

Globetrotter inspires at the YMCA

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Legendary Globetrotter Wun "The Shot" Versher trotted to Suffolk on Saturday to visit YMCA basketball teams.

Versher is visiting area malls, YMCA facilities and community centers to promote the Harlem Globetrotters 2011 World Tour and to inspire youth leading up to the Globetrotters' March appearance at Norfolk's Ted Constant Convocation Center, said Sara Webster, marketing coordinator for the Constant Center.

At the Suffolk Family YMCA this weekend, Versher shared a message of staying positive, being active, eating nutritious foods and making positive life decisions. He performed some of the Harlem Globetrotters' trademark tricks and brought few kids to center court to do tricks along with him.

Versher said after the show that he is very concerned with the way young people play so many video games and don't take time to go outside. A father himself, Versher explained his concern for children's diets and all of the negativity in the world today.

"Bodies are not the same as they were 15-20 years ago," he said. "Nutrition is extremely important for our kids."

Versher said he is glad to be able to be a positive influence on youth.

"One of the things about the Globetrotters is that they definitely extend themselves beyond just playing games," Versher said.

Seveante Williams, 15, was inspired by Versher to reflect on himself as a role model for younger family members.

"I think my brother looks at me for the stuff I do in school — my good grades and playing basketball," Seveante said.

Seveante plays point guard for King's Fork High School and AAU, and said he realizes that he has a responsibility to be a positive influence on others.

"I think the Globetrotter was cool," Seveante said. "He was professional, but down to Earth."

"He was good at basketball," said Gabrielle Sinclair, a 6-year-old audience member. "My favorite thing is spinning the ball on my finger."

"I think he was awesome," said 6-year-old Lilly Williams, who was one of the children chosen to perform with Versher. "Because he can spin for a long time."

Versher taught Lilly how to spin the ball on her finger and pass the ball behind her back and under her leg. She even learned how to bounce the ball off of her head.

"It was cool because I like it," Lilly said.

"It was a very exciting day," said Charlene Jordan, a mother in the audience.

Charlene is a longtime fan of the Harlem Globetrotters. She said that she knows her children were inspired by what Versher said because even as an adult, she was inspired by it.