

# Smithsonian Exhibit **PLAYS** at Union Station



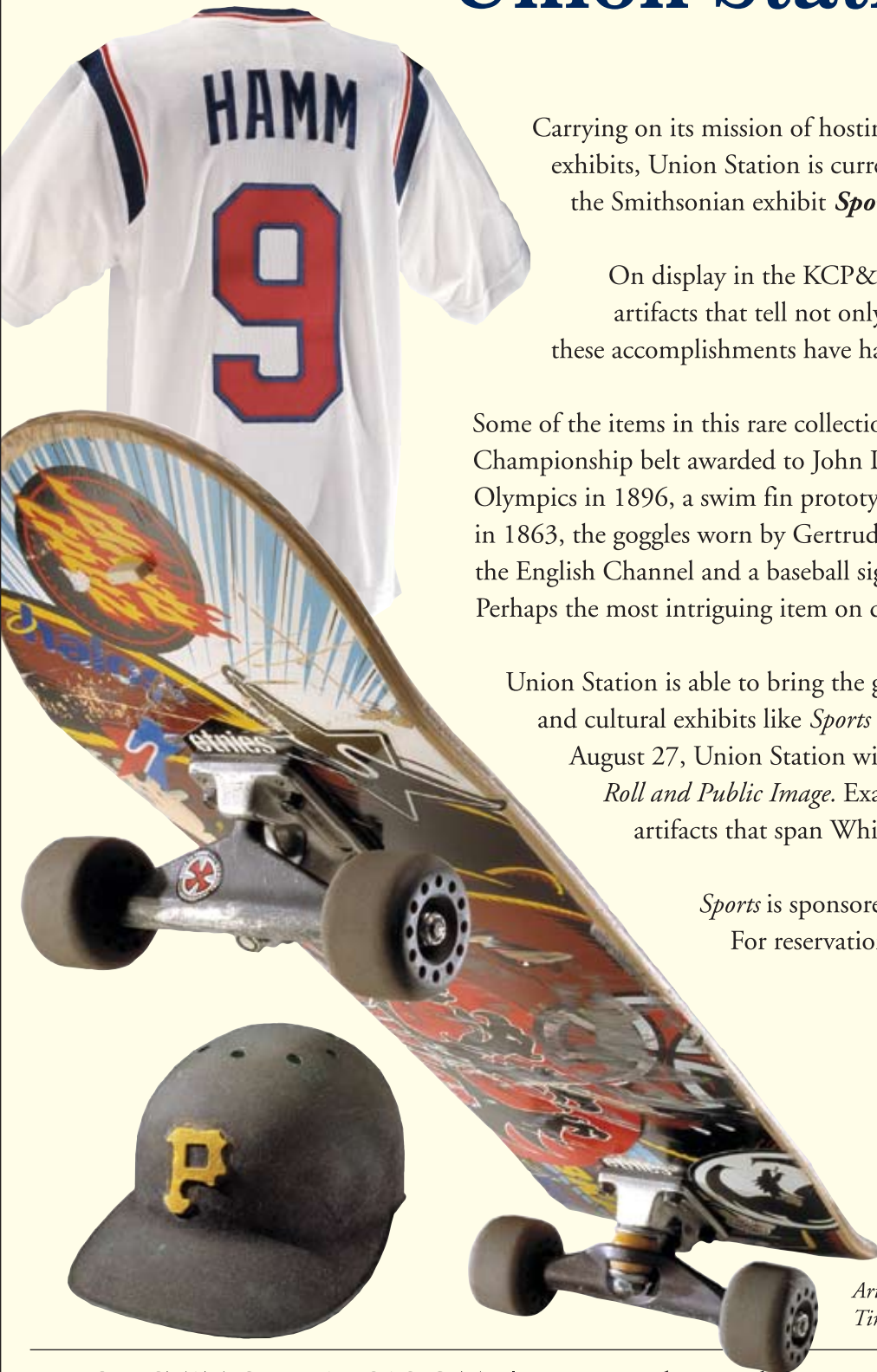
Carrying on its mission of hosting premier national and international traveling exhibits, Union Station is currently one of only seven institutions in the U.S. to host the Smithsonian exhibit *Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers*.

On display in the KCP&L Exhibit Gallery, *Sports* features a unique collection of sports artifacts that tell not only the story of individual accomplishments but also the impact these accomplishments have had on society.

Some of the items in this rare collection include the 1887 World Heavyweight Boxing Championship belt awarded to John L. Sullivan, a bronze medal presented at the first modern Olympics in 1896, a swim fin prototype created in 1939 and the first modern roller skate patented in 1863, the goggles worn by Gertrude Ederley in 1926 when she became the first woman to swim the English Channel and a baseball signed by Jackie Robinson and the 1952 Brooklyn Dodgers. Perhaps the most intriguing item on display is a handball once used by Abraham Lincoln.

Union Station is able to bring the greater Kansas City community enriching historical, scientific and cultural exhibits like *Sports* through its Smithsonian affiliation. From May 27 through August 27, Union Station will present another Smithsonian exhibit, *First Ladies: Political Roll and Public Image*. Examining this uniquely American institution, *First Ladies* features artifacts that span White House history from Martha Washington to Laura Bush.

*Sports* is sponsored nationally by Audi. The exhibit continues through April 30. For reservations and information call 816-460-2020 or go to [unionstation.org](http://unionstation.org).



  
Smithsonian

  
Audi

*Artifacts clockwise from top: Jim Thorpe trophy, 1896 Olympic participation medal, Tim Brauch skateboard, Roberto Clemente batting helmet, Mia Hamm Olympic jersey.*