

SPORTS

'TROTTERS SIGN 'TEX' TO NEW CONTRACT

The Harlem Globetrotters have signed head coach Charles "Tex" Harrison to a seven-year contract extension. No terms of the contract were released, but team officials say it may represent the largest financial commitment in Globetrotters' history.

Harrison has worked for the team for the past 35 years, 18 of those as a player. He began his duties as a Globetrotter coach in the 1960s.

"Aside from my family, being a Harlem Globetrotter has been the greatest highlight of my life," said Harrison. "I have had the good fortune to be part of the most celebrated sports team in American history."

Harlem Globetrotters' Owner and Chairman Mannie Jackson said, "Few people understand the mix of basketball skills and entertainment that it takes to be a Harlem Globetrotter. Tex has devoted his career to the Harlem Globetrotters and this contract recognizes all he has done for this organization."

Harrison is a native of Gary, Ind. and currently resides in Houston.

He attended North Carolina Central University where he was the first player from an African-American school to be named All-American. Harrison played with the College All-Americans, a frequent opponent of the Harlem Globetrotters, before donning the famous red, white and blue for his first game in 1954.

Coach Harrison recently led the Globetrotters to a 10-1 series victory over Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's legendary all-stars in what many describe as intelligent and inspirational coaching. The Harlem Globetrotters are the most popular family entertainment show in the world as they have performed for over 100 million people in 113 countries in the past 69 years.

Join us in celebrating
The Portland Observer's
25th
ANNIVERSARY



The new Rose Garden from inside the arena bowl. The structure is designed for NBA and college basketball, professional hockey, indoor soccer, indoor track and field, gymnastics, major concerts, monster truck rallies, rodeo and bull riding, circuses, ice shows, boxing, professional wrestling and convention and trade shows. Total capacity for NBA basketball is over 21,300. (Photo by Eric Noon)

Ducks Climb To No. 12

The Oregon Ducks this week rose 3 spots to No. 12 in the Associated Press College Football Poll after a 52-30 victory over California on Saturday. Stanford fell from No. 16 to No. 23 after losing to Washington, 38-28.

Florida State remained No. 1 in the media voting, followed by Nebraska, Florida, Ohio State, Southern California and Tennessee, the same order as last week.

Oregon did a superb job defensively to throttle California's running game, especially with top performances by Bryant Jackson and Jeremy Asher. The Ducks also made a dramatic improvement in kick coverage.

Oregon Coach Mike Bellotti praised the work of Josh Wilcox, citing him for three tackles on the kickoff team, two of them right after he scored touchdowns.

With 312 all-purpose yards, Oregon tailback Ricky Whittle had the fourth-best all-purpose day in school history.

The Ducks face Washington State in Eugene Saturday. In other games Saturday, California will play Oregon State and West New Mexico is at Portland State.

SOCCER CAMP COACH SCOTT HONORED



Jeff Murtaugh (left) of the Oregon Special Olympics thanks coach George Scott for his volunteer efforts.

George Scott has been honored for his volunteer efforts on behalf of kids.

Scott was one of more than 100 individuals and organizations recently thanked for their participation in Oregon Special Olympics, the organization to benefit citizens with mental retardation.

He has been the director of the Oregon Special Olympic Unified Soccer Camps for three years. The camps bring children with and without disabilities together to learn soccer skills. The participants also build friendships and gain awareness and acceptance about the differences in others.

The camps have been so successful since Scott became camp director that they have tripled in size.

"He expends enormous amounts of energy to make sure everyone is having a great time," Special Olympics representatives said. "Whether

he is teaching campers how to play 'asteroids' and 'karate kid' or playing with campers and coaches in soccer games, George is a motivator and leads by his own example."

Oregon Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults.

Currently, more than 5,500 athletes train and compete in 14 Olympic-style sports year-round in all areas of the state. Nearly 10,000 volunteers support the athletes by serving as coaches, chaperons, timers, fundraisers, promoters and in a host of other duties.

