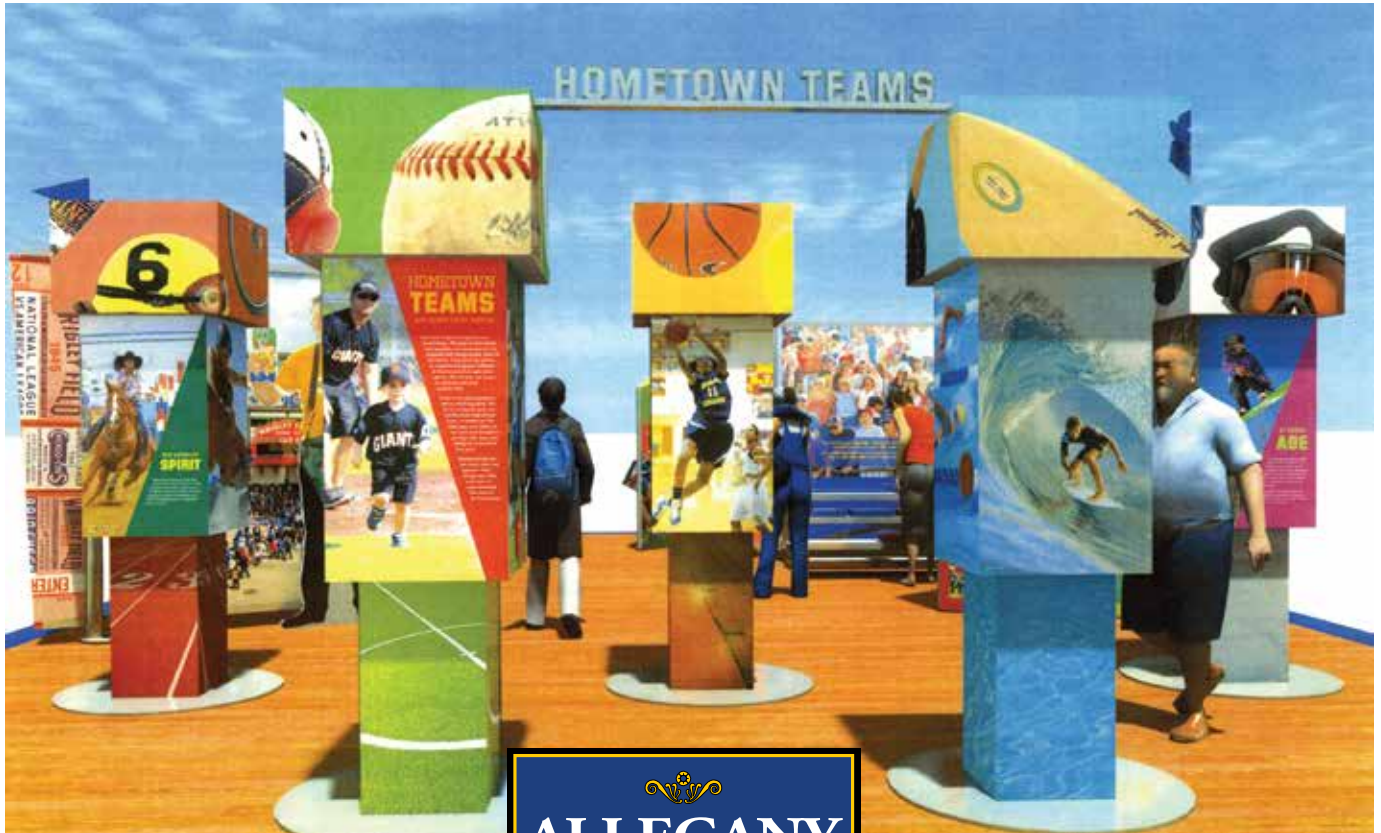


# HOMETOWN TEAMS: How Sports Shape America

## Smithsonian Exhibits at Allegany Museum



ALLEGANY  
MUSEUM

Beginning in February 2015, and continuing through November, a family-friendly interactive exhibit will visit several communities throughout the State of Maryland. Museum on Main Street, a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution will be presenting **Hometown Teams – How Sports Shape America**. This innovative project provides one-of-a-kind access to Smithsonian exhibitions and educational humanities programs. The traveling exhibit will visit Annapolis, Federalsburg, Cumberland, Galesville, and Howard County, Maryland.

