Contestant: **Q-5**

The National Collegiate Athletic Association, a hub for supporting and developing the acheivements of athletes, expanded to downtown indianapolis on Mar. 30, 2000. Since its opening and later reconstruction in 2007, aspiring athletes and sports fanatics alike have flocked to the NCAA Hall of Champions. Understandably, due to its broad appeal to those who strike intrest in the stories of strong athletes, as well as a fun activity to experience different sports.

The NCAA prides itself in supporting athletes; a statue stands at the foremost entrance depicting a dangerous football formation which has since been eradicated and improved upon. This establishment works hard to set in place a tradition of academics and athletics going hand in hand, creating a basis of well-rounded excellence in the 460,000 student athletes involved.

The first floor focuses on celebrating the the history and accomplishments of colleges and athletes. The most child friendly display may be the mascot mixup where sections of mascots are spun to create new characters. After stepping through the initial room the visitors are introduced to the center of the ranking of the 24 NCAA sports. These kiosks are interactive ways of relaying information on the on the division and ranking of the 1,121 schools that make up the NCAA followed by a game of trivia to test your knowledge. The History of Women in intercollegiate sports exhibit shows a timeline of how the prescense of women has boomed since the first amateur women’s baseball team in 1866. The Hall of Honor emphasizes the devotion of athletes to school as well as sports, celebrating those Who have proven worthy of such high mention.

As you move up to the second floor, more opportunities for interactive exhibits arise. Simulations of a rifle range, starting block, and a football play are perfect for young aspiring athletes to try their hand out at various sports. A retro basketball court gives dimension to the history of the NCAA, while providing an athletic activity.

The NCAA Hall of Champions is a promising stop in downtown Indianapolis; more than just sports fans will strike interest in what it has to offer. Anyone looking to be inspired by the stories of hardworking and maybe find fascination in one of the numerous sports represented by the NCAA should spare some time to stop by.