

Mansfield holds on to knock off BC High

By Ian Vescera Globe Correspondent September 08, 2018

Vinnie Holmes was everywhere in Mansfield's 21-7 road win over BC High on Friday night. The junior receiver/linebacker recorded 90 all-purpose yards in addition to a sack, a fumble recovery, and a game-clinching tackle.

With the Hornets ahead, 14-7, and two minutes left in the fourth quarter, Holmes made a tackle on fourth down to seal the win.

"If you are going to be a good team, you have to play defense," Mansfield coach Mike Redding said. "They are a big physical line with a tough running back. We held our own holding them to 7."

The 7 points the Hornets did allow briefly tied the game. The Eagles began the fourth quarter with Jacob Perez running it in from 12 yards out to knot it at 7.

The Hornets answered on the next drive when running back Cincere Gill scored his first of two touchdowns from 21 yards out.

The touchdown almost didn't happen when it looked like the Hornets were set to punt the ball back to BC High.

But on fourth and 12, senior captain Aidan Sacco decided not to punt, instead turning the corner for 17 yards and a first down.

"I did not call it. Aidan saw a very big rush coming, saw the edge," Redding said. "That may have been the play of the game. I can tell you this: he is very lucky he did get the first down," he added with a smile.

The Sacco fake punt led to Gil's touchdown two plays later and a lead Mansfield would not relinquish.

Mansfield beats BC High on road

Matt Feld; Boston Herald, September 07, 2018

With the chance at a potential opening-week road win slipping away, Cincere Gill pushed Mansfield across the finish line.

Gill scored a pair of touchdowns in the final seven minutes last night to lead the Hornets to a 21-7 win over BC High at James Cotter Field.

"After (BC High) tied the score, just a great response by our guys in the fourth quarter on the road," said Mansfield coach Mike Redding. "Cincere is a young player, but gives us that element of speed off the edge and big-play capability."

Trailing 7-0 to begin the fourth quarter, the Eagles tied it when Jacob Perez took the handoff and bounced outside for a 12-yard touchdown.

Mansfield (1-0) answered right away courtesy of some trickery. On fourth-and-12 at the BC High 41-yard line, Aidan Sacco turned a poor snap on a punt attempt into a 17-yard gain. Two plays later, Gill took the inside handoff, split the tackles and took off for a 21-yard touchdown to give the Hornets a 14-7 lead with seven minutes to play.

BC High drove to the Mansfield 25-yard line, but on fourth-and-1, linebacker Vinnie Holmes sacked Joe Brink to force a turnover on downs.

The Hornets' ground game then put the game on ice. Nick Marciano (122 total yards, TD) took a handoff 46 yards down the left sideline to get Mansfield inside the BC High 15-yard line. Three plays later, Gill scored his second touchdown of the quarter from 4 yards out to put Mansfield up 21-7.

“This is a huge win for us,” said Gill. “With Everett coming up next we needed this one, and we got it.”

The Hornets missed a golden opportunity late in the first quarter as Holmes’ 54-yard carry brought Mansfield inside the BC High 10. After the Hornets stalled on three straight plays, a 27-yard field goal attempt was wide right, keeping the game scoreless.

Mansfield cashed in later in the half as Holmes turned a screen pass into a 24-yard pickup down to the Eagles’ 15. Three plays later, Damani Scott rolled right and hit a wide-open Marciano on the run for an 11-yard touchdown to give the Hornets a 7-0 lead at the intermission.

Gill's two late TDs carry Mansfield over BC High

BOSTON — Facing a fourth-and-1 situation at the Mansfield High 25-yard line Friday night with the Hornets’ football team protecting a touchdown lead and just over four minutes remaining, Chris Copponi sealed a 21-7 victory for the visitors with a punishing tackle, denying Boston College High a clutch first down.

“To come up with the performance that we did and on the road, that was a good season-opening win,” Mansfield High coach Mike Redding said.

Cincere Gill scored a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns for Mansfield on runs of 18 and four yards for the win.

