

Trotters still enjoyable

By JERRY MICCO
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The circus came to Rec Hall Tuesday night.

No, it wasn't Barnum and Bailey and it didn't have animals or a ringmaster or even a trapeze artist, but it did have plenty of talented clowns.

The fabulous Harlem Globetrotters, featuring the "Clown Prince of Basketball," Meadowlark Lemon, displayed their comical basketball antics to a near-capacity crowd.

review

Besides Lemon, Curly Neal and Nate Branch completed the cast of old-time Trotters at last night's exhibition. Newcomers "Sweet" Lou Dunbar and Robert "Baby Face" Paige were impressive.

But, you really can't talk about basketball as a game when you refer to the Trotters, you have to talk first about their showmanship, their great skills with a basketball and their audience appeal.

The Trotters brought out all the old classic comedy routines which still seemed to delight all the fans.

The young children in the audience enjoyed the Trotters' antics even more than the older people. You can still see the joy in their faces and the shine in their eyes as the Globetrotters prepare

to go through one of their traditional routines.

But, for the people who have seen the Trotters before, they still seemed delighted by the acts. I guess it's like listening to Alan King tell jokes about his wife and Steve Martin talk about "getting small," no matter how many times you hear it, you still enjoy it.

However, the Globetrotters have suffered in a sense because of their worldwide popularity.

Some of the comments I heard last night when leaving the performance went like this: "I knew what they were going to do with the water bucket Daddy, I saw it twice before on TV." And, "Why do they do the same old stuff, I can remember those acts from when I was six years old." (The guy was in his twenties).

Yes, the Trotters are getting a little stale, I must admit, but only because they refuse to change anything in their act. They still have the moves and the great shots and that will continue to bring the people out, and Meadowlark's antics will always be favorites for people of all ages.

We mustn't forget either the fact that the Trotters are getting older and may not want to attempt new things.

Evidence that one of the Trotters, Meadowlark, is getting older, is the attempt by the team to instill Nate Branch as the new floor clown. Branch is

funny, but he's no Meadowlark. This could be the future problem for the Trotters, replacing people like Neal and Meadowlark.

When neither of the two were out on the floor, the crowd seemed more subdued and nowhere near as entertained, which is the real purpose of the Globetrotters.

But, when one goes to see the Trotters, he should expect the obvious and the repetitive acts.

Some of those acts are still enjoyed by many of the fans.

The favorite by far and definitely the dazzler of all the Trotter acts, is the Magic Circle, which is done as part of the team's warm-up.

I'm sure you've seen it a hundred times, but the passing ballhandling done by the Trotters is truly the most remarkable part of their whole show.

The Trotters also leave you with memories of what you just saw. You still remember the highjinx they pull with the water bucket routine and the trick shots they attempt and sometimes unbelievably make and the little kids who will dream of someday being a Globetrotter, or even just meeting them. They probably sung themselves to sleep last night with the most famous worldwide memory and trademark of the Trotters — "Sweet Georgia Brown," — and they're still whistling it today, and may be forever.

