

Feehan avenges earlier loss to Mansfield

By Mark Farinella Jan 3, 2018

ATTLEBORO — One team won by 16 points, the other by 15. And both coaches fully expect there will be a third meeting sometime in March.

“I think that’s entirely possible. They’re a very, very good team,” said Bishop Feehan girls’ basketball coach Mike Deady after his Shamrocks found their shooting touch both inside and outside in a 61-46 victory Wednesday at home over non-league rival Mansfield.

The win avenged Feehan’s 66-50 loss to the Hornets in Mansfield last month, with a possible rubber match awaiting the teams in the MIAA Division 1-South tournament.

“They had a great second half and they moved the ball really well against our zone,” said Mansfield coach Mike Redding, whose Hornets are now 5-2. “Their starting five is pretty talented offensively.”

Senior forward Anna Shaughnessy netted a career-high 24 points (8-13 FG, 7-10 FT) and pulled down a game-high nine rebounds, spearheading a 15-for-32 shooting night inside the 3-point arc. But the Shamrocks also had a nice outside touch, hitting seven of their 16 3-pointers to gradually pull away from the Hornets.

The Hornets weren’t slouches from either distance; 6-foot-3 center Meg Hill hit six of 10 shots within 10 feet for a 15-point night, while Ann Maher dropped in five of the Hornets’ six threes for a season-high 17 points.

The teams battled through seven lead changes and four ties in the first 12 minutes of play, with Mansfield having led at the first stop (11-8) and taking its last lead (20-18) on a three-pointer by Sydney Mulkern. But the Shamrocks ran off nine of the last 11 points in the first half, six by Shaughnessy in the paint and a traditional three-point play by Bri Gillen, to go up 27-22 at halftime.

Mansfield battled back to a 31-31 tie as Maher netted two treys and Hill added three-point play with 5:37 left in the third quarter to offset baskets by Gillen and Riley Lahiff. Smith and Sarah John popped in threes to restore a six-point Feehan lead, but Hill had four points and Danehy two in a 6-2 surge to draw the Hornets back within two, 39-37, with 2:17 left in the quarter.

Feehan’s closing kick of 7-0 — a lay-in by Shaughnessy, a jumper by Ainsley Jolin and a three by John — resulted in a 46-37 lead at the last break.

Mansfield would get no closer than eight points after Maher’s three with 7:07 to go.

Shaughnessy scored in the paint and on a 3-pointer, both on feeds by Smith, to put the game out of Mansfield’s reach.

“She’s coming into her own now,” Deady said of the 5-11 Shaughnessy. “She’s clearly our best scorer, but we got great complements tonight from Bri and from our guards.”

Lahiff added 10 points for Feehan (3-2), which is scheduled to begin its Eastern Athletic

Conference schedule Friday at Bishop Stang. Mansfield’s Friday game at Taunton has already been postponed due to the threat of severe weather.

Bishop Feehan 61 Mansfield 46

MANSFIELD (46)

Daniel 0-2 1-2 1, Vigeant 0-1 0-0 0, Mulkern 1-3 0-0 3, M. Bendanillo 1-10 0-0 2, Santos 0-1 0-0 0, Kemp 0-2 0-0 0, Maher 6-17 0-0 17, K. Bendanillo 0-1 0-0 0, Carney 0-1 0-0 0, Hill 6-11 3-3 15, Danehy 3-4 3-2 8, totals 17-53 6-7 46.

BISHOP FEEHAN (61)

John 2-7 0-0 6, Smith 3-11 0-0 9, R. Lahiff 4-4 2-2 10, Gillen 3-5 1-1 7, Shaughnessy 8-13 7-10 24, Jolin 1-5 0-0 2, Rapose 1-2 0-0 3, Pearlstein 0-1 0-0 0, totals 22-48 10-13 61.

Team	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
Mansfield	11	11	15	09	46
Bishop Feehan	08	19	19	15	61

3-point goals—Mansfield 6-19 (Daniel 0-1, Mulkern 1-1, M. Bendanillo 0-3, Maher 5-12, K. Bendanillo 0-1, Hill 0-1)

Feehan 7-16 (John 2-4, Smith 3-8, Shaughnessy 1-2, Jolin 0-1, Rapose 1-1).

Rebounds--Mansfield 32 (Hill 6), Feehan 34 (Shaughnessy 9).

Assists--Mansfield 16 (M. Bendanillo 6), Feehan 20 (John, Smith 6).

Total fouls--Mansfield 12, Feehan 11.

Fouled out—None.

JV: Bishop Feehan, 53-37.