

## **(Neb.)-Harlem Crowns To Take On Chadron Public Schools' Staff And Community**

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/22/2013 10:17 AM

(CHADRON)-Despite the snowy weather, the world famous traveling Harlem Crowns are coming to Chadron to play in the Middle School Gym on Monday, April 22nd. The night's events will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a pre-game featuring Chadron's 5th grade girls vs. Chadron's 6th grade girls. The Harlem Crowns' regulation four-quarter game of comedic basketball will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the Crowns taking on the staff of Chadron Public Schools, as well as a few community members. Organizers says will never be a dull moment during the game because of the zany acts and laugh-a-minute routines throughout the game.

Advanced tickets are on sale for \$9, and tickets at the door will cost \$10, with children 6 and under getting in free. Tickets are being sold at Chadron High School by calling 432-0707 and by numerous students who are part of the Wanderlust Cardinals, a group of Chadron High School students traveling to Europe in May. They are the group hosting the event as a fundraiser.

Twenty Chadron High students and adults are heading to Ireland, England, and France on May 25th. They will tour for eleven days before returning on June 4th. Traveling through the organization Education First (EF), the students will fly from Rapid City to Minneapolis to New York City, and then arrive in Shannon, Ireland. Once the group arrives in Shannon, they will meet their tour guide who will be with them the duration of the trip. They will then travel to Killarney. During the four days the group is in Ireland, they will visit spots such as The Ring of Kerry, Cashel Rock, Blarney Castle, and sights in Dublin, such as St. Patrick's Cathedral and Trinity College.

The group will then travel by ferry to Holyhead, Wales. As they make their way to London, they will stop at Oxford and Stratford Upon Avon, the home of William Shakespeare. In London, the tour will highlight stops at St. Paul's Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, and Windsor Castle.

On the last leg of the tour, the group will travel by Eurostar to Paris, France. They will visit the Eiffel Tower, experience a boat ride down the River Seine, and visit the Louvre and Notre Dame Cathedral. From Paris, they will make the trip back home.

The Harlem Crowns began their existence in the mid-50s when a former Harlem Globetrotter by the name of Chico Burrell formulated another team composed of highly talented basketball players.

Burrell was born in Harlem, N.Y. He attended New York University, and upon graduation joined the Harlem Globetrotters. He played with the "Trotters" for twelve years as an outstanding performer. Burrell blended his talents with such Harlem Globetrotter greats as Goose Tatum, Sweetwater Clifton, and Maquis Haynes.

After years of success with the Harlem Crowns, Burrell retired and sold the team to a group of Northern California businessmen. One of the incumbent members on the Harlem Crowns, Herbert Scaife, is presently managing the team. Scaife hails from Arkansas and resides in Oakland, Calif., during the off season.

Members of the Harlem Crowns are chosen for showmanship as well as their ability to play above average basketball. At the beginning of each season, approximately two weeks in October, a very organized training camp is held in a designated Northern California city. Candidates and possible new additions are brought in from all over the United States.

The following are requirements for being considered a member of the Harlem Crowns:

1. To have former college basketball experience.
2. To have good character and the ability to get along with others.
3. To have basketball ability, the potential to be a showman and a knack for comic improvisations.

The Harlem Crowns play a regulation four-quarter game against any opposing team furnished by the sponsors. They have staggered the comical imagination of spectators in various places in the United States and Canada as well as abroad in places such as Tokyo, Japan; Manila, Philippines; and Singapore. They've also ventured south of the border in Old Mexico.

--Submitted by Jill Paopao, Chadron Public Schools