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All-Star Game & South Dakota baseball history on display at Cultural Heritage Center

PIERRE, S.D. – While the nation turns its attention to the Major League Baseball's All-Star Game on July 14, the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre has an exhibit on display that celebrates baseball tradition closer to home. "Play Ball! The National Pastime in South Dakota" will be on display in the Hogen Gallery of the museum through August of 2016.

"People do not realize how many exceptional baseball players played baseball in South Dakota," commented Jay Smith, museum director. "Players like Jim Palmer, Bob Gibson, Don Sutton and many more -- the talent level of baseball in South Dakota produced players that went on to play in the All-Star Game at the major league level. I think that our visitors could put together a highly competitive All-Star team from those players with South Dakota roots."

"Play Ball! The National Pastime in South Dakota" traces the history of baseball in South Dakota from the territorial era to the present through artifacts, images, video and hands-on activities that will inspire, educate and entertain all audiences.

"Now is a great time to visit the exhibition as major league baseball pauses to celebrate its talented players and we have an opportunity to remember South Dakota's contribution to baseball history," Smith said.

The museum and the exhibit are open during regular museum hours of 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. CDT Monday through Saturday, and 1-4:30 p.m. on Sunday. There is an admission fee for adults, but kids 17 and under are free.

For more information, visit www.history.sd.gov or call (605) 773-3458.

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About the South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.