

# Globetrotters coming!

by rab pittman

On Monday morning, squeezed in between a CBC interview and breakfast, Tex Harris of the Harlem Globetrotters gave me enough of his time to write this story;

The team's arrival in Halifax marks the first time in 16 years that the Globetrotters have been here and they're literally overwhelmed by the Maritime's enthusiasm for basketball. Their mission is to show how great the game is in itself and to entertain us with the skills of the sport.

They're travelling with the California Chiefs, not because that will provide straight men for some of the gags, but for the simple reason that it eliminates arranging for different competition with every stopover. It also does not guarantee a win for the Globetrotters either, as Tex indicated, since there is no "script" to follow. If the Chiefs play hard one night the Trotters just have to play harder.

The Harlem Globetrotters are not a gimmick team. Each man is a superathlete, chosen for his exceptional skill in basketball, not for his snowmanship. The latter is taught in the Sept-Oct training camp held each year for the new recruits. Their abilities are equal to, if not surpassing, those of the NBA players, with whom the Globetrotters now compete for the cream of the crop of college players.

There was a time when the Globetrotters had their pick of fresh, young talent. But there was also a time when they were called the Savoy Five and played without uniforms or coach. At which point there was a very short New Yorker named H. Saperstein who dreamed of being a basketball coach and could not find a team. The two came together and began the Harlem Globetrotters.

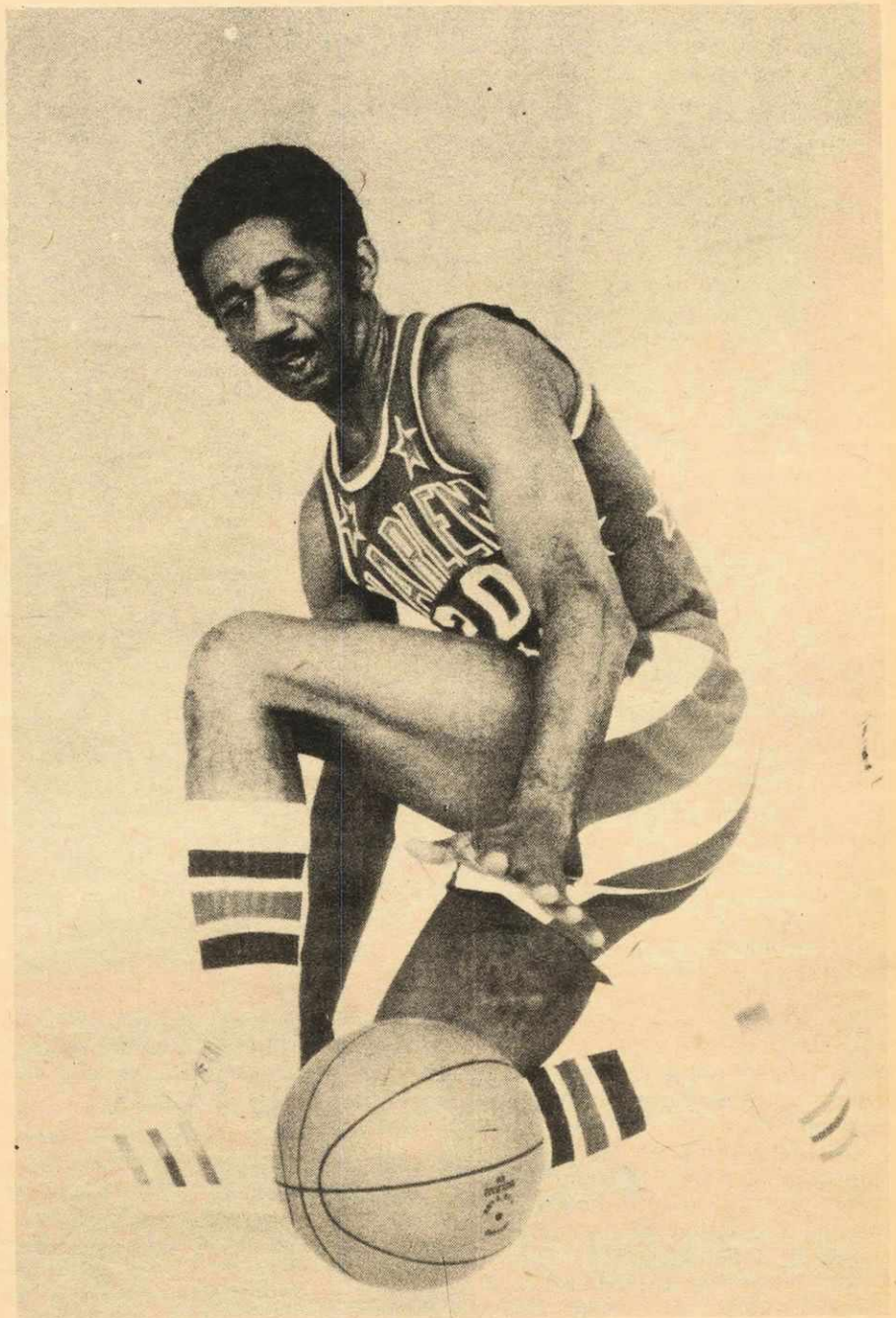
So they had a team, a coach and uniforms but no theme song. The men felt they needed some music to accompany their warm up circle and couldn't find it. Until the musicians touring with them tried out their own version of Sweet Sweet Georgia Brown. The song has identified them ever since.

