

Sanders leads cast of 'new' faces

Zany 'Trotters perform tonight

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor

Their routine never changes, no matter who or where they're playing. No one ever gets tired of watching them and nothing ever criticizes their crazy style of basketball.

The Harlem Globetrotters, who began their operation in 1927, have contributed a great deal to the sport of basketball. Not only did the Globetrotters invent the slam dunk, but they popularized the concepts of the point guard, fast break and small forward.

The team that has boasted names like Meadowlark Lemon, Curly Neal, Geese Ausbie and Marcus Haynes will play tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Although the names have changed, the concept of bringing enjoyment to fans remains the same.

Led by 6-8 James "Twiggy" Sanders and "Sweet" Lou Dunbar, the Globetrotters have kept alive the tradition started and upheld by the athletes who have played for the team since its beginning. Inman Jackson, one of the original Globetrotters, originated the fancy ball-handling seen in many of today's basketball players.

The Globetrotters, identified by their "Sweet Georgia Brown" theme song, have played more than 15,000 games in 99 countries. The team is split into an international squad and a national squad, both of which are currently touring Texas. The international unit will play here tonight.

The international team will also visit Tyler, Nacogdoches, Waco, Abilene, Lubbock, Midland and Amarillo during its Texas tour.

Dunbar, an all-American graduate of the University of Houston, says: "With the Globetrotters, the emphasis is on performance, not on competition. I'm more interested in bringing

the crowd to its feet than in scoring points."

The wiry Sanders, who weighs only 175, says the Globetrotters' ultimate goal is to bring laughs to their audiences.

"When I first started playing in other countries, I was worried about how to communicate with the fans," Sanders said. "Instead of us doing the talking, we let the ball do all the talking, and the fans love it wherever we play. We don't need a dictionary to understand people laughing."

Coach Charles "Tex" Harrison, who played for the Globetrotters for 20 years, has been with the team for 27 years as a player and a coach. In his third year as the squad's head coach, he describes himself as a "veteran of many a campaign."

Harrison said the two units exhibit the same quality play wherever they go.

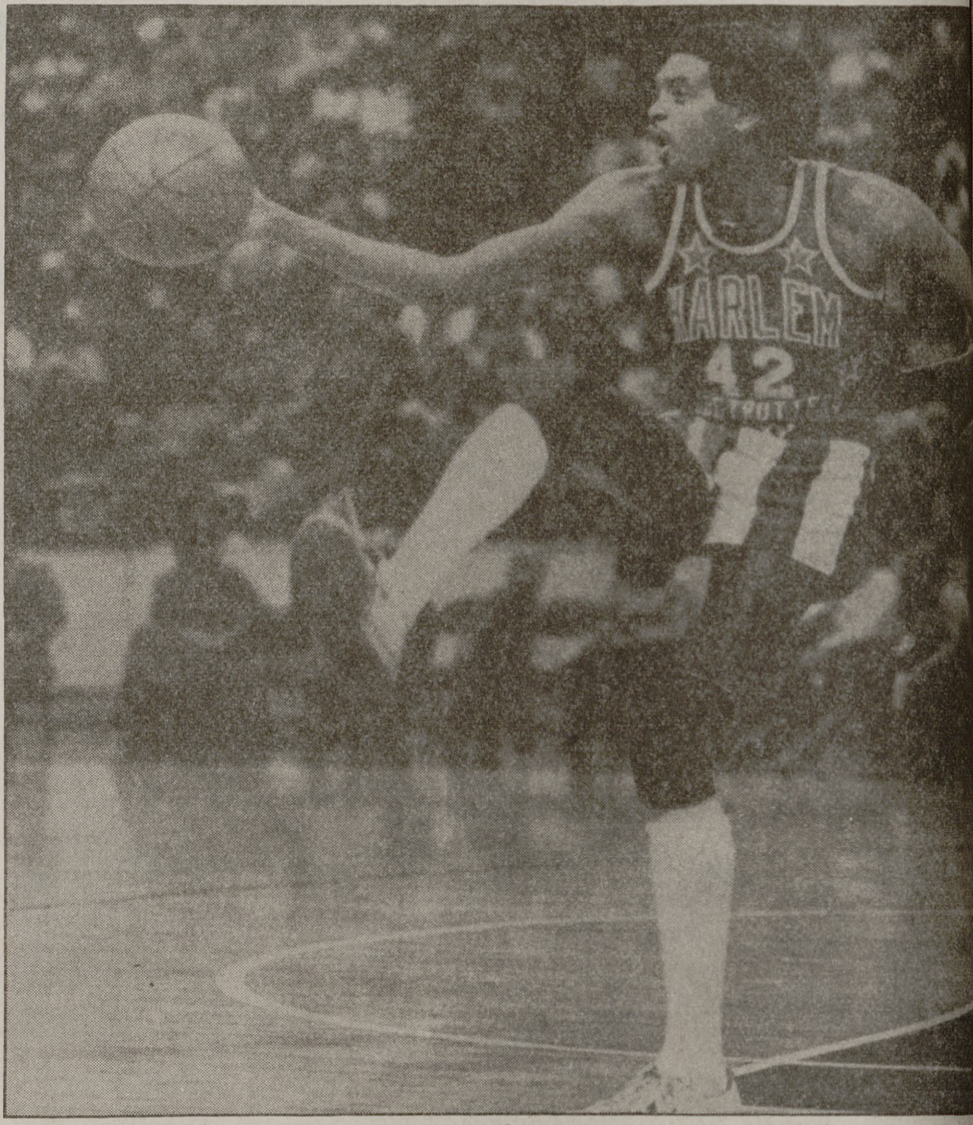
"When you see one, you've seen both," Harrison said. "The only difference is that people are more familiar with the personnel of one team (the international unit) than the other team."

