

Hansche helps Coe drill Mustangs

Written by Jim Ecker

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Mickey Hansche is a phenomenal 3-point shooter, but she doesn't like to keep track of how many she's made during a game.

"I try not to keep track of it, because I don't like thinking about it," she said Tuesday night.

Just about everyone else at Eby Fieldhouse was keeping track Tuesday as the sweet-shooting junior kept swishing 3-pointer after 3-pointer from long range, some from 25 feet away.

Hansche popped in seven straight 3-pointers before finally missing and poured in 27 points as Coe topped Mount Mercy, 92-73, in a women's basketball game at Eby.

"Just hitting the first one really opened it up, and then we started driving and we played rally good defense," she said. "That opened it up on offense a lot."

Hansche, a 5-foot-6 junior from Iowa City, finished 7 of 9 from long distance. She set the school record with eight 3-pointers in a single game last season and has an uncanny touch.

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"Mickey is the best natural pure shooter that I've been around," Coe coach Nate Oakland said. "She does things that make us look good. It's crazy.

"She can shoot it, she can shoot it from deep, and she shoots it at a really high percentage. It's tough for teams to guard her."

Oakland compared Hansche to Jacqui Kalin, a two-time MVP in the Missouri Valley Conference for Northern Iowa a few years ago when Oakland was an assistant with the Panthers.

Oakland said Hansche shoots 100 3-pointers after practice, moving from spot to spot on the floor around the perimeter. He said she consistently makes about 85 percent of them, an amazing number.



"I'd like to see a lot of guys try to do that," he said. "She puts in the time, she puts in the work and it's paying off. She's poised for a great junior season."

Hansche also drove to the basket for three layups against Mount Mercy, something former Coe coach Randi Henderson encouraged to do last season and Oakland has reinforced this year.

"I've been working a lot on taking it to the hole rather than just shooting so I'm not just a one-dimensional player," she remarked.

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The Kohawks (2-0) jumped to a 26-8 lead in the first quarter and maintained a comfortable advantage the rest of the night. They shot well from the field, hitting 54.0 percent overall and 13 for 28 on 3-pointers.

Aleena Hobbs, the reigning Iowa Conference Player of the Week, had another big game for Coe with 22 points, nine rebounds and five assists. Allie Wirth filled the boxscore with 12 points, seven rebounds, four assists and three steals.

"Offensively, it had to be exciting to watch at times," Oakland said. "We were getting some good looks and some deep 3's."

Ashley Dolan had a big game for Mount Mercy (2-4) with 32 points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals. She hit 11 of 15 shots from the field and was 9 for 14 at the foul line.

Mount Mercy All-American Abby Herb missed another game with a hip injury and Jordyn Lehman suffered a leg injury during the game, so the Mustangs were a little thin at the center position. As a result, Dolan played 34 minutes in the 40-minute contest and did her best to keep her team in the game.

"She had to play a lot of minutes and I thought she did a great job," Mount Mercy coach Bob Kintzel said.

Herb said she wanted to play Tuesday night, but was withheld to give her a chance to get fully healthy for the long season.

Makenzie Zeitler collected 17 points and eight rebounds for Mount Mercy and went 4-for-4 on 3-pointers.

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The Mustangs played Coe on near-even terms after trailing 26-8 in the first quarter. They were outscored by only one point, 66-65, the rest of the way.

"I don't know if we weren't ready to play or just got off to a slow start," Kintzel said. "Obviously against a good team you can't get off to a slow start like that."

Coe is a good team with a big goal this season.

"Our goal is to be national champion," Hansche declared. "We're not letting up until the end."

Coe center Ashley Stulken missed the game with a leg injury and is listed as day-to-day.

MOUNT MERCY (73): Harmon 4 1-2 9, Zeitler 6 1-2 17, Dolan 11 9-14 32, Goodman 0 0-0 0, Thompson 1 0-0 3, Blowers 1 0-0 3, Jordan 0 1-2 1, Sexton 1 3-4 5, Valadez 0 0-0 0, Keating 1 1-1 3, Lampe 0 0-0 0, Lehman 0 0-0 0. Totals 25 16-25 73.

COE (92): Wirth 4 4-4 12, Hobbs 8 4-6 22, McCrary 4 0-0 9, Hansche 10 0-0 27, Lehman 3 1-2 8, Holmes 2 2-2 6, Anderson 0 0-0 0, Boltz 1 0-0 3, Power 1 0-0 3, Robinson 0 0-0 0, Lehmann 1 0-0 2. Totals 34 11-14 92.

Halftime - Coe 53, Mount Mercy 36. 3-point goals - Mount Mercy 7 (Zeitler 4, Dolan 1, Thompson 1, Blowers 1), Coe 13 (Hansche 7, Hobbs 2, McCrary 1, Lehman 1, Boltz 1, Power 1).