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The view through the back window

It's not every day you get a spotlight into the past. As a millennial, I'm constantly reminded that the world I've come to know in many ways is drastically different from the way the world once was. Sometimes, when talking about my career with my dad, he'll just shake his head and say everything is so different than when he was my age, that he can't give me any real solid advice because of that fact.



Sam Barbee
FROM THE SIDELINES

Time marches on, things change. It's the way of the world.

But some of that change is monumental, and painful, too.

The Harlam Globetrotters mean more to sports — and this culture at large — than simply a comedy basketball team that has transcended sports and invaded pop culture.

Let's flash back to the 20s. We're in Chicago. The city is being ravaged by organized crime due to Prohibition. It goes without saying that racially, things weren't equal. Though the northern states hadn't officially instituted Jim Crow laws, African-Americans had a tough time breaking into the dominantly white society. As happens now, some members of the marginalized community turned to less reputable sources of income, and the problem only got worse.

Enter Abe Saperstein, who wanted to start a comedy basketball team. But he wanted to take it a step further. He wanted to start a black comedy basketball team, something that was near-unheard of then.

"From all the stories that my father said, it was very difficult," Abe's daughter Eloise said. "It was very difficult. It would've been easier to start an all-white comedy team. There weren't too many African-American players out there. There weren't other teams. It was very difficult."

Mothers and grandmothers would call Saperstein and beg him to take their son or grandson. One name in particular stuck out: Leon Hillard. Eloise called him a "dribbler extraordinaire." He dropped out of high school, and was referred to Saperstein by his family, who, like many others said, "My son can play basketball. Take him on the road with you. Save his life. Get him out of Chicago."

For many of the original Globetrotters, playing for Saperstein was the only place they could be paid to play. Basketball — and all sports at that time — were considered white activities. Jackie Robinson famously broke the color barrier in baseball 20 years after Saperstein started paying black players. The NBA, which was known by a different name in the 20s, didn't integrate until 1950.

Oftentimes, the players would sleep on the bus, or, like in Montana or North Dakota they would have to find black farm families so they could sleep under a roof. In Europe, they would go into a restaurant and clean the place out. All the patrons would leave. So, the Globetrotters crew would get to work. Eloise would set the table. Another man would make coffee, another would scramble eggs. When they were finished eating, if they police didn't come first, they would leave "a stack of money on the table." When they were met by police, the communication barrier was too much.

"We would try to tell them they were basketball players, but they'd never seen basketball," Eloise said.

This wasn't *that* long ago, and look where we've come. Looking out of the back window of the car and seeing how far we've driven is something most kids do. That's all I'm doing. The Globetrotters, in part, are a measuring stick. Now they have a woman playing for them. For its entire history, the Globetrotters have been marching to the beat of their own drum, following the lead of Abe Saperstein nearly 100 years ago.

Even if you don't like basketball, or don't like the Globetrotters' brand of it, you have to understand the cultural significance of them. It might be a little heavy-handed to say the Globetrotters were crucial to the development of equality over the decades, but they certainly helped.

— Sam Barbee is a sports reporter for the *Hermiston Herald* and *East Oregonian* based out of Hermiston. He can be reached by email at sbarbee@hermistonherald.com or on Twitter @SamBarbee1. Follow *Herald Sports* @HHeraldSports.

Bulldogs rout Bucks in War on 84



Kiana Heehn scores 15 points off bench to lead Bulldogs

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

Kiana Heehn transferred from Pendleton as a middle schooler and watched her older sister play at Warberg Court. She wasn't going to let her only varsity game there be a disappointment.

The senior reserve scored 15 points off the bench — all on 3-pointers — to lead all scorers and helped, in part, propel the Bulldogs to a 76-32 drubbing of the Pendleton Buckaroos Friday night.

No Pendleton (8-13, 3-2 CRC) player scored in double figures. Maddy Juul and Sara Ramirez each added 13 points for Hermiston (18-3, 6-0) and Jansen Edmiston pitched in with 12, all coming in the first half.

"I think it helped a lot I was back in Pendleton," she said. "It kind of motivated me to shoot more."

She added that a blowout win on the road is made especially sweet because it's at Warberg Court.

STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Jansen Edmiston shoots the ball over Pendleton's Shelby Greb in the Bulldogs' 76-32 win against the Bucks on Friday in Pendleton.

Heehn has filled the role Tavin Headings manned last season, a sharp-shooter coming off the bench. Heehn set the tone for the second quarter after a relatively quiet initial period.

Up 15-7 after that first quarter, which Hermiston took control of with an 8-0 run thanks to four straight Buck turnovers, Heehn hit her first three of the night on the second quarter's opening possession to push the count to 18-7.

Two minutes later, she hit another, starting a two-minute stretch where she would hit three 3s in total. They came in the midst of a 19-1 run that took a competitive game and made it a blowout.

Overall, Hermiston shot 6 of 7 from 3-point range in the second quarter, 9 for 12 in the first half, and 11 of 17 for the game. From there, Hermiston coach Steve Hofert just sat back and watched his team play.

"I've had the luxury of doing that these past few games," he said. "They're just feeling so good and confident with how they're playing and they believe in each other. I mean, Kiana Heehn comes off

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Hermiston's Simon chooses MSU-Northern

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

Since he was in third grade, Hayden Simon wanted to play college football. He dreamed of playing at Ohio State University, a school bigger than Umatilla County entirely.

Now, a decade later, Simon has realized his childhood dream, signing with Montana State Northern in Harve, Montana last week and joins a Lights program trying to pull itself out of a hole when they went 0-11 (0-10 Frontier Conference) at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) level. Simon will play middle linebacker and maybe get a few opportunities to run the ball, something he did as a senior at Hermiston.

