

NEWTOWN, Conn. —

The Mansfield High girls' basketball team scored only three points in the second quarter and never held the lead in the second half, falling 43-37 to host Newtown High in its Holiday Tournament Friday.

“Both teams were very similar, we both played man-to-man defense, we both played 10 people, but they are very athletic,” Mansfield coach Mike Redding said of Newtown, which led 17-15 at the half.

Mady Bendanillo totaled 13 points with three 3-pointers for the Hornets, while Maggie Danehy delivered 11 points and pulled in 13 rebounds.

Mansfield shot 15-for-53 in the contest and just 1-for-14 in the second quarter where its only basket was a Danehy layup with 5:58 left.

Mansfield trailed by eight with 5:02 left in third but went on an 11-2 run, five points apiece by Bendanillo and Danehy, to tie it at 28-28 with 1:40 left. Newtown outscored the Hornets 6-2 in the final 44 seconds to lead 34-30 going into fourth.

The closest Mansfield got from there was 39-35 after Emily Vigeant hit a 3-pointer with 3:06 left.

Mansfield hit four 3-pointers and made seven of 15 free throws. The Hornets (2-2) play a consolation game Saturday at noon against Ridgefield, Conn.

From the Newtown Bee; Girls' Basketball Team Defeats Mansfield of Massachusetts

By Andy Hutchison

December 28, 2018

Newtown High School's girls' basketball team defeated Mansfield, Mass. 43-37 on day one of the Threes for Charity event, at NHS on December 28. The Nighthawks will host Cromwell on December 29, day two of the event, beginning at 4 pm.

Newtown led the Mansfield Hornets 17-15 at the half. The teams doubled their point total in the third quarter alone, as the Hawks carried a 34-30 advantage into the fourth.

The Hawks opened the second half on an 8-2 run, capped by a Nicki DaPra 3-pointer. Leading by just three, Newtown doubled its lead when Amy Sapenter sank a 3-pointer from the left corner, making the score 28-22 with 3:15 to play in the third.

Mansfield battled back to tie the score before a 3-pointer from the left elbow by Sapenter put the Hawks back in the lead for good. Leading 32-30 following a Sapenter free throw with six seconds left in the stanza, a miss on the second foul shot led to two more Nighthawk points. Juliette Cryder deflected the rebound to Sarah Nowacki who scored for a four-point lead.

In the fourth, Cyleigh Wilson opened the scoring and DaPra spun to put a short-range lefty hook in off the glass for a 38-30 cushion. The Hawks went up by nine before Mansfield closed the gap back to three with just over three minutes to play. Newtown hit enough free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

Sapenter led the way with 17 points, DaPra had eight, Wilson seven, and Shea Murphy five. Carlie Smith, Jackie Matthews, and Nowacki all chipped in with two markers.

Sapenter had five rebounds, a steal, two assists, and five deflections; Cyleigh Wilson dished out five assists and had a trio of rebounds; DaPra pulled down ten rebounds, came away with three steals, and added two assists and a pair of deflections; and Nowacki grabbed three rebounds.