

Mansfield's size, depth too much for AHS

By Mark Farinella mfarinel@thesunchronicle.com



Mansfield High's Margaret Danehy, center, reaches for a rebound over Attleboro High's Abby Struminski, left, as teammate Samantha Pierce looks on during the fourth quarter in Mansfield Tuesday night.

Paul Connors / The Sun Chronicle

MANSFIELD -- The hot new phrase in sports is "length." If you're tall, or have long arms, or long legs, or all of the above, you've got "length."

The Mansfield High School girls' basketball team had too much of it Tuesday night for Attleboro High.

"They're both very long and they're both good inside-outside post players," Attleboro coach Martin Crowley said of Mansfield High's Meg Hill and Maggie Danehy. "Meg's game has really improved with her jump shots, and it's scary."

The 6-foot-3 Hill scored 15 points and grabbed six rebounds, and the 5-foot-11 Danehy added eight points and five rebounds to lead Mansfield's offensive attack in a 52-31 Hockomock League triumph over AHS at the Albertini Gym.

But just as important was their defensive work in the paint. The two combined for five blocked shots and altered the shooting plans of several other attempts, primarily targeting the Bombardiers' Samantha Pierce.

Pierce finished with 10 points, the only Bombardier in double figures, but she had only two in the first half as Hill and Danehy cut off almost all paths to the basket.

"I think in the first half, we really played well on defense," said Mansfield coach Mike Redding, whose Hornets led 22-8 at the break after holding the Bombardiers to just one basket in the second quarter. "We rebounded well, we ran ... we did everything but put the ball in the hoop."

It may have been a low-scoring half, but Hill had one of her best stretches of the year, shooting 5-for-9 from the field on the way to a 12-point half, including two baskets in a 7-0 run to open the second quarter.

Another strength of the Hornets is depth, and Redding was able to substitute full five-player units several times in the second half to keep building momentum.

Attleboro briefly had the deficit down to 12 points 1:20 into the third quarter on a trey by Liv McCall (eight points), but Mansfield responded by outscoring the Blue 17-4 the rest of the way.

Erin Daniel added 11 points and Sydney Muklern eight for the Hornets, now 7-2 and 5-1 in the Hockomock Kelley-Rex.

Attleboro (5-4, 3-2) entertains Oliver Ames on Friday, while Mansfield travels to Brooklyn for a two-day weekend tournament, facing Mission University High of Newark, N.J., on Saturday and St. Anthony's of Huntington, N.Y., on Sunday.

ATTLEBORO (31)

Mayer 0-1 2-2 2, Thomas 1-7 1-2 3, White 0-1 0-0 0, Diaz 0-3 0-0 0, Lako 0-5 1-2 1, Roberts 0-7 0-0 0, Nunes 0-1 0-0 0, Hopkins 1-3 0-0 2, McCall 3-6 0-1 8, Struminski 2-4 0-0 5, Pierce 5-12 0-0 10, totals 12-50 4-7 31.

MANSFIELD (52)

Daniel 5-7 0-1 11, Vigeant 0-3 0-1 0, Mulkern 1-5 5-7 8, M. Bendanillo 1-3 0-0 2, Santos 0-3 0-0 0, R. Hottleman 0-0 1-2 1, Kemp 0-0 0-0 0, Maher 1-10 0-0 3, K. Bendanillo 0-0 0-0 0, Carney 1-2 0-0 2, Hill 6-10 3-4 15, A. Hottleman 1-1 0-0 2, MacVicar 0-0 0-0 0, Danehy 3-6 2-4 8, totals 19-50 11-19 52.

Team	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
Attleboro	06	02	08	15	31
Mansfield	13	09	19	11	52

3-point goals—AHS 3-16 (Mayer 0-1, Thomas 0-1, White 0-1, Diaz 0-1, Lako 0-4, Roberts 0-1, McCall 2-5, Struminski 1-2), Mansfield 3-9 (Daniel 1-1, Milkern 1-2, M. Bendanillo 0-1, Maher 1-5).

Rebounds--AHS 33 (Lako 8), Mansfield 42 (Vigeant, Hill 6). Assists--AHS 9 (Lako 3), Mansfield 13 (K. Bendanillo 3).

Total fouls--AHS 14, Mansfield 9.

Fouled out--None.

JV:

Mansfield, 52-21.