"I just really liked their academic program," he said. And, while taking his visit in late January, "really liked the people there. That's basically what did it for me."

Academically, Northern provided some things the Simon family was excited to see. It has a relatively small enrollment (1,037 undergraduates for the 2015 fiscal year), and the student-professor ratio is about 13 or 14-1.

Simon started playing football in fourth grade and was coached, in part, by his dad Mike, who helped oversee Simon's football teams until he reached middle school. When Simon was about to make the transition into seventh grade football, Mike got an inkling that his son might have the tools to continue playing.

"I started noticing when he was sixth grade entering into junior high," Mike said. "He had the ability athletic-wise to go to the next level of football, whether it's high school, onto the varsity, and then college. Ultimately it was on Hayden and his work ethic to get there."



STAFF PHOTOS BY SAM BARBEE

Hayden Simon of Hermiston smile with his parents Deannie (far left) and Mike after signing a National Letter of Intent Wednesday.

A three-year starter, Simon was an anchor on Hermiston's defense, which was one of the best units in the state as the Bulldogs won the state championship in his junior season. In total, Simon recorded 180 total tackles, 79 solos, 86 assists, 3.0 sacks, 13.0 tackles for loss, two fumbles recovered, three fumbles forced, six passes defended, three hurries and two blocked punts. As a running back his senior year, Simon carried 60 times in Hermiston's zone scheme and accumulated 299 yards and a touchdown, good for a 5.0 yards per carry average.

Simon's best season in terms of tackles was his first at the varsity level, making 71 total stops, 37 of which were solo jobs. His best statistical season, though, was his junior campaign that resulted in a state title. His 63 total tackles was sixth on the team and his 11.0 tack-

les for loss tied Jessee Rodelo for fifth. His two blocked punts came that year, as well as his five pass deflections. In fact, his most memorable play from that season was knocking down what would have been a sure touchdown pass in a 31-27 loss at Coeur d'Alene, a loss that likely propelled the Bulldogs to its only title. He made an impact right away, recording eight tackles in his first varsity game, a 48-7 trouncing of Rex Putnam.

Simon said his decision to attend Northern came rather quickly. He visited the campus in Harve "a couple weeks ago," and essentially knew then he would later sign. His position coach, linebackers coach Arthur Smith, made an impact on Simon right away.

"He's just a cool dude," Simon said of Smith. "If you meet him, he's just super cool."

There were a couple other

schools in the mix. He exchanged emails with Eastern Washington several times, but Simon never seriously considered the Eagles, he said. Pittsburg State in Pittsburg, Kansas was also in the running. He had also been in contact with several local schools, including Eastern Oregon, but really wanted to leave the area and "have the full experience away from my parents." Harve is about a 10-hour drive from Hermiston.

For his parents, Mike and Deannie, there wasn't any interference from them regarding their son's choice. They like the campus, like the town of Harve, which is similarly sized, and don't mind he's going about 650 miles away from home.

"We'll be at every game," Mike said matter-of-factly. "I enjoy watching Hayden. It makes me proud to watch him play."

Globetrotters making a pit stop in Kennewick

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

The sight must have been curious.

A seven-foot tall black man and a short, 7-year-old white girl approaching a Jaguar dealership in London in 1958 had to have been interesting. The man was Wilt Chamberlain and the girl was Eloise Saperstein, the daughter of Harlam Globetrotters founder and longtime coach Abe Saperstein. Chamberlain was a rookie that year, and hated being a rookie, Eloise said. He was forced to carry the veterans' bags — a tradition still employed in the NBA, and hated it. He wanted to buy a Jaguar, but the vets wouldn't go with him. So he took Eloise.

"My job was to sit in the car and he would say, 'How does it feel? How does it smell?'" Eloise re-

called. "I was 7 or 8. I didn't know anything."

Chamberlain wanted a little sports car, but, being 7 feet tall, that wasn't the easiest proposition. So the salesman said he would remove the front seats, flip the doors around so the swung the other way, which allowed Chamberlain to drive the little gun-metal sports car from the back seat.

Wilt liked the idea. "Send it home to Philadelphia," he said.

The uniforms are nearly as famous as the name. The blue tops with stars embroidered on the front and back. The white shorts with red stripes, the antics on the court, the playful demeanor of the players and the very name itself are famous. Even if you don't know anything about sports, you know this name.

The Harlem Globetrotters. The name itself conjures up scenes of fancy dribbling, antics with and in the crowd and famous basketball names that transcend the sport. On Feb. 21, the world-famous Globetrotters will perform at 3 p.m. at the Toyota Center in Kennewick, Washington. Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, with the help of new-ish resident Mark Gemolski, is spear-heading the event, providing group rates for tickets.

A comedy basketball team started playing exhibitions in 1926 and started a residency at the Savoy Ballroom the next year. It was called the Savoy Big Five, and was organized into the New York Harlem Globe Trotters by 1929 under the direction of Abe Saperstein. Saperstein chose Harlem as the team's unofficial base as Harlem because a out-of-town team sound-

ed better, and because Harlem was thought to be the center of black culture at the time. The Harlem Renaissance was in full swing under Langston Hughes, and Saperstein wanted to connect his group of Chicago south-siders and their creative form of hoops to the seemingly endless supply of creativity from Harlem.

The Globetrotters functioned as a way for African-Americans to play professional basketball while most of American athletics were segregated. The Globetrotters, at one point, were a competitive organization that participated in the World Professional Basketball Tournament and won the thing in 1940. With the rise of the NBA in the 40's and the integration of the NBA in 1950-51, the Globetrotters

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