

FDHS Dominates Turner Ashby 59 - 41

Fort Defiance High School Boys Basketball ran its season record to 4 - 2 with a resounding 59 - 41 out-of-conference win over Turner Ashby on December 16 in the Don Landes Gym at FDHS. It was the second time this season that the Indians beat the Knights, whose record slipped to 1 - 7.

Tyreek Veney was once again the mainstay of Fort's offense, scoring 24 points. Sam Garber pitched in 13 and Henry Gutshall scored 7 for the Indians who took the lead in the second quarter and never looked back.

Henry opened the scoring with a 16 foot jumper. Sam then took a pass from Henry and was fouled on his attempt. He hit both free throws and Fort went up 4 - 0. After a TAHS bucket, Tyreek hit one of two free throws then drove in for a deuce to make it 7 - 2. Fort then went cold and saw TA come back with seven straight points to push ahead 9 - 7. Sam then hit two consecutive three pointers to return the lead to the Indians at 13 - 9 before TAHS scored just before the first quarter ended to leave it at 13 - 11 after one.

TAHS opened the second quarter with a three pointer to retake the lead, 14 - 13 but that would be their last lead of the night. Bradley Hebb hit one of two free throws to tie the score. Tyreek's layup made it 16 - 14 in favor of the Indians then Jalen Alexander hit one of two free throws to make it 17 - 15. Tyreek's drive with 2:46 to go increased the lead to four then he knocked down a three pointer to make it 22 - 15. On TA's next possession, Tyreek stepped in front of a pass and took it all the way to give the Indians a comfortable 24 - 15 lead with 1:57 to go. The Knights were able to get one more field goal before the half ended so the score was 24 - 17 at the break.

After TAHS scored to start the second half, Henry bombed in a three pointer from the top of the key to make it 27 - 19 but TA answered with a three of their own. After a FD timeout with 5:20 to go, Henry took a pass in close and made a nice left handed move to push the lead back to 29 - 22 with 4:28 to go. After Henry drew the first of three charging fouls for the night, Tyreek scored on a drive to make it 31 - 22 and Bradley hit a jumper in the lane to give Fort an 11 point lead at the end of the quarter.

TAHS scored to start the final period but Sam answered with another three pointer. Tyreek again stepped in front of a TAHS pass and flew down the court for an easy layup, making the score 38 - 24 with 6:35 to go. Gio Armendariz Cruz hit two of two free throws then Tyreek did the same, making it 42 - 26. After Henry drew another charging foul, Tyreek's two gave Fort a comfortable 18 point lead at 44 - 26. TAHS came back with a three pointer but Henry then drew his third charging foul to take the air out of their comeback. TAHS did hit another three pointer but Sam answered with a jumper from the foul line making it 46 - 32 in favor of the Indians. TAHS was forced to foul at that point and Fort responded from the charity stripe. Kaden Johnson hit two, making it 48 - 34. TAHS closed to 48 - 37 but down the stretch the Indians knocked in seven of eight free throws to seal the victory. Kaden made one of two, Tyreek made two, Jack Liskey two, then Tyreek two more to make the score 55 - 41 with less than a minute left. At this point Fort emptied its bench. Two Indians managed to score in the waning seconds.

First, Carter Fink hit a jumper then Austin Metz finished the scoring for FDHS. The final score was Fort 59, TA 41.

Fort's defense was tough all night, giving the Knights nothing in the paint. Henry and Sam did a fine job on the boards.

The Knights were led by sophomore Beau Baylor with 15. Nolan Bailey added 11.

Fort's next game is on December 20 at Buffalo Gap for their first Shenandoah District game of the season.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	2-2	2
Bradley Hebb	1	0	1-4	3
Kaden Johnson	0	0	3-4	3
Carter Fink	1	0	0-0	2
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	3	2-2	13
Austin Metz	1	0	0-0	2
Tyreek Veney	7	1	7-8	24
Jack Liskey	0	0	2-2	2
Jalen Alexander	0	0	1-2	1
Henry Gutshall	2	1	0-0	7
TOTAL	13	5	18-24	59

Turner Ashby's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Micah Shank	2	0	0-0	4
Beau Baylor	6	0	3-4	15
Brady Spotts	0	0	0-0	0
Jack Fox	1	1	0-0	5
Owen Lyons	0	1	0-0	3
Mark Moseley	0	0	0-0	0
Grayson Smith	0	1	0-0	3
Nolan Bailey	2	2	1-2	11
TOTAL	11	5	4-16	41

Here is an article from the Waynesboro News Virginian from December 17:

TOP STORY BREAKING

BOYS BASKETBALL | FORT DEFIANCE 59, TURNER ASHBY 41

Fort Defiance boys basketball team finishes season-sweep of Turner Ashby

Ben Craft

Dec 17, 2022



Sam Garber shoots a three-pointer during a game against Turner Ashby on Friday night in Fort Defiance.

Ben Craft, The News Virginian

Ben Craft

FORT DEFIANCE — After dropping the season series to Turner Ashby a year ago, the Fort Defiance boys basketball team had a little extra motivation this time.

The Indians converted that motivation into a season-sweep of the Knights, as they prevailed over Turner Ashby 59-41 on Friday night at home in non-district action. Fort also defeated the Knights on Dec. 1, 64-54.

“They got the best of us twice last year and put it on us. I think that was a motivator for our guys, especially our seniors and upperclassmen who were on the bad end of that last year,” Indians head coach Brandon Fulk said. “It was good to get the win. I thought in the first half defensively we were solid.”

