



Staten Island Advance

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Wagner College art exhibit dedication during basketball doubleheader

By STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE SPORTS DESK

Wagner College will dedicate a permanent sports art and memorabilia exhibit tonight on its Grymes Hill campus as it hosts a college basketball doubleheader.

The collection, which is valued at \$100,000, is on display in the main hallway of the Spiro Sports Center.

It features serigraphs signed by artist Leroy Neiman, including his depictions of New York Yankee Hall of Famers Mickey Mantle and Joe DiMaggio.

The Margaret and Henry Murphy Sports Memorabilia Collection includes posters, prints and photos; artifacts such as catching gear signed by Yankee icon Yogi Berra, plus dozens of autographed baseballs and other sports items.

"Our hope is that this collection will inspire the best in the young athletes who pass through the Spiro Sports Center every day," said Wagner President Dr. Richard Guarasci.

Donor Henry "Hank" Murphy, a 1960s track star at Wagner who went on to become an educator, retired in 2001 after 15 years as principal of PS11 in Dongan Hills.

Praising the native Staten Islander and civic activist, Guarasci said: "In his career and his life, Hank has demonstrated what it means to be a truly engaged member of the community, which is what we hope every Wagner graduate will become.

"This collection demonstrates, as much as anything, Hank's reverence for others, which was captured in the way he gathered and preserved artifacts that depict the best qualities of the sportsmen represented in this permanent exhibit."

The Murphys are residents of Livingston.