

HENRY HERBERT MCKENLEY is the first Jamaican to establish a world record in track athletics, and he is still considered by some of the experts to

be one of the outstanding quarter milers of all time. He was the first man in the world to run 46 seconds for the 440 yards on June 5, 1948, and also the first to break 46 seconds for the 400 metres when he did 45.9 seconds over this distance on July 3, 1948.

A peculiar feature of McKenley's career is that he was not the outstanding schoolboy athlete of his day. During the five years 1938–1942, he performed creditably but he was never outstanding. After leaving Secondary School however, he was granted a scholarship to Boston College and it was there that his spectacular development started.

During his career he held five world records; won four Olympic medals – one gold and three silver; ran an incredible 44.6 seconds for his leg of the 1600 metres relay at Helsinki in 1952 and became the first and only athlete to be a finalist in the 100, 200 and 400 metres in Olympic competition.

He was born on July 10, 1922 in Pleasant Valley, Clarendon. He has been Supervisor of Athletics in Jamaica since 1954.