

LILLIE KNAULS

I am thankful to God that I was born and raised in a wonderful Christian home—though it was an extremely strict home. So many things were sins—such as wearing heels or toe-less shoes, using make-up, coed swimming, movies, dancing and no sports of any kind! I could not even participate in gym classes in school because the gym shorts I would have to wear were also a sin!

The closest I ever came to a basketball court was recently when I went to a Harlem Globetrotters game in my hometown. I purchased the cheapest ticket and as I started the climb to my nosebleed seat, I walked past the “luxury suites” at center court. I hesitated at a door and then knocked. Inside I could see a lady arranging the room to accommodate about 20 people. I asked if she had room for one more! She asked, “Aren’t you the lady on the Gaither videos? Lillie? Of course you can come in!” How excited I was that God allowed me to knock on that door—the door of someone who watches Gaither videos! I was like a little girl that day, rooting for the Globetrotters—and yes, they won!

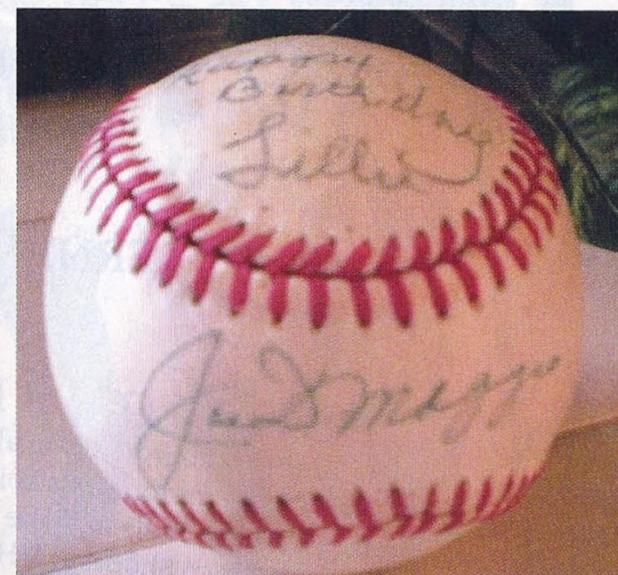
After the game I headed down to the basketball court to see if I could get a photo with one of them. Of course they were surrounded by adoring fans, so rather than wait in that long line, this is the best I could do!

Another memorable sports encounter for me happened in a fine Italian restaurant where I met baseball legend Joe DiMaggio. What a kind and gentle man he seemed to be. And weeks later, I received an autographed baseball from him for my birthday!

So, even though I never played sports, I fondly remember meeting these great sports legends!



This photo of me with one of the Globetrotters classic basketballs in that luxury suite reminds me how God is concerned about everything in our lives!



Lillie bypasses the line for photos