

Backcourt depth lifts Mansfield over Franklin

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Mansfield High's Erin Daniel, center, and Emily Vigeant, right, battle Franklin High's Sydney Garilli for a rebound during the second quarter Thursday in Mansfield.

Paul Connors / The Sun Chronicle

MANSFIELD — With a pair of 6-foot-3 centers canceling each other out, it was up to the guards to determine who would win Thursday night's game between the Mansfield High and Franklin High girls' basketball teams.

Led by senior Ann Maher's 14 points and four 3-point baskets, host Mansfield emerged a 50-40 victor in the early-season showdown between two of the best teams in the Hockomock League's Kelley-Rex Division.

"Usually Meg (Hill) can dominate, but tonight, we thought (Ali) Brigham and Meg would probably cancel each other out," Mansfield coach Mike Redding said. "So then it comes down to guard play. Erin Daniel had a good night, Emily (Vigeant) comes off the bench, Syd (Mulkern) did some good things early and Ann was hitting her shots."

Depth appears to be a strong suit again for the Hornets, now 5-1 and winners of four straight. Seven of the 10 players that played reached the scoring column, with forward Maggie Danehy scoring nine points, Daniel throwing in eight and Hill adding seven to support Maher's big night.

The Hornets trailed the 3-3 Panthers 11-8 at the first stop and were down 16-10 a minute and a half into the second quarter before the shots started falling. Danehy started an 8-0 run with a traditional three-point play with 6:24 left, followed by an 18-footer by Maher and a trey by Daniel for an 18-16 lead.

Franklin's Sydney Garilli and Brigham combined for the next four points to reclaim the lead, but the Hornets scored the next 11 points and 12 of the next 14 to go into the locker room up 30-22.

Vigeant hit a three and scored on a steal to start the run, which ended with Daehy's baseline jumper with 13 seconds left in the half.

The Hornets would never trail again, and they gained further momentum when Maher and Mady Bendanillo hit back-to-back threes to open the second half. Franklin mounted a brief 5-0 comeback, but Maher's three off an inbounds pass and Hill's 10-footer created an 11-point bulge at the quarter break.

The Panthers would not get closer than nine points the rest of the way.

Danehy, a 5-foot-11 junior forward, is showing signs that she may be able to take some defensive attention away from the Stonehill-bound Hill. She also tied Hill for the game's rebounding honors with seven as the Hornets won the board battle, 37-30.

"She's just so active," Redding said. "She's like a jumping bean, she's always around the ball, and she's a very good complement to Meg."

Bea Bondhus led Franklin with 14 points.

The Hornets resume play Wednesday with Bishop Feehan in Attleboro.

Mansfield 50, Franklin 40

FRANKLIN (40)

Atwood 3-5 0-0 7, Gray 0-1 2-2 2, Wilson 2-7 0-0 6, Sanders 0-0 0-0 0, MacCallum 0-0 0-0 0, Bondhus 3-8 5-8 14, Garilli 1-2 0-0 3, Brigham 2-6 1-2 6, O'Connell 1-8 0-0 2, Frongillo 0-0 0-0 0, totals 12-37 8-12 40.

MANSFIELD (50)

Daniel 3-5 1-2 8, Vigeant 2-6 0-0 5, Mulkern 1-5 0-0 2, M. Bendanillo 1-6 2-5 5, Santos 0-0 0-0 0, Kemp 0-1 0-0 0, Maher 5-14 0-0 14, K. Bendanillo 0-1 0-0 0, Hill 3-9 1-2 7, Danehy 4-8 1-1 9, totals 19-55 5-10 50.

Team	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
Franklin	11	11	08	10	40
Mansfield	08	22	11	09	50

3-point goals

Franklin 8-17 (Atwood 1-2, Wilson's 2-5, Bondhus 3-7, Garilli 1-2, Brigham 1-1), Mansfield 7-22 (Daniel 1-2, Vigeant 1-3, Mulkern 0-2, M. Bendanillo 1-2, Maher 4-13).

Rebounds

Franklin 30 (Brigham 6)

Mansfield 37 (Hill, Danehy 7).

Assists

Franklin 9 (O'Connell 4)

Mansfield 15 (Maher 4).

Total fouls

Franklin 11

Mansfield 11.

JV: Mansfield, 46-43