

Courtney Dunston, Hartford Public basketball

■ Defense always has been Courtney Dunston's favorite part of basketball.

"Defense," Dunston said, "is what gets results."

And results are what Dunston has given Hartford Public this season. Dunston, a 6-foot-2 junior forward, has been an integral—but sometimes overlooked—part of Hartford Public's 8-0 start and the top ranking in The Courant's coaches poll.

Playing behind 6-11 senior center Marcus Camby does not allow others much time in the limelight. But Dunston is beginning to emerge from the shadow.

Dunston is averaging nine points and three steals a game. Tuesday, he scored a career-high 15 points in an 85-53 victory over rival Bulkeley. Friday, Dunston had 10 points and seven rebounds in a 50-33 victory over No. 8 Manchester.

Dunston was a vital part of Hartford Public's success Friday, combining with **Kendrick Moore** for 10 points in the third quarter as the Owls outscored Manchester 14-6 on the way to a 32-26 lead.

"I thought Courtney made a real good contribution [Friday] and that just inspired everybody," Hartford Public coach Stan Piorkowski said.

As usual, Dunston's most important contribution against Manchester was defense. Left free to roam the passing lanes in Hartford Public's full-court press, Dunston made three steals, two resulting in layups.

"The offense comes off of the defense," Dunston said. "I like defense. I don't worry about the rest of the game because that's the most important thing to me."

One thing that concerns Dunston is losing the No. 1 ranking.

"I want to be No. 1 all year," Dunston said.

"We play every game like it is our last game. Against Manchester, we played every player like he was their star."

Manchester's defense, which had allowed an opponent 50 points once before Friday, was the focus of pregame talk. Dunston was proud to point out Hartford Public held Manchester to a season-low 33 points.

"We all know what we can do out there and we just have to keep working hard to reach our goal," Dunston said.

Boys honor roll

■ **Kelvin Anderson, Bristol Central basketball:** Had 15 rebounds, 15 points and six blocks in 69-43 victory over Newington Friday.

■ **Kyon Grice, Prince Tech-Hartford basketball:** Had 26 points, including two free throws with 23 seconds remaining, and 15 rebounds as Prince Tech defeated Kaynor Tech-Waterbury, 83-80.

■ **Jay Hebert, Loomis Chaffee-Windsor hockey:** Scored two goals as Loomis defeated Westminster 7-2 in a prep school game Saturday.

■ **Brian O'Dowd, Notre Dame-West Haven basketball:** Scored 18 in a 72-58 victory over Hamden Tuesday and had 20 points in a 59-44 victory over Xavier-Middletown Friday.

■ **Ed Poland, Wethersfield basketball:** Had 10 points, including a jumper with two seconds remaining, as Wethersfield defeated Simsbury 52-50 in double overtime Friday.

