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Go for the Gold at the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum
-Visitors can learn about Pittsburgh's Olympic connections and see medals, game-worn equipment, and more at the two-floor Sports Museum-

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 7, 2014 – With the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia underway, there is no better place to learn about Pittsburgh's Olympic history than the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum at the Heinz History Center.

In honor of the five Olympic rings, here are five ways visitors can get into the Olympic spirit at the Sports Museum:

- 1) Explore the Sports Museum's hockey section, which features game-used equipment from Pittsburgh's former and current Olympians such as **Mario Lemieux's** jersey, **Sidney Crosby's** hockey stick from his record-setting rookie season in 2005, and much more.
- 2) Learn about 1920s professional hockey star and two-time Olympian **Herb Drury** and see his silver medal from the Winter Olympics held in Chamonix, France in 1924. Visitors will also see items from Pittsburgh's early hockey history, including rare game-worn jerseys from the Pittsburgh Hornets minor league hockey team, which played at the Duquesne Gardens from 1936-1956 and the Civic Arena from 1961-67.
- 3) Cheer on current Team USA athletes with local ties, including track and field superstar **Lauryn Williams**, who will compete in Sochi as a member of the women's bobsled team. The Rochester, Pa. native's University of Miami spikes and singlet from her NCAA championship 100-meter sprint in 2004 is on display in the museum.
- 4) Kids can design their own Olympic medals and test their athletic prowess in the long jump, vertical leap, and throwing accuracy throughout the two-floor Sports Museum.
- 5) For figure skating enthusiasts, learn how Pittsburgh entertainment entrepreneur John H. Harris invented the **Ice Capades**, a traveling show featuring theatrical ice skating performances, often by former Olympic and National Champion figure skaters who had retired from amateur competition.

The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum is included with regular admission to the Heinz History Center: \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors (age 62+), \$6 for students and children (age 6-17), and free for children (age 5 and under).

For more information on the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

MEDIA NOTE: Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum Co-Director **Anne Madarasz** is available to discuss the history of Olympians in the region. Please contact Ned Schano or Brady Smith to schedule an interview.

The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum is a museum within a museum, comprehensively presenting the region's remarkable sports story through hundreds of artifacts and interactive experiences for visitors of all ages. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center's museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter & Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.



Visitors to the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum at the Heinz History Center can learn about Pittsburgh's Olympic connections, such as 1920s professional hockey star Herb Drury who won a silver medal in the Winter Olympics held in Chamonix, France in 1924.

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