Cincere capped a 75-yard Mansfield march, answering Boston College High’s game-tying drive with his first TD run. During that drive, Hornet QB Damani Scott completed a 32-yard pass to Nick Marciano on a third down and eight-yard situation.

After Copponi’s lead-saving tackle, the Hornets then drove 62 yards for a third touchdown, Nico Holmes hitting his third conversion kick after Cincere’s short scamper.

Mansfield took the lead on its second offensive series as Scott completed a 16-yard scoring strike to Marciano.

“They (BC High) had momentum, back to back drives after getting their first touchdown, but we held on,” said Redding.

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Mansfield Pulls Away From BC High In Fourth Quarter

By Matt Feld, HockomockSports.com

DORCHESTER, Mass. – On a Mansfield team filled with star upperclassmen, sophomore Cincere Gill made the opening night difference.

With the Hornets locked in a 7-7 tie with host BC High, Gill ran for a pair of scores over the final seven minutes to lead Mansfield to a 21-7 win over the Eagles on Friday night at James Cotter Field.

Mansfield mostly relied on two-way standout Vinnie Holmes to handle the ball through the first three quarter as the junior totaled 90 yards heading into the final frame. The constant wear on the Eagles’ front seven of bringing Holmes down began to showcase itself in the fourth quarter, allowing Gill to use his speed and athleticism to take over.

“After (BC High) tied the score, just a great response by our guys in the fourth quarter on the road,” said Mansfield coach Mike Redding. “Cincere (Gill) is a young player but gives us that element of speed off the edge and big-play capability.”

Mansfield grabbed the lead midway through the second quarter when on third and nine from the BC High 11, Damani Scott took the snap out of the shot gun, rolled right and found a wide-open Nick Marciano for the touchdown.

The Hornets maintained the 7-0 edge into the final stanza, but saw the Eagles tie the game up on a Jacob Perez 12-yard score.

The Hornets were then in danger of turning the ball back over to BC High and giving the Eagles a chance to jump in front, but Aiden Sacco turned a poor snap on a punt attempt into a 17-yard pick up down to the Eagles' 24-yard line. Two plays later, Gill corralled the ball off the jet sweep and ran it up the right side for a 21-yard touchdown to push Mansfield in front, 14-7.

On BC High's ensuing drive, Holmes provided the key defensive play of the night. Looking to tie the game up midway through the fourth quarter, BC High running back Brendan Cassamajor rushed for a combined 38 yards to put the Eagles inside the Mansfield 30-yard line.

On fourth and one at the Hornets 25-yard line, the Eagles attempted a play-action pass. Holmes, however, snuffed it out and sacked a scrambling Joe Brink to turn BC High over on downs.

That's when Mansfield's ground attack put the game out of reach. Khristian Conner got the drive started with a six yard run, and moments later Marciano broke free for a pickup of 46 yards down inside the BC High 15-yard line. With less than a minute to play, Gill put the finishing touches on a key road win for Mansfield scampering in from four yards out to give the Hornets an insurmountable 21-7 lead.

"Vinnie is just a hard runner and a bruiser," said Redding. "It allows us to wear some teams down. Marciano is dynamic. I thought we were a little sloppy at times. We had some chances to get that second score to get to 10 or 14 and could not, but I was real proud of our guys for fighting through on the road."

Ryan Lanigan

Mansfield 21, BC High 7

Cincere Gill scored two rushing touchdowns in the fourth quarter to lift the Hornets (1-0) to a win.

Quarters	1	2	3	4	T
Mansfield	0	7	0	14	21
BC High	0	0	0	7	7

Second quarter

Mansfield Nick Marciano 11-yard pass from Damani Scott (Nico Holmes kick)

Fourth quarter

BC High Jacob Perez 12-yard run (Cormac Kennelly kick)

Mansfield Cincere Gill 21-yard run (Nico Holmes kick)

Mansfield Cincere Gill 4-yard run (Nico Holmes kick)