

FLASHBACK...FLASHBACK...FLASHBACK...

When Herb McKenley broke the 440-yard record

(In our continuing series on the great Jamaican athlete Herb McKenley, today we feature an article carried by the St Louis Dispatch, Missouri, USA, in June 1946.) Herb will be honoured by a special committee at a testimonial dinner at the Wyndham hotel in Kingston on Friday, June 9.

A little sprinter from the island of Jamaica, Herb McKenley, broke the world record for the 440-yard dash to highlights this year's Big Ten outdoor track and field championships.

The meet, one of the leading events of its kind, was held on the cold, rainy afternoon on June 1 in University of Illinois's spacious Memorial Stadium at Champaign.

Led by McKenley, the Illinois athletes won seven of 14 events and piled up 66 3/4 points for a lopsided victory.

Other final point standings were: Ohio State 31 1/2; Michigan 25; Minnesota 22; Purdue 18; Indiana 15; Northwestern 14; Wisconsin 13 3/4; Iowa 4; Chicago 0.

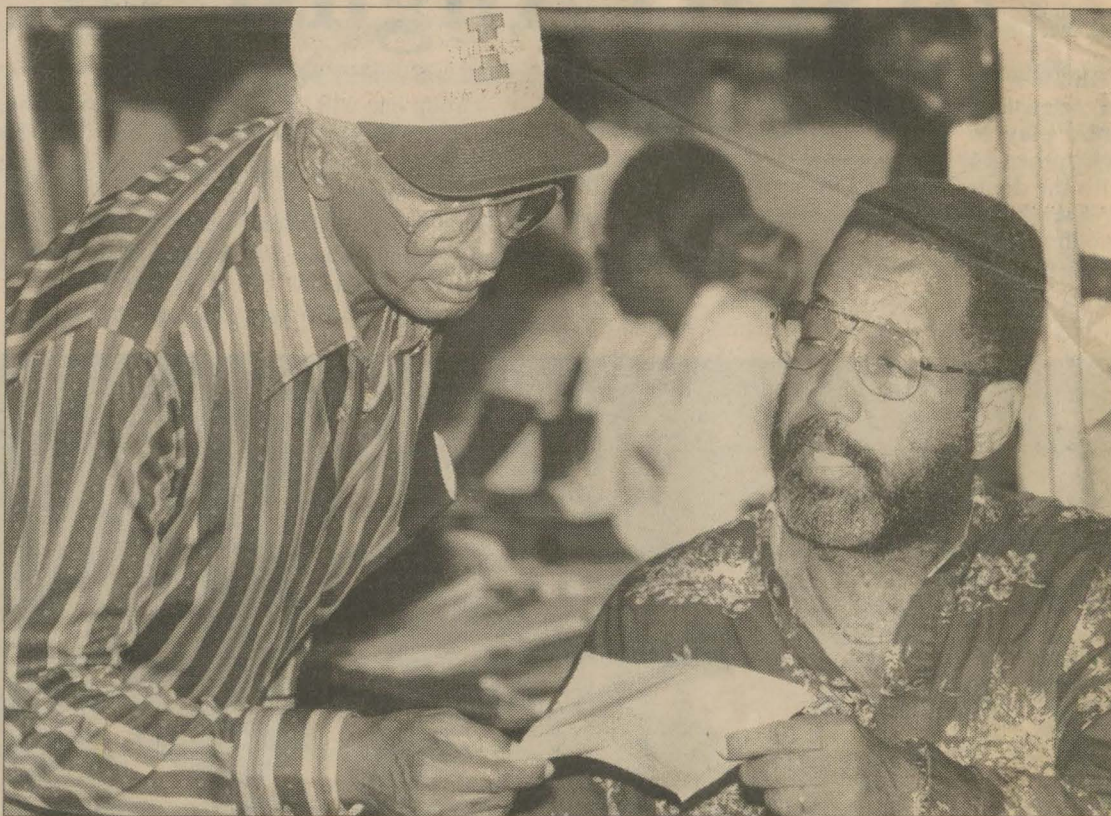
McKenley also won the 220-yard

dash, ran as anchor man as the Illinois relay team broke the conference mile relay record.

Another double winner was Bill Bangert, a St Louisan attending Purdue, who won the discus and shot-put. Another Jamaican, Lloyd La Beach of Wisconsin, took individual scoring honours with 12 1/2 points by winning first in the 100-yard dash, second in the 220, and tying for second in broad jump.

With a long, perfectly balanced stride, McKenley, in drizzling rain, stepped off the quarter mile in 46.2 seconds, two-tenths of a second faster than the old record. To become the official world record, McKenley's time must be accepted by the National A.A.U. and the International Amateur Athletic Federation. These bodies will consider the fact that McKenley had a 6.2 mile wind behind him for the first 300 yards, bucked wind the rest of the distance.

A crowd of more than 8000 attended the meet, 46th in the history of the conference of midwestern universities.



McKenley (left) raps with sports journalist Bobby Fray during the recent Mutual Games. (Photo: Bryan Cummings)