelton

1:15 p.m. Shuttle transports guests from WHAC to the Owens Memorial Stadium
Statue Dedication, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Owens Memorial Stadium, 250 Fred Taylor Drive

Audience: Gold Level Sponsors, Owens Family, University Admin., staff & students, and general public.

Staff: Liz Cook (lead), Nathan Andridge, Alain Hunter, Sue Jones, Mandy Porcher, and TJ Shelton.

Committee: Geoff Chatas (chair), Floyd Akins, Archie Griffin, Tom Katzenmeyer, and Gene Smith

University Leadership: President Gee and John T. Mount (Emeritus)

1:30 p.m. Welcome – Gene Smith, Director of Athletics
Remarks
Introduce Dr. Gee
“I’d now like to welcome to the podium for remarks - University President, EGG.”

1:35 p.m. University Remarks – Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee
Remarks
Introduce Gloria Owens Hemphill
“It is my distinct pleasure to introduce to you one of the beloved daughters of Jesse Owens, Gloria Owens Hemphill”

1:40 p.m. Owens Family Remarks – Gloria Owens Hemphill, Daughter
Remarks
Introduce David Reese
“I wish to personally that the Reese Foundation for its generosity and ask that David Reese share a few words on this special day.”

1:45 p.m. David E. Reese, benefactor
Remarks
Introduce Alan Cottrill
“At this time, Alan Cottrill, will come forward to share his inspiration for his work.”

1:50 p.m. Artist Remarks – Alan Cottrill
“I now welcome John Hammond, a member of the Ohio State track team from 1968-72.”

1:55 p.m. John Hammond remarks

After remarks, Gene Smith will return to podium to ask that Owens Family move toward statue for unveiling

2:00 p.m. Attendees invited to move to statue for unveiling – Gene Smith
Owens Family escorted first – Alain Hunter
Reese Family escorted – Nancy Marzella
KeyBank and Abercombie & Fitch Reps. Escorted – Nathan Andridge & Mandy Porcher
Statue drapes removed – Owens Great Grandchildren

2:00-2:30 p.m. Media interviews/Photos

Note: Participants will be asked to limit remarks to 2-3 minutes.
Owens Exhibit Review 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
The Ohio State University Thompson Library

Audience: Gold Level Sponsors, Owens Family, and University staff

Staff: Tamar Chute and Mandy Porcher (lead)

2:30 p.m. Shuttle transports guests to the Thompson Library
2:45 p.m. View Jesse Owens’ exhibit on display at the Thompson Library
3:15 p.m. Shuttle transports guests to The Blackwell Inn

VIP Reception, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Ohio Union Traditions Room (2nd floor)
The Ohio Union at The Ohio State University, 1739 N. High Street

Audience: Gold Level Sponsors & guests, Jeremy Schaap, Bill Cosby, select VIP’s, and University reps.

Staff: Emily Burkhart (lead), Nathan Andridge, Alain Hunter, Sue Jones, Matt Meyer, and Mandy Porcher

Committee: Geoff Chatas, Floyd Akins, Joyce Beatty, Mabel Freeman, Archie Griffin, Tom Katzenmeyer, Chuck McMurray and Gene Smith

University Leadership: President Gee

NOTE: Space is limited to those specifically appearing on the guest list

5:30 p.m. Registration set
Outside Griffin Ballroom on 2nd floor

Room set
Owens memorabilia in wall cases
Owens backdrop for photos along external wall

6:00 p.m. Guests arrive
Tray passed wine and hors d’oeuvres, full bar

6:30 p.m. Expected arrival time for Bill Cosby
Archie remarks: Welcomes guests
Thank Gold Level Sponsors
Key Bank
The David E. Reese Family Foundation
Abercrombie and Fitch

Photo opportunities for sponsors and others with Bill Cosby
Staff in room to facilitate getting photos

6:50 p.m. Guests begin to move into the Griffin Ballroom for dinner event
Dinner Celebration, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Ohio Union Griffin Ballroom (2nd floor)

Staff: Emily Burkhart & Cindy Plummer (lead), Nathan Andridge, Alain Hunter, Sue Jones, and Mandy Porcher

5:30 p.m. Registration ready
6:00 p.m. Ballroom doors open
Bars ready
6:30 p.m. Guest arrival
Registration on 2nd floor outside Griffin Ballroom
6:45 p.m. Announcement for guests to take their seats
Bars close
7:00 p.m. Program begins
VOG introduces Emcee Jeremy Schaap
Jeremy Schaap remarks (4 minutes):
Welcome to guests

Acknowledge groups in attendance:
Owens Family
OSU Board of Trustees
Elected Officials
Olympic athletes
Ohio State University leadership
Thank Gold, Silver and Bronze level sponsors
Big Ten Network for video footage

Thank Olympic sponsors and everyone who contributed to the success of this evening.

Special acknowledgement of Harrison Dillard

Jeremy Schaap departs stage – returns to table

7:04 p.m. Video Segment 1 – Icons footage of Owens family history (3:30).

