

Alleghany tops Indians JV team 45 – 28 in bizarre game

The Alleghany Mountaineers earned a split with the Fort Defiance High School Junior Varsity team with a 45 – 28 win in the dark Alleghany High School gym on December 30. FDHS had won the first time the two teams met, 36 – 35, on December 7. This game featured seven three pointers by the Mountaineers and some of the worst officiating ever witnessed by FDHS fans.

The hometown officials allowed Alleghany to hand-check Fort's ball handlers the entire game which led to a host of turnovers. Instead of calling fouls on the aggressive Mountaineer defenders, the referees made at least a half dozen highly questionable calls against the Indians, particularly against Gus Gutshall who fouled out in the fourth quarter then picked up a technical foul when he politely questioned the call. Fort's coach Will Henderson was so upset at this particular call that he was flagged for multiple technical fouls himself as he complained. Many of Fort's fans were loudly irate at the poor officiating which caused the referees to tell at least one of the FDHS fans to shut up. The scene was quite bizarre.

Meanwhile, the Fort players once again suffered from an infection of turnovers and missed field goals as they dropped their second game in a row, leaving their season record at 4 – 4.

Fort started the game on fire. Jasigh Ransome drove in for two. After Alleghany tied the score, Carter Berry hit a three pointer then made a nice hook shot in the lane to give the Indians a 7 – 2 lead. Unfortunately, this was the highlight of the night for the Indians. They went the next four minutes without scoring. Meanwhile, Alleghany hit a jump shot and a three pointer plus two free throws to take a 9 – 7 lead with 22.4 seconds left. Carter picked up his seventh point of the quarter with a layup off an in-bounds play with 1.9 seconds to knot the score at 9's at the end of the quarter.

Two three pointers to open the second quarter gave the Mountaineers at 15 – 9 advantage before Carter hit two free throws to narrow the lead to four. Jasigh's runner in the lane made it 15 – 13 but Alleghany answered with a deuce and a triple to go up 20 – 13. Multiple turnovers then doomed the Indians as Alleghany roared to a 28 – 13 lead. The Mountaineers also benefited from missed free throws by the Indians during this stretch. Carter finally got FDHS back on the board with a two pointer to make it 28 – 15 but Alleghany hit their 4th three pointer of the quarter to take a 31 – 15 lead. Gus then hit two free throws and Tripp Hanger followed with a layup to make the halftime score 31 – 19.

Fort played good defense in the third quarter. The only points scored the entire quarter by Alleghany was one more three pointer. Meanwhile, Fort got a free throw by Carter and two buckets by Elijah Pultz to pull within eight at the end of the quarter, 34 – 26. During the quarter, Gus picked up his 4th personal foul on another horrendous call.

It was the fourth quarter that brought the fireworks. First, Alleghany hit their seventh three pointer to push the lead to 37 – 26. Carter hit one of two free throws to make it 37 – 27 with 4:37 to go. On Fort's next possession, Gus was clobbered in the lane but the referees called the foul on him for elbowing. His expression of disbelief, though polite, at the call earned him a technical foul. Coach Henderson and the rest of the FDHS fans were infuriated at the call but the

referee's only answer to the Coach's questioning was to give him technical foul after technical foul. By the time play resumed, Alleghany had made six free throws from the technicals and the score was 43 – 27. Jasigh managed one of two free throws in the waning minutes and Alleghany got one more field goal to make the final 45 – 28.

Carter led the Indians with 13 points. Jasigh had 7 and Elijah 4. Gus and Tripp each had 2. The Indians play again on January 5 at Turner Ashby. To get back on the winning track, FDHS will need to improve its ball handling and put the ball in the hoop more often. Three times this year the Indians have scored fewer than 30 points in a game and, no surprise, they have lost all three of these games.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Tripp Hanger	1	0	0-0	2
Isaac Marshall	0	0	0-1	0
Carter Berry	3	1	4-7	13
Jasigh Ransome	3	0	1-3	7
Gus Gutshall	0	0	2-2	2
Elijah Pultz	2	0	0-0	4
TOTAL	9	1	7-13	28