

Mansfield downs scrappy KP to clinch league title

By Mark Farinella

WRENTHAM — They didn't win the game and they didn't prevent Mansfield from clinching its third straight league championship, but the members of the King Philip Regional High girls' basketball team did themselves proud with the effort they gave on their home court Tuesday night.

"This is the first time in a long time that we really came together as a team," King Philip coach Amy Siggins said after her Warriors gave Mansfield a battle before succumbing, 51-32. "Especially with Shannon (O'Connor) being out, they all stepped up as leaders, and I'm very proud of them."

O'Connor, KP's leading scorer, was sidelined with a knee injury. That would normally be a recipe for disaster, but the Warriors were determined to give their best.

"They just had more intensity and were playing tough (defense)," said Mansfield coach Mike Redding, whose Hornets clinched the Hockomock Kelley-Rex title outright. "We missed some bunnies (layups) and we were not very good at the foul line.

"But we showed some maturity at halftime," he added. "I didn't have to do any rah-rah stuff. They knew they had played poorly and they came out for the third (quarter) and played at a really high level."

Mansfield shot a poor 1-for-12 from the field in the first quarter and trailed 9-5 at the first stop as KP's Catherine Cummings scored four of the points in a 5-1 surge to the buzzer.

A 10-0 run midway through the second quarter built a 19-11 lead for the Hornets, but KP's Faye Veilleux scored off Grace Eldridge's feed and Faith Roy sent home a three to trail the Hornets by just three (19-16) at the half.

The Hornets reversed their fortunes in the third quarter as Sydney Mulkern and Ann Maher popped in 3-pointers around a Meg Hill putback to score the first eight points in just 1:16.

Roy broke the streak with a trey off one of Kendall Mason's six assists, but the Hornets responded with another eight in a row. Maggie Danehy scored on a putback and a traditional three-point play and Maher netted another three to make it 35-19 with 4:31 left, and the outcome was never again in doubt.

Roy had 13 points and six rebounds, and Christina Hathaway pulled down eight rebounds as KP won the battle of the glass, 44-37.

Danehy, the 5-11 junior forward, had a career-high 18 points and also pulled down nine rebounds to lead the Hornets, who will likely be one of the top three seeds in the MIAA Division 1-South Tournament.

"We've done this a few times, where we had a sluggish first half and then had a great third quarter," Redding said. "But you can't do that in Division 1-South against anybody. We need to be coming out of the gates with good offense to start."

Mansfield (16-4, 14-1) wraps up the Hockomock campaign Friday at home against Oliver Ames, while KP (4-13, 3-12) closes its league schedule at home against Franklin.

Mansfield 51, King Philip 32

MANSFIELD (51)

Daniel 2-5 0-0 4, Vigeant 0-2 0-0 0, Mulkern 1-8 1-2 4, Sullivan 1-2 0-0 2, M. Bendanillo 1-4 3-5 5, Santos 0-1 0-0 0, R. Hottleman 0-1 0-0 0, Kemp 0-1 0-0 0, Maher 2-10 2-2 8, K. Bendanillo 0-0 0-0 0, Carney 0-0 0-1 0, Hill 3-10 1-2 7, A Hottleman 1-2 1-2 3, MacVicar 0-0 0-0 0, Danehy 7-12 4-9 18, totals 18- 58 12-23 51.

KING PHILIP (32)

Mason 0-0 0-0 0, James 0-3 0-0 0, Leroux 0-1 1-4 1, Eldridge 0-2 0-1 0, Sitarski 0-2 0-0 0, Hathaway 0-3 0-0 0, Reswick 0-1 2-2 2, Veilleux 2-6 1-2 5, Roy 5-12 0-0 13, Glaser 2-3 1-3 5, Cummings 3-6 0-2 6, totals 12-39 5-14 32.

Team	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
Mansfield	05	14	22	10	51
King Philip	09	07	08	08	32

3-point goals-Mansfield 3-16 (Daniel 0-1, Vigeant 0-1, Mulkern 1-3, M. Bendanillo 0-1, R. Hottleman 0-1, Maher 2-8, Hill 0-1), KP 3-12 (James 0-2, Leroux 0-1, Eldridge 0-1, Sitarski 0-1, Reswick 0-1, Roy 3-6).

Rebounds--Mansfield 37 (Danehy 9), KP 44 (Hathaway 8).

Assists--Mansfield 13 (Vigeant, M. Bendanillo 3), KP 10.(Mason 6).

Total fouls--Mansfield 13, KP 17.

Fouled out -None.

JV: King Philip, 55-38.