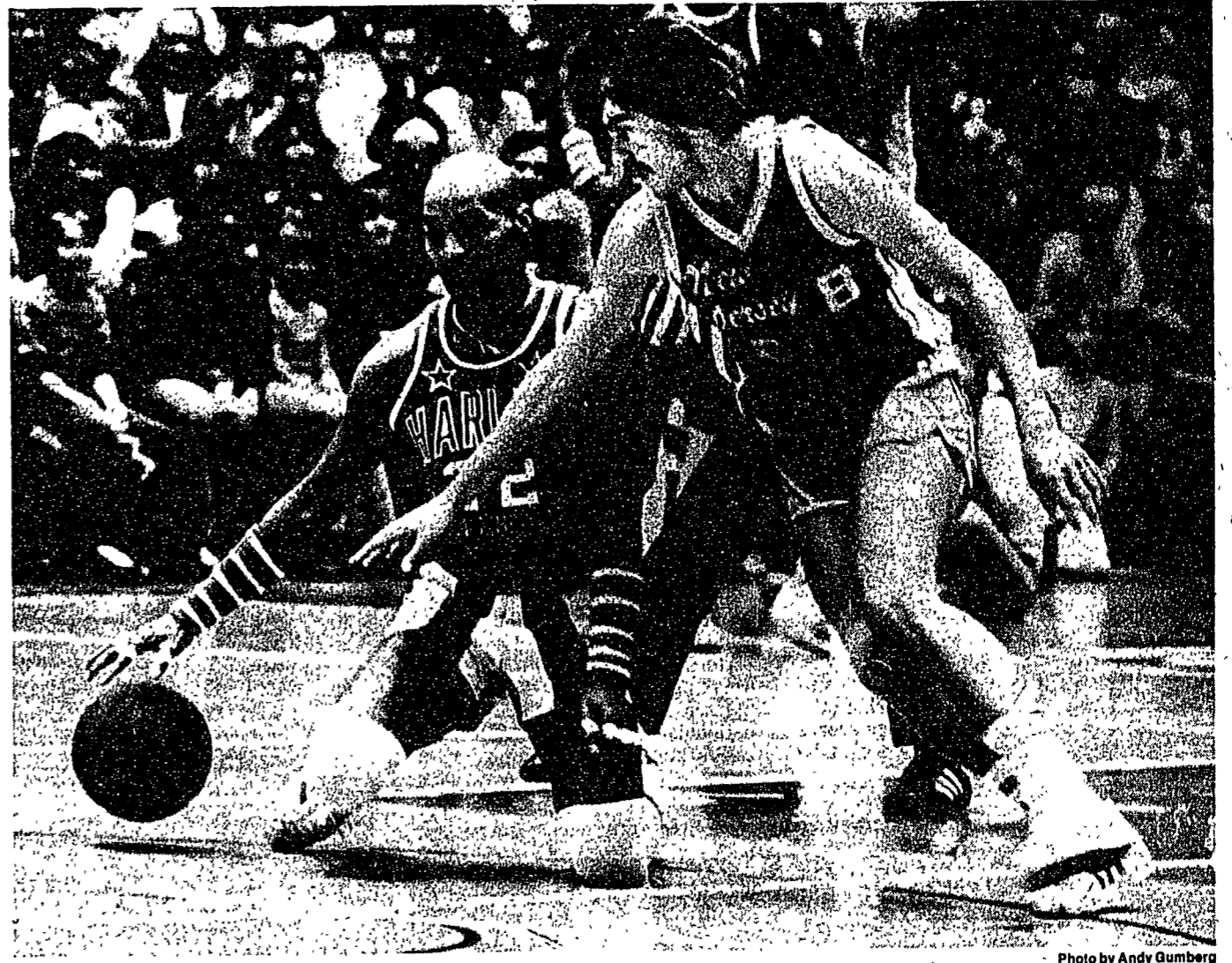
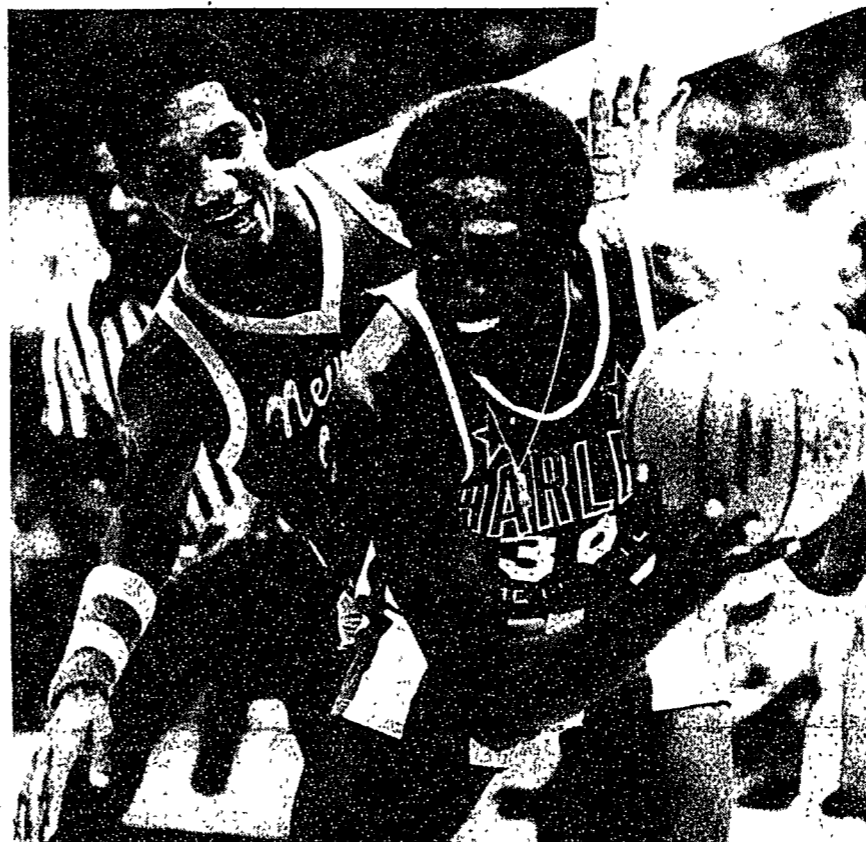


Photo by Andy Dumberg

The Harlem Globetrotters perform their magic Tuesday night at Rec Hall. Clockwise from upper right: Curly Neal dazzles a New Jersey Reds' player with his dribbling; Curly again, showing some juggling prowess during warm-ups; Meadowlark Lemon, the "Clown Prince of Basketball," teasing a defender from his familiar position at the corner of the foul line; and Neal along with Nate Branch, doing the Globetrotters' famous water bucket routine during a time out.



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