

Sports

shots in a row. Kole, 36, was the only brother unable to attend Saturday's camp.

"Have you seen the other brothers' high scores? Someone has to pass the ball," Kole has maintained.

Over the past 14 years, the brothers have won 32 tournaments, primarily the hugely popular Gus Macker events. It all culminated with the Gus Macker national championship title in 2003, the same year the team was inducted into the Gus Macker Hall of Fame. Since then the team has extensively cut back.

"We couldn't do any better than that," said Klint.

How does a team of relatively average white guys win tournaments populated by former top pro and college players?

"It's more than shooting, it's patience," said Klint. "Especially in 3-on-3. Games aren't that long, so you must shoot well and eliminate turnovers. But teamwork makes a big difference."

The Kneuppels run as many as 30 plays to get an open two-point shot, which is the equivalent of the three-pointer in conventional basketball. Baskets inside the arc only count as one point.

Klint explains that most big teams with a seven-footer, like the one the Kneuppels beat in winning the prestigious Wall Street tourney in New York City, work the ball inside and don't come out to play defense on the longer shots.

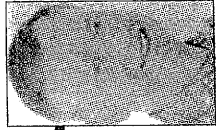
"It's really a mismatch (in our favor)," said Klint.

The Flying Kneuppels?

"(Tournament) organizers in Quincy, Ill., saw us running our set plays — we run around in circles," explained Klint. "They said it looked like a circus, so they gave us the name.

"We were in Ohio and they asked us to do an exhibition and one of the local radio stations pumped it up," Klint continued. "A couple of hundred people were there expecting dunking. I think there are two of us who can touch the rim. Kole has touched the iron on the rim once in his life. By the time we were done there were maybe still 10 people standing around. Who wants to see this slow methodical style?"

A lot of opponents don't.



Jon
Gast

Basketball brothers

Those of you familiar with Woody Harrelson's character in the movie "White Men Can't Jump" can relate to the Flying Kneuppel Brothers.

Harrelson's character is an unlikely basketball talent whose significant skills don't become apparent to the opponent until it's too late.

The Flying Kneuppels, four brothers who played for their father at Winnebago Lutheran Academy in Oshkosh, are legends in the 3-on-3 version of basketball.

Some of the credit, genetically, also has to go to Dorothy Kneuppel, their grandmother, who lives in Sturgeon Bay.

It's a reputation built on a collective ability to shoot a basketball. It's a skill they tried to impart to dozens of youngsters Saturday in a camp at St. Peters Lutheran School in Sturgeon Bay.

"Our dad put this six-foot hoop in our garage, so we were always playing," said Klint, who's 42 and the oldest of the siblings.

Kon is the tallest of the brothers at 6-foot-4 and youngest, 30. He's the all-time leading scorer at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Klay, 38, set a NAIA career free-throw shooting record while at Wisconsin Lutheran, hitting 95 percent of his shots and has a personal best of 357 practice shots in a row. Kole, 36, was the only brother unable to attend