

Hill, Hornets race past King Philip

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MANSFIELD — The Mansfield High girls' basketball team needed a solid bounce-back game Tuesday after suffering a pair of losses in a Brooklyn-based tournament over the weekend. That's exactly what the Hornets got in a 53-28 triumph over King Philip Regional High at the Albertini Gym.

"We wanted to play well going into the big showdown with Oliver Ames Friday on the road," said Mansfield coach Mike Redding, who got a double-double from 6-foot-3 center Meg Hill and whose defense kept KP's leading scorer, Shannon O'Connor, entirely off the scoreboard.

O'Connor, only a junior but already a Boston University commit, got off only three shots as the Hornets switched defenses on her successfully.

"We tried Maggie (Danehy) and Steph (Kemp) playing her, and we had another look with Emily (Vigeant) playing her at the three," Redding said. "So we were throwing fresh bodies and some height and a little quickness at her. We know she's one of the top five players in the league, so our goal was to keep her in single digits."

Hill finished with 18 points (9-17 FG) and pulled down 10 rebounds toward Mansfield's 53-32 edge off the glass. She scored four of Mansfield's five baskets in the second quarter, including the first three during a 9-2 run over the last three minutes.

KP was hanging tough in the early going, but two baskets by Vigeant and a pair of free throws by Kemp turned a 13-8 Mansfield lead into 20-8 in the last 51 seconds of the opening quarter.

"We were running what we wanted to run, but it's just our finishing," KP coach Amy Siggins said. "We've had a really tough time with that. We've held our own with a lot of these teams, and if we could finish, things would be different for us."

Mansfield put the game out of reach with an 11-0 run midway through the third quarter, started by Danehy's coast-to-coast sprint with a defensive rebound.

Catherine Cummings paced the Warriors (2-7, 1-6) with 11 points, while Julia Leroux grabbed a team-high six rebounds. KP visits Franklin Friday.

Ann Maher added nine points and Kara Bendanillo dished out a game-high five assists for the Hornets (8-4, 6-1).

Mansfield 53, King Philip 28

KING PHILIP (28)

Mason 0-3 0-0 0, James 1-5 0-2 3, Leroux 1-11 0-0 3, Eldridge 1-4 0-0 2, Sitarski 0-5 0-0 0, Hathaway 1-3 2-2 4, O'Connor 0-3 0-0 0, Roy 2-10 0-0 5, Cummings 5-8 1-2 11, totals 11-52 3-6 28.

MANSFIELD (53)

Daniel 1-6 0-0 2, Vigeant 3-6 0-0 7, M. Bendanillo 1-4 0-1 2, Santos 2-6 0-0 4, R. Hottleman 1-4 0-0 2, Kemp 0-1 2-2 2, Maher 3-7 0-0 9, K. Bendanillo 0-3 0-0 0, Carney 0-0 0-0 0, Hill 9-17 0-0 18, A. Hottleman 0-1 0-0 0, MacVicar 0-2 0-0 0, Danehy 3-6 1-2 7, totals 23-63 3-5 53.

Team	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
King Philip	08	05	06	09	28
Mansfield	20	12	13	08	53

3-point goals—KP 3-20 (James 1-2, Leroux 1-8, Eldridge 0-2, Sitarski 0-2, Roy 1-6)

Mansfield 4-14 (Daniel 0-2, Vigeant 1-1, M. Bendanillo 0-2, Maher 3-7, K. Bendanillo 0-1, Hill 0-1).

Rebounds--KP 32 (Leroux 6), Mansfield 53 (Hill 10).

Assists--KP 11 (Mason 4), Mansfield 17 (K. Bendanillo 5).

Total fouls--KP 9, Mansfield 11.

Fouled out--None.

JV: Mansfield, 54-46.