

JESSE OWENS MEMORIAL PARK BOARD

13075 Alabama Highway 157, Suite 6
Moulton, Alabama 35650



Lawrence County, Alabama
Birthplace of Jesse Owens

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December 4, 1995

Mr. Larry Stripland
Alabama Sports Hall of Fame
P. O. Box 10163
Birmingham, AL 35202

Dear Mr. Stripland:

Dr. David Bronner suggested I contact you regarding the Jesse Owens Memorial Park of which I am volunteer project director. This park is under construction at Oakville, a small community in my county. When completed it will be a one million dollar facility honoring Jesse Owens Olympic hero at this birthplace. Over a two-year period, we have secured \$400,000 in funding from corporations, private businessmen and government grants. This funding is earmarked for the welcome center, home replica, park pavilions, softball field, basketball court, and walking trail. A \$80,000 statue is nearing completion by Branco Medenica, Mountain Brook sculptor. A \$14,000 gold medallion court will surround the statue. Complex facilities not yet funded are the museum and track.

Knowing your interest in this type project, Dr. Bronner felt that you might want to be of assistance in raising the \$230,000 needed to build the museum. Our time line for completing the park complex has been shortened due to the welcomed announcement last fall that the Olympic Torch Run will visit the Park on June 29, 1996. The eyes of the world will be on Alabama during this once-in-a-lifetime event. Therefore, we are aggressively seeking funding before the end of January.

The Jesse Owens family of Chicago is supportive of the park. They have promised personal items for loan to the museum. In addition, they will be present June 29 for the Torch Visit, unveiling of the bronze statue and accompanying ceremonies.

I know that your influence is far-reaching and are hopeful that you will join in this fitting tribute to an Alabama-born world-renowned Olympic hero. Enclosed is my business card. I would be delighted to come to Birmingham at your convenience to provide further details.

Sincerely,

James E. Pinion
Board Member/Project Director

cc: Dr. David Bronner