7:07:30 p.m. VOG introduces Marlene Owens Rankin

Marlene Owens Rankin takes the stage

Owens family remarks: (3 min)
Family history with OSU, importance of scholarships and thanks to donors for support

Marlene Owens Rankin departs stage – returns to table

7:10:30 p.m. Video segment 2 –OSU track Alums (3 min)
7:13:30 p.m. VOG introduce Dr. Gee
Dr. Gee takes the stage
Dr. Gee remarks: (4 min)
Jesse Owens impact on OSU

Dr. Gee departs stage — returns to table

7:17:30 p.m. Video segment 3 – Owens track legend (5:30 min)

7:23 p.m. VOG introduce Stephanie Hightower

Stephanie Hightower takes the stage

Hightower remarks:
Owens at ’36 Olympics

Hightower departs stage – returns to table

Jeremy Schaap takes stage

7:27 p.m. Emcee Jeremy Schaap invites guests to enjoy dinner

7:28 p.m. Dinner Served (1 hour)

8:30 p.m. Program Continues Following Dessert/Coffee Service

8:30 p.m. VOG introduces Emcee

Emcee Jeremy Schaap takes the stage

Emcee welcomes Bill Cosby

Bill Cosby takes the stage

Jeremy Schaap departs stage — to table

8:32 p.m. Bill Cosby remarks: (30 min)
Thoughts on Jesse Owens

Cosby concludes and departs stage

Emcee Jeremy Schaap takes the stage as Cosby departs.

9:00 p.m. Closing remarks by the Emcee

9:05 p.m. Program concludes
Guests receive commemorative book (1 per couple) and T-shirt (each) as they depart
Itinerary of Events  
Jesse Owens Celebration  
Friday, April 22, 2011

**Presentation of Gift to Owens Family, 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**
Schottenstein Center (W. Loading Dock)

**Audience:** Owens Family and select University Administration

**Staff:** Alain Hunter and Denny Hoobler

**University Leadership:** Coach Tressel

9:30 a.m. Mrs. Hemphill, Prather, and Rankin to Meet in the Lobby of The Blackwell Inn  
(Staff Contact: Alain Hunter, cell: (614) 657-9894)

9:35 a.m. Alain Hunter to transport to the Schottenstein Center (W. Loading Dock)

9:45 a.m. Denny Hoobler to meet group and escort to meeting with Coach Tressel  
(Staff Contact: Denny Hoobler, cell: (614) 208-8751)

10:00 a.m. Presentation by Coach Tressel/Mrs. Hemphill, Prather, & Rankin Brief Remarks

10:30 a.m. Alain Hunter to transport back to The Blackwell Inn

**Owens Family Luncheon, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
Joyce Beatty’s Residence

**Audience:** Owens Family

**Staff:** Phil Saken

**University Leadership:** Joyce Beatty

12:45 p.m. Owens Family Meet in Lobby of The Blackwell Inn  
(Staff Contact: Phil Saken, cell: (847) 275-9025)

1:00 p.m. Shuttle transports Owens Family to Mrs. Beatty’s residence in Blacklick, Ohio

1:30 p.m. Luncheon hosted by Ms. Beatty

4:00 p.m. Shuttle transports Owens Family to The Blackwell Inn
Itinerary of Events
Jesse Owens Celebration
Saturday, April 23, 2011

Owens Family, 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
WHAC

Audience: Owens Family and select University Administration

Staff: Alain Hunter and Denny Hoobler

University Leadership: Coach Tressel

9:15 a.m. Owens Family Meet in the Lobby of The Blackwell Inn
(Staff Contact: Alain Hunter, cell: (614) 657-9894)

9:30 a.m. Shuttle transports guests to Woody Hayes Athletic Center (main entrance)

9:45 a.m. Denny Hoobler to meet group and escort to meeting with Coach Tressel
(Staff Contact: Denny Hoobler, cell: (614) 208-8751)

10:00 a.m. Owens Family participating in team’s pre-spring game meeting
Stuart O. Rankin and Gina Hemphill Strachan Speaking on Family’s Behalf
(Staff Contact: Denny Hoobler, cell: (614) 208-8751)

10:45 a.m. Shuttle transports guests to The Blackwell Inn

Spring Game & On-Field Presentation, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Ohio Stadium

Audience: Gold Level Sponsors (Reese Family & Guests, KeyBank, and Abercrombie & Fitch), Owens Family and select University Administration and Owens Committee Members

Staff: Alain Hunter, Mandy Porcher, and T.J. Shelton

University Leadership: Geoff Chatas, Joyce Beatty, and Archie Griffin

12:00 p.m. Owens Family Meet in the Lobby of The Blackwell Inn
(Staff Contact: Mandy Porcher, cell: (614) 506-6821)

12:05 p.m. Mrs. Hemphill, Prather, and Rankin to be transported by Golf Cart
Owens Family to walk to Ohio Stadium

12:15 p.m. Owens Family & Gold Level Sponsors Gather Prior to Kick-off of Spring Game
Gate 23 – Media Entrance
(Staff Contact: Alain Hunter, cell: (614) 657-9894)
(Staff Contact: T.J. Shelton, cell: (614) 354-6315)

12:30 p.m. Group escorted to the field for presentation
1:00 p.m.  Presentation of Owens Family and Sponsors prior to kick-off of Spring Game

1:30 p.m.  Escorted by staff from field to the suites

3:30 p.m.  Depart Ohio Stadium at the conclusion of the Spring Game via Gate 23
Mrs. Hemphill, Prather, and Rankin to be transported by Golf Cart
Owens Family to walk to The Blackwell Inn

6:00 p.m.  2011 Owens Track Classic
* The Blackwell Inn may be able to provide transportation if family members are interested in attending.
Itinerary of Events
Jesse Owens Celebration
Sunday, April 24, 2011

Owens Track Classic, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium

Audience: Owens Family and select University Administration

Staff: Alain Hunter and T.J. Shelton

University Leadership: Track Coaches

11:00 a.m. Owens Family Meet in the Lobby of The Blackwell Inn
(Staff Contact: Alain Hunter, cell: (614) 657-9894)

11:15 a.m. Shuttle transports guests to the Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium

11:30 a.m. Group escorted on to the track for presentation
(Staff Contact: T.J. Shelton, cell: (614) 354-6315)

11:45 a.m. Presentation of Owens Family & Grandchildren's Gift prior to 4 x 100m Relays

12:00 p.m. 4 x 100m Relays (men's and women's)

2:00 p.m. Shuttle transports guests to the The Blackwell Inn
Jesse Owens

Three-quarters of a century since his historic moment.

