

# 24-Second Rule OK With Rocks

It wouldn't require much salesmanship to sell the Plymouth High basketball team on the use of the 24 second professional rule--the Rocks used it in their game against Farmington Friday and came out with the big end of a 60-62 score.

It was a big victory for Plymouth since the Rocks trailed 45-31 early in the third quarter before Mike Kubik and Jeff Adams sparked a spree that netted 15 points while Farmington was held to a pair of free throws. That made the score 47-46 with a minute and a half to play in the period. Adams dropped in two charity tosses, hit from the field and Gregg Corrigan added a one-hander to give Plymouth a 52-51 going into the final eight minutes.

THE ROCKS never trailed from that point although the Falcons pulled up within two points in the final 50 seconds when Kubik led the triumph with a one-hander from the corner. The teams played the pro rule which requires that the

offensive team must take a shot at the basket within 24 seconds of the time it took possession. This was by agreement of the two coaches and with the sanction of the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The 24 second timing device was loaned to Plymouth by the management of the Detroit Pistons through the courtesy of General Manager Ed Coll and Public Relations Chief George Maskin.

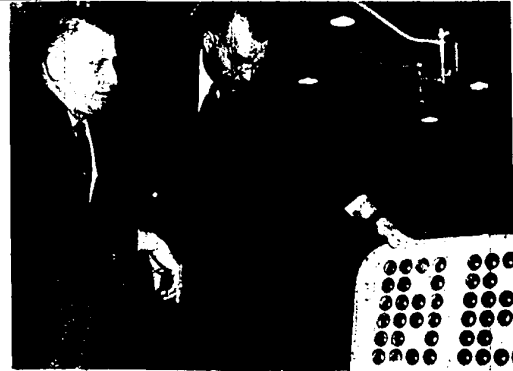
Strange enough, neither team was caught once during the game and the closest either came to losing the ball was when Farmington took 20 seconds to get a shot off. The Coach expressed satisfaction with the 24 second rule and most certainly it made the game more interesting for the spectators who saw the lead change hands constantly.

PLYMOUTH FOUND itself in a strange situation when it held a 64-62 lead with less than a minute to play and had to get off a shot in 24 seconds rather than stall for the remaining time. As it was the Rocks missed

on the shot, Farmington started downcourt but a pass went awry and Plymouth took possession for a fast break which found Kubik going in for the two points that clinched the victory. Plymouth Athletic Director John Sandmann and Jack Cotton, his counterpart from Farmington, were happy with the experiment and plan to make a report to the State Association. Cotton is a member of the

State Athletic Board and was one of the big factors in getting permission to experiment with the 24 second rule. He has made arrangements to try a similar experiment at the North Farmington-Southfield contest later in the month.

FARMINGTON HAD all the best of the game in the first half, taking a 21-16 edge at the end of the first quarter and holding a 36-27 lead at the intermission. Mark Lypott and Paul White hit for three quick baskets early in the third stanza to boost the lead to 15 points at 42-27. That's when Kubik started his one-man spree, hitting twice on fast breaks and again from the corner to make the score 45-33. Adams connected from the foul line and Jerry Latham on a rebound to whittle the margin to 45-37. Kubik broke loose twice for a 45-40 count and then Adams took over to make the score 47-46 in Farmington's favor with a minute and a half on the clock. Adams registered four points on two free throws and a one-hander and Corrigan's field goal with four seconds left in the quarter gave Plymouth the lead for the first time. They held it for the remainder of the contest.



CHECKING 24-SECOND clock are Athletic Directors John Sandmann (left), of Plymouth, and Jack Cotton, of Farmington. The clock and the professional rule of the offensive team must take a shot within 24 seconds were used in the Plymouth-Farmington basketball game Friday night.

## Observer Sports News

By George Maskin  
**observing sports**

Is Michigan backward when it comes to high school football? You asked the question after noting that in several states prep football is a big item well into December... that in many areas all-star prep games have the blessings of school officials, etc. Not so, of course, in Michigan. Most prep teams here wind up their schedules by the first week of November. Except in rare instances, the campaigns end by the second Friday or Saturday of November. Time was when Thanksgiving was a big day for high school football in Michigan. Not any more.

Only one Turkey Day prep tilt remains -- it's held in Flint between Northern and Central High. The big reason for finishing the season so early is the weather. So we're told, anyhow. But in Chicago, where the chills come as early as they do here -- and sometimes even sooner -- the preps carry on until around December. Down in Florida, just the other week, they were talking about a team from Coral Gables being named as co-national champs with a prep outfit from Texas.

There was talk, too, about an upcoming all-star game involving Florida and Texas -- or was it Pennsylvania prep? They have an all-star game each year down in Ohio and in several other states. All of which helps to add a little more excitement to the prep grid scene.

WE SUSPECT that here in Michigan the school fathers hesitate on all-star play for fear they may be overexploiting the preps. But what can one game do to ruin the preps, who already are being "overrun" by college coaches and scouts from every part of the country?

Some of the preps first find themselves in a recruiting war while they still are in grade school. This holds for boys attending Catholic Schools and playing in the CYO programs. The various all-male schools -- DeLaSalle, Austin, Catholic Central, U. of D. High, etc. -- are out on a full-scale battle to land the services of the standout eighth graders, who can choose any of the so-called "open" schools. It's no different in New York, or Chicago, or San Francisco.

More than one private school also has besieged a standout grade school or junior high football or basketball star and offered a free ride through senior high. So, by the time a boy becomes a 12th grader, he has been through the rigors of being wooed and dined. It can't be any worse than playing in an All-Star football game. Or can it?

PERHAPS, our State High School Athletic Association is just a little too conservative. It can't be knocked, because, after all, the association guided by Charles E. Forsythe has done one tremendous job of keeping schoolboy sports in line and broadening the program of activities over the years. But nothing stays firm in this world. Our kids keep insisting: "Things aren't the same now, pop, as they were when you went to school!"

We older folks like to think things are the same. But actually there have been oddities of changes. Suburbia, for example, has had a great effect. Most of us old city folks used to walk to and from school. Now the kids drive in either the family car or get bused. The schools have placed far more emphasis now on athletics. Look at the beautiful gyms which have been built. In our day at Detroit Northern, we thought we had a palace for a gym, yet in comparison to the gyms at Bentley or Plymouth or Farmington, you name it, the Northern gym was dingy and small and ill-lighted. It still is. Outdoor athletic facilities have improved over the years. Lights have made it possible for football, plus track and baseball. Wrestling didn't exist in our day as a prep sport. It's probably the fastest growing activity of all now. Who ever thought about prep skiing three decades ago? It's a big thing, too, which reminds us that some area teams will engage on Saturday in the annual prep championships sponsored by The Detroit News. (Remember that paper?) So, with all that's going on, maybe the time has come to give thought to some phase of All-Star football activity in Michigan. We can't see where it would hurt.

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