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## 2003

Bert went to a basketball event in April 2003: the 2003 Harlem Globetrotters' show in Charleroi, Belgium.

Bert had organized a little game to win free tickets for the new show of the Harlem Globetrotters on tour in Southern Belgium. Thanks to Mr **Geert Baeyens** and Global Projctcs, 5 people could win tickets for this special event. The Globetrotters had not come to Southern Belgium for more than 15 years. On April 22nd, Bert and some of his web site readers attended the Harlem Globetrotters' show taking place in the new basketball temple of the City of Charleroi: the Spiroudome.

First "Globie" and then excellent player as well as comedian **Paul "Showtime" Gaffney** entertained an attendance of 7000 people (sold-out performance) last spring. The Harlem Globetrotters have irrevocably been recognized by their peers. The Globetrotters were among the class of 2002 to be inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

On April 22nd, one of Bert's nephews got the chance to talk to some of the Globetrotters after their performance against the New York Nationals and asked them some signatures or autographs. It will remain a memorable moment for the huge attendance after a wonderful night spent in the fantastic facilities of the Spiroudome!

The Maire of Charleroi, **Mr Van Gompel** was even present to see the Globetrotters in action. Fun, funky and rap music, entertainment, great tricks, real sport, dunks, jumps, crisscrosses, lay-ups, smashes, jokes, etc. A wonderful family entertainment and what a timing by the whole team!

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Bert went to a basketball event in April 2003: Euphony Liège vs BC Telindus Ostend in Belgian Cup Quarterfinals.

Bert attended an interesting game at the Country Hall of Liège on April 2nd, 2003: Euphony Liège vs BC Ostend (team previously seen by Bert in Belgian Cup 1/16 Final against Olympic Mont-sur-Marchienne already this season, see report under "Bert's archives") in the second leg of the Belgian Cup quarterfinals. In the first leg of this aggregate confrontation played in Ostend, on the North Sea Coast, both teams finished tied at 81-81.

The return game at the Country Hall was supposed to be thrilling and the large attendance that night (2000 people) was hoping to see a good game. After 3'30", BC Ostend forced Liège's Head Coach **Giovanni Bozzi** (former trainer of Euroleague ex-participant Spirou Charleroi) to take a first time-out. Score 2-13 with a very bad start for the local team. Belgian old glory **Erik Cleymans** and Dutch sharp shooter **Erik Vandersluis** of Euphony Liège completely missed their first attempts to the basket. Then, mainly thanks to US center **Jody Lumpkin**, Liège kept the balance and forced Ostend's coach **Eddy Casteels** to take a time-out too. It was just before the end of the first quarter which finished under the following score: 16-25.

**Kaukenas** of Lithuania had been the major protagonist for BCO in the first 10 minutes. Speaking of *MAJOR*, young Belgian talent of BC Ostend **Gerrit Major** (1,88 m, age 22) began the game in the *starting five* instead of **Hawkins**. The second quarter was much better technically and ended up with a much better offensive average than the first one. Euphony Liège playmaker **Michael Huger** (former Bowling Green, 1,80 m and age 32) showed all his talents and allowed his team to come back at 28-34. But Ostend, thanks to **Kaukenas**, **Beghin** and **Hawkins** (big 3-pointer) took an 11-points lead again. Thanks to a good first half finish of Belgian veteran **Erik Cleymans** (one 3-pointer and 2 free throws), Liège closed the gap: 39-45 at the half. English player **Mark Hawley** (2,01 m, age 28) could have been the joker for the second half but he was already in foul trouble at the end of the first half.

Quickly in the second half, Liège came back into the game. Well lead by US guard **Huger** and with British forward **Andy Gardiner** suddenly hitting shots from all ranges, they made 49-49 and even took a 1-point lead. But US *Flying Man* **Ralph Biggs** dunked and hit shots from downtown to launch Ostend again: 55-63 with 1'26" remaining and a time-out taken by **Gio Bozzi**. Score at the end of the third quarter: 59-68 after a big shot by **Kaukenas** again.

At 59-69 and 28 seconds played in the last quarter, **Michael Huger** was called by referees for an offensive foul. His second of the night (and, contrarily to what referees decided, very light fouls as many observers would agree)! This turned him into a fury against the refs who sent him on the bench for the rest of the game by calling a technical foul, **Huger's** fifth one. Nonetheless, Euphony came back again after a very crucial time-out by **Bozzi** "the Boss" at 61-71. Later on, Liège's young Slovak forward **Majoros** scored to make 65-71 but missed a 3-points attempt at 72-75. Then 74-77 and **Lumpkin** who rejected Ostend's shots. But Liège could not fill in the gap this time. **Biggs**, **Dorsey** and **Beghin** made a rather good job underneath the basket for Ostend. **Majoros** scored again to reach 76-78. Ostend missed the last opportunity with a bit less than 10 seconds to go, allowing Liège to get a last chance. Liège's forward **Herbert Baert** dribbled across the court and gave the ball into the key to one of the centers who lost the orange too. The buzzer sounded and the game was over! BC Ostend reaches the semi-finals to be played at the Spiroudome in Charleroi around Easter.

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Bert went to a basketball game in January 2003: Spirou Charleroi vs Power Wevelgem in Charleroi

Find here a summary of the best game attended by Bert each month. This month's pick is a regular season game of the Belgian First National League between Spirou Charleroi and Flemish club of Power Wevelgem. Spirou Charleroi, at home in front of a nice attendance --almost 6000--, won by a margin of 20 (final score: 107-87). US forward **Marcus Faison** (20 points and 4/4 from the free-throw line), Belgo-American forward **Jim Potter** (18 points and 8 rebounds), US tower **Andre Riddick** (16 points and a field goal percentage of 7/10) and Belgian playmaker **Roel Moors** (14 points) were the best players in offense for Charleroi. Playing very well offensively and grabbing several rebounds, Croatian player **Ante Kapov** was the only player in Wevelgem who seemed to challenge a very powerful team of Spirou Charleroi! Nevertheless, everybody in the Spiroudome spoke about the wonderful basket scored by **Ante Kapov** on the buzzer at the end of the game that night. IN-CRE-DIB-LE! Defensive rebound, one dribble, a hook shot from his own key and... BINGO! Just on the buzzer! It was worth seeing it, Mr **Kapov**!

Score evolution: Charleroi lead only by 3 after 5 minutes (14-11); 38-19 after 10 minutes; 59-50 at halftime (good comeback by Wevelgem), 83-63 before the last quarter and 107-87 as final score.

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