From **May 30 – July 18, 2015** the Allegany Museum, 3 Pershing Street, Cumberland, MD, will host the exhibit. Opening day will include a Welcome Ceremony with ribbon cutting, Lefty Grove memorabilia, refreshments and more.

An exhibit extension at the Allegany Museum will include baseball and Special Olympics. In the 1930s Cumberland was home of the Colts, a Yankee farm team. Because of

this, the NY Yankee team, including Babe Ruth and other famous players came to Cumberland in 1931 and 1932 for exhibition games. Another famous Yankee, pitcher Robert Moses “Lefty” Grove, was born and raised in Allegany County. During the 1930s, a wooden baseball stadium situated at the terminus of the C&O Canal and the B&O railroad was an integral part of Cumberland’s downtown. The Allegany Museum exhibition extension will also highlight the Special Olympics. One of Cumberland’s citizens, Jake Reynolds, won a gold medal in alpine skiing at the 2013 World Winter Olympics in South Korea.

In addition to the Smithsonian main display at the Allegany Museum, venues throughout the region will contribute artifacts and information focusing on various local sport interests.

With a history of strong athletic programs, Allegany College of Maryland, 12401 Willowbrook Road, Cumberland, has

a dedicated gallery that will be used to create a display of memorabilia, photos, and video that demonstrates the role of sports in the College's history and culture.

The Allegany County Public Library System operates several branches including locations in Lonaconing, Cumberland and Frostburg. The famous pitcher Robert Moses "Lefty" Grove was born in Lonaconing in 1900. The Lonaconing Library, 76 Main Street, Lonaconing, will host a book discussion about the career of this amazing pitcher.

The Frostburg Museum, 69 Hill Street, Frostburg, will feature sports exhibits focusing on the former Beall High School and will also host showings of the documentary video produced by the Mountain Ridge High School Research Methods class, focusing on sports at schools in the Frostburg, Mt. Savage and George's Creek communities.

Frostburg State University, 101 Midlothian Road, Frostburg, maintains an exhibition in their athletic facilities about players who are part of the college's Hall of Fame.

Mountain City Traditional Arts, 25 East Main Street, Frostburg, will create a display about Frostburg's newly created roller derby team that is gaining popularity. In addition they will present displays on track & field and cross country, and will also offer scrapbooking and quilting workshops that use sports jerseys and uniforms.

The focus at the C. William Gilchrist Museum of Arts, 104 Washington Street, Cumberland, will be on marble playing as Western Maryland is home to several outstanding marble players who have won National championships.

The Gordon-Roberts House, 218 Washington Street, Cumberland, has decided to incorporate the themes of high school cheerleaders, drill teams and music marching bands through presenting uniforms and other information about these groups that provide valuable support to sports teams.

Hometown Teams was created by an innovative partnership that brings Smithsonian exhibitions to rural areas. Allegany Museum is excited to have been chosen by the Maryland State Humanities Council to be one of five venues in the state to host this traveling exhibition celebrating sports in American communities. For more information visit [www.alleganymuseummd.org](http://www.alleganymuseummd.org).



**Top and facing page:** Representations of the Smithsonian "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America" exhibits.

**Middle photo:** The 1931 Cumberland Colts, a Class C team of the Yankees farm system. Vito Tamulis (kneeling, 2nd from left), gave up a home run to Babe Ruth in the 1931 exhibition game at Cumberland's Community Ballpark.

**Bottom photo:** Early 1900s Cumberland baseball team. *Courtesy Dan Whetzel.*