

Hill nets 21, lifts Mansfield past Attleboro

By Mark Farinella



Mansfield High's Meg Hill grabs a rebound in front of teammate Margaret Danehy (42) against Attleboro High Tuesday night in Attleboro.
MARK STOCKWELL/The Sun Chronicle

ATTLEBORO -- Meg Hill is in a good place to be.

Mansfield High's 6-foot-3 senior center scored 21 points Tuesday night, leading her Hornet girls' basketball team past Attleboro High, 58-40, and bringing her career scoring total to 993 points.

But it won't be a cakewalk for her to reach 1,000 career points when she and the Hornets visit Franklin on Friday. Mansfield beat the Panthers 50-40 in the first meeting of the teams earlier this year, but Hill found herself in a pitched battle with Franklin center Ali Brigham and was held to seven points.

"At Franklin, points are hard to come by with Brigham all over her," Mansfield coach Mike Redding said. "So the best thing from tonight was that (Hill) stepped away from the basket and showed some good range."

Indeed, three of Hill's eight baskets came from 18 feet or further, including one 3-pointer. And the sudden fear of her raining down threes forced Attleboro's defense to extend and created opportunities for other Hornets.

Still, the Bombardiers never capitulated. They displayed long-range accuracy of their own in the fourth quarter as Kim White and Liv McCall combined for three treys and helped AHS outscore the Hornets in the period, 19-17.

"Our kids played hard for 32 minutes," AHS coach Marty Crowley said. "Our defense was outstanding, and if we had knocked down some shots earlier in the game, it kind of changes things."

Attleboro (7-10, 5-8 in the Hockomock Kelley-Rex) trailed only by seven points when Samantha Pierce knocked down a three with 3:46 left in the first half, but the spotty-shooting Hornets found the range in the last minute when Ann Maher netted a 3-pointer and Hill scored on a pass from Emily Vigeant to create a 23-11 halftime lead.

The Hornets gradually built the lead in the third quarter, but White kept AHS within striking distance when she hit a trey with 1:54 left to trail 34-21. Mansfield then put together a quick 7-0 run -- a free throw by Hill, a steal by Kara Bendanillo, an 18-footer by Hill and a drive by Erin Daniel -- to make it 41-21 at the last stop.

Attleboro's long-range bombs were entertaining in the final quarter, but Hill added three baskets, including her 3-pointer with 5:26 left, before exiting with 3:21 to go, her team in a comfortable 22-point lead.

Maher and Sydney Mulkern added nine points apiece for the Hornets (14-4, 12-1), who hope that Hill will become the second Mansfield girl to join their 1,000-point list (aside 1993 grad Sue Patchett) on Friday.

Pierce had 11 points to lead AHS, which visits Oliver Ames Friday.

Mansfield 58

Daniel 2-6 0-0 5, Vigeant 1-7 0-0 2, Mulkern 3-8 1-1 9, Sullivan 0-0 0-0 0, M. Bendanillo 1-3 0-0 2, Santos 0-1 0-0 0, R. Hottleman 0-1 0-0 0, Kemp 1-1 0-0 2, Maher 3-9 0-0 9, K. Bendanillo 1-1 0-0 2, Carney 0-0 0-0 0, Hill 8-17 4-6 21, A. Hottleman 0-0 0-0 0, Danehy 3-7 0-1 6, totals 23-61 5-8 58.

Attleboro 40

Mayer 1-2 0-0 2, Thomas 2-9 0-0 4, White 2-5 0-0 6, Dias 0-3 2-2 2, Lako 0-6 0-0 0, Roberts 2-7 2-2 7, Nunes 0-0 0-0 0, McCall 3-5 0-0 8, Stuger 0-1 0-0 0, Struminski 0-2 0-0 0, Pierce 5-13 0-0 11, totals 15-53 4-4 40.

Team	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
Mansfield	14	09	18	17	58
Attleboro	06	05	10	19	40

3-point goals—Mansfield 7-20 (Daniel 1-5, Vigeant 0-2, Mulkern 2-3, R. Hottleman 0-1, Maher 3-8, Hill 1-1), Attleboro 6-22 (Mayer 0-1, White 2-5, Lako 0-1, Roberts 1-2, McCall 2-3, Struminski 0-2, Pierce 1-5).

Rebounds--Mansfield 47 (Hill 10), Attleboro 31 (Thomas 7).

Assists--Mansfield 19 (Mulkern 5), Attleboro 10 (Lako 4).

Total fouls--Mansfield 7, Attleboro 10.

JV: Mansfield, 46-21.