It was, is and probably always will be an all-black team. Not because of any racial athletic superiority but because it's a means of self-identification, significant of the origins of the initial group and the real reason for the name Harlem Globetrotters. If it were otherwise, as Tex said, they'd be the Irish Globetrotters or the Chinatown Globetrotters or the etc.

The Harlem Globetrotters are a big business, not just another team (ever see the Saturday morning cartoons?) They even have a pension plan for retiring players. There are currently 23 Trotters, divided into a national and an international squad, and during the season they play every day, twice on Sundays. In the 50 years of their existence they've toured 94 countries and never, ever have they been booed.

We are quite fortunate in having two of the more talented members arriving in Halifax Friday; Meadowlark and Marg Haynes, both of whom have played for over 20 years. The reason for their long years of success and that of the team's is as simple as the purpose behind the playing 1. basketball is skillful sport with no built in barriers to separate cultures and 2. happiness and laughter are universal languages.

Way to go guys. Happy Golden Anniversary.



Marques Haynes, of the Globe Trotters, will be showing off his style Friday and Saturday at the Halifax Forum.

## Ski Club

The Dalhousie Cross Country Ski Club held its first meeting of the year on October 5th. Sixty-five prospective members were in attendance. The meeting featured election of officers and the outlining of the ski program.

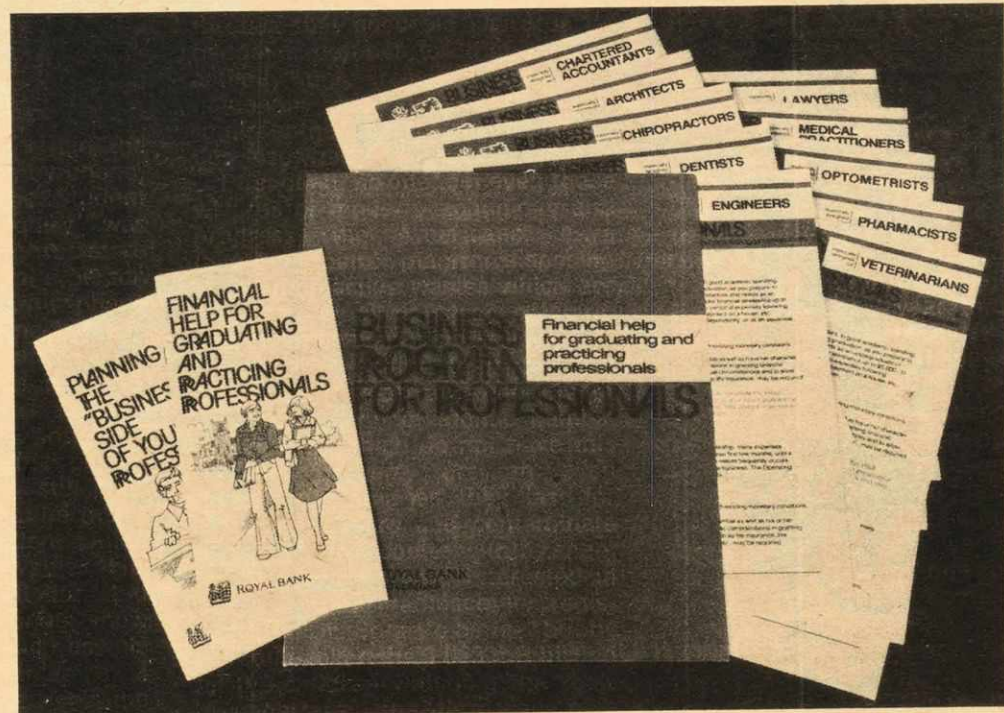
The officers elected were: Denis Kay - president, Betty Hodgson - vice-president, Colin Stewart - treasurer, Francis Watts - secretary. As well Dave Spallin was elected phone committee chairman.

Some of the programs outlined were: instructional clinics, day tours, overnights at Kejimikujik National Park and possibly Manganese Mines, the Nova Scotia Marathon, the Dalhousie Open (which is the AUAA championship), and a special ski promotion, hopefully to be scheduled for Ashburn Golf Course.

Looming in the immediate future is a discount purchase (20% off to club members) arranged by the club through a local retailer. Orders will be taken between 7 and 10 p.m. on each of Wednesday, October 14, and Thursday, October 15 in the Conference Room of the Phys. Ed. Building.

Finally, training will commence, for those interested, Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. at the Tower Road Entrance to Point Pleasant Park.

The next meeting of the club will be on Tuesday, November 2 at 7 p.m. in Room 101 of the SUB. As well as normal Club business there will be a short talk given on Training and a movie entitled 'Tomorrow Winter Comes' will be shown.



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