An Olympic athlete like we’ve rarely seen.

Partnership Opportunities for Big Ten Network Presented by The Ohio State University Foundation
At a university known for its exceptional athletes, Jesse Owens stands out. In a state that is no stranger to making a worldwide impact, Jesse Owens stands out. And in a country whose history boasts numerous heroes who have battled injustice, Jesse Owens stands out.

The Ohio State University is proud to lead the celebration of Jesse Owens’ legacy on the 75th anniversary of his stellar performance in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. With Adolph Hitler in the stands and the entire world paying attention, Jesse won four gold medals in the 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, long jump, and the 4x100 meter relay. In addition to the remarkable athletic achievement, Jesse’s victory also struck a blow to Nazi propaganda that depicted those from African descent as inferior.

As a member of Ohio State’s track team, Jesse won eight individual NCAA championships between 1935-36. At the Big Ten track meet in 1935, he set three world records and tied a fourth—truly an amazing feat accomplished in the span of just 45 minutes.

Lovingly called the “Buckeye Bullet,” Jesse Owens is a revered part of Ohio State’s family and tradition. After his athletic career, he gave generously of his time and modest wealth to help inspire young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to reach for their dreams.

Jesse Owens’ core values and generous spirit represents the best of our university, the state of Ohio, and our nation. With support from corporate partners like the Big Ten Network, together we will celebrate Jesse’s exceptional life, while looking to extend his legacy of kindness and inspiration for future generations.
Celebrating the Past
with an Eye Toward the Future

The Jesse Owens 75th Anniversary Celebration will take place April 21-24, 2011, in conjunction with Ohio State's spring football game and the Jesse Owens Track Classic.

A model of a new statue of Jesse, expected to draw many each year who want to catch a glimpse of the legend's likeness, will be unveiled at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.

A banquet held on Thursday, April 21 in the Ohio Union's Archie Griffin Grand Ballroom will gather nationally recognized keynote speakers, prominent corporate and community leaders, members of the Ohio State community, as well as members of Jesse's beloved family.

Through this celebration, we will honor the memory of Jesse Owens and his trailblazing life that links us as Americans and inspires us to achieve greatness.

Jesse understood quite well that an important part of being a role model and a leader means giving back. In that spirit, all proceeds from the Jesse Owens 75th Anniversary Celebration will be used to support two passions of Jesse's: socioeconomically disadvantaged undergraduate students and the men's and women's track programs.

Support from event sponsors and ticket sales from the banquet will provide scholarships and programming for Ohio State's Ruth and Jesse Owens Scholars. These scholars have committed themselves to bettering their communities through service and leadership activities. Your support will also assist in creating an endowment that will provide recognition for the outstanding male and female athletes participating in the Jesse Owens Track Classic each year.

Jesse would have wanted it that way.

And though Jesse was a humble man, he undoubtedly would have been pleased to know that all these years later, his accomplishments are still inspiring young people to reach for their dreams.

Partnership Opportunities

The Ohio State University respectfully requests a partnership with the Big Ten Network that will allow Ohio State and our community to celebrate Jesse Owens' momentous accomplishments.

Sponsorship opportunities include:

- **Gold Sponsors: $250,000**
  Gold sponsors receive two VIP tables (seating for 16) at the dinner with university dignitaries hosting table; logo on cover of event program that will be placed at each dinner table; business logo on event banners; recognition at Ohio State Football Spring Game; invitations to VIP reception, distinguished lecture, and statue unveiling; reserved seating at the Jesse Owens Track Classic; and creation of the Big Ten Network Scholarship for Ruth and Jesse Owens Scholars.

- **Silver Sponsors: $100,000**
  Silver sponsors receive one VIP table (seating for eight) at the dinner with university dignitaries hosting table; listing in event program; recognition at Ohio State Football Spring Game; invitations to distinguished lecture and statue unveiling; reserved seating at the Jesse Owens Track Classic; and an endowed scholarship for Ruth and Jesse Owens Scholars.

- **Bronze Sponsors: $50,000**
  Bronze sponsors receive two round tables (seating for 12) at the dinner with four Ohio State students as guests at each table; listing in event program; invitations to distinguished lecture and statue unveiling; and reserved seating at the Jesse Owens Track Classic.

- **Olympian Sponsors: $5,000**
  Olympian sponsors receive one round table (seating for 10) at the dinner; listing in event program; invitations to distinguished lecture and statue unveiling.

Thank you for your consideration of a gift to celebrate Jesse Owens and his legacy of generosity.
Contacts

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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The old myths got it wrong. The shoe has no wings.

Mercury, the messenger god of the Romans, needed assistance in the form of winged sandals in getting his dispatches out on time. Jesse Owens delivered his message of athletic excellence, racial equality and human dignity in the 1930s, most unforgettably at Adolf Hitler's Berlin Olympics in 1936, without steroids or radically advanced equipment.

