

Basketball Giveaway Planned By Pistons

Big doling will herald the homecoming of the Detroit Pistons from a five-game road trip Friday when they meet the San Diego Rockets in Cobo Arena at 8 o'clock.

Not only will it mark the first appearance of the Rockets in Detroit, but it also will be "Basketball Giveaway Night" at the arena.

Each youngster, 16 and under, who purchases a \$3 reserved seat will receive a free from the Pistons one of their special basketballs.

More than 10,000 of the balls have been passed out to the youngsters in the last two years and the Pistons anticipate

another big rush for the balls at Friday evening's game.

The Rockets boast some familiar names to Detroit basketball fans.

Among them are Johnny Green, former Michigan State star who has played with New York and Baltimore in the National Basketball Association, and Don Kojis, one-time Pistons forward.

Other veterans on the Rockets include John Barnhill, another ex-Piston; Dave Gambee, from the Philadelphia 76ers, and seven-footer Henry Finkel who played last season with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Tresvant Pistons' Big Gun

When it comes to improved athletes in the National Basketball Association, John Tresvant of the Detroit Pistons is entitled to step forward and take a bow.

In less than two seasons, Tresvant has blossomed from "a little somebody" to "a big somebody" with the Pistons.

Tresvant came to Detroit in December, 1965, in a trade that involved the Pistons and the St. Louis Hawks. He was pretty much an unheralded performer.

JOHN HAD JOINED the Hawks before, but only stuck around for four games. He left the Hawks at his own choosing to finish his work toward a degree at Seattle University.

"I could see that the Hawks wouldn't use me much and I thought that finishing my studies was more important," explains Tresvant.

He was back with the Hawks at the outset of 1965-66 and still pretty much a sub. Then followed the deal that brought him to Detroit and the Pistons.

Tresvant's role didn't change too much at first with the Pistons. The start of games usually found him perched somewhere on the bench.

Midway through last season, Tresvant got his big chance. Then coach, Dave DeBusschere, elevated Tresvant to a starting post.

HE'S STARTED EVER since for the Pistons who were slated for two home games—on Wednesday against the Western Division Champion San Francisco Warriors and on Saturday against the improved Baltimore Bullets.

Tresvant not only is a starter, his presence on the Pistons' roster also has prompted Coach Donnie Butler to revise his attack. When Tresvant isn't playing in a corner position, one'll find him at center as part of the Pistons' more mobile offense.

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By George Maskin

observing sports

So here the high schools go into their basketball campaigns, although it seems like we have been knee-deep in it—well, we truthfully never get away from basketball and the Pistons.

We hate to knock the schoolboys, and really we can't say that the players or even their coaches are to blame.

But they have knocked one of the most exciting maneuvers out of the prep and the college game—meaning the dunk shot.

In case you missed the stories, the barring of the "dunk" came out of the off-season rules meetings. It seems that too many of the big wheels in college and prep basketball took offense to a gent by the name Lew Alcinder, now playing for UCLA.

For Lew it wasn't—and still isn't—any problem reaching up and dunking the ball.

For those who may never have seen the "dunk," it's actually a shot in which a player lifts his hands over the top of the basket and stuffs the ball through.

The pros have retained it, but it's gone from the school ranks—and so is all the thrill and cheers it produced.

For the true fan of prep or college basketball, the big moment in pre-game warmups arrived when the players of a team in their shooting all started to make "dunks."

It got to the point that players under six feet even were able to rise high enough to stuff the ball through.

And when that happened during the course of a game, well, the fans simply went wild.

THE EXPLANATIONS offered for knocking out the rule really didn't make much sense. It seems that a few folks feared that maybe somebody would bend the basket or pull it down.

Well, it happens pretty much every time the pros play—a Bill Russell or Wilt Chamberlain or even a Dave Bing will roar in for a dunk... and somehow the basket and rim withstand the mighty forces.

There's no question, of course, that basketball on the high school and college level will continue to prosper—even with the elimination of the dunk.

But, it's to be hoped that the brass will reconsider in another season and bring the rule back.

Sometime soon, the preps and collegians probably will follow the pros in adopting a specified time for getting a shot off.

In the older National Basketball Association, a player gets 24 seconds; in the newer American Association they have a 30-second time clock.

For the preps, we'd suggest the 30-second clock would be more ideal. This would give a team more than sufficient time to set up a play while cutting the amount of stalling a play might do to the limit.

One of the "beauties" of the shooting clock is that it helps to give a trailing team a better chance to bounce back without resorting to excess fouling.

This explains a great deal why a team, down by 15 or 20 points in a professional game, frequently will get right back into the thick of the battle.

It doesn't happen very much in the prep or college play when you fall behind early by so many points.

ON THE SUBJECT of basketball, how would you like an official Pistons' ball?

Interested, kids? Friday's the night at Cobo Arena when the Pistons meet the San Diego Rockets. Each youngster, 16 and under, who purchases a \$3 reserved seat gets one of the basketballs free.

The balls are dandies.



MARK SAVAGE

Youth Joins National Troupe

A young man familiar to community theater audiences in Observerland has been signed to the national company of "Mame."

He's nine-year-old Mark Savage, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Savage of 32929 Summers, Livonia.

The fourth grader at Livonia's Kennedy school, was last seen on a local stage when he appeared in the title role of the Livonia Redford Theatre Guild's production of "Oliver."

He has been signed on as a member of the national company starring Celeste Holm in the role of Peter. Mark will also be the understudy for the lead role of "Patrick," the precocious nephew.

The choice was made after special auditions at the Fisher.

Mark will play the final two performances of "Mame" at the Fisher, then take to the road for four weeks of performances in Rochester, N.Y., Cincinnati and St. Louis. The company will then settle in Chicago on Jan. 2 for an indefinite run.

His mother will accompany the road company. A tutor for all the children in the show is provided by the company.

The youth was this year's Triple "A" wagon boy for TV commercials. In addition to TV and radio work, Mark has

New Process On Drivers' Licenses

A new process for embossing the state coat of arms into all laminated Michigan driver licenses has been started by the Michigan Department of State.

According to Secretary of State James M. Hare, it will "help make the Michigan color-photo driver licenses more resistant to tampering."

Hare said lamination of licenses was begun several years ago as a deterrent to tampering with the licenses.

"This plasticizing helped to make our licenses tougher to tamper with and forge," he noted.

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