

# Mansfield girls find stride, top Taunton

By MARK FARINELLA

MANSFIELD

— Things simply were not going how the Mansfield High School girls' basketball team expected them to go Friday night at the Albertini Gym.

Looking out of sync and being put on their heels by Taunton's accurate 3-point shooting, Mike Redding's Hockomock Kelley-Rex leaders spent most of the first half playing catch-up to the 6-10 Tigers.

And even when they thought they were getting their act together — as in a 7-0 run inside the last 1:22 of the first half — they still had to watch Taunton's Hannah Moniz drop in another trey as time expired to send the teams into the lockers tied 24-24.

"We were just sloppy at both ends and we didn't execute," Redding said after his Hornets righted the ship and prevailed, 56-29. "I spoke fairly loudly (at halftime) and I think we got things squared away."

Changing to a tenacious man-to-man defense in the second half, the Hornets (13-4, 11-1) limited Taunton to just five second-half points. The stingy defense also created a host of transition scoring opportunities, which translated into a half-opening six-point run and an 8-0 run to close the third quarter.

"We got some transition going," Redding said. "And when we set up, we drove to the basket. Syd (Mulkern), Erin (Daniel) and Emily (Vigeant) all did a good job off the dribble and taking the ball to the rim."

A central figure in the Hornets' success was, as always, 6-foot-3 center Meg Hill. The Stonehill-bound senior scored 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, shrugging off late foul trouble to score six points in the fourth quarter and bring her career scoring total to 972.

Yet even when Hill had to sit for a while, the Hornets had a strong paint presence in 5-11 junior Maggie Danehy, who scored eight of her 12 points in the second half.

"One of the best things that have happened in the last few weeks is that when Meg's out, we're still playing good basketball," Redding said. "A month ago, we were still struggling to score points when she was on the bench."

Danehy had two of her baskets, a baseline jumper and a rebound putback, in the Hornets' 6-0 run to start the second half. Then, with Mansfield leading 32-27, Danehy scored in the paint and assisted on a basket by Ashley Santos as part of the quarter-closing 8-0 run. Mackenzie Hanrahan's two free throws with 6:43 left to play were

Taunton's only points of the fourth quarter. Meanwhile, Hill and Danehy had easy paths to the basket to complete the Hornets' revival.

Moniz led Taunton with 12 points, all in the first half.

Mansfield visits Attleboro Tuesday.

Mansfield 56, Taunton 29

TAUNTON (29)

Patenaude 2-4 0-0 6, J. Fernandez 1-7 1-3 3, Strickland 0-1 0-0 0, DaRosa 0-1 0-0 0, Moniz 5-9 0-0 12, K. White 0-4 0-1 0, S. Fernandez 0-9 0-0 0, Hanrahan 1-8 6-8 8, Bradley 0-0 0-0 0, totals 9-43 7-12 29.

MANSFIELD (56)

Doherty 0-0 0-0 0, Daniel 2-7 0-0 4, Vigeant 1-5 2-5 4, Mulkern 2-7 4-7 9, Sullivan 0-0 2-2 2, M. Bendanillo 0-3 0-0 0, Santos 2-3 1-2 5, R. Hottleman 0-1 0-0 0, Kemp 0-1 0-0 0, Maher 1-10 0-0 2, K. Bendanillo 0-3 0-0 0, Carney 0-0 0-0 0, Hill 7-14 2-2 16, A. Hottleman 1-1 0-0 2, MacVicar 0-0 0-0 0, Danehy 6-8 0-0 12, totals 22-63 11-18 56.

Team	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Final
Taunton	11	13	03	02	29
Mansfield	08	16	16	16	56

3-point goals—Taunton 4-11 (Patenaude 2-4, Moniz 2-4, K. White 0-3), Mansfield 1-17 (Daniel 0-1, Vigeant 0-3, Mulkern 1-3, R. Hottleman 0-1, Kemp 0-1, Maher 0-8).

Rebounds--Taunton 34 (Hanrahan 11), Mansfield 49 (Hill 12).

Assists--Taunton 8 (Patenaude 4), Mansfield 15 (Vigeant 5).

Total fouls--Taunton 17, Mansfield 13.

Fouled out--None.

JV: Mansfield, 50-19