Performance-enhancing drugs hadn't been invented yet. Nor had cutting-edge running shoes.

The shoe, now bronzed, on display at the Ohio State exhibition, "Faster, Higher, Stronger -- Jesse Owens: 100 years of Life and Legacy," was worn by Owens in Ann Arbor, Mich., on May 25, 1935, when the sprinter from Cleveland set three world records and tied another in one afternoon at the Big Ten Championships. His long jump mark would last for 25 years. When Owens landed, it was as if he left a footprint on eternity.

Located in the William Oxley Thompson Library at 1811 Neil Ave. near Ohio Stadium, the exhibition honors the centennial of Owens' birth in 1913 in Alabama. It opened Jan. 9 and runs until May 5. Admission is free.

Raised in Cleveland, Owens was a great high school athlete at East Tech. He became the greatest athlete ever to pass through the doors at Ohio State or any Big Ten institution. USA Track and Field's highest award is named in his honor. That ignorant voters from the Big Ten Network put Owens third on the list of the conference's all-time athletic icons is an outrage, as I have written (tinyurl.com/4zarwur).

To OSU's credit, it does not hide the racial discrimination Owens faced as a Buckeye. Owens had no athletic scholarship, had to work while he was in college, had to live off-campus, and had to live and eat apart from the white members of the track team on trips. He entered Ohio State in 1933, after two African-American female students had been denied rooms in the Home Economics house.

At OSU, coach Larry Snyder quickened Owens' starts by teaching him to crouch tightly before the crack of
the starter’s pistol. Snyder also taught Owens to move his legs in the air on his jumps in an early form of
the hitch kick. These refinements, along with Owens’ ability to run smoothly and not “tie up” under
pressure, made him track and field’s greatest star.

A poster and painting of the medal ceremony for the long jump at the 1936 Olympics provide chilling
commentary on the political climate in which Owens competed. The story of Germany's Ludwig "Luz" Long
and Owens is one of the most famous in Olympic history, a stunning display of sportsmanship across racial
and national lines, with the gesture heightened by the Nazis' hateful ideology of racial supremacy and by
Owens' status as a subhuman in their eyes.

After an unusually nervous Owens fouled twice during qualifying, Long advised him to make his takeoff from
slightly behind the board to avoid elimination with a third foul. That way, Owens would still be able to easily
clear the qualifying mark. A calm Owens jumped four inches away from the board, qualified, and went on to
win the gold medal.

At Olympic medal ceremonies, officials raise the three national flags of the medalists. The long jump silver
medalist, Long, stands one step lower than Owens. He is giving the "Heil Hitler" salute to the Nazi
swastika. Owens, on the top step, offers a military salute to the American flag. Behind the podium, a
German official also gives the stiff-armed salute.

Tall, blond, the very model of Aryan racial ideals, a symbol of an ideology in which he did not believe, Long
then walked arm-in-arm with Owens to the locker room. Owens later wrote that all his trophies could be
melted down, and they still wouldn't be as precious as the "24-carat" friendship he had with Luz Long.

A poster at the exhibit, signed by members of the American team in Melbourne, Australia, at the 1956
Olympics, is dedicated to Owens. Two signatures that stand out are those of Al Oerter and Wilma Rudolph.
Oerter won the first of his four straight discus gold medals in 1956. Four years before her triumphant
performance in the sprints in Rome, Rudolph ran the opening leg of the women’s 4x100-meter relay in
Melbourne and won a bronze medal. Two of the greatest Olympians ever drew inspiration from Owens.

So did Ohio State senior Amanda Furrer. Her uniform from the 2012 Olympics, as a member of the American
rifle team, stands near the signed 1956 poster. The point is that the connection still remains. They will
always remember Jesse Owens at Ohio State. And in the world.
The 1936 Olympics interrupted Owens' studies at Ohio State, but he maintained a close relationship with the University until his death in 1980. His wife, Ruth, continued this relationship, and in 1987 graciously deposited the Jesse Owens Papers in the University Archives. The collection includes papers, photos and artifacts from Owens' life, including material from the 1936 Olympics.

Acknowledgements
Although most of the material for this exhibit comes from the University Archives' Jesse Owens papers, we would like to thank the following contributors:

Amanda Furrer: 2012 London Olympic outfits and memorabilia
Homage: Jesse Owens T-shirt
LA84 Foundation: 1936 Olympic Torch; Torch Relay lithograph
The Owens Family: Presidential Medal of Freedom; Congressional Gold Medal
WOSU: Jesse Owens: Enduring Spirit documentary

This exhibition of material primarily from the Jesse Owens Papers at The Ohio State University Archives honors the life and legacy of Jesse Owens. Come learn about Owens' youth, his relationship to the Olympics, and his on-going legacy around the world.
James Cleveland (Jesse) Owens was born in 1913 in Oakville, Alabama. In the early 1920s, the Owens family moved to Cleveland, and Jesse attended Fairmont Junior High, where he met Charles Riley, the school’s track coach. Owens continued running track under Riley at Cleveland’s East Technical High School. In 1933, Owens arrived as a freshman at The Ohio State University. He quickly established himself as the leading collegiate track star in the nation.

1936 Olympics

In August 1936, Owens traveled with other U.S. athletes to Berlin for Olympiad XI. There he won gold medals in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, the long jump and the 400-meter relay. With these victories – in front of Nazi leader Adolph Hitler – Owens achieved international fame.

Owens participated in a whirlwind of post-Olympic activities. He traveled the world promoting physical fitness and the Olympic ideals.

