

Life isn't just a bag of tricks for Williams

■ **FUTURE:** The former Oregon guard turned Harlem Globetrotter is looking for a shot in the NBA, but wouldn't mind a banking job either

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

Orlando Williams wasn't planning on learning to shoot a basketball from half court. Nor was he trying to integrate a collection of spins, slides or trick shots into his game. He just saw a chance to make a name for himself, and he took it.

After finishing a grueling schedule with the High Five America team, which tours the country to play college basketball teams, the former Oregon basketball star took some time off to relax and recuperate.

That break was short-lived however, because shortly after returning to his home in Portland, Williams got a call from the Harlem Globetrotters, asking him if he was interested in joining the team's tour.

"I had just finished the High Five tour, and I was relaxing. I was drained. I needed to take some time off," Williams said Saturday, when the Globetrotters stopped in Portland for one of the 250 games in the team's current whirlwind tour. "They kind of caught me off guard. They called me out of the blue and said 'Hey, would you like to come and play?' And I said 'sure.'"

After earning his degree in economics and business from Oregon, Williams got offers here and there — some from Europe, some from the U.S. He took the High Five gig though, and quickly became the go-to guy for that team.

"I was going out there and I was basically the offensive threat for that team," Williams said, adding that he played every day for High Five — just as he does with the Globetrotters; only now he plays a lot fewer minutes. "I played forty minutes a night, every night. There wasn't a show going on. That was what was really tough about it."

With the Globetrotters, Williams has the benefit of the show — when the team gets up 10 to 15 points, that is when the half court and other trick shots come in. And that is when Williams goes out.

Williams started Saturday's game and hit the first field goal of the game — a 10-foot jumper — and played a little over three minutes before taking a seat on the bench. He didn't make an appearance on the court again until the third quarter, when he played another three minutes before retiring for the afternoon.

But scoring and competitiveness obviously aren't the point. The show is, and that is something that Williams only sets the table for.

"I'm just playing. I just go out there and play. I get in and get the lead," he said.



ORLANDO WILLIAMS

That's okay, though, because if the truth be known, Williams isn't a career Globetrotter. When the current tour ends in April and the team holds its training camp, Williams isn't sure what he will end up doing.

"They have got training camp scheduled for us, but that is one thing that I have got to think about. I'm not sure if that is what I want to do," Williams said, adding that he planning on going to Los Angeles to play some basketball if he can.

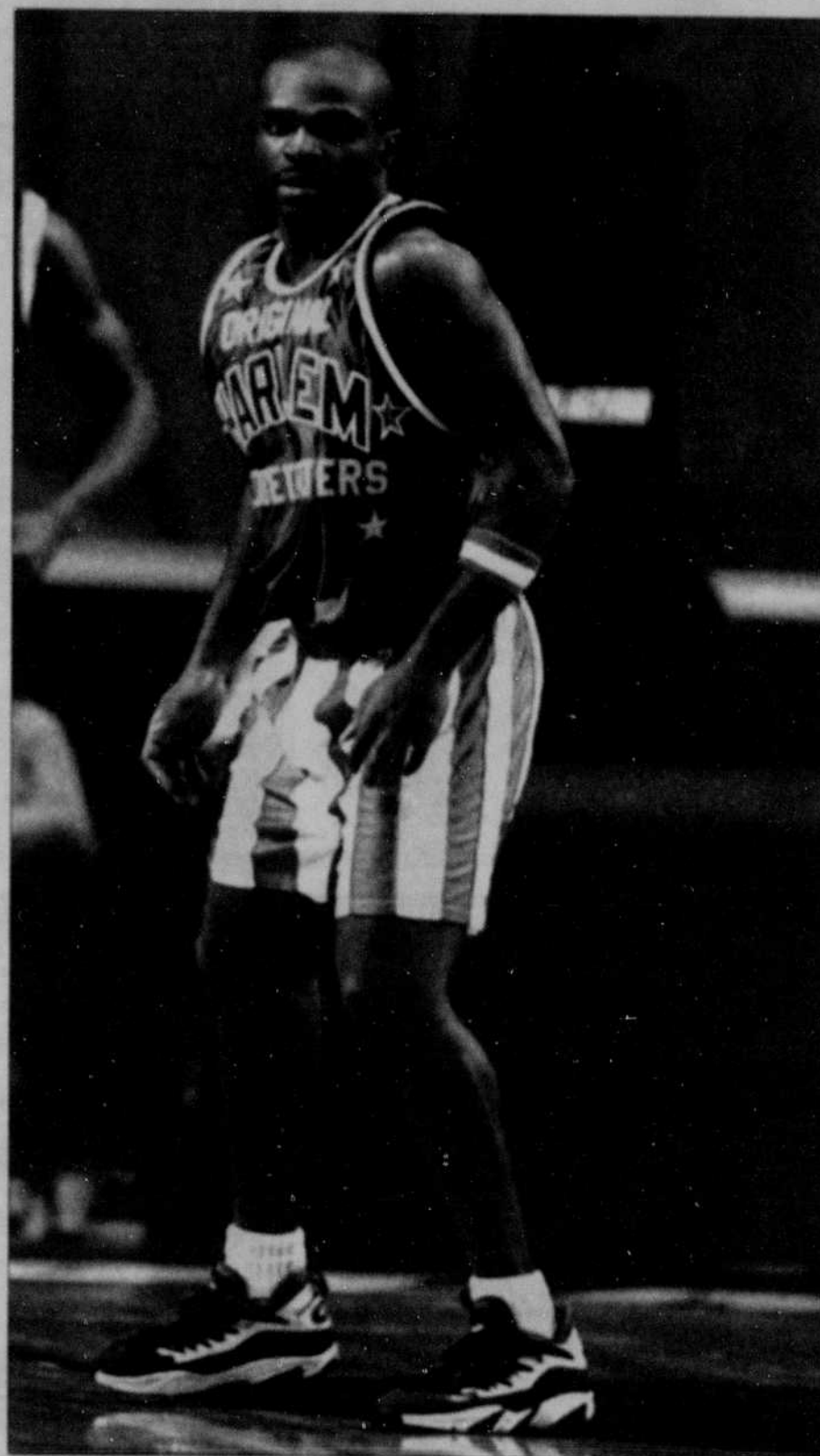
But if things go his way, Williams knows exactly where he would like to be.

