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12 – ANT ATKINSON

Guard * 7th Season * 5-10, 155

Date of Birth: January 13, 1984

Hometown: Wilson, North Carolina

College: Barton College (N.C.) '07



Ant Atkinson's boundless energy, deft shooting touch, ball handling mastery, and quick wit has made him a fan favorite. "The camaraderie we have as a team is unbelievable," Ant says. "We have great chemistry."

His chemistry with the 4-point shot – the Globetrotter innovation that is 35 feet away from the basket – was never more evident than on March 29, 2013, at Motorpoint Arena Cardiff in Cardiff, Wales. On that historic night, Ant set Globetrotter records with an unbelievable 22 made 4-pointers (out of 30 attempts), 12 made 4-pointers in one quarter and a mind-blowing 93 points in the game.

Ant is no stranger to dramatic March performances. On March 24, 2007, he led one of the greatest comebacks in college basketball history, scoring 10 points in the last 39 seconds of Barton College's 77-75 win in the NCAA Division II National Championship game, a performance that became a YouTube sensation and was a runner-up in the "Best Finish" category at the 2007 ESPY Awards. The All-American became the first-ever player selected in the Globetrotters' inaugural player draft later that year.

Since then, Ant has traveled the world (he had never been outside the U.S. before becoming a Globetrotter); played atop the old Spectrum in Philadelphia and in a dark gym while wearing a glow-in-the-dark uniform; and he's put President Barack Obama through his paces on the basketball court during the annual White House Easter Egg Roll. Ant's talents have also been on display for TV audiences on "The Celebrity Apprentice," "The Bachelorette," "Sesame Street," "Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition," "TODAY," "Good Morning America," and "Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader?"

Born in Wilson, N.C., Ant is a fan of the North Carolina Tar Heels and Carolina Panthers, and his hobbies include playing the drums and video games. Ray Allen is his favorite basketball player because, as Ant says, "He's smooth, and his jump shot is so pure."

When Ant finished college, he knew he would continue his basketball career, "but the fact that it's with the Harlem Globetrotters makes it that much better," he explains. "This is the most fun a person can have playing basketball, and bringing smiles and entertainment to kids and families is unbelievable."

Class of 2002 Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame