



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/PressRoom/Sports>

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HOSTS ***SPORTS: BREAKING RECORDS, BREAKING BARRIERS*** EXHIBIT ***Includes National Constitution Center Created Section, Local Legends***

Philadelphia, PA - Washington...Lincoln...Franklin...***Robinson?*** This summer, there will be some new names in the National Constitution Center's galleries as the Center hosts ***Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers*** from May 26, 2006 through August 20, 2006.

This exhibition, developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, focuses on 35 athletes (including baseball legend Jackie Robinson) and their performances in 17 different sports. Artifacts selected emphasize such issues as women's changing roles, racial and ethnic integration, the emergence of sports celebrities and superstars, nationalism, perceptions about human physical limitations, and technological breakthroughs that enhanced performance and participation. *Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers* reminds visitors of all these issues that athletes encounter and the effect their personal victories, both on and off the field, exert on the nation's consciousness.

"Though it may come as a surprise to some, this exhibit is a natural fit with the museum's mission," says National Constitution Center President and CEO Richard Stengel. "The Center is not just about history, it is about the people who make history –

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ADD ONE/SPORTS EXHIBIT

those who have made their mark in gaining a broader acceptance. Our main exhibition speaks of the struggle to expand 'We the People', including athletes, such as Muhammad Ali, who have played a role in this fight. The *Sports* exhibit will further show how athletes over time have inspired others and influenced the social constructs around them."

The exhibition is divided into six main sections: Firsts, Olympians, Game Makers, More than Champions, Barrier Removers, and Superstars. Spotting the Smithsonian's sports collection, the exhibition opens with Abraham Lincoln's handball and closes with Michael Jordan's basketball jersey. Gertrude Ederle's English Channel swim goggles, Roberto Clemente's batting helmet, Lance Armstrong's yellow jersey and a "Miracle on Ice" hockey shirt from the 1980 Olympics are among the dozens of artifacts.

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers also features a short video that further explores the athletes featured in the section "More than Sports Champions." Produced and donated by The History Channel, the video is narrated by basketball legend Bill Russell. It looks at the athletes, such as Billie Jean King, Roberto Clemente and Muhammad Ali, who take their roles as public figures seriously and move beyond being sports champions to become champions for a cause.

To add some Philadelphia flavor, the National Constitution Center is supplementing the exhibit with a tribute to local sports heroes and record breakers, *Local Legends*. This special section will include a variety of artifacts, images, and memorabilia from some of the biggest names in Philadelphia sports history, including Wilt Chamberlain, Bobby Clarke, Joe Frazier, Tug McGraw, and Vince Papale. Visitors can also explore a display of legendary sports covers from the archives of the *Philadelphia Daily News*.

To augment the exhibition, the Constitution Center's education and public programming staff in the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach will develop a variety of resource materials and special programs, including family activities, on the Center's Web site at www.constitutioncenter.org. The Center will also present a series of *Sports Family Fun Days* and an array of daily public program activities designed to both excite and educate visitors.

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ADD TWO/SPORTS EXHIBIT

Throughout the run of the exhibit, visitors will have the chance to challenge their brains in a sports trivia game inside the *Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers* exhibit. Guests can also show their competitive spirit by challenging one another in a giant sports game board. Families will compete in this fun, fast-paced board game where they are the game pieces.

Visitors to the National Constitution Center will also enjoy special promotional offers in conjunction with the new exhibition. These free activities range from sports movie screenings to mascot appearances, indoor sports activities, and more!

Also in keeping with the Center's mission to foster discussion and citizen engagement, a variety of programs featuring sports experts and athletes discussing current and historical topics that relate to the exhibition are planned for the summer. Some topics include the rise of African American athletes from the sidelines to the playing field, to the executive offices, and the journey to acceptance for female sportscasters.

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers is free with regular museum admission of \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers was developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). Audi is the exclusive national sponsor of the exhibition. The National Constitution Center is the sixth stop on the exhibition's seven-city, two-year national tour, and the final East Coast showing. Following its run at the Center, the exhibition will travel to The Oakland Museum of California.

The Constitution Center's showing of the *Sports* exhibit is sponsored in part by the *Philadelphia Daily News*. The *Daily News* has a longstanding tradition for excellent sports coverage by an award-winning staff. *Daily News* sports writers also are seen each weekday on *Daily News Live* from 5-6:30 p.m. on Comcast SportsNet. The show is currently in its ninth season.

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ADD THREE/SPORTS EXHIBIT

Audi of America is headquartered in Auburn Hills, Michigan, and markets a line of premium vehicles. For more information about Audi, visit www.audiusa.com.

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 50 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play, including museums, libraries, science centers, historical societies, community centers, botanical gardens, schools and shopping malls. Exhibition descriptions and tour schedules are available at www.sites.si.edu.

Located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's historic Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to Americans' daily lives. Opened on July 4, 2003, the museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The National Constitution Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates, and as a home for visiting scholars. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional debate, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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