

## **EIGHT SECONDS OF POSSESSION**

Treynor High Boy's Basketball Coach Jerry Christensen spoke about the route to the state tournament during his final season as coach. Christensen noted this is the fourth time the past six years the team has participated in the state tournament. In Christensen's 38 years of coaching at Treynor the team has been among the top four of the conference 28 times and have given him 517 winning games. He has 618 total career wins. Christensen stated that this season he emphasized the importance of defense and as a result only two teams scored more than fifty against Treynor. He found from examining game records that the average time a player has possession of the basketball is only 8 seconds. Thus, only 8 seconds of opponent defense is needed to interrupt a dribble, a pass, or a shot at the basket. Christensen said he also emphasized getting rebounds and controlling the game tempo. The end result was an undefeated team going to the state tournament. Christensen remarked that great athletes make good coaches, and he has been fortunate to work with good athletes over the years. Christensen stated he was recently honored by being chosen by the Iowa Basketball Coaches Association for the second time to coach an Iowa All Star team this coming June.