

Mansfield rides big plays to rout of BC High

By Jake Levin, Globe Correspondent,

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MANSFIELD — There can't be many worse feelings than letting a surefire touchdown pass sail right through your fingers.

It didn't take long for Mansfield senior Cincere Gill to atone for a drop that would have given the seventh-ranked Hornets a two-score lead over 12th-ranked BC High in the third quarter, however. While the drop forced Mansfield to punt, the Hornets forced a three-and-out to get the ball right back. On their first play from scrimmage, Gill burst through an eight-man box for a 64-yard touchdown run that stood as the game-winner in a decisive 31-10 romp of the Eagles on Friday night.

"I don't know how to explain it, it was just a relief," Gill said after helping give Mansfield a 17-3 edge with 1:49 to go in the third quarter.

It was Gill's second touchdown run of the game, his first from 29 yards on a fourth-and-1 with an assist on a spring block from fullback Nico Holmes.

The Hornets had a knack for the big play all evening, with Michael DeBolt tacking on a 48-yard touchdown reception and 79-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter to put the game on ice.

"We feel like we could get stuffed a play or two, but if you can get Cincere or Michael in open space, you can go 60 yards in a hurry," Mansfield coach Michael Redding said. "We might not be able to grind it on a regular basis, but if you make a mistake, we're able to pop one."

DeBolt, who kicked all four PATs for the Hornets, also had a 26-yard field goal as time expired at the end of the first half.

Mansfield racked up 340 yards of total offense, compared with 205 for BC High. The Hornets got an interception from Joe Plath — the game's only turnover — and sacked Eagles quarterback Bobby Wiesenbahn three times.

Mansfield flexes its muscles over BC High

By Sean T. McGuire

MANSFIELD — Mansfield High junior Cincere Gill watched the ball go through his fingertips. Had he held on for what he called "the easiest catch ever," it was going for a Mansfield touchdown and would have given the Hornets their first two-possession lead. Instead, it forced their second three-and-out in as many drives.

Gill, a three-way standout, punted. The Mansfield defense forced a three-and-out of its own and the running back stepped back on the field for the offense with a short memory. On the first play of the next possession, Gill took a handoff 64 yards for his second touchdown of the game and breathed "a sigh of relief."

From there, the rout was on for Mansfield, culminating in a dominating 31-10 non-league victory over the Catholic Conference Eagles.

"That's a sign of his maturity," Mansfield coach Mike Redding said of Gill, who totaled 110 rushing yards on 11 carries as the Hornets scored 21 second-half points. "I thought that was the turning point of the second half because we were struggling. We were getting stops (on

defense), but I think it was still 10-3, it was still a ball game. Popping that long run gave us some breathing room.”

The Hornets added to that breathing room with senior captain Michael DeBolt adding two fourth-quarter touchdowns of his own. DeBolt (seven rushes, 100 yards) took a screen pass 48 yards to the end zone to give Mansfield a 24-3 lead with 10:08 left.

On the next offensive possession, DeBolt took a counter 79 yards to give Mansfield a 31-10 lead with 5:23 left.

The Hornets’ big-play, quick-strike ability was on display throughout the second half. Mansfield scored touchdowns of 29, 64, 48 and 79 yards. Those drives went for six, one, five and two-play possessions.

“We feel like we could get stuffed a play or two, but if you can get Cincere (Gill), Mike (DeBolt) in open space, they can go 60 yards in a hurry,” Redding said as the Hornets tallied 263 of their 346 total yards on the ground.

While the Hornet offense broke it open late, it was the defense which kept them in it. Matt Boen, Jake McCoy and Everett Knowlton each had key sacks while Joe Plath made an interception in the fourth quarter for the Hornets, who held the Eagles less than 200 yards of total offense.

McCoy’s sack was a massive turning point. The Eagles went for it on fourth-and-four from their own 41 with less than three minutes in the half. McCoy’s sack, which went for a loss of 11, not only gave the Hornets the ball, but put them in beneficial field position. The Hornets got on the scoreboard on last time before the half as DeBolt kicked a 26-yard field goal with time expiring.

Mansfield held a 10-3 lead at halftime.

Boen, who made the first of the three Hornet sacks, was equally crucial. The loss of six on first-and-goal forced the Eagles to backtrack to the 8 yard line. Boen broke up the next pass and Vinnie Holmes forced an incomplection with his quarterback rush. The Eagles were forced to settle for a field goal, rather than tying it up 7-all.

“I thought they held us together,” Redding said of the defense, which allowed just 38 rushing yards. “We had offensive struggles. At times we had some bad series, three and outs. And when we did, the defense got the ball back until we got back into the rhythm on offense. And that’s big, getting stops when you’re struggling on offense.”

Mansfield travels to Cincinatti, Ohio, to play La Salle High School next
Mansfield 31, Boston College High 10

	BC High	Mansfield
Msf.First downs	7	9
Total yardage	196	347
Rushing yardage	38	264
Passing yardage	180	92
Sacks-yds.	1-9	3-22
Comp.-Att.-Int.	13-23-1	6-12-0
Punts-Avg.	3-27.3	3-36.3
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-yds.	3-30	5-45

Quarters	1st	2nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
Boston College High	3	0	0	7	10
Mansfield	7	3	7	14	31

Scoring summary

First quarter

Mansfield — Cincere Gill 29 run (Michael DeBolt kick), 6:32.

