

OWEN DAVIS

Freddie And The Globetrotters

Their corporate name is Abe Saperstein's Fabulous Harlem Globetrotters, but millions the world over know them simply as the Globetrotters and could care less about the other titles.

42 years ago, died in 1966, but his creation continues to the delight of young and old.

The Globetrotters were in several North Carolina cities this past week and we intercepted them in Greensboro.

We had never seen them in living flesh before, although several television games and a full-length movie had been viewed with great interest.

Many people said, "If you've seen the Trotters once, you've seen 'em a million times."

But they had a certain magic about them which called for more, and the temptation to see them couldn't be resisted.

We still expected to be somewhat disappointed since many old, familiar acts would be replayed.

But the Trotters never disappoint, just amaze.

It all began when Meadow-

lark Lemon walked on court and anybody who has seen Lemon walk can tell you why. The famed Clown Prince of Basketball either has no joints or his tendons are rubberized. He kind of just flops along while his whole body moves in many different directions.

His 30-foot hook shots (of which he hit several) leave fans dumbfounded, but he also adds a comedy act which is mostly for the young but entertains all.

Then there was Freddy Neal, the dribbler. Neal was in his hometown, so he threw in a dozen or so 40-foot jumpers for extras.

His main act is the dribbling exhibition made famous by Marquis Haynes, which consists of several minutes of fast-action dribbling around, through and under his body while the ball never went more than six inches off the floor.

Neal and Lemon are both from North Carolina, and someone ventured, "Wouldn't it have been nice to have them play for Carolina?"

They could have made it too, but nobody wanted them.

The laughter seemed to stop a moment when Neal and Lemon were viewed in their native setting.

Still today, several like them will leave a poor Negro high school, maybe play awhile for a small Negro college if they are lucky (Neal was, Lemon wasn't) and sign with the Globetrotters.

Then suddenly everybody will want to see them. Greensboro loves Freddie Neal now. It once didn't and could care less if he could shoot better than anyone else in town.

So while Neal evoked laughter and amazement with the rest of his teammates, he also proved a point. He showed the people who once didn't want him that he is a very good basketball player.

He must have gotten some satisfaction for that, but it couldn't replace all the glory he could have had while playing for the hometown folks in a major college uniform.

Freddie Neal was satisfied, but like most of his teammates who never got the chance to make it big, he must have been contemptuous.

Having to be part clown in order to draw hometown raves would degrade anybody. For the man who exclaimed afterwards "can't they handle that basketball!" didn't want Freddie five years ago.



BILL DOOLEY

23 Lettermen Return Grid Practice Opens

With high hopes for an improved team, the North Carolina Tar Heels open spring football practice next Thursday under Coach Bill Dooley.

Plans call for a split practice with 10 days of work before the spring vacation and 10 days following the return of the students to campus. The annual Blue-White intrasquad game is tentatively scheduled for May 4.

Dooley repeatedly has said that he expects an improved team next fall in his second

season at the Tar Heel helm. But the coach cautions that it will be another rebuilding year. "You can't rebuild a football program in one year or two," he says. "It simply takes longer than that."

Dooley says the chief goal in the off-season work will be to make a general improvement in all phases of play. "I can't pick out one or two positions that need the most improvement," he says. "We just hope to become more efficient at every position."

Twenty-three lettermen return from last year's team which won two and lost eight. Among the top returnees are quarterback Gayle Bomar, ends Peter Davis and Lyn Duncan, tackle Mike Richey, guards Battle Wall, Ed Chalupka and Mike Smith, center Chip Bradley, halfback Saulis Zemaitis, fullback Tommy Dempsey and linebacker Mark Mazza.

Dooley cites two reasons why he feels the Tar Heels will be improved. "First, we are bringing up some good football players from our freshman squad," he says, "and then all of our players have the advantage of a year's experience under a new system. They should operate a lot better now under it."

Some of the most promising new men in camp will be end Tony Blanchard, tackles Flip Ray and Mike Bobbitt, linebacker Larry Pochucha, quarterbacks Johnny Swofford and Ricky Lanier and halfback Don McCauley.

Tar Heels' Miller Best In ACC

Carolina's Larry Miller is the repeat winner of the Gerry Gerard Award as the most outstanding basketball player in the Atlantic Coast Conference, it was announced Wednesday.



MIKE WILLIAMS

Williams To Run In Detroit Meet

North Carolina's champion miler Mike Williams of Tarpon Springs, Fla., will compete in the National Collegiate Indoor Meet at Detroit, Mich., today and Saturday.

Williams won the mile championship in recent Atlantic Coast Conference Indoor Games in 4:11. He swept both the mile and half mile in the ACC outdoor meet last spring and was voted the outstanding individual in the competition.

Netters Challenge Vols In Season Opener Monday

With four veterans returning from last year's Atlantic Coast Conference championship squad, the University of North Carolina opens a fresh tennis season here against the Volunteers of Tennessee this Saturday.

Gene Hamilton, the defending ACC No. 1 flight champion, will lead the Tar Heels into action. Captain Bob Davis, runner-up in the No. 2 flight last spring; Smokey Swenson, defending conference champion at the No. 5 spot; and Bill Trotter, runner-up in the No. 6 position, will provide Carolina with experienced depth. All are seniors.

According to UNC Coach Don Skakle, who is now in his tenth year as head mentor, the Vols should be about as tough as opener as one could ask for. "I think we have had enough general conditioning and court practice to be ready for this match. We'll have to be ready. Tennessee has one of the top teams in the East.

Besides the veterans mentioned above, the Tar Heel lineup will be bolstered by sophomores Lee Langstroth, Allen Lassiter, Fred Rawlings and Joe Dorn. Langstroth, a native of Coral Gables, Fla.,

played at the No. 1 post his freshman season, and is a good bet to secure a slot in the top five. Lassiter and Rawlings, from Winston-Salem and Durham respectively, are both ranked in the state.

The Saturday match will include six individual matches and three doubles. Starting time is 2:00 p.m.

The Schedule: March 16-TENNESSEE, 19-

BUCKNELL, 20-OHIO, 21-OHIO, 23-NORTH WESTERN, 25-M.I.T., 30-Presbyterian. April 2-WILLIAMS, 3-HARVARD, 4-WILLIAMS, 5-HARVARD, 8-CLEMSON, 13-Jacksonville, 16-Florida, 19-TOLEDO, 20-Virginia, 22-Maryland, 24-Duke, 26-WAKEFOREST, 30-N.C. State. May 2-SOUTH CAROLINA, 9-11-ACC Tourney.

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