

Globetrotter spins positive message at YMCA

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See the [Globetrotters](#) at The Ted Feb. 28 to March 1

The Virginian-Pilot
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By John Streit

Correspondent

Herbert "Moo Moo" Evans spreads cheer around the world with his basketball skills.

Using stunts that enthralled his audience, the 6-foot-3 Harlem Globetrotter was at the Mount Trashmore YMCA on Jan. 24 and spoke to a group of youth basketball players about the Globetrotters' C.H.E.E.R. for Character Program.

The acronym stands for cooperation, healthy mind and body, effort, enthusiasm and responsibility. Evans related the character traits to education, social interactions and active lifestyle decisions while using basketball stunts to keep the children

enthralled.

"This is a big part of the Globetrotters that a lot of people don't see," said Evans, 26, in his a fourth year as a Globetrotter out of Troy University.

"Crowds of kids and parents always come to our games and have kept us around for 83 years. To go around and spread a positive message and fun; it's something small we do to give back."

At the Y, Evans entertained the players with basketball drills that included stylish passing, spinning and handling.

"He taught us to be responsible and about cooperation, and that our parents do a lot of work to take care of us," said Martin Howard Jr., a White Oaks Elementary fourth-grader.

Martin's mother, Donielle Howard, said she was grateful for Evans' visit.

"I truly enjoyed how he brought the message to the children and how it was very encouraging for them to achieve and be successful."

Chris Bendix, Mount Trash-more YMCA sports director, said Evans' and the Globetrotters' message is a perfect fit for his organization.

"It's all about the kids: their health and staying away from drugs, which are the same things we preach at the YMCA through our sports programs."

Evans makes stops ahead of the Globetrotters' tour to spread the word on the team's upcoming shows. The Globetrotters will appear at Old Dominion University's Ted Constant Convocation Center Feb. 28 and March 1.

"If I reach two, three, four kids or all of them," he said, "I did my job to help someone eat healthier and to focus on their education instead of just sports."

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