

SPORT



Olympic legend Herb McKenley (sitting) thanks athletes Michelle Burgher (left) and Danny McFarlane (second-left), who presented him with an autographed T-shirt signed by the 49 Jamaican athletes and nine team officials to the Athens Games, during a visit to McKenley's home in Mona, St Andrew yesterday. Others in picture (left to right) are Ian Forbes, managing-director of Sherwin Williams; Lincoln Eatman, team manager; Dennis Johnson, second vice-president of the JAAA; Mike Fennell, president of the JOA, and Vilma Charlton, fourth vice-president of the JAAA. (Photo: Karl McLarty)

2004 Olympians visit *B/N-McKENLEY, Herb* McKenley at home

Members of Jamaica's 2004 Olympic team paid a courtesy visit to the Hon Herb McKenley, OJ, at his residence on University Crescent in Mona, St Andrew, yesterday afternoon.

Danny McFarlane, silver medallist in the men's 400 metres hurdles, and Michelle Burgher, a member of the women's 4x400 bronze medalist relay team, were on hand to present a T-shirt signed by all 49 athletes and nine officials that travelled to Athens last month.

The 82 year-old McKenley, who has been restricted in movement and slowed in speech, did not travel to the Olympic Games for the first time

since 1948.

The Olympic great, who was the first man to run below 47 and 46 seconds in the 400 metres, said he was delighted that the athletes remembered him.

"It's a great thing. I never knew they thought of me as I am now, because what I did was so long ago that I never thought they would do this for me now," he said.

McKenley said the gesture made him feel 'great', and he was proud of the team's performance at the Games.

"I want to tell them (the athletes) that they must continue to perform well. It was fantastic... Continue to

do the work as you know it to be," he concluded.

According to team manager Lincoln Eatman, because this was the first Olympics that McKenley failed to attend in 56 years, all the members of the track and field team thought it would be a good gesture if they all signed a team jersey dedicated to the great Jamaican quarter-miler and sprinter.

"His impact on athletics in Jamaica has been tremendous and his contribution has been priceless, so as a gesture all the athletes signed the shirt and we got it framed and it was presented... by two of our medallists at the games," Eatman said.