Owens spent much of his life working with young people and serving as a goodwill ambassador for the Olympic movement and the United States. In recognition of his service, Owens was awarded many honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Owens died in 1980 at age 66.

University Archives

There are several ways to learn more about Jesse Owens at the University Archives:
- More than 70 cubic feet of material and nearly 2,000 photos documenting Owens’ life are housed at the University Archives. For the collection inventory see: go.osu.edu/owens-inventory
- A web exhibit on his life and contributions, which includes photo galleries, can be found at: go.osu.edu/jesse-owens

In addition to the Jesse Owens Papers, the Archives houses roughly 25,000 cubic feet of materials related to the University’s history. To learn more about the Archives and its collections, visit our web site at go.osu.edu/archives

There also are several ways to support the Archives:
- To donate materials, call 614-292-2409
- To give to the Archives, visit go.osu.edu/archives-gift

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Owens’ Olympic Diary: 1936
THOSE FLYING FEET of Jesse Owens have "wowed" us by virtue of his brilliant exploits on the track during the last few years, but will he be able to have us "rolling" in the aisles if and when he launches a "hoofing" career? Owens, who is considering numerous vaudeville offers, is pictured above tooting on a saxophone just before sailing for the Olympic Games. —Acme Photo.

Up to Owens
--Brandage

BERLIN, Aug. 17.—(U.P.) —The A. A. U. has not suspended Jesse Owens, but the "Buckeye Bullet" will suspend himself if he does not appear Wednesday in a track meet at Stockholm, Avery apparent change of heart with respect to the Swedish trip "left the athletic representatives of the United States in a ve barrassing position in the eyes of Europe. Since Owens enthusiastically accepted invitations to several meetings in Europe, I feel he should fulfill them."

OTHERS DEPART

"I want to make it clear that the A. A. U. is not suspending Owens, but he will suspend himself if he fails to make the trip. I never said he was suspended and he will not be until he fails to show up for the Swedish trip."

(Americans who will compete in the Swedish meet left for Stockholm from London by airplane today without Owens.)

Brandage reiterated his view later in a special radio to the United States.

"There has been no action taken against Owens and I hope there will be none," he said, "it would be most embarrassing."

"The A. A. U. has a rule which provides that if an athlete promises to appear, and makes a regular entry he will be automatically suspended unless he has a legitimate excuse. I hope Owens will keep his engagements. I saw him in London Saturday, and he gave no indication that he planned not to go to Sweden and Norway."

WRONG ADVICE?

"On that occasion I complimented Owens on his performances, popularity and behavior at Berlin. He's a fine chap and I hope he isn't getting the wrong kind of advice."

Brandage pointed out that several cities in Sweden and Norway had gone to considerable pains and expense in preparing for Owens' appearances.

Owens is a fine American citizen, and can do as he pleases," said Brandage, "but I

Cantor Tells Plans
To 'Father' Owens

EDDIE CANTOR, big-eyed film comedian, tonight prepared to launch the national start of his personal career of Owens, world's fastest runner—providing youngaccepts the offer.

Cantors who telephoned a bid of $25,000 for Owens on a tour
Care If He's Banned

LONDON, Aug. 17.—Jesse
Owens, disgusted with his treatment by the A. A. U., told the
United Press tonight that he didn't give "a couple of hoots" whether
he was suspended by that body or not.

"I guess I might as well consider myself suspended," said
Owens, "because I'm not going to participate in the track meet
scheduled in Sweden starting Wednesday. I'm going home because I'm
tired and I want to see my wife. It's been exactly two
months and three weeks since I saw her."

Owens smiled and shrugged his shoulders when he was told
that Dan Ferris, secretary of the A. A. U., had said the Ohio State star
would be suspended automatically if he didn't appear for the meet.

Stockholm August 19-21.

Owens was suspended.

The boys to Sweden. Well, the boy went today and the meet starts
Wednesday, and I'll sail Wednesday. So guess I'm suspended, because I
shall not participate."

Larry Snyder, Ohio State's co-train and advisor in the
Negro matters, suspended against the A. A. U. officials,
said: "We've heard no official announcement, but if
it's true it's unfair."

Owens said: "I don't know if it's true.

Owens suspended.

In saying that too much running always made him go
dry, as it did last year when he was beaten by Eulace Peacock,
Temple University Negro, in the A. A. U. meet, Owens said that
he couldn't continue to compete as often as the A. A. U. officials
wanted him to.

"I certainly don't want that to happen again. I'm dog tired and
need a rest after all the running I've done. I'm not criticising the
A. A. U., but I think they're being very unfair to me. Anyway, my
conscience is clear."

Owens' Absence Okey With Swedish Authorities

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 17.—UB—
Swedish athletic authorities today
said they would take no action if
Jesse Owens did not compete in the
meet beginning Wednesday, be-
cause they consider the matter a
domestic American affair.

Carpenter Hurls
Discus 174 Ft.

PRAGUE, Aug. 17.—UP—Kenneth
Carpenter of Compton, Calif.,
who won the Olympic discus
championship with a toss of 185 feet
6.59-94 inches, did 174 feet 1.31-84
inches in an exhibition meet today.
Walter D. Wood of Summit, N. J.,
was second with a toss of 163 feet
10.31-83 inches.

Owens Suspension to Meet

LONDON, Aug. 16.—White
men and Negroes at the
Olympic Games in Berlin
all received an added
honor this morning
in the person of
Jesse Owens, for
he was the first
American to win
a gold medal in
track and field.