Boston College —Cormac Kennelly 25 kick, :51.

Second quarter

Mansfield — DeBolt 26 kick, :00.

Third quarter

Mansfield — Gill 64 run (DeBolt kick), 1:49.

Fourth quarter

Mansfield — DeBolt 48 pass from Jack Moussette (DeBolt kick), 10:08.

Boston College — Louis Timmins 34 pass from Bobby Wiesenhahn (Kennelly kick), 6:20.

Mansfield — DeBolt 79 run (DeBolt kick), 5:23.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING:

BCH — Cassamajor 12-29, Mullaly 2-10, Rice 1-5, Wiesenhahn 2- -8;

Msf. -- Gill 11-110, DeBolt 7-100, Baskin 1-25, V. Holmes 7-22, Marciano 2-13, Moussette 2--8, Thevenot 3-2.

PASSING:

BCH — Wiesenhahn 13-23-1 — 180;

Msf. -- Moussette 6-12-0--92.

RECEIVING:

BCH -- Peres 6-101, Timmins 1-34, Rice 4-29, Abraham 1-9, Cassamajor 1-7;

Msf. -- DeBolt 1-48, Cappelletti 1-20, V. Holmes 2-15, Gill 2-9.

MISSED FIELD GOALS: Mansfield — DeBolt 37 wide left.

Mansfield Opens Season With Big Win Over BC High



Mansfield's Cincere Gill tries to avoid being tackled in the second half against BC High. (Ryan Lanigan/HockomockSports.com)

MANSFIELD, Mass. – All Cincere Gill wanted was a second chance, and he didn't have to wait very long to get one.

On the first offensive series after seeing a potential touchdown pass slip through his hands, Gill took the first handoff 64 yards for a touchdown to give the Hornets a two-touchdown lead and sparked Mansfield to a 31-10 win over visiting BC High.

Locked in a tight game, senior quarterback Jack Moussette delivered a perfect pass over the top to Gill, who had beat two defenders. But instead of a long touchdown pass, the Hornets had to punt.

As it did all night, Mansfield's defense came through on the ensuing drive by forcing a three and out and getting the Hornets the ball back at thrown 36-yard line. Hornet head coach Mike Redding gave Gill the chance to redeem himself, and the junior back turned on the jets to get around the right side and sprinted to the end zone.

"I told the guys to go pat him on the back, get him back into it," Redding said after the drop. "And the next series, he pops the big run. That's a sign of maturity...last year he might have struggled to get the confidence back. But he got the big touchdown the next drive. I like the way he responded, had the big run which I thought was the turning point of the second half. We were struggling [offensively] but getting stops. It was still 10-3 or a close ball game there so popping that long run gave us breathing room.

"With Cincere, if you make a mistake and don't have a guy to slow him down, he gets momentum and it's going to be tough to track him down."

Gill finished with 106 rushing yards and two touchdowns while senior Michael DeBolt (148 all-purpose yards) accounted for 19 points for the Hornets, scoring two rushing touchdowns, kicking a field goal, and connecting on four extra points.

While the Hornets finished with 31 points, it wasn't until the second half that the offense really clicked. On the opening drive and on fourth down, Gill scored on a 29 yard run with a major assist to Nico Holmes, who came up with a huge block to create some space.

Mansfield only had two more drives in the first half: a 14-play, 52-yard drive ended with a missed field goal. And just before the half, Mansfield settled for a buzzer-beating field goal despite strong starting field position.

Meanwhile, the defense came up with some big stops to prevent the Eagles from tying the game. BC High's second drive of the game even had a first and goal at the Hornet 2-yard line but had to settle for a field goal. Junior Matt Boen had a sack on first down and a pass break up on second down. After a rushed throw on third down, Cormac Kennelly connected on a 25-yard field goal to make it 7-3.

Two series later, BC High went for it on 4th and 4 from their own 41-yard line but junior Jake McCoy came through with an 11-yard sack. That allowed the Hornets to grab a field goal as time expired and a 10-3 lead at half.

"The defense had a great preseason," Redding said. "People have talked about our skill guys on offense but the defense has a lot of guys back. We're not very big at all but we get after the ball, we're good tacklers. I thought [the defense] held us together because we had some offensive struggles at times, some bad series. When we did that, the defense got us the ball back until we got into a rhythm. That's big, getting stops when you're struggling on offense." After Gill's big run put the Hornets ahead 17-3, the flood gates seemed to open up a bit for Mansfield.

The Hornets needed just five plays to score on their next drive. Vinnie Holmes helped the Hornets move the chains early in the drive, but facing 3rd and 10, Moussette hit DeBolt on a screen and he went the rest of the way, scampering 48 yards for a touchdown with Danny Rapoza coming up with a key block downfield.

After BC High found the end zone for the first time, Mansfield needed just two plays to respond. DeBolt cut into some space along the left side and raced past the defense for a 79-yard touchdown.

"We are [a big play offense], we might get stuffed a play or two but if you can get Cincere or Mike in open space, you can go 60 yards in a hurry," Redding said. "We might not be able to grind it out on a regular basis, but if the defense makes a mistake, we're able to pop one. I thought the offensive line played well tonight against a really big, physical front. We threw well enough to keep them honest. I didn't think we'd score 31 against them but we had a pretty good night offensively."

Mansfield football (1-0) hits the road for an out of state clash in Ohio next week, taking on LaSalle on Friday night at 7:00.