

B/N



"Beyond the Tape"

Artist - Basil Watson

**MONUMENT TO
THE HON. HERB MCKENLEY, OM, OJ, CD**

Unveiled by
The Hon. Bruce Golding, MP
Prime Minister



PRIME MINISTER

Today we celebrate the achievements of a great Olympian, Herb McKenley. This statue which we unveil today, and which captures the essence of the man, will stand as a lasting tribute and a permanent reminder of this outstanding Jamaican.

Throughout his life Herb McKenley enjoyed the admiration of the world of athletics. His determination, stamina, courage, humility and strength inspired us all as Jamaicans.

Herb McKenley's achievements and records are formidable. Consider this: the only athlete, to this day, to post in the same year (1947) the world's best times for the one hundred, two hundred and four hundred metres; world records at 300 yards, 300 metres, 440 yards and 400 metres; competing in the finals of the 100 metres, 200 metres and 400 metres at the Olympics; and the winning of four Olympic medals.

What is not in the record books is what I consider to be Herb McKenley's greatest achievement: the guidance and nurturing he was able to give to several generations of young people in Jamaica. With his tutoring, many of our runners have become world record holders and today we are at a juncture which sees Jamaica placed at the centre of world athletics.

Herb McKenley contributed so much to Jamaica. Through this artistic and creative representation, we honour him and immortalise him for the generation that had the great privilege of knowing him as well as for the generations yet to come.

The Hon. Bruce Golding, MP
Prime Minister

'Beyond the Tape'



MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE

I am honoured to play a part, as the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, in this national tribute to Herb McKenley, the boy from Pleasant Valley who became a celebrated Olympian.

This man who in 1947 was the head of the list of world best times in the classic sprint events 100 metres (10.3), 200 metres (20.4) and 400 metres (46.2) and to date is the only person to have ever done this. This man whose second place finish in the 1952 Olympics was decided by a photo finish and a set square. This Jamaican who was no ordinary man.

Herb McKenley's legacy of passion, dedication and determination is revered by track and field fans and competitors across the world. He demonstrated calm steadfastness in his pursuits, tenacity in his duties and distinction in his performances.

Herb is part of the genesis of the longstanding excellence of the Jamaican athlete. He laid the foundation for the success we now enjoy.

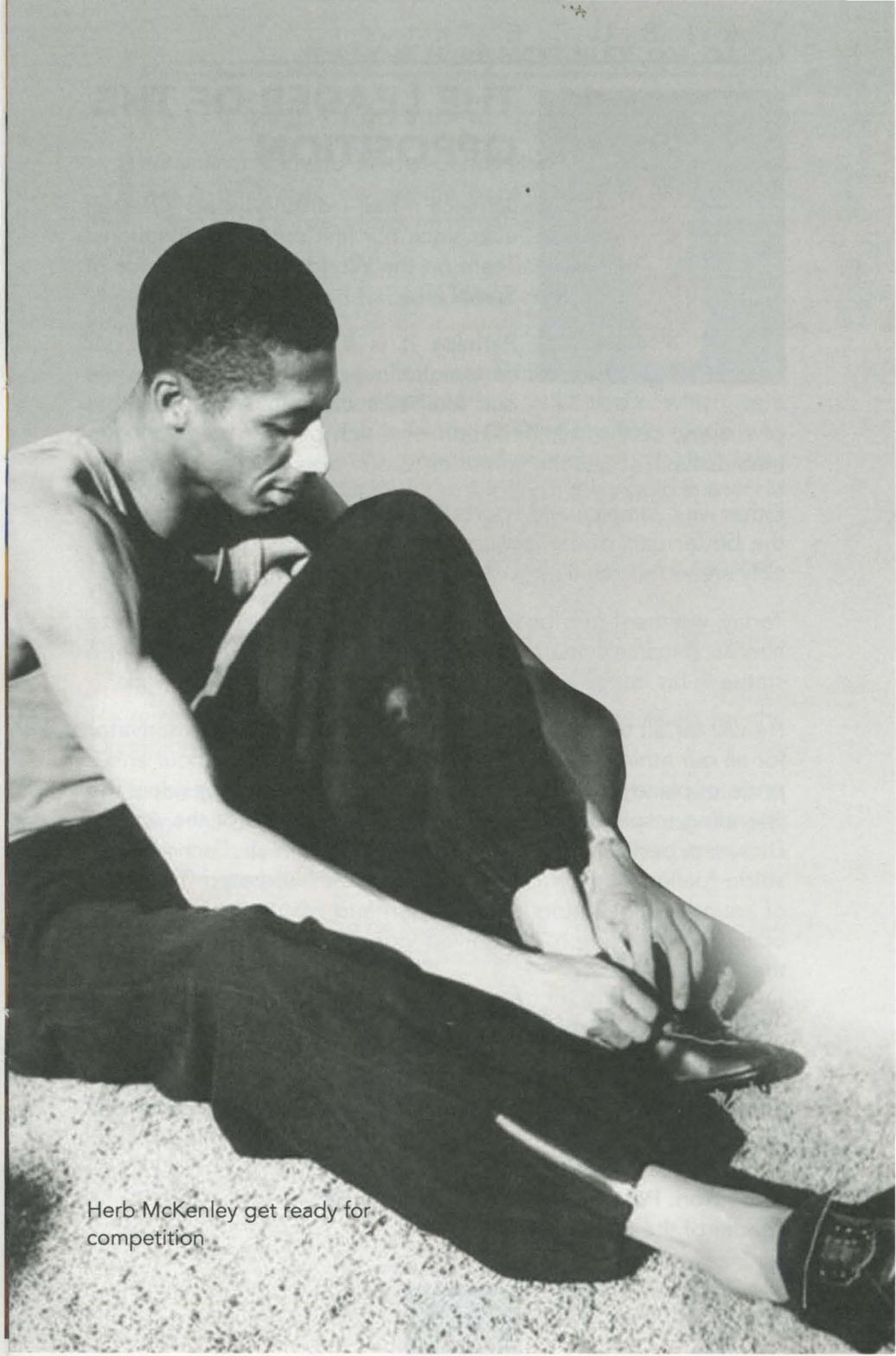
With this statue we have captured the glorious Herb – breaking the tape, arms out-stretched, dying strides, head tossed to the heavens, perhaps giving thanks for the achievement, with the clear message: "I gave it everything I had."

