



Harlem Globetrotter 'TNT' Balances Amazing Basketball Skills and Family Life

Story by Heidi Dahms Foster. Photos courtesy Fatima Lister.

Harlem Globetrotter, Fatima Lister, or "TNT," her team nickname, wasn't planning a career with the famous entertaining athletes. But a Harlem Globetrotter scout heard about her when she was following her passion working with children in Philadelphia.



Photo courtesy John Salangsang

The Globetrotters invited TNT for an interview, and in an understatement, she said, "Things went well." After researching the Globetrotters on and off the court, especially their work in schools and hospitals, she decided the team was a fit for her. "I felt it was a good combination for me as a player and a person," she said.

TNT's skills fit the Globetrotters as well. She stumbled on basketball as a seventh grader, and immediately fell in love with the sport.

"I was a quiet child, and basketball taught me social skills and brought me out of my shell," she said.

She also excelled in volleyball and track and field, setting Colorado state records in long and triple jump. TNT was an all-conference selection in basketball all four years of high school. She attended Temple University and then moved on to play Division I pro basketball in Sweden for two years.

TNT joined the Globetrotters in 2011, the first woman to play on the team since 1993. She is now one of five female players in the Globetrotters organization. The first female player was Lynette

Woodard in 1985, and she received such a good reception from fans that the Globetrotters have worked to bring on more females since.

The chance to make a difference in children's lives is one of the best parts of being part of the Globetrotters, TNT said. "Working with kids came naturally for me even when I was a kid. I'd go to the local Boys and Girls Club to volunteer and help

teachers watch kids, and teach them arts and crafts."

Married with a little one-year-old daughter, Kali Rose, TNT said, "The last tour was my first back from maternity leave. It was a little bit of a challenge to travel, and they have to come see me, but my husband is awesome—he's our superhero."

She pours as much effort into balancing being a mother and wife as she does into her career on the Globetrotters. Her husband Neil, whom she met in college, was a long-time friend before they married, and has always been supportive of her career. Top among her efforts, she said, is keeping open communication with each other.

Now based in San Diego, California, the Globetrotters have

several units that travel around the world. Road tours are different lengths, with no one the same. Players can be out for four or five days, or two or three months at a time, depending on where they are assigned.

TNT said players don't usually come on the team with the amazing tricks in a Globetrotters show.

"I was just a traditional player when I got on the team," she said. "At training camp, they'll give you some fundamental tricks, and then it's up to you to go home and work on your craft. How hard you work is how good you'll be. It's important to me as

a female player to belong, to not be a gimmick. I wanted to make sure I was up to par with my teammates. I went home and got after it. I'm still learning."

"When you are a young player, you practice every day.

Right now, I practice four or five times a week, as well as working out," she said. She's had to work

extra hard to get back in shape, because this active athlete was on bed rest for the last four months of her pregnancy.

"I tell people it was more a mental than physical challenge. I have a great hubby, God bless his heart to deal with me. I dove into some Netflix series and



Fatima & Kali Rose



Neil, Kali Rose & Fatima

(Continued on page 15)

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CHURCH
3151 Willow Creek Rd, Prescott
928-445-8008

PRESCOTT LIFE CHURCH
2200 N Highway 89, Prescott
928-445-4064

PRESCOTT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
137 N Marina St, Prescott
928-778-2538

PRESCOTT SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2980 Willow Creek Rd, Prescott
928-778-0289

PRESCOTT SIGN LANGUAGE
CONGREGATION
3000 Willow Creek Rd, Prescott
928-778-2380

PRESCOTT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALST
945 S Rancho Vista Dr, Prescott
928-778-6672

PRESCOTT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
505 W Gurley St, Prescott, 928-778-1950

PRESCOTT VLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
7655 Long Look Dr., Prescott Vly
928-772-7364

PRESCOTT VLY CHURCH OF CHRIST
8415 Manley Dr, Prescott Vly
928-772-7907

PRESCOTT VLY CHURCH OF THE
NAZARINE
3741 Constance Dr, Prescott Vly
928-775-4389

PRESCOTT VLY UNITED METHODIST
8944 E Sommer Dr, Prescott Vly
928-772-6366

ROBERT ROAD SOUTHERN BAPTIST
5100 Robert Rd, Prescott Vly
928-772-0703

ROCK THE-AMERICAN EVANGELICAL
655 Talwatha Dr, Prescott, 928-541-1044

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
150 Fleury Ave Prescott, 928-445-3141

