

# UP FRONT



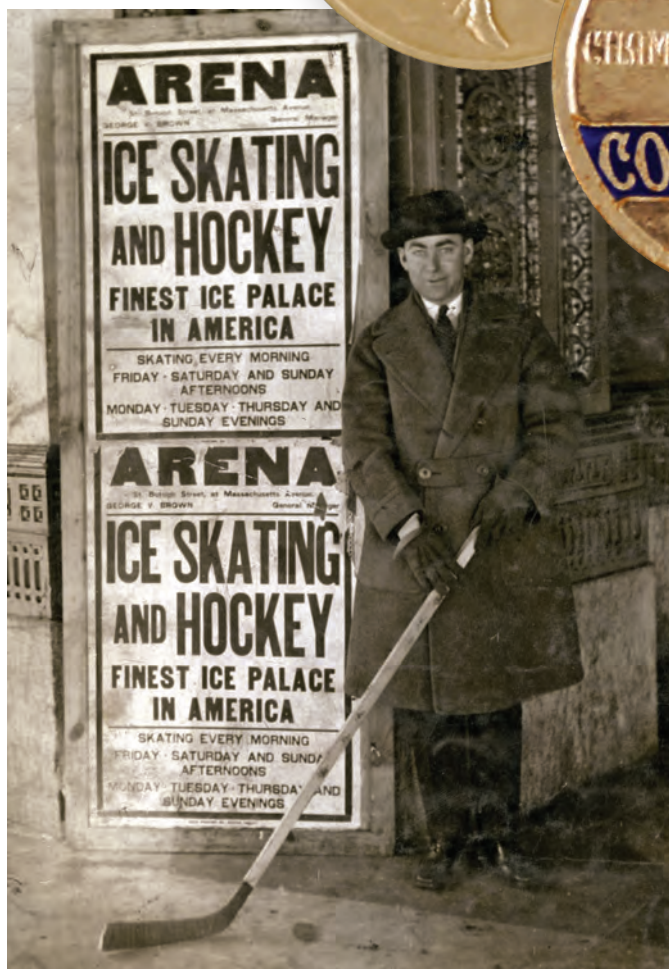
## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS MUSEUM

By Anne Madarasz,  
Co-Director, Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum

### Olympic Ice

The 2014 Olympics mark the 90th anniversary of the winter games and recall the importance of Pittsburgh in the story of ice hockey and the international games. The sport made its Olympic debut in 1920 at the Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium, where hockey was added to the existing summer sports. The tournament format competition drew 60 men from seven teams with games played on the indoor ice of the Palais de Glace d'Anvers (Ice Palace of Antwerp). The U.S. team, chosen by Roy Schooley, manager of both Duquesne Gardens and the Pittsburgh Yellow Jackets ice hockey team, featured 11 players, three with a connection to Pittsburgh—Herb Drury and brothers Larry and Joe McCormick (the latter captained the team). Joined by players from Boston and St. Paul, they trained at Duquesne Gardens, playing a series of exhibition games against Canadian teams to raise money for the journey to Belgium. There they represented the U.S., defeating Czechoslovakia 16-0 to capture the silver medal and outscoring their opponents by a 52 to 2 ratio.

A year after the Olympics, in 1921, the International Olympic Committee met to decide the site for the next summer games. It chose Paris for 1924, but also determined that France should host a separate International Winter Sports Week to feature competition



under the umbrella of the IOC. Those 11 days of events drew athletes from 16 nations and were such a success that, in 1925, the IOC determined to hold winter games every four years and retroactively designated the 1924 event as the first Winter Olympics.

Herb Drury, the only Pittsburgh player to return from the 1920 squad, competed for his adopted country in France. Born in Midland, Ontario, in 1895, Drury came to Pittsburgh

in 1916. He played ice hockey for the Yellow Jackets at Duquesne Gardens, then interrupted his hockey career to serve during World War I. After the 1920 Olympic tournament, Drury returned to Pittsburgh and played hockey for the Yellow Jackets and then competed for the new NHL team, the Pittsburgh Pirates. After being named again to the Olympic squad in 1924, the scrappy defenseman headed for the outdoor rink in Chamonix, France, to compete.



Silver Olympic medal won  
by Herb Drury, 1924.  
HHC Collections, gift of Frederick R. Favo.



Olympic pin, 1924.  
HHC Collections, gift of Frederick R. Favo.

Herb Drury outside  
Duquesne Gardens  
in the Oakland  
neighborhood of  
Pittsburgh, c. 1925.  
Frederick R. Favo.





**U.S. versus Belgium at Chamonix, France, January 28, 1924.**

Frederick R. Favo.



**Drury in Olympic sweater, 1924.**

Frederick R. Favo.

As the 258 athletes from 16 countries paraded through the streets of Chamonix for the opening ceremonies, Drury led the American contingent, carrying the banner for his adopted country. He had an incredible run at the Games, scoring 22 goals and notching three assists, including the only U.S. goal in the first period of the gold medal match against the Canadians. Drury came home to Pittsburgh with his silver medal, and returned to the Gardens to play for the Pirates. When the team moved to Philadelphia in 1930, Drury

went along, playing his final season in the NHL at age 35. He retired to Pittsburgh, living here until his death in 1965. His silver medal and a scrapbook of pictures documenting his professional and Olympic career were left to a nephew, Frederick Favo. Recently donated, this important story of an adopted son who made early hockey history is now part of the Sports Museum—documenting the story of a Pittsburgh hockey player who became an Olympic pioneer, twice winning silver on Olympic ice. \*

**The U.S. team parades through Chamonix, France, in the 1924 opening ceremonies led by Herb Drury carrying their banner.**

Frederick R. Favo.



**At each Olympics, the athletes receive a diploma to document their participation. This is Herb Drury's from the first Winter Olympics in 1924.**

HHC Collections, gift of Frederick R. Favo.

