

Trenton Jackson

(1942-2007)

Trenton Jackson, the inaugural member of the Rochester Track Club Hall-of-Fame in 1970 died suddenly at Strong Memorial Hospital yesterday, March 25, 2007. He was 65 years old.

On June 3, 1961, he ran the 100-yard dash in 9.4 seconds to match the National High School record set by Jesse Owens in 1933. One stopwatch timed him in 9.3 and the other two had 9.4's. Nicknamed the "Franklin Flash" he was a star on the Quakers' 1960 Section V Class AA championship basketball team. According to Mauro Panaggio, his H.S. basketball coach, "he was so gifted – so fast, amazing dexterity. He was a natural."

Trent went on to earn a football and track scholarship to the University of Illinois and played in their victory over Washington in the 1964 Rose Bowl. He was a teammate of Dick Butkus at Illinois. After college, he played briefly with the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles and the Washington Redskins as a wide receiver and kick return specialist.

In 1964 Trent finished 2nd to "Bullet" Bob Hayes at the U.S. Olympic Trials 100-meter dash to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Team. Many rated him as one of the favorites to medal in the Tokyo Olympic 100 meter dash. It was not to be. Trent won his trials heat and finished a close second in his quarter-final but strained a hamstring during the semi-finals match up with Bob Hayes and finished last in the race. He was finished for the Olympics. He also missed the opportunity to run on the U.S. 4 x 100m Relay team which easily won the Gold medal.

After his brief NFL career he returned to Rochester and taught and coached at Franklin H.S. for 26 years winning six Section V basketball titles. He represented the Rochester Track Club when he ran in the 1964 U.S. Olympic Trials. Later, he often ran in the local summer track meets at RIT. Even in his late 40 and early 50's, Trent was known as one of the quickest starters in the 100. He was also a member of the Section V Track and Field, Football and Basketball Hall of Fames.

The 1964 Tokyo Olympic results for Trent Jackson are listed below:

1st Round

October 14, 1964

10:00 a.m.

100m Dash

Heat B

1	Jackson, Trenton	U.S.A.	10.5
2	Radford, Peter Frank	BRITAIN	10.6
3	El Maachi Bouchaib, B.	MOROCCO	10.6
4	Csutoras, Csaba	HUNGARY	10.7
5	Du Preez, Johan	RHODESIA	10.7
6	Chung, Ki Sun	KOREA	11.0
7	Valles, Arnulfo V.	PHILPINS	11.1

Weather—Rainy
Humidity—94.0 per cent
Temperature—16.7°C
Wind—2.51m Against Wind

2nd Round

October 14, 1964

2:40 p.m.

Heat A

1	Jerome, Harry	CANADA	10.3
2	Jackson, Trenton	U.S.A.	10.4
3	Obersiebrasse, Fritz	GERMANY	10.4
4	Kone, Gaoussou	IVRCOAST	10.4
5	Johnson, Dennis O.	JAMAICA	10.5
6	Dudziak, Marian	POLAND	10.5
7	Laidebeur, Bernard	FRANCE	10.5
8	Earle, William Joheph	AUSTRAL	10.6

Weather — Cloudy
Humidity —87.0 per cent
Temperature— 17.6°C
Wind—1.90 m Fair Wind

Semi-Final

October 15, 1964

2:00 p.m.

Heat A

1	Hayes, Robert L.	U.S.A.	9.9
2	Maniak, Wieslaw Jan	POLAND	10.1
3	Robinson, Thomas Augustus	BAHAMAS	10.2
4	Schumann, Heinz	GERMANY	10.3
5	Lay, Robert William	AUSTRALA	10.3
6	McNeil, Pablo S.	JAMAICA	10.3
7	Herrera, Arquimedes	VENEZULA	10.4
8	Jackson, Trenton	U.S.A.	10.6

Weather —Fine
Humidity —42.0 per cent
Temperature—23.8°C
Wind—5.28 m Fair Wind

Bob Hayes 9.9 seconds time in winning the semi-final bested the current world record. It was not ratified as a new world record because of the favoring wind exceeding the allowable standard.

