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from generation to generation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The History Center in Tompkins County ‘A Sporting Chance: On and Off the Field’ exhibit
opens Friday February 2nd**

ITHACA NY- The History Center in Tompkins County announces their next major exhibit ‘A Sporting Chance: On and Off the Field’, to open on February 2nd 2024 at the Tompkins Center for History and Culture located on the Ithaca Commons. The History Center's new exhibit explores the stories of local athletes, teams, and the community that cheered them on. From league tournaments to pick-up games in the park, our community history of sports balls, paddles, and skates traverses water, ice, air, and land.

Sports and athleticism allow us to explore narratives of achievement and empowerment, even as they are complicated by stories of erasure and exclusivity. As we consider what it means to be an athlete in Tompkins County today, or two hundred years ago, we also get to celebrate the crowds that cheered, parents that drove our youngest athletes to early morning practices, and camaraderie and community both on the field and off. Join us for memories familiar and forgotten as we highlight the history of sports across Tompkins County.

HOURS - Beginning in February 2024 The History Center will now be open Wednesday-Saturday 10am-6pm each week. Selected drop-in hours, without prior appointment, in the Research Library & Archives will begin in mid-February.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR OPENING DAY

- Exhibit opens at 10am on Friday February 2nd
- **5-8pm** - Gallery Night in Downtown Ithaca
- **6pm** - Vociferous Cruciferous Chorus, and the "Curl Girls" will perform in The History Center atrium, with Miss Rutabaga 1973 available for pictures.
- **6:15pm** Ithaca Mayor Rob Cantelmo will curl a celebratory rutabaga in the museum.

Visitors are encouraged to wear their favorite Tompkins County sports memorabilia, International Rutabaga Curl inspired costume, or classic jerseys to opening night.

Food & drink provided by Beautifully Charcuterie and Ports of New York

Exhibit opens Friday February 2nd and is on display through December 2024. Follow @TompkinsHistory and thehistorycenter.net/sporting-chance for updates.

This exhibit is possible with thanks to many of our collaborators who shared their personal sports histories, including: Adrian Cooper, Amy Somchanhmvong, Mary Grainger, Charles DeMotte, Ithaca League of Women Rollers, the Ithaca Farmers Market, and Special Olympics New York.

About The History Center: The History Center in Tompkins County is a generation-to-generation education and research center focused on engaging the public with the history of Tompkins County (located in the ancestral and contemporary lands of the Gayoghó:nq? Nation) and the Finger Lakes region. The History Center helps people use the tools of history to understand the past, gain perspective on the present, and play an informed role in shaping the future. The History Center is located within the Tompkins Center for History & Culture. Learn more at thehistorycenter.net and follow @TompkinsHistory on any platform.

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