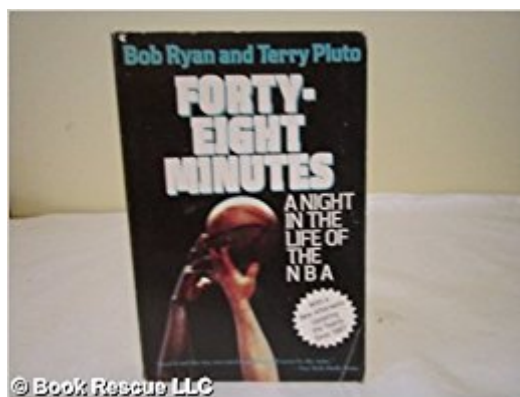


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Forty-Eight Minutes: A Night In The Life Of The NBA



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Customer Reviews

Two writers covering the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Boston Celtics join in a close look at the teams' 1987 Boston Garden game. Like Daniel Okrent in his *Nine Innings* (LJ 4/1/85), the authors give a detailed play-by-play account. They blend quotes from players, coaches, and others with their own appraisals in background, play critique, etc. Not until the tense final seconds of regulation and an overtime is there a winner between the underdog Cavs and the proud Celts. Educational for developing players and fun for fans, this may be welcome in public and school libraries. Morey Berger, Monmouth Cty. Lib., Manalapan, N.J. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you were an avid fan of the NBA in the late Eighties, you can recall that many teams at that time had losing streaks in the Boston Garden going back to before Larry Bird joined the team. Teams were often psyched out and ended up choking when competing in the old building. On January 16, 1987, the youth-laden Cleveland Cavaliers tried to end their own long drought in Boston. They didn't win, but their youth and exuberance versus the Celtics' experience resulted in a great game. In "Forty-Eight Minutes," authors Bob Ryan and Terry Pluto chronicle in depth one of the most fascinating regular-season games played in the NBA in the 1986-87 campaign and recall what an intense game was like in the Garden as it was nearing the end of its heyday. The Cavaliers were ably coached by Lenny Wilkens, who foresaw a close, well-played game and gave the authors extensive discussions on how Cleveland prepared for and played this contest. The Cleveland game plan is described, and the authors recall how the Cavs

spent the day in Boston leading up to this Friday evening showdown. The Celtics were defending NBA champions that year, and the authors talked about the relationship of the team to the city of Boston and recall some of the idiosyncrasies of the old Garden. In 1987, the Celtics were still playing the way they did when Red Auerbach was coaching the team, with fundamentally sound passing, defense, and, critical on this night, free-throw shooting. Their rebounding had slipped in 1986-87, though, and because of the death of Len Bias the previous summer, the Celtics starters had to play heavy minutes throughout the season, resulting in the team being tired and injured when the playoffs rolled around. The Cavs started John Bagley, Ron Harper, Brad Daugherty, Hot Rod Williams, and Phil Hubbard, while Boston's epic starting five was Dennis Johnson, Danny Ainge, Robert Parish, Kevin McHale, and Larry Bird. The authors briefly profile each starter for both teams during the course of the book, and the authors take the reader play-by-play from the opening tipoff to the last second of the Celtics' 133-128 overtime victory, providing descriptions of the two teams' many great plays, with diagrams in several cases. The authors also take up topics that are neglected in many basketball books but give the reader a great feel of the intricacies of an NBA game—referees, jump balls, the role of trainers, halftimes, hook shots, substitutions, adjustments, team defense, foul trouble, illegal defense, and inbound plays are all touched on here. Modern teams might note that an NBA game can be sublime with few or no frivolous (or non-frivolous) three-point attempts—Boston did not even attempt a trey in the first half. Pluto and Ryan also compare college basketball to its pro counterpart and describe the NBA at that point in its history, on an upward surge that would lead to the expansion that would greatly water down the league in the Nineties and beyond. There is a description of the post-game and a glossary of terms, but, very surprisingly, no box score in a book that looks at a game at the microscopic level. That lone flaw, however, should not dissuade fans of the Golden Age of the NBA from reading this fascinating book that recalls one of the best games played during one of the best NBA seasons ever.

this was a valuable incite. hard to imagine they do this 82 games a year.

A basketball game in the NBA is 48 minutes long, right? Wrong. There is so much more drama behind the scenes and so much more at stake than another victory in every NBA game that the average fan is never entitled to witness and experience but this book does the best job I've ever seen in taking you there. It doesn't hurt that a classic confrontation between the then-mighty Celtics and the upstart Cavaliers is the matchup taken into focus by this great literary effort of showing what

life in the NBA is like (at least during the 1980s). No personal fouls here... just a sure shot for all basketball fans who are also bookworms at heart and are not limited to enjoying the game of basketball on the television or on the court. Like I said, nothing but net..

Great synopsis encompassing some of the best of alltime: Bird, Ehlo, Jones, McHale, Parish, Johnson, Wilkens et, al. Not just a game between the Celtics and Cavaliers back in Nineteen EightySeven. Jerry Sichting comes off well in here as well, his comments. Sichting from Indiana is to-day Kevin McHale's top Sgt. in Minnesota.

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