

Olympics mania

on display

at Onassis Center

Soccer moms, tennis dads and rabid fans of Little League baseball have nothing on their predecessors of sports-mad ancient Greece.

Olympia's youngest champion, 12-year-old Damsicus of Messene, was crowned with the traditional olive wreath and showered with

David Minthorn

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acclaim for winning the boy's sprint in 368 B.C.

At the Panathenaia games in Athens, the winner of

the boys' sprint collected 50 urns filled with 2,000 liters of olive oil. Nearly 2,000 such vases were commissioned every four years for winners of the various events, including older youths and men.

Some of the richly decorated prize amphoras that once held olive oil are dis-



AP/Onassis Cultural Center

This red figure, attributed to Onesimos (ca 500-490 BC), called *Kylix with Pentathletes*, is part of the exhibit *Coming of Age in Ancient Greece* at the Onassis Cultural Center in New York. The displays range over childhood scenes on painted vases, as well as sculptures, grave monuments and relics of ancient toys like rattlers, dolls, tops, hoops and animal bones used in games of chance.