

Executive Summary

The Jesse Owens Memorial Park Board invites Champion International to invest in the Jesse Owens Memorial Park. (Facility needs list enclosed.)

The purpose of the Jesse Owens Memorial Park is to provide a living memorial to Jesse Owens, to honor and perpetuate his athletic achievements and sportsmanship, as well as his accomplishments as an individual. This will be accomplished in two ways. (1) By providing athletic and passive recreational facilities to Oakville and area residents. (2) By providing educational and historic facilities which will attract visitors to Oakville to visit the Jesse Owens statue, home replica, museum and related memorabilia.

Jesse Owens, world renowned track star and Olympian, was born in 1913 in Oakville, Alabama, located eight miles east of Moulton in Lawrence County, Alabama.

Snubbed by Adolph Hitler at the 1936 Olympics in Germany, Owens won four Olympic gold medals for our country and breaking three world records in one day. These major feats shattered Hitler's theory of Aryan superiority which he so boastfully proclaimed.

In 1950, the Associated Press recognized Owens as the "greatest track man of the century". His accomplishments have contributed more to his sport than any other track star, past or present. In 1970, he was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

Even after his death in 1980, Owens' contributions are still being appreciated in our country. In 1990, President George Bush presented Mrs. Ruth Owens, widow of Jesse Owens, with a fifth gold medal, The Congressional Medal of Honor, for his humanitarian contribution in the race of life.

Contributions to the Jesse Owens Memorial Park represent an investment opportunity for Champion International. For years to come, citizens from all walks of life will travel to Oakville to enjoy this living memorial honoring a great American. Champion's contribution will be appropriately recognized by all who visit the Memorial Park.