Other players who stand out on the Globetrotter squad are 6-2 Jimmy Blacklock, 6-2 Clyde Austin and 6-2 Osborne Lockhart. Harrison said Blacklock "performs antics with a basketball similar to what a monkey can do with a peanut."

Harrison said: "The Chiefs are a great basketball aggregation. They're coming in with every intention of beating us. However, we're going to make a gallant effort to beat them."

Leaders for the Chiefs are 6-10 Barry Weston, a graduate of Evansville University, and 6-8 Walter Ned, who played for Alcorn A&M University.

General admission tickets for tonight's game are \$5 for students and \$6 for non-students, while reserved tickets are \$7.



James "Twiggy" Sanders, a 6-8, 175-pounder playing for the 1982 Harlem Globetrotters, performs tricks with a basketball in a game played during 1981. Sanders and his teammates will visit Texas A&M tonight when the Globetrotters compete against the California Chiefs at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. General admission tickets are \$5 for students and \$6 for non-students while reserved seat tickets are \$7.

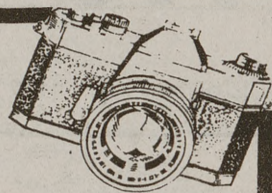
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Sherrill chooses seven assistant coaches for A&M football staff

Jackie Sherrill, Texas A&M's new athletic director and head coach has announced the hiring of several coaches for his football staff.

Sherrill has retained three coaches from the staff of former head coach Tom Wilson, who was fired Tuesday upon Sherrill's acceptance of the Texas A&M post. Greg Davis, Wilson's quarterback coach, as well as

assistants Dan LaGrasta and Paul Register, will remain on Sherrill's staff.

However, the former University of Pittsburgh head coach will decide whether to keep LaGrasta and Register after the staff has finished recruiting. The letter-of-intent signing date for high school prospects is Feb. 10.

Also hired by Sherrill were George Pugh, Pittsburgh, tight ends; Bob Matey, Pittsburgh,

defensive line; R.C. Slocum, USC and former Texas A&M coach, defensive coordinator; Jim Helms, SMU, running backs; Jerry Pettibone, Nebraska, receivers; Curley Hall, Clemson, defensive backs; Bobby Roper, Oregon State, offensive ends.

Slocum coached with Aggies for nine seasons. Hallman is a 1970 graduate of Texas A&M.

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