

By George Maskin

## observing sports

The experiment Plymouth and Farmington high schools tried in basketball — borrowing the 24-second shooting rule from the National Basketball Association — didn't go without notice.

The interim Detroit papers "played it up" and the story also went out on the various news wires, so that a prep basketball tilt played in Michigan gained a niche in the national spotlight.

There's no question now that other schools — in Michigan and elsewhere — will follow suit and try a game or two with the rule in effect. That's because those connected with both Farmington and Plymouth were happy with the results and nobody sounded off negatively after Plymouth had squeezed out a 66-52 victory.

North Farmington and Southfield plan to use the rule and the 24-second clock made available by the Detroit Pistons when they hook up in a non-leaguer a week from Saturday.

Other schools are talking, too. State director Charles E. Forsythe is awaiting a report from athletic directors John Sandmann and Jack Cotton of Plymouth and Farmington, respectively; also from coaches Dick Bearup (Plymouth) and Ray Boyles (Farmington) along with officials, players and fans.

Forsythe no doubt will take the report with him to the next meeting of the national prep rules committee. It could have some effect on how the rulesmen think.

Sandmann long has been one of the advocates of the preps adopting the time limit on getting a shot off.

In the pros, a team has 24 seconds from the time it gains possession of the ball to get the ball moving toward the basket. If the ball doesn't go in, a team can rebound its own shot and have another 24 seconds to set up a shot.

The way Farmington and Plymouth worked the rule, they waited until the ball reached mid-court before turning on the clock. Thus, the offensive team actually had around 30 seconds of possession.

"We have two types of play in a game," said Sandmann. "For three quarters a team will move the ball. Then, if it's ahead in the last period, it starts to stall — maybe for five or six minutes.

"This makes for a bad game . . . and it can't happen in a game with the 24-second clock."

Sandmann, Cotton, Boyles and Bearup all agreed that the clocks didn't change the pattern of play in the Farmington-Plymouth game since "both were running and shooting teams" until the final few moments with some 50 seconds to go. Plymouth had to shoot, despite the fact that it had a two-point lead.

"Without the 24-second clocks, no doubt our Plymouth team would have been stalling that last minute," expressed Sandmann. "Happily for us, the shot went in to sew up the victory."

**EVEN IN DEFEAT**, losing-cause Boyles was impressed.

"I don't like the present rule which we have that a team in the front court must make a move within five seconds or possibly be called for a jump," said Boyles. "I think we should add the pro rule. It makes for a more interesting game."

Plymouth coach Bearup, meantime, had put his statisticians to work and they came up with some interesting results.

For example: Plymouth shot within 7.1 seconds after crossing the midcourt line; Farmington every 7.2 seconds.

"Even if we figured in an additional four or five seconds required to bring the ball from the back line to midcourt, that means both teams were shooting within 12 or 13 seconds," added Bearup.

Bearup was surprised by how much a team could accomplish within 10 or 12 seconds.

"Why, you have enough time to set up a play, and get off a good shot in the space of ten seconds," he noted.

## S. Lyon Free Throws Sink C'ville, 81-75

Free throws and fouls told the story Tuesday night when Clarenceville dropped a non-league basketball game to South Lyon, 81-75.

Clarenceville pumped in 34 baskets during the game to 26 for South Lyons.

But Clarenceville was guilty of 31 personal fouls to 11 for South Lyons.

As a result, South Lyons clicked on 29 free throws while Clarenceville managed only 13.

South Lyons held a 22-10 lead after the first period and was on top, 60-54, at halftime.

With Rob Duman and Dave Brandemuhl leading the way, Clarenceville gained a two-point lead in the third period and then was tied in the fourth period before South Lyons put on its winning push.

Duman wound up with 26 points and Brandemuhl 23 while teammate Gary Riffin tossed in 17 in a losing cause.

ORCHARD LAKE St. Mary's had too much size and rebounding power for Our Lady of Sorrows in rolling to a 74-46 victory.

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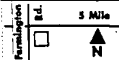
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