

In 1939, the team played its first game outside the U.S. as they toured Canada and played its first basketball championship tournament, losing to the New York Rens.

Clowning Around

One night during a game, the Globetrotters led their opponent by 112-5 and began to clown around. The crowd loved it. After the game Saperstein told his players it was okay to add more clowning in the games, but only when they had a safe lead on the scoreboard. Inman Jackson gave the team its "Clown Prince of Basketball" role and created the pivot position now used by all levels of basketball. In 1940, the team clinched its first World Basketball Championship, defeating the Chicago Bruins in overtime.

In 1942 Reece "Goose" Tatum joined the team. He quickly proved himself to be a basketball genius and a talented comedian. "Goose" created most of the team's classic comedy routines. That same year, the Globetrotters made their first trip south of the border, winning the International Cup Tournament in Mexico City.

In 1945, Bold Buie, who had only one arm, joined the Globetrotters. Averaging an amazing 18 points per game, he dazzled crowds with his skill and courage. In 1946, the Globetrotters celebrated their 20th season, played their 3,000th game and made their first overseas trip.

In 1949, the Globetrotters became the first professional team to tour what is now Alaska. After traveling by dog sled to appear



The Globetrotters earn a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

before an Eskimo audience, the players were puzzled when the crowd neither laughed nor clapped. The team later learned that the Eskimo's silence showed appreciation. The 1950s saw the Globetrotters tour South America, appear on television's Ed Sullivan Show" and nine straight World Series of Basketball titles over the College All-Americans. The team was also the subject of two movies. Founder Abe Saperstein died in 1966.

The Globetrotters were a big hit on television. A Saturday morning cartoon series based on the team debuted in 1970. The one-hour, musical variety special, "The Harlem Globetrotters Popcorn Machine" aired in 1972.

Throughout the years, the team has lived up to its name, wow-ing crowds around the globe. For example, the Globetrotters first toured Africa in 1978.

First Female Player Signed

In 1985, the Globetrotters signed Olympic Gold Medalist Lynette Woodard as the first female professional play-

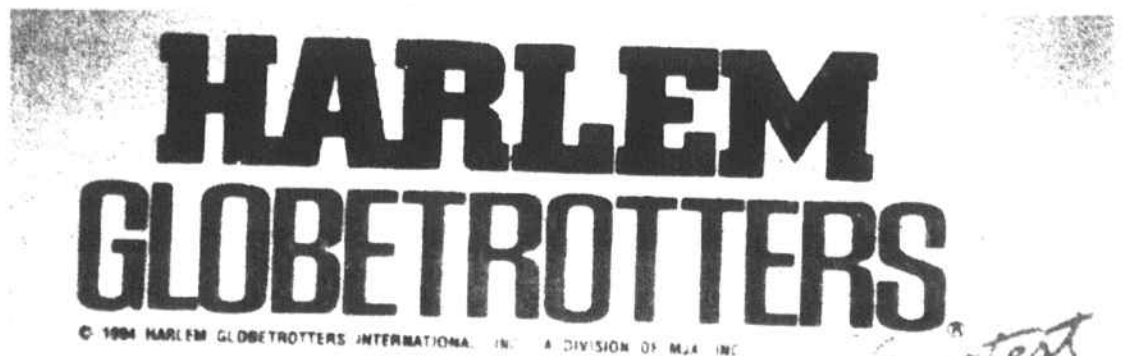
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The Globetrotters have earned many honors. In 1985 the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American Social History unveiled a permanent display spotlighting the Globetrotters. The team also has a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. And in 1989 the team received the General Omar N. Bradley Spirit of Independence Award for its hard

team's famous "Magic Circle" but was the only white player to ever wear the Globetrotters' red, white and blue uniform. He amazed World War II audiences with his trademark behind-the-back backhand shot and the yo-yo trick basketball.

A Black Owner

In 1993 the team returned to its roots on a Harlem basketball court as former Globetrotter Mannie



work, high morals, discipline, courage and leadership.

The team has also paid tribute to others, naming actor Whoopi Goldberg as an honorary Harlem Globetrotter, and presenting former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell with an official uniform and game ball. Further, the team has honored its own, awarding Harlem Globetrotters Legends rings to former players such as Fred "Curly" Neal, famous for his bald head; Connie Hawkins, who went on to play for the Phoenix Suns; and Bob Karstens, the oldest living team member.

Karstens not only created the

Jackson purchased the team, becoming the first African American to own a major international sports/entertainment organization. "The Harlem Globetrotters remain America's true goodwill ambassadors and ideal role models for today's youth," says Jackson, the team's chairman and owner.

Globetrotter Bobby Joe Mason recently visited Winston-Salem's Central YMCA. He urged kids to get an education. "Get some sense, stay in school. No matter what you do, the basketball will stop bouncing. No matter how well you learn basketball, you [need] something to fall back on."



Team mascot Globey dances with a young fan.