Owens, who made
a record in the 100-
yard dash, was
granted a
blanket
visa by
the
German
government, which
means that
he is
free
from
military
service while
in
Germany.

Owens, who
has
five
National
League
titles,
was
not
given
a
similar
privilege
when
he
went
to
the
1932
Olympics
in
Los
Angeles.

Owens' visit to
Germany
was

considered
by
many
as
a
great
insult
to
Negroes.

However,
Owens
failed
to
make
an
impression
on
the
German
public,
for
he
was
not
able
to
get
into
the
German
schools,
where
he

would
have
been
very
popular.

On
the
other
hand,
Owens
was
welcoming
at
the
aerodrome,
where
he
was
given
a
big
dinner
by
the
German
police.

Owens
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Owens Offers $2500 a Week

When Jesse Owens was offered $2500 a week for 10 appearances in an orchestra he said: "If I'm offered enough I'll probably turn professional."

When Mrs. Eleanor Holm Jarrett was offered an amount allowing her name to be signed to stories about pie games she accepted and said: "I don't know why this should affect my amateur standing. I'm only receiving regular rates."

Owens might have accepted that offer and tried to preserve his amateur standing at the same time. He could have argued that he was merely making appearances with a band and ruining his athletic fame.

Of course that would be ridiculous. But no one offered by Mrs. Jarrett was that technically guilty of the amateur rules. The obvious hope was that she would turn out to hear Mrs. Jarrett or Mrs. Eleanor Holm Jarrett.

Can Jesse Sing or Play?

I never heard Jesse Owens try to sing. Maybe he can. I saw a photo of him puffing into a saxophone but suspected phoniness. If he can play a saxophone—or any other instrument—I never heard of it.

But perhaps he can dance. Most colored boys can and about the nimblest feet in history.

If he could dance and would sign with an orchestra as a dancer would he be technically violating the amateur rules?

He'd at least have an argument there. It's a credit to Jesse and his advisers that he's not trying to straddle the issue. He'll do one of two things. If the offer is big enough he'll turn pro. If it isn't he'll remain an amateur.

Bobby Jones—one of the finest sportsmen I've ever met—not a fine example in this respect. When he decided to cash in on his golfing fame by making movies, writing articles and designing and endorsing golf clubs, he voluntarily relinquished his amateur status. He didn't wait for the U. S. G. A. to form the painful duty of declaring him a professional.

Which also reminds me of Johnny Dawson who was for a Chicago sporting gentleman. He'd never played golf until he learned to and learned to play it well enough to be a threat he was declared because he was using his ability to promote his business interests. That has always seemed a bit ridiculous to me. But it would have been technically correct.

Dawson, using his golf ability for gain. But he didn't get because of that ability.
Owens Departs
or U. S. to Sift
His Pro Offers

Going to See Wife and Baby
First, Says Olympic Star,
Returning on Queen Mary

Jesse Owens Tired
Of Running Grind;
He’s Coming Home

JESSE OWENS was a bit tired of Europe and track meets and cheers
and adulation and pork chops and roasts.
He wanted to get back to the

United States and find out whether

these thousands of dollars being
offered him by wire were real

money or just talk.

So he decided he was coming
home. And Larry Snyder, his
coach, decided to come along.

So Jesse is suspended by the
A. A. U. and Snyder is in bed
with the brass hats who run it.

Despite which unhappy situation
Jesse and Larry will be on the

Queen Mary when she sails for

the United States Wednesday.

And Jesse will probably sign a

professional contract shortly after

his arrival at home.

And the American Olympic

squad has started its junket to

Sweden without its outstanding

star.

All of which is very sad and to

be deplored and all that.

But I can’t help laughing a bit

at the flabbergasted brass hats

who run the A. A. U.

They’ve suspended Owens, who

was ready to give up his amateur

standing and turn professional

anyhow.

By so doing they’ve exhibited a

vindictiveness which will merely

further antagonize the general

public which was already a bit fed

up on their officiousness.

* * *

What Was Required?

I SUPPOSE, to be strictly a nice boy, Jesse should have taken the

trip to Sweden and such other trips as the A. A. U. wanted to

arrange for him.

But I’m not so sure.

As I got it, Jesse signed up to

run in the Olympic games. In get-

ing ready for those games he

started, almost a year ago, train-

ning and practicing and getting

himself into the best possible

shape.

He’d been running since be-

fore the snow left the ground,

running indoors and running out-

doors. He’d drilled until he must

have wished he’d never see a track

shoe again.

He’d done everything asked for

him in qualifying meets and in

the games themselves and in keep-

ing in condition and obeying train-

ing rules. He’d won three events

individually and ran one leg on the

winning sprint relay team.

His original plan had called

for him to sail for home today.

But he’d proved the big shot—

the big drawing card—with the

American squad. All Europe want-

ed to see him. SAAU offi-

cials started arranging junkets

here and there. Jesse went on a

couple of them. Then he decided

he’d had enough.

So he quit.

Maybe he shouldn’t have quit.

But I believe he had the sym-

pathy of most of the fair-minded

sport fans with him.

These side trips weren’t in his

original schedule. He certainly

was entitled to choose whether or

not he took them.

And the A.A.U.—by barring him

—has simply made it a bit easier

for him to make up his mind to

turn professional.
On to Berlin before Boarding Boat for Atlantic Crossing

Two famous sprinters talk it over. Jesse Owens is shown giving Helen Stephens, women’s world record wrecker, a few pointers on the start.