"My goal is to get an opportunity to step on the court at a rookie camp somewhere," he said. "Just to be able to show that there is a lot more to my game than I showed at Oregon, although I had a lot of success there. But I have a lot more that I could show, I have a lot more to offer."

In this the day of big point guards, Williams thinks that he has something to add to a professional team.

"I'm a pretty good-size point guard, so I think that I can be effective at it," he said. "A lot of times at Oregon, what people didn't realize is I used to always ask that I

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ANDREW BRACKENSCHE/merald

Orlando Williams does not play as many minutes with the Globetrotters as he did with Oregon. He plays until they have the lead, then watches the trick shots from the bench.

Ducks come away with split in desert

■ **SOFTBALL:** Oregon played six games in three days to start the season with a 3-3 record

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon softball team started its season winning three of six games at the Arizona State Coca-Cola Classic Softball Tournament in Tempe, Ariz., last weekend.

The Ducks started their weekend by losing the first of their three games on Friday to Massachusetts. The Ducks led 8-7 going into the bottom of the seventh inning but gave up three passed balls giving UMass the 9-7 win.

Senior shortstop Kathy Stahl picked up where she left off last year with a two-run home run and a triple to pace the Ducks.

In their second game of the day, the problem was not passed balls, but free passes. Even though the Ducks out-hit the Rebels 14-8, they could not overcome the 13 walks given up by the Oregon pitchers.

The Ducks led going into the seventh inning but gave up three runs giving UNLV a 10-8 lead. But in the bottom of the inning, Stahl smacked her second home run of the day to tie the score at 10 and send it to extra innings. After a scoreless eighth inning, the Rebels scored four in the top of the ninth, giving them the victory.

The Ducks finally got their first win of the season by defeating Illinois State in their third game of the day, and second consecutive extra inning game.

Paced by Stahl's three hits and three RBI, Oregon won 10-

8 in eight innings.

In Saturday's first of two games, the Ducks routed Ohio State 14-5. The game included three four-run innings for the Ducks, led by the bat of senior centerfielder Lisa Preston. Preston had a three hit, five RBI day including a triple and a double.

The second of Saturday's two games was a 13-6 loss to Cal State Fullerton. Oregon jumped out to a 4-0 lead on a second inning grand slam by Kampfer. But the Titans came right back scoring a combined 11 runs in the third and fourth innings, putting the game out of reach.

Oregon concluded the tournament Sunday with a 5-3 victory over Utah State. Tied at 1-1 in the fifth inning, the Ducks scored four runs led by a two-run home run from junior right fielder Angie LeRoy.

Wilkins' performances honored by conference

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — Oregon junior guard Kenya Wilkins is the Pacific-10 Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Week for February 12-18, Commissioner Tom Hansen announced Monday.

Wilkins, a 5-foot-10 native of Los Angeles, Calif., was instrumental in Oregon's victories over California and then-No. 20 Stanford. He scored 37 points and added six assists in the two wins. He scored a career-high tying 30 points on 13-of-19 shooting from

the field against Stanford.

Wilkins went 2-of-3 from the line and 2-of-3 from behind the three-point arc. He hit five straight field goals and also an 18-footer at the buzzer to give Oregon a 64-62 win.

Wilkins is Oregon's scoring leader this season at 14.1 points per game and all-time leader in assists and second in steals. He is tied for second in the Pac-10 in steals this season at 2.1 per game, third in assists at 5.9 per game, and tied for fourth in free throw percentage at 0.835.

It marks the second weekly honor of Wilkins' career, the first time an Oregon player has won the award this season, and Oregon's 14th Player of the Week honor all-time.



KENYA WILKINS