Generations of Jamaicans will look up at this monument of Herb and be inspired. It will remind us of the glory of the past as we prepare for the victories of tomorrow.

Hon. Olivia Grange, MP

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture

'Beyond the Tape'



Herb McKenley get ready for competition



THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Jamaica has distinguished herself ever since our first outing as a National Team on the World Stage and Fields of Sport.

Perhaps it is a distinction borne out of our heritage as competitors while our forebears contested the injustices of slavery, or the manifestation of a rich genetic reservoir that heralds back across the centuries to our roots in Africa.

Either way, Jamaica and Sports have been almost synonymous for the better part of the last century and certainly today, we arguably are at the zenith among countries in the World of Sports.

Today, we meet in tribute to Herb McKenley as we memorialize him as Jamaica's first true Sporting icon with the erection of a statue in his image within the precincts of Independence Park.

He will for all times stand as guard, as mentor and as motivator for all our athletes who come to this place. It is an honour and a pride of place that is so richly deserved when one considers the liberating inspiration he provided to the peoples of the African Diaspora, particularly those living in the Caribbean. Each winning stride fuelled a fervour of belief in self and liberated the spirits of countless spectators present then and who reflect upon and observe that triumph in archived video footage; teaching us all that indeed we can.

Such is the nature of the importance of today's activities and of the story represented and reflected by this tangible monument in honour of our Herb McKenley. It is right for us to honour him this way and to thank him in positive memory for paving the way for us all.

Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, ON, MP
Leader of the Opposition

"Beyond the Tape"

A National Treasure

Jamaican track and field legend, Herbert Henry McKenley was a trailblazer. He set the pace for Jamaican Athletics. Even in his sunset years, he remained a great inspiration for Jamaica's athletes.

He was born to run and became world renowned as one of the greatest runners ever.

Herb Mckenley won four olympic medals including three individual silver medals, between 1948 and 1952, two of which were in spectacular photo finish fashion. His Olympic gold medal was achieved in 1952, when he produced one of the greatest relay legs of all time as Jamaica took the 4 x 400m relay gold in a world record time.

He was the first man to run the quarter mile under 46 seconds, then under 45 seconds.

At various times he was world record holder at 300 yards, 440 yards, 300m and 400m.

He remains the only person to have reached the finals for the Olympic 100m, 200m and 400m.

He is the only athlete to have won medals in all three sprints in the same major games, which was the 1951 Pan American Games; and he's the only man in the 20th Century to win Olympic medals in the 100m and 400m.