Jack Torrance, 320 pounds, holds Katherine Rawls, 108 pounds, famous aquatic swimmer.

Jesse Owens lookssmug. Both the famous sprinters stand up the day before sailing for Berlin.
Coach Larry Snyder Doubts if Stage Appearances Would Technically Make Him A Professional

By TOMMY DEVINE

The flying feet that carried Jesse Owens to four Olympic triumphs and listed 12 world's marks beside his name may shuffle across the screen or stageboards within the next few months without taking the coffee-colored sprint act out of amateur track competition.

Larry Snyder, the prematurely gray and affable Young Ohio State track coach, revealed today that his No. 1 protege will not automatically retire from the amateur ranks if he accepts one of the screen, stage or radio offers made following his triumphs at Berlin.

Snyder Doubtful

"Since shortly after Jesse completed his 'grand slam' at Berlin," Snyder said, "the air has been filled with talk of him turning professional. He has a dozen or more very attractive offers and most certainly will take one of them, but I'm not positive he would thus relinquish his right to run as an amateur."

Snyder, who was one of the central figures in another celebration in honor of Owens yesterday, said the preliminary drafts of the offers made the track ace did not cast him in the role of a runner and that consequently he did not believe it could be technically interpreted Jesse was capitalizing on his track fame.

"That, however," Snyder stated, "is another thing that would have to be worked out. Jesse has assured me he will return to school upon the conclusion of the contract he signs and then we will submit his entire case to the faculty board of the Western Conference and permit it to determine whether he is eligible for any further intercollegiate competition."

Owens, accompanied by his wife and Snyder, was to leave here today for Cleveland and then go on to New York for a final inspection of the offers.

"We may have an announcement of Jesse's plans to make in 24 hours or it may not be until the middle of next week," Snyder stated.

Cantor Deal May Be Off

Close friends of Owens disclosed that it was highly improbable the sprinter would accept the most prominently mentioned proposition, one which coupled the Ohio State ace with Eddie Cantor, movie comedian. Difficulties which arose when it was discussed upon Jesse's arrival from Europe were said to have resulted in the matter being dropped for the time being.

After Owens fulfills the stage, screen or radio contract he accepts, plans call for his return to Ohio State where he needs one year's work before graduation. He has three or four offers for affiliation with Negro educational systems that are dependent upon
The man dwarfed these monuments

The little, scruffy lot in Oakville, Ala., isn't much to look at. Two modest monuments announce to the curious handful of visitors each day that James Cleveland Owens was born there. One of the markers even has "Jesse" Owens' birthdate wrong, putting it in 1914 instead of the correct date a year earlier.

Originally, there was supposed to be a 17-acre city park next to it. "It's just an empty lot, with a basketball backboard and a volleyball court," said Gloria Fitzgerald, a distant relative of James Cleveland Owens by marriage, who is the keeper of legacy of the East Tech and Ohio State Olympian.

Fitzgerald keeps several thick notebooks filled with newspaper clippings devoted to the grudging, small-minded way in which Lawrence County, Ala., remembers the sharecropper's son who became one of the greatest athletes of the century. Now living in seclusion in Oakville, estranged from her husband in Alabama, she opens the notebooks and relives the battles of 10 years ago, when officials in Moulton, the county seat, voted down plans for an Owens memorial on the courthouse lawn. It went to Oakville by default.

The incredible reasoning was that if the county commissioners put up a memorial to Owens, wouldn't you know, sooner or later everybody would want one? Indeed, a proposal was later made to honor General Phillip Dale Roddy, who commanded the area's Confederate troops in the Civil War.

Before the markers were unveiled, a gang of vandals unsuccessfully tried to to demolish one of them.

Today, Fitzgerald wonders where the $250,000 went that she helped raise to beautify the park. A proposed 10-foot-tall statue of Jesse Owens was born there.
Jesse Owens' Olympic gold medal sold for $1.4 million

Associated Press  Monday December 9, 2013 9:41 AM

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. — An Olympic gold medal won by Jesse Owens at the 1936 Berlin Games has sold for a record $1.4 million in an online auction.

SCP Auctions said Pittsburgh Penguins co-owner Ron Burkle paid $1,466,574, the highest price for a piece of Olympic memorabilia. The online auction ended Sunday.

"We just hope that it's purchased by an institution where the public could have access to it, a museum or something like that," Owens' daughter, Marlene Owens Rankin of Chicago, told The Associated Press before the sale.

The auction house said Burkle, who also owns William Faulkner's Nobel Prize for literature, has plans for an educational tour of the historic pieces. He wasn't available for comment Sunday.

The Los Angeles billionaire investor's holdings include retail, food and entertainment companies.

Owens won gold in the 100- and 200-meters, 400 relay and long jump at the games attended by Adolf Hitler, who used the Olympics to showcase his ideas of Aryan supremacy.

According to the auction house based in Laguna Niguel, Calif., the medal is unidentifiable to a specific event. It said Owens gave the medal to his friend, dancer and movie star Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, as thanks for helping Owens find work in entertainment after he returned from Berlin.

The medal was sold by the estate of Robinson's late widow, Elaine Plaines-Robinson. SCP Auctions Vice President Dan Imler said the Owens family confirmed the medal is original; the whereabouts of the other three is unknown.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the medal will be donated to the Jesse Owens Foundation. The Robinson family had declined to comment on the auction, but Imler said they also plan to use the proceeds to pay college tuition.

Last month, IOC President Thomas Bach told the AP that the Owens medal is "a part of world heritage."

