



For Immediate Release

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"Heroic-Size" Jim Thorpe Sculpture Unveiled

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, May 11, 2009 - When the dream of a museum and Sports Hall of Fame for the greatest sports heroes in Oklahoma's history became a reality, the Jim Thorpe Association envisioned an image of Jim Thorpe as the centerpiece for the grand entrance. Today, that statue was unveiled at a ceremony that included many distinguished guests, at the new Jim Thorpe Museum. Dave Smith, CEO of MTM Recognition was on hand to unveil the statue that his company manufactured. MTM Recognition, a division of Midwest Trophy in Del City, Oklahoma has been an Association supporter for more than 20 years having produced the prestigious Jim Thorpe award from its inception. The Jim Thorpe Award is presented annually to the best defensive back in College football by the Jim Thorpe Association.

As a long time partner and friend of the Association, Smith was approached to produce the heroic size bronze that would serve as a symbol of achievement for all Oklahoma athletes. MTM's artists and technicians enlarged the current ¼" scale Jim Thorpe sculpture created for the award, into a 150% life-size or heroic-sized bronze sculpture which stands 9' tall.

"MTM is honored to play an integral part in such an amazing legacy of Oklahoma sports history," said Smith. "We are in the business of symbolic recognition. It's what we do."

Production for the sculpture began in November, 2008 with completion and installation in May, 2009. The bronze sculpture process typically begins with a picture. A small clay sculpting is done called a maquette. It is a small replica of what the heroic- size statue will look like, but in resin. From approval of the maquette, the large clay sculpting begins. Approximate time in sculpting is typically 8 – 10 weeks. Once approved, the bronze production begins. Arrangements are then made for installation based on the customer's timeline. Installation can typically be accomplished in one day. In the case of the Jim Thorpe piece, the award served as the maquette. The finished piece stands over 9 feet tall and weighs approximately 1,400 lbs including the base.

MTM is headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, creating and implementing recognition products and programs that celebrate achievement, reward performance, honor service, and brand and reinforce company image. MTM offers comprehensive, meaningful, memorable recognition solutions.

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