"We couldn't exist without volunteers, everything we do involves them," said Jeff Murtaugh, president of Oregon Special Olympics. "Thanks to the selfless contributions of our volunteers, this organization continues to thrive and the athletes benefit immeasurably."

AUTOMOTIVE

Tires Need Proper Inflation

While Wall Street favors low inflation for the U.S. economy, just don't try it for tires. It could be anything but a soft landing.

In tires, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company blames low inflation for a number of economic ills:

Underinflated tires waste an estimated 4 million gallons of gas daily in America.

Tire life decreases about 10 percent for every 10 percent the tire is underinflated. For example, an average passenger-car tire could lose about one-third of its life at 20 pounds per square inch inflation.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates about 250,000 accidents a year result from improperly inflated tires.

Tires should be inflated to the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations printed on a vehicle's door placard or in the owner's manual, not the maximum limit stamped on a tire

sidewall, according to Sam Landers, chief engineer of Goodyear passenger tires "Because of summer's heat," Landers said, "most motorists have ignored a tire's 'leading indicators' - like inflation pressure - over the past few months. They don't realize that a well-cared-for tire pays big dividends over the long-term."

Goodyear recommends that motorists check tire inflation pressure monthly or before a long trip.

The economy's soft landing actually could add to motorists' problems. Slower growth is causing cautious consumers not only to put off purchases of new cars, but similarly to delay replacement of worn car tires, Landers said.

That means trouble, he added, with either state laws that prohibit worn tires or increased likelihood that bald tires might skid compared to tires with good treads.

Couple that with an aging U.S.

auto fleet in which the average car age is 9 years compared to 5 just 25 years ago. Since most older cars generally have fewer safety features such as air bags and anti-lock brakes, having good tire treads to avoid accidents and punctures is paramount, Landers said.

Up for debate is the severity of the tire low-inflation problem, he said. In the 1970s, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration claimed half the nation's cars had underinflated tires.

Other studies stated that 25 to 28 percent of cars had at least one tire "seriously underinflated" (4 pounds per square inch or more below the manufacturer's recommendation).

Goodyear conducted its own parking lot survey, sampling 250 vehicles or 1,000 tires. More than 28 percent of the vehicles had one or more underinflated tires.

Ten Percent Jump In Summer Sales

More youth than ever relied on Tri-Met for their transportation needs last summer.

Nearly 10,000 youngsters purchased "The Pass," entitling them to unlimited travel at half the regular price from June through August.

That's a 10 percent increase in sales over last summer when

the pass was introduced, and nearly double the average youth pass sales for a typical month during the school year.

The special \$37 pass was available to those age 18 and under at participating schools, Tri-Met sales outlets and other locations around town. Pass holders also qualified for

special discounts from: McDonald's, Hollywood Video, Portland Rockies Baseball, ICU Skate Co., Metro Washington Park Zoo and Tower Records.

More information about youth passes, bus and MAX routes, schedules and fares is available by calling 238-RIDE.

Explore Tri-Met's Worldwide Transit Station

Visit Tri-Met's newest transit station from anywhere in the world and never leave home.

Tri-Met recently introduced its "Transit station" home page on the world Wide Web, people who have computer access to the Internet and World Wide Web can now access Tri-Met information from anywhere in the world, including here at home.

information available online

at <http://www.tri-met.org> describes:

- how to ride buses and MAX light rail trains
- fares, schedules and route maps
- carpooling & bicycling options
- employers who offer their employees transit benefits
- upcoming public meetings

Tri-Met job listings and Westside MAX construction updates are planned for the future.

Questions, suggestions and comments can be directed to adrury@tri-met.org.

"This service makes it easier for our customers to get Tri-Met information, and it encourages others to give Tri-Met a try." Said Margie Harris, Tri-Met executive director of marketing & customer service. "This will attract new passengers, help keep the air clean and reduce traffic congestion."