"(It has) an importance far beyond the sporting achievements of Jesse Owens, which is part of world history," Bach said. "To put this up for an auction is for me a very difficult decision (to accept)."

The record price for the Owens medal surpassed that of a silver cup awarded to the winner of the first modern-day Olympic marathon in 1896 that sold for $865,000 in April 2012. It also topped the highest price paid for a U.S. Olympic item -- the "Miracle on Ice" jersey worn by team captain Mike Eruzione in 1980 that sold for $657,250 last February.

"We are honored to have handled what we consider to be among the most incredible sports artifacts ever offered at auction," Imler said. "The
The worldwide attention garnered by the auction of Jesse Owens' 1936 gold medal and the extraordinary auction result proves that Owens' triumphant legacy continues to endure."

The auction, including more than 1,000 sports memorabilia items, brought in a total of nearly $4.5 million.

Other top lots included Jackie Robinson's game-used bats from his historic 1949 National League Most Valuable Player season and the 1955 World Series, which sold for $183,500 and $128,617, respectively; and a Jackie Robinson single-signed baseball attracted a record bid of $104,765.
1936 USA Summer Olympic Medals - An Afterthought

The Closing Ceremonies of the XI Olympiad were celebrated in Berlin, August 18th, 1936. Three days later a luncheon took place in a bar just off Broadway at 50th St. & 8th Ave. to plan a reception for the US athletes who had participated in the Summer Olympics. Travel then did not have many options and the bulk of the US contingent was returning to the US on two ships; the Roosevelt which docked in NY on August 28th and the Manhattan which landed in NY on September 3rd. Bill Robinson (Mr. Bojangles) called Jesse Owens from Jack Dempsey's Restaurant and Bar during lunch to confirm his participation in the 'Welcome Home' ceremonies. On September 3, when the second ship came in, all the athletes met up in Battery Park and they were then honored with a ticker tape parade up Broadway to Harlem and then over to Randall's Island where the official reception and the presentations of medals took place.

Each of the men and women of the American delegation got a special medal, silver for those who finished 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Berlin and bronze for those who participated. At lunch they decided the medal would bear the seal of the City of New York on one side and on the other the symbol of the Olympics - an up stretched hand holding the Olympic Wreath. The guys at Medallic Art Co. whose offices were just across town from Jack Dempsey's at 51st and 3rd must have had a good laugh. "You want what? When?" After learning that new art was impossible, the ad hoc committee looked at the designs available; found a seal they liked and settled on the Arm & Laurel, a stock design created by Julio Kilenyi in 1931 and one much used over the years. It is still available today from Medallic Art. The committee got their up thrust arm but had to settle for a laurel branch rather than an Olympic Wreath.

The medal is 2-inches wide and is edge marked MEDALLIC ART CO. NY. The obverse has the Seal of the City of New York as the central device. 2-line legend above: PRESENTED BY / FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA. then a 2-line inscription: MAYOR / TO. Beneath the seal is this 2-line legend with the first line being the engraved name of the recipient. In this case: CONSETTA A. CARUCCIO / 1936 OLYMPIAN. This composition would have been done in-house by Medallic Art. Co. There is no space in 'LaGuardia,' yet there is one on the medal. Oops! Haste makes space.
Fiorello Henry LaGuardia (1882 – 1947) was the Republican Mayor of New York City for three terms from 1934 to 1945. Previously he had been elected to Congress in 1916 and 1918, and again from 1922 through 1930. Irascible, energetic and charismatic, he craved publicity and is acclaimed as one of the three or four greatest mayors in American history. Only five feet tall, he was called "the Little Flower" (Fiorello is Italian for "little flower.")

Consetta A. Caruccio-Lenz (1918 - 1980) the recipient of the illustrated medal was an American gymnast who competed in the 1936 Summer Olympics. She carried the US flag during the Opening Ceremonies. She was one of the few 1936 Olympians who came back to compete in the 1948 Summer Olympics where she won a bronze medal as a member of the women's gymnast team. Connie Lenz was an outspoken advocate for woman's sports and a lifelong coach and mentor to female athletes. And she was a great tap dancer. Really.

The American Olympic contingent had about 360 members. The 'about' is there because one or two members were disqualified without ever competing. Some members stayed on in Europe after the games, some, despite all the blandishments offered by New York City when the Roosevelt docked, couldn't get home fast enough. The final count for the ticker tape parade and municipal reception with Mayor LaGuardia was 121 Olympians, fully one third of the American team, 75 of whom had just arrived on the Manhattan.

This is a picture of the medal presentation at Randall's Island on September 3,1936. Mayor LaGuardia is just to the right of the American flag and facing him are Helen Stevens, Jesse Owens, Glenn Morris, Alice Arden and Betty Robinson in that order. Stevens and Owens won multiple gold medals, Morris and Robinson each won gold and Arden tied for ninth in the high jump. This picture is from the UK Mirror 16 July 2012, "100 Bizarre Facts About the Olympic Games" by Steve Anglesey. The source is uncredited. (Maybe Getty Images)
There were 83 American athletes who won Olympic gold, silver or bronze. This writer has never seen a NYC silver medal. He has seen a half dozen NYC bronze medals, two of which were unnamed. He, therefore, would estimate that Medallic Art struck no more that 100 silver and 300 bronze medals. Truly, quite a rare afterthought.

The log for the details of this story came from the New York Times issues of August 22nd, 28th and September 4th, 1936. And a tip of the hat to John Liffiton whose smart cover story on the Berlin Olympic medals of 1936 gave impetus to this afterthought.