By the time of his passing on November 26, 2007 he had won the hearts of the people of Jamaica and the people of the world.

Born: Clarendon, Jamaica, July 10, 1922, son of Alexander Givans McKenley, Medical Practitioner and Zilpha Bell Mannings - McKenley (both deceased)

Educated: Mico Practising School, Calabar High School, Boston College, University of Illinois

- P R O G R A M M E -

Master of Ceremonies:

Mr. Ed Barnes

Musical Prelude

Jamaica Military Band

Prayer

Rev. Dr. Stephen Jennings

President, Jamaica Baptist Union

Welcome

Master of Ceremonies

Musical Item

Calabar High School Choir

"It's Me Oh Lord"

Tribute

Mr. John Messam

President, Calabar Old Boys' Association

Tribute

Miss Vilma Charlton, OD

President, The Olympians Association of Jamaica

Musical Item

Calabar High School

"God Alone"

Tribute

Mr. Howard Aris, CD

President, Jamaica Amateur Athletics Association

Tribute

Hon. Michael Fennel, OJ, CD

President, Jamaica Olympic Association

Presentation of the Maquette to

Mrs. Beverly McKenley by artist, **Basil Watson**

Arrival of The Prime Minister

The Hon. Bruce Golding, MP and **Mrs. Lorna Golding**

and The President of the United Republic of Tanzania

His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete and **Her Excellency**

Salma Kikwete

Musical item

Charlemont High School

"Faithful"

Joint Tribute by Young Athletes

Hon. Usain Bolt, OJ, CD and **Mr. Asafa Powell, CD**

Remarks

Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, ON, MP

Leader of the Opposition

Remarks & Presentation

Hon. Olivia Grange, MP

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture

Presentation of miniature statues by

The Hon. Prime Minister

to **The President of Tanzania**

Address

The Hon. Bruce Golding, MP

Prime Minister

Unveiling of Herb McKenley Monument

by **The Hon. Bruce Golding, MP**

Vote of Thanks

Mr. Michael McKenley, Son

National Anthem of Tanzania

National Anthem of Jamaica





Prime Minister, the Hon Bruce Golding (left) and the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Hon Olivia Grange (right) examine the model of the monument to the late Hon Herb McKenley. Looking on is the artist Basil Watson.

Herb McKenley set and ready to go





Mrs Beverley McKenley admires the model of the monument to her late husband Herb McKenley

BASIL WATSON

Educated at Kingston College and the Jamaica School of Art, now the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Basil has studied under eminent Jamaican artists such as Alexander Cooper, Christopher Gonzales and Gene Pearson.

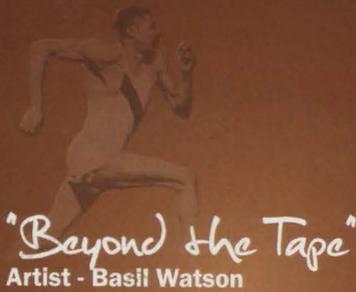
Son of pre-eminent painter Barrington Watson, Basil has a steeped heritage in the arts and a unique position within the Watson dynasty with a brother, Raymond; sister Jan; and son Kai all being artists.

Basil has numerous outstanding achievements within his chosen field, including:

- Producing along with brother Raymond, the first outdoor public Sculpture Park Exhibition in Jamaica at Holruth Park, Trafalgar Rd. (1990)
- Large outdoors sculptures at each of the three Universities in Jamaica: UTech, UWI and Northern Caribbean University
- "George Headley", Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica
- "Merlene Ottey", National Stadium, Kingston, Jamaica
- "The Netballer", National Arena, Kingston, Jamaica
- "Balance", Doctors' Cave Beach, Montego Bay, Jamaica, commemorating 100th anniversary
- "Viv Richards" cricket trophy contested between the West Indies and South Africa
- "Clive Lloyd" cricket trophy contested between the West Indies and Zimbabwe
- "Emerging Nation", a gift to Jamaica by the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, Holruth Park, Trafalgar Rd.
- "Heaven and Earth", Changchun Sculptre Park, Changchun, China

Basil has numerous other public sculptures to his credit as he garners an international reputation as a master figurative sculptor. He is represented in numerous private, public, and museum collections worldwide. Basil continues to contribute diligently through his art to life in Jamaica.

'Beyond the Tape'



November 25, 2009

Independence Park, National Stadium
Kingston, Jamaica

Produced by the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture

Designed & Printed by

