

Name _____ Date _____

Jesse Owens



Jesse Cleveland Owens, known as J.C. and then as Jesse was born on September 12, 1913 in Danville, Alabama. Jesse worked in the cotton fields as a child. He was small for his age and quite shy. To earn spending money, he scrubbed kitchen floors and worked at a shoeshine stand.

In high school Jesse tried out for track. He won seventy-five races during his high school career. His coach especially admired Jesse's spirit and sense of fair play.

Jesse earned an athletic scholarship to Ohio State College. He gave record-breaking performances every track season, and made the 1936 Olympic track team.

At the Olympics in Berlin, Germany, Jesse won four gold medals. He set three records and tied a fourth at the Games. He set world records for sprinting, broad jumping and the 400 meter relay. He tied the world record in the 100 yard dash.

Circle True or False below to answer the questions.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Jesse was born in September. | True | False |
| 2. Jesse won four gold medals at the Olympics in Germany. | True | False |
| 3. Jesse went to Berlin University. | True | False |
| 4. Jesse used to work in the corn fields. | True | False |
| 5. Jesse was a little shy. | True | False |
| 6. Jesse broke many records in baseball. | True | False |
| 7. Jesse tied the world record for the 200 meter dash. | True | False |
| 8. Jesse is from Alabama. | True | False |

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