

Harlem Ambassadors to take over HHS gym Sat.

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Those who haven't purchased tickets for the Harlem Ambassadors basketball game, don't sweat. There is still time and tickets may also be purchased at the door the night of the event.

The Ambassadors will invade Holyoke Saturday, Sept. 11 and face off against the Holyoke Dragon Slayers at 7 p.m.

The game will be played in the new gym at Holyoke High School.

An autographed basketball by the Ambassadors will be presented to someone during the game, according to Holyoke Chamber of Commerce member Brandi Helgoth.

Those on the Dragon Slayer team are Ben Rahe, Scott Dille, Corey Zeiler, Brett Murray, Levi Williamson, Dennis Herman, Aaron Sprague, Kyle Bules and Adam Einspahr. Tom Bennett will serve as one of the referees. Zeiler may also share refereeing duties.

According to their website, the Harlem Ambassadors professional show basketball team was conceived in October 1997 by Dale Moss.

Moss combined an extensive career in professional sports management and marketing with an entrepreneurial desire to create the Harlem Ambassadors concept.

The first training camp was held in September 1998 and the team launched their inaugural tour in October. The first ever Harlem Ambassadors game was played in Mountain Home, Idaho on Oct. 10, 1998. They played approximately 30 games during their first season.

Beginning in the 2002-03 season, a second touring unit was spun off. Today, at any given point in the season, there are two Harlem Ambassadors' units performing in different parts of the country.

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The group performing primarily east of the Mississippi is designated as the “Red, White and Blue” unit, while the western touring squad is called the “Stars and Stripes” unit. Between the two units, the Harlem Ambassadors performed 209 events and 94 “Stay in School, Stay off Drugs” youth programs during the 2008-09 season.

The team annually holds a two-week pre-season training camp at Evangelical Covenant Church in Fort Collins. Performers are selected not only for their basketball skills, but also for their positive lifestyles and ability to truly be “Ambassadors” both on and off the court.

The Ambassadors promise to provide high flying slam dunks mixed with hilarious comedy and fun for the entire family.