

# Riverfront

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1998

## Admiring tribute to Jesse

Eddie Hill of Philadelphia, a defensive back for the Philadelphia Eagles during the Norm Van Brocklin era, was more than an interested observer at the Jesse Owens Museum in Oakville. He worked with Owens on a junior track program in Arizona, returned with him to Berlin to help edit a documentary on the 1936 Olympic Games and was a pallbearer at his friend's funeral.



**You  
Don't  
Say**  
Ken Retherford

James Pinion, who led the drive to fund the museum, said Eddie phoned him to say he would be in the area and would like to see what the community has done for its native son.

James said Eddie spent a couple of hours at the museum and seemed amazed at what had been accomplished.

"He said it is much more than he thought it would be," James recalls.

Eddie, who played against such greats as quarterback Johnny Unitas of the old Baltimore Colts, is a big man who walks with the aid of a cane.

"What Alabama and the county has done here is remarkable. You'll never find a more deserving human being, a more deserving hero, than Jesse," Eddie said.