SAVING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
440 Palomino Rd, Chino Vly
928-636-9533

SHEPHERD-HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
1202 Green Ln, Prescott, 928-778-9122

ST CATHERINE LABOURE CATHOLIC
CHURCH
2062 N Hwy 89, Chino Vly, 928-636-4071

ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH
609 W Gurley, Prescott, 928-777-8750

ST GERMAINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
7997 E Dana Dr, Prescott Vly
928-772-6350

ST LUKE EBONY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
12191 E Turquoise Cir, Dewey
928-772-7889

ST LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2000 Shepherds Ln, Prescott
928-778-4499

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
600 W Hillside Ave, Prescott
479-426-2091

SUMMIT CHURCH
2235 S Highway 89, Chino Vly
928-636-2888

TEMPLE B'RITH SHALOM
2077 Brohner Way, Prescott
928-708-0018

THE CONNECTION CHURCH
440 Palomino Road, Chino Vly
928-460-3654

THE JUNCTION CHURCH
8933 E Florentine Rd, Prescott Vly
928-772-6222

THE RIDGE - A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
6540 East 2nd Street, Prescott Vly
928-775-4331

THE QUEST CHURCH
444 W Sheldon St #A, Prescott
928-275-3970

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
3950 N Valorie Dr, Prescott Vly
928-772-8845

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
630 Park Ave, Prescott, 928-445-4536

UNITY CHURCH OF PRESCOTT
145 S Arizona Ave, Prescott
928-445-1850

VICTORY CHURCH
2851 Mendecino Dr, Prescott Vly
928-775-3314

VINEYARD CHURCH OF PRESCOTT VLY
9100 N Paquito Vly Rd, Prescott Vly
928-772-8477

VISION POINTE CHURCH
7605 E Longlook Dr, Prescott Vly
928-772-0430

WESTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
5860 N Williamson Vly Rd, Prescott
928-776-0081

WILLOW HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
1071 Mogollon Rd, Prescott
928-445-5520

WORD OF LIFE ASSEMBLY
590 W Road 1 North, Chino Vly
928-636-4224

WORD OF TRUTH BAPTIST CHURCH
8154 East Florentine Road A,
Prescott Vly, 928-362-0558

(Continued from page 4)

researched what to do to get back in shape. I feel fortunate that my daughter didn't come early. She is healthy and happy, so I'm not complaining!" she said.

TNT said she loves not only to showcasing her basketball tricks and skills, but also connecting with the families that come to see the Globetrotters.

"There are always a couple of kids that touch me and the team. I took one little girl on to the court and let her be a part of the show, kind of an 'empowerment moment.' Her mom sent me an email later and told me the child's father had passed away not long ago, and this was the first time she had smiled in a long time. You never know who you'll touch," she said.

TNT also loves to see kids get excited about basketball. One of her friends, with whom she played basketball in high school, came with her daughter, who was not particularly excited about sports. "The next thing I know, I heard she wants to try. That's always fun and cool. It's important that our young girls know they can reach for the stars. I encourage them to throw out the box, follow their dreams and think big."

She knows she can touch kids the way TNT's high school coach had an impact on her. Recently, she was able to return the favor. "He



Kali Rose & Fatima

had me try basketball, and he was kind to me. Not too long ago I went home to play a couple months after his wife had suddenly passed away. I had the opportunity to have him and his two kids come to the game, and have them be a part. They had been through a rough time, and the fact that I could give something back the way he gave to me was amazing."

Every player on the Globetrotters has a nickname. TNT got hers because the team noted that she was an explosive player. "I like to tell people it's because I'm the bomb!"

Basketball fans will be able to judge that for themselves when the Globetrotters play in Prescott Valley at the Findlay Toyota Center on August 22. Find tickets at <http://www.findlaytoyotacenter.com/events>

"This will be by second time in Arizona," TNT said. "It's one of my favorite places, so I'm really excited."