

Pure fun follows Globetrotters worldwide

By STEVE TURCOTTE
Of the Emerald

The man in the red, white and blue uniform rapidly brings the ball upcourt after nabbing the rebound.

But instead of laying the ball in the hoop on the fastbreak for an easy two points, he stops, lets three opposing players swoop past, and passes the ball behind his back to an onrushing teammate who crams the ball into the basket.

A fancy play for the Oregon basketball team?

No, just a routine play for the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters.

Monday night at McArthur Court, the fabulous Globetrotters made their annual stop in Eugene to display their basketball antics.

And to the fans at near-capacity Mac Court, it was truly

Ruggers fall to Snake River

Oregon's rugby club lost 14-3 Saturday to Northwest champion Snake River.

The Duck held Snake River to only four points in the first half, but two tries and a conversion in the second half gave Snake River its winning margin.

Oregon's only score came on a penalty kick by John Cartales.

The team's next game is Saturday at noon versus the Portland Jesters at Delta Park.

a night of pure fun.

"I really like to please the crowd," said 'Twiggy' Sanders from the Globetrotter bench during the second half. "I really get a personal enjoyment out of pleasing and showing off to the crowd. I get a bang out of it."

But year after year, wouldn't a Globetrotter fan get tired of the same old tricks and routines?

"No way," said Trotter Public Relations Director, Hallie Bryant. "We are like Santa Claus. We come at you once a year so people really never get tired of us. If Santa Claus came three or four times a year, wouldn't you get tired of him?"

"Since we only come to a town once a year, we are able to come up with new tricks and routines," Sanders said. "That way it makes it more enjoyable for both us and the fans."

The Clown Princes of basketball are divided up into two units — both "A" teams, according to Bryant. One, the national unit, features clowns such as Geese Ausbie and Curly Neal and plays in North America. The other, the international unit, was the team viewed at Mac Court.

And the two main performers are Sanders and 'Sweet' Lou Dunbar.

Not only can members of the Globetrotters do almost anything with a basketball, but many of them could be playing in the National Basketball Association.

Sanders is one Trotter who

had a shot at pro ball, but instead took the opportunity to play with the Trotters.

"I got drafted in the first-round in the ABA draft by the Carolina Cougars," he said. "But soon after, they folded and I was without a job. The Trotters invited me to tryout and I made the squad."

"I would like to play in the NBA, but I really enjoy what I am doing — and I don't even have to worry about being traded."

The Trotter organization began in 1926. The year an enterprising man, Abe Saperstein, molded five black basketball players into a team. They played across the United States in search of the elusive dollar.

And they took basketball seriously, but later began to add some clown acts when they were far ahead.

Today the clown acts are the part of the Trotter game which lures fans to arenas.

According to the Trotters, their aim is to please fans with basketball.

"Not only do the fans have fun watching us, but we have fun too," said Sanders, as he stood up to sing along with the rest of his team to the crowd. "Having fun is really the whole part of it, you know."

"Our major entertainment is just good clean family fun," he continued. "It's really good to see all the kids here and really getting involved in the game, I

just love it."

The Globetrotters have entertained and pleased crowds world wide, not only in basketball arenas but in drained out swimming pools, a gymnasium where the ceiling was only nine feet from the floor and aboard the deck of the aircraft carrier

U.S.S. Enterprise.

But no matter where they play, making the audience feel good is what the Trotters aim for each time they take the floor — night after night.

Oh, by the way, the Harlem Globetrotters beat the California Chiefs 77-65 Monday night.

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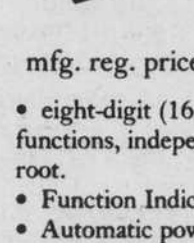


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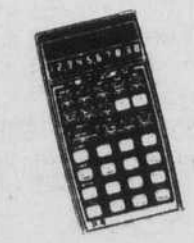


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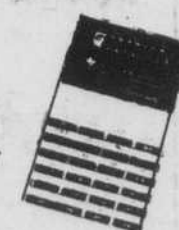


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