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FORMER MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE VIKING GLOBETROTTS THE WORLD

To tour with New York Nationals and the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters

Marshall, Mo. (November XX, 2005)—Many athletes dream of getting paid for their passion—getting paid to play the sport they’ve always loved. Former Missouri Valley College Viking Mike Atkinson is getting to do just that.

Atkinson is one of the newest additions to the New York Nationals, the team that travels the world with and plays against the Harlem Globetrotters. Although the Globetrotters are known for their fun antics on the court, the Nationals always play to win.

“It really is a dream come true,” Atkinson said. “To have the opportunity to play professional basketball, and to travel to the venues around the world is so exciting.”

It was through Atkinson’s Missouri Valley College basketball experience that this opportunity came about. An official from the Heart of America Conference told the Nationals’ general manager about Atkinson. After previewing videos of Atkinson’s Valley career highlights, the general manager liked what he saw—enough to offer Atkinson a spot with the Nationals.

“This opportunity would not have happened to me without coming to MVC,” Atkinson said. “I remember being little and going to watch the games. Now I get to play for those little kids and parents who are mesmerized by the talent and fun.”

After transferring from Moorpark College in Ventura County, California, Atkinson’s two-year MVC career highlights include All-Conference Honorable Mention both years, leading the conference in rebounds both years, and being among the top 5 in the conference in steals and assists.

“Mike is the ultimate when it comes to hard work,” said Chad Lance, MVC men’s head basketball coach. “His work ethic is what has gotten him to the next level. He has the ultimate competitive attitude, he exemplifies leadership on and off the court.”

According to the Harlem Globetrotters Web site, the Globetrotters begin their Western Union-sponsored tour December 26th, 2005, and will play 228 games in 197 cities across North America. Atkinson, a Reno, Nev. native, will play for some much larger audiences

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than those he has seen this far as they travel to 41 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and six Canadian provinces. Prior to that, Atkinson and the Nationals will play in a Military Tour that will take them to places such as Spain, Portugal, Italy, Kuwait, Bahrain, and more.

Lance said it's great to have him represent MVC.

"I am proud that Mike was a part of our program," Lance said. "He will continue to be an asset to our Institution and our basketball program."

ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE

Missouri Valley College is an opportunity college that provides educational, social and cultural experiences in a decidedly Christian environment. Established in 1889, MVC offers 27 majors and 7 pre-professional programs, and 12 sports and 20 varsity teams. The liberal arts heritage focuses on scholarship, critical thinking and academic excellence to prepare students to become members of a responsible citizenry. For more information, call (660) 831-4172 or visit www.moval.edu.

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