SCORING A WORLD-CLASS SPORTS COLLECTION

It's hard to believe our Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum will open to the public less than a year from now, in November 2004. It seems like only yesterday that we were talking about the Sports Museum as a concept, an architectural rendering, and a dream for the History Center and the Pittsburgh region. Now, the steel beams are rising from the ground, the early drawings have become full-scale plans, and - most important - our once-burgeoning sports collection is clearly coming into its own as a world-class offering.

Recent acquisitions, such as the gloves of boxing great Billy Conn and Satchel Paige's baseball glove, reflect the unforgettable moments and milestones in the Pittsburgh sports legacy. Other items, such as the only rake that still exists from Oakmont Country Club, will present the region's "insider" sports stories. The rake was used to make the tricky furrowed bunkers once so characteristic of that golf club, and helped bring to life its philosophy that "no bad shot should go unpunished." At one time, there were more than 300 such punishing bunkers on the course.

The breadth and diversity of the sports collection will make for a one-of-a-kind experience. Stories from behind the Steel Curtain will share the spotlight with Olympic women swimmers from Homestead and even the national marble champions from Lawrenceville and the South Side. A probe into sports medicine and the future of sports will be just steps away from the most comprehensive Hall of Fame database in the country. Together, the stories will reflect a sense of history, community, and pride that separate our region from anywhere else in the country.

One of our most important goals for the Sports Museum is to present the stories that connect with your lives. Remember to visit our web site, www.pghhistory.org, to share your sports memories, vote for the most memorable moments in Pittsburgh sports, or get information about donating objects to our collection. We'll see you in the Sports Museum next year.

Andrew E. Masich,
President and Chief Executive Officer
Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

Olympic medalist and Homestead native Lenore Knight Wingard, second from right, at the 1932 Olympics.
HISTORY CENTER

INFORMATION

1212 SMALLMAN STREET, IN THE STRIP DISTRICT, (412) 454-6000
www.pghhistory.org

PARKING
$3 for four hours in the lot at 12th & Smallman Streets with History Center validation.

HOURS
Museum and Shop: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily.
Library & Archives: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.
Center closed on Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION
Members: Free
Adults $6; Students/Seniors $4.50; Ages 6-18 $3;
Ages 5 and under Free. Wheelchair accessible.
Café on site. Discovery Place for children.

GROUP SALES
Discounted rates. Advance booking required. Call (412) 454-6304.

MUSEUM SHOP
History-related gifts and souvenirs. Members enjoy a 10% discount.

FACILITY RENTAL
Your special event or wedding is a historic occasion. A timeless and distinctive setting, with superb dining provided by Common Plea Catering, the History Center is the perfect place to host your next banquet, party, reception, seminar, or meeting. Call (412) 454-6435 for information and reservations.

Winter '03-'04 Exhibits
AT THE HISTORY CENTER

LED BY THE SPIRIT: 125 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AT DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY THROUGH JANUARY 25, 2004

REDISCOVERING LEWIS & CLARK: A JOURNEY WITH THE ROONEY FAMILY THROUGH JANUARY 4, 2004

EYE OF THE STORM: UNKNOWN STORIES OF THE CIVIL WAR THROUGH JANUARY 4, 2004

ONGOING EXHIBITS:

KIDSBURGH

POINTS IN TIME: BUILDING A LIFE IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, 1750 – TODAY

DISCOVERY PLACE

PRIME COLLECTION OF WOODWORKING PLANES

GLASS: SHATTERING NOTIONS

HEINZ 57

WROUGHT METAL TREASURES FROM THE BLUM COLLECTION

Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History Road Transportation Hall examines the evolution of American carriages, automobiles, cycles, trucks, buses, and motorcycles.

http://americanhistory.si.edu/youmuseum/ex27road.htm

America on the Move, the largest exhibit ever produced by the National Museum of American History, anchors the General Motors Hall of Transportation and features more than 300 transportation artifacts, from an 1810s National Road marker to a 1999-ton, 92-foot-long "1401" locomotive. http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthemove

A 9.5-ton 1899 electric streetcar from Washington, D.C., featured in America on the Move.
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