



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Breaking Ground at the Worcester Sports Center

Worcester, MA – After a two year long negotiation, with the help of Mass Development and Worcester Business Development Corporation (WBDC), the new project on Harding Street, headed by Marathon Sports Group of Boston, is taking shape! Construction has officially begun on the site of the former Presmet/GKN Sinter Metals industrial complex for the new \$18 million Worcester Sports Center. Its official groundbreaking took place on May 20th after an agreement had been made with Craig L. Blais, President and Chief Executive of the WBDC and Cliff Rucker & Scott Ruisse of Worcester Sports Center LLC, to create a facility that would revitalize the area in a positive fashion. With over 100,000 square feet of space and an anticipated opening of August 2017, the Canal District will soon be seeing the multitude of benefits the Worcester Sports Center will be able to offer. “Economically, we’re looking to provide a jolt to the local community by not only creating new jobs at the facility itself, but increasing traffic to the multiple eateries, lodging and the numerous independent businesses Worcester has to offer,” states Scott Ruisse, co-manager of Worcester Sports Center LLC.

The development itself, as designed by Marathon Sports Group and Lerner Ladds Bartels (LLB) Architects of Pawtucket, RI, and Allen’s and Major Engineers of Woburn, MA, will house two full-size ice rinks - each with mezzanine seating, a state-of-the-art athletic training & conditioning center, oversized locker rooms, meeting spaces, on-site Pro Shop, multiple concession stands and over 40,000 square feet of retail space; which will additionally expand the horizon of opportunities for both local and regional businesses to explore. With a large, cutting-edge glass entranceway viewable from the freeway, the facility will become a prominent focal point to the heart of downtown Worcester. “The Worcester Sports Center is committed to developing a new and unique environment that is mutually-beneficial to its patrons, from youth to professional, as well as the city where it resides,” says Harry Angevine, CEO of Marathon Construction, the Boston-based company managing the development and construction. He continues, “Marathon Sports Group will create an environment where families can enjoy the rest of what the facility offers, while the other family member is on the ice. This will be accomplished by providing a mixed-use retail/recreational facility that will be as cutting-edge on the interior as it is on the exterior. The exterior complements the classic red brick architecture of historical downtown, while the tower of LED-lit glass panels that wrap the façade give the building a contemporary hi-tech look. Inside, we’re allowing more retail and entertainment ventures among the open areas to offer more activities for patrons to enjoy, as well as provide all the comfort and convenience visitors need while on-site. It is equally as important to cater to the parties visiting our sports centers as it is for the athletes competing in them. This is the vision Marathon Sports Group of Boston has for all of our Sports Centers.” Marathon has three other projects slated to break ground in 2017/2018, all within the New England area, as well as the current development of a similar mixed-use 120,000 square foot facility in Middleton, The Essex Sports Center. Offering two ice rinks, as well as an indoor turf field for a multitude of athletic ventures, The Essex Sports Center will benefit the surrounding 17 towns within the Essex district.

Early estimates predict over 500,000+ visitors annually to the new Worcester Sports Center with day-to-day operating hours allowing nearly 18 hours of ice time, 7 days a week, providing a much-needed alternative option to ease the overcrowding from the only other local rink, the Buffone Arena. The facility will bring families from all over the U.S. to Worcester, making it a new up-and-coming destination. The Worcester Sports Center will be a true community resource built for the people to serve the next generation. The neighborhood has a lot to look forward to thanks to the Marathon Sports Group Of Boston.

The Marathon Sports Group of Boston was founded in 2015 to meet the growing demand of the sports and recreation industry. Coupled with Marathon Construction Inc. founded in 1998, Marathon Sports Group of Boston is a full-service company that offers a variety of strategic and operational services to include cooperative consulting, space planning and design, project construction and development, budget management and financial advisement, as well as strategic alliances with consultants that can create and manage the facility schedules and programs. The primary goal is to create cutting-edge sports phenomena across the nation by providing facilities that offer recreation to both youths and adults, from amateur to professional, through the development of sports programs and organized leagues to service the local community. For more information, visit MarathonSportsGroup.com.