

BRECKENRIDGE ROTARY CLUB FUNDRAISER

Submitted by Carrie McDermott,
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High-flying slam dunks, musical chairs, dance-offs and comedy routines kept the crowd at the Breckenridge High School gym howling with laughter during the Harlem Ambassadors vs. Twin Town All Stars basketball game Tuesday night.

The Breckenridge Rotary Club hosted the special event as a fundraiser, which featured the talented co-ed group of basketball players who shared a positive message with the audience and with students earlier in the day.

Throughout the game, the Harlem Ambassadors stopped the action to bring youngsters onto the hardwood to play games, become honorary ambassadors at courtside and show off their best dance moves.

A group of two dozen community members made up the Twin Town All Stars team, who played along with the comedy routines, including having to do five push-ups when they fouled an Ambassador. Ambassadors team coach Brittany Dorsey led her team to victory against the All-Stars, but the real winners of the night were the audience members. Patric Massey, a 6-foot-9 player with the Ambassadors, ended up getting pantsed at one point during the game, which revealed a bright pink tutu underneath his game shorts. He demanded the refs call a foul against All Stars player Sue Smith, which was ignored to the delight of the crowd. Later Massey danced with Smith during the team dance-off. Breckenridge Rotary member Dean Bjorlin played on the All Stars team and accepted a certificate from the Harlem Ambassadors after the game, on behalf of the club.

A 50-50 raffle cash award and basketball autographed by the Harlem Ambassadors team were given out after the third quarter. Peggy Kram won the 50-50 raffle and Tara Klostreich won the basketball.

Tuesday afternoon, the Harlem Ambassadors visited Breckenridge Elementary-Middle School and showed off their ball-handling skills while sharing positive messages about the importance of education, respect and leading productive lives. Several interactive games were played and at the end of the presentation, all the students were invited onto the gym floor to dance.

Breckenridge Superintendent Diane Cordes, also a Breckenridge Rotary Club member, said the event was a nice addition to the district's Homecoming Week. Monday night, the high school crowned their king and queen. The Breckenridge Cowboys play the Crookston Pirates at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30.

Breckenridge Rotary Club President Blake Johnson shared how thrilled the club was with the turnout and thanked the sponsors and volunteers for all their hard work to make the fundraiser successful. The Harlem Ambassadors signed autographs and took photos with audience members after the event.

The Harlem Ambassadors was created in 1997 and have toured through all 50 states and performed in 20 countries, as well as entertaining troops at U.S. military bases overseas and at home.