

# IN THE YELLOW PAINT

Educator News from the Caterpillar Visitors Center

February 2014

Volume 3, Issue 1

[www.caterpillar.com/visitors-center](http://www.caterpillar.com/visitors-center)

## NEW EXHIBIT FOR A LIMITED TIME!

Caterpillar Diesels / Peoria Cats  
Basketball Team Exhibit  
March 8 - June 30

### Yellow Blood Bleeds Gold

Caterpillar's rich heritage goes beyond our machinery to our people and their yellow blood. Before the NBA came to prominence, there was the Caterpillar Diesels/Peoria Cats -- one of the most dominant teams in the National Industrial Basketball League. The Caterpillar Visitors Center will have an exhibit showcasing the history of the Caterpillar Diesels/Peoria Cats basketball team from March 8 to June 30.

Peoria was on top of the basketball world in the 1950s and these men, who built our yellow iron by day, were some of the world's greatest basketball players by night. See the team's journey from playing in the local field house to Madison Square Garden, from winning local matches to the Olympic Championship.

The team name changed from the Caterpillar Diesels to the Peoria Cats at the end of the regular season in 1952. Five members of the team won the 1952 Olympic championship in Helsinki, Finland; it was a major milestone in the team's history. By winning the 1952 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) championship, the Caterpillar Diesels went on to compete in the 1952 Olympic basketball team playoffs at Madison Square Garden. The team defeated the University of Kansas with the score of 62-60, and as a result, Caterpillar's head coach and five members of the team were chosen to participate on the U.S. Olympic team.

In Helsinki, the U.S. basketball team was the only undefeated team after the first six games. The U.S. played Argentina in the first game of the final round, winning 85-76. The U.S. was then matched with the Russian team. The Russian team played a tight control game, and few points were scored. At the end of the first half, the score was 17-15, with the U.S. in the lead. The U.S. built their lead in the final six minutes of the game, defeating the Russians 36-25. The U.S. basketball team won the gold medal.



1949 – Fans from Peoria hit the road to attend a Caterpillar Diesels v. Phillips "66" Oilers game in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



1956 – Elmer Tolson of the Peoria Cats hits a field goal over the outstretched hands of Bill Russell of the U.S. Olympic team. The Cats lost to the touring Olympians, 73-67, in a game played at the Bradley Fieldhouse.



1952 – U.S. Olympic basketball team members Frank McCabe of the Peoria Cats and Bob Kurland of the Phillips "66" Oilers pose with the Russian Olympic team captain. The U.S. defeated Russia 36-25 to win the gold medal.

FIRST Robotics  
Central Illinois Regional Competition  
February 28 and March 1, 2014

On February 28 and March 1, 2014, forty FIRST Robotics Competition teams from Illinois and surrounding states will converge on the Avanti's Dome in Pekin, IL to compete in the 2014 game called AERIAL ASSIST.

AERIAL ASSIST is played by two Alliances of three teams each. Alliances compete by trying to score as many balls in goals as possible during a two-minute and 30 second match. Additional points are earned by robots working together to score goals, and by throwing and catching balls over a truss suspended just over five feet above the floor as they move the ball down the field. An animation of Aerial Assist can be seen at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5zICG5to>

Working with adult mentors, students have six weeks to design, build, program, and test their robots to meet the season's engineering challenge. The culmination of the 40 teams' hard work to create robots can be seen at the Central Illinois Regional. **Admission is FREE.**

For more information go to the Central Illinois FIRST website.  
<http://www.ilfirst.org/frc/events/central-illinois-regional/>

FIRST stands for -  
For Inspiration and Recognition  
of Science and Technology.  
FIRST Robotics is a program for high schools students ages 14 to 18.

For more information on FIRST Robotics and other FIRST programs go to [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)



**2014 Educator Open House at the  
Caterpillar Visitors Center**

**Hours of Operation**

Monday—Saturday

10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

\*Last entry is at 3:30 p.m.

**Visit**

**[caterpillar.com/visitors-center](http://caterpillar.com/visitors-center)  
& click on  
Educator Resources to...**

- Request a field trip to the Caterpillar Visitors Center
- Access FREE student activities aligned to Illinois Common Core State Standards
- Print a FREE one day Educator Pass to preview the Caterpillar Visitors Center and prepare for a field trip

**Upcoming Events**

**February 28 and March 1, 2014**

FIRST Robotics Regional Competition, Avanti's Dome, Pekin, IL  
<http://www.ilfirst.org/frc/events/central-illinois-regional/>  
<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/2014-game>

**March 8 - June 30** Caterpillar Visitors Center - Caterpillar Diesels/Peoria Cats basketball team exhibit  
1952 Amateur Athletic Union champions and 1952 Olympic Gold Medal Team

**April 23 - 26, 2014** FIRST Robotics Championship, St. Louis, Missouri  
For more information go to <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc>

**April 29, 2014** Save the Date - OCEARCH at the Caterpillar Visitors Center

**Contact Us:**

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