

Citation for Herb McKenley

Recently, The Star featured citations to four of the six famous Jamaican sportsmen who were inducted in the Jamaica Sports Hall of Fame. Today, we present another inductee.

Herb McKenley's versatility as one of the world's great sprinters is proven by the fact that he is the only man over to have reached the Olympic finals in the 100, 200 and 400 metres. In 1951, as Jamaica's sole representative at the first Pan-American games, he won bronze medals in all three events, a unique achievement by any male athlete at the same major games. He is one of only two men to have won Olympic Medals in both the 100 and 400 metres. This five world records over the 400 metres, 440 yards and 1600 metres relay combined are the most ever set by a West Indian.

Herbert McKenley is the only West Indian to have won three medals at the same Olympic Games, the first to set a time distance measured world record, and the first man to run 440 yards in 46 seconds and 400 metres in under 46 seconds. This premier performance came at the 1952 Olympics where he won the three medals. The brightest of these, the bold, was for his part in the Jamaican world-record-breaking run of 3 minutes 03.9 seconds in the 1600 metres relay. The leg he ran was reported as

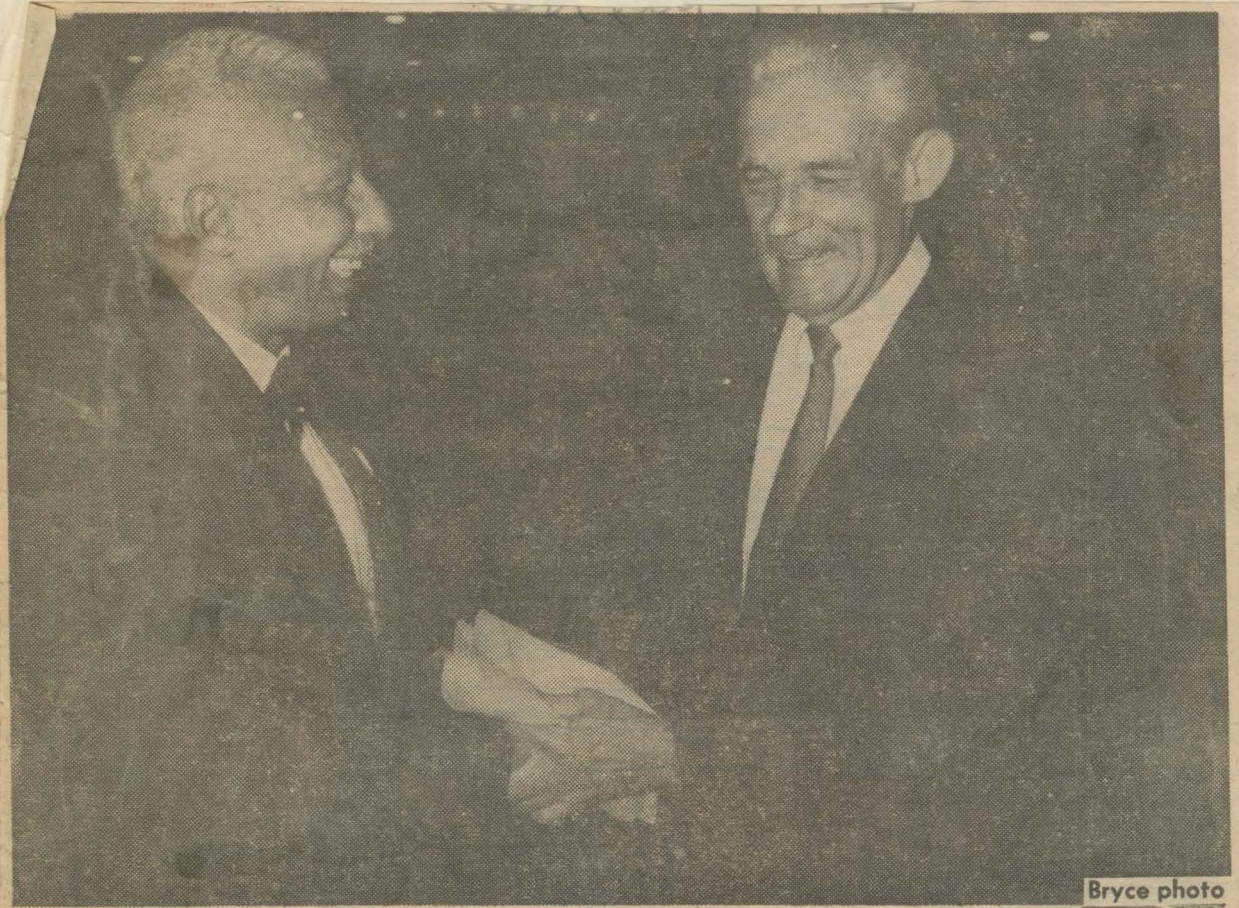
being the fastest ever up to that date.

Since retiring from competition. Herbert McKenley has made a great voluntary contri-

bution to the development of athletics at home and abroad, both as administrator and coach. He is the first Life President of the Jamaica Amateur Athletic Association. The International Amateur Federation honoured him with its fiftieth anniversary gold medal in 1987.

We are proud to induct Herbert McKenley, I.D. into the Jamaica Sports Hall of Fame.

National Library of Jamaica



Bryce photo

Famous sportsman, Herb McKenley (left) being congratulated by Prime Minister Michael Manley.