Tyreek Veney played a crucial role in propelling the Indians to victory, as he notched a game-high 24 points, including a 7-8 performance from the charity stripe to help prevent any comeback attempts from Turner Ashby.

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Despite the appearance of the stat line, the senior pointed to areas he could improve on.

“I felt like I was able to get to the cup a little easier than normal, but my jump shot just wasn’t falling tonight,” Veney said. “If it were falling, it would have been different.”

The first quarter produced a high-energy but low-scoring battle, as both teams failed to convert looks. Junior Sam Garber splashed a pair of triples late in the quarter to allow the Indians to enter the second with a 13-11 advantage.

Veney scored 11 points in the second quarter to extend Fort’s lead to seven points at halftime, including a couple of easy fastbreak buckets after steals.

“I thought Fort played really good defense,” Knights head coach Clay Harris said. “We made some silly turnovers that let them go on a run, and they executed. Coach Fulk does a great job with those kids.”

After a low-scoring third quarter, the Indians responded with their best offensive period of the night, fueled by a 13-14 team effort from the free-throw line. Fort scored 26 points to build a more significant lead and hold off the Knights from any comeback attempts.

Along with Veney’s 24 points, Garber also enjoyed a solid night with 13 points.

“I thought Sam had a really good practice on Wednesday, and he played really well tonight,” Fulk said. “I think he’s playing well, and he’s rebounding the ball really well. His confidence is in a good place right now.”

Fort Defiance improves to 4-2 on the season with the win and will play at Buffalo Gap on Tuesday. Even with the early success, the Indians are focused on ways to improve.

“We’ve got to keep on working on defense. We’re nowhere near where we can be,” Veney said. “That’s just going to come with work in practice and working each other harder.”

FORT DEFIANCE 59, TURNER ASHBY 41

TURNER ASHBY 11 6 5 19 — 41

FORT DEFIANCE 13 11 9 26 — 59

FORT DEFIANCE (59) — Veney 8 7-8 24, Garber 4 2-2 13, Gutshall 3 0-0 7, Hebb 1 1-4 3, Johnson 0 3-4 3, Cruz 1 2-2 2, Liskey 0 2-2 2, Metz 1 0-0 2, Fink 1 0-0 2, Alexander 0 1-2 1, Jones, Patterson, Bruce, TOTALS 19 18-24 59.

TURNER ASHBY (41) — Baylor 6 2-3 14, Shank 2 0-0 4, Bailey 4 1-2 11, Fox 2 0-0 5, Smith 1 0-0 3, Lyons 1 0-0 3, Seifert, Moseley, Bravo, Bass, Spotts, Shifflett TOTALS 16 3-5 41.

Here is an article from the Harrisonburg Daily News Record about the game:

BOYS BASKETBALL

NO DOUBT

Veney, Fort Push Past TA For Season Sweep

By JOHN BREEDEN Daily News-Record
Dec 16, 2022



Fort Defiance's Bradley Hebb drives around Turner Ashby's Jack Fox.

Daniel Lin / DN-R

FORT DEFIANCE — In its second matchup with Turner Ashby this season, Fort Defiance left no doubt.

Led by senior Tyreek Veney's 24 points, the Indians, who needed a second-half rally to earn a win in Bridgewater earlier this year, claimed a season sweep of the Knights with a decisive 59-41 win in boys basketball action inside Don Landes Gymnasium on Friday.

After the Knights won both games last year, FDHS head coach Brandon Fulk said he knew that was a motivating factor for his upperclassmen this season.

In the second meeting of the season Friday, Fulk said he felt his team did a good job sharing the wealth, noting 10 different players put up points in the game.

"I think the ball's moving well," Fulk said. "One of the things we have to be better at is off the ball and finishing shots. We're still leaving too many points out there around the basket. I think we're a better [shooting] team than what we've shown so far, but ultimately, we got to do it when the game happens."

Fulk said his team has struggled offensively this season, but felt they did a better job defensively against the Knights than the last game.

He said he felt one of the biggest factors in the win on Friday was getting to the charity stripe in the fourth quarter and making them, noting it was a good win overall.

"I thought, defensively, we were solid," Fulk said. "One of the things I told them was we got to put the ball in the hole. ... I feel like we're, in a sense, defending ourselves a lot. We haven't shot the ball well from the perimeter all year, so that's something we'll continue to work on."

The Indians (4-2) suffered a double-digit loss to Broadway on Tuesday in which they scored just 26 points and struggled to find a rhythm offensively, particularly in the second half.

After that game, Veney said his team stressed to focus on the defensive end for now, and felt the effort was there against Turner Ashby.

“I feel like in the second half, we really kept that going and kept going with the win,” Veney said.

The first quarter was a tight one, but the Indians held the lead for most of the quarter. Junior guard Micah Shank netted a jumper just as the quarter was ending to put Turner Ashby within two.

Boys Basketball: Fort Defiance vs. Turner Ashby



Fort Defiance vs. Turner Ashby Boys Basketball

Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney drives up the court against Turner Ashby's Grayson Smith.
Daniel Lin / DN-R



When it came to the Knights, Veney felt keeping Nolan Bailey, their tallest player, off the glass was the biggest challenge for them as well as sophomore guard Beau Baylor, who put up 15 points on the evening.

Junior Samuel Garber had 11 points for the Indians while senior Henry Gutshall had seven. Despite leading in points, Veney added he felt he could've played better.

“I didn't have as many rebounds as I would've liked to,” Veney said. “Not as many steals and not as many assists.”

The Indians continued to keep Turner Ashby in check, leading by as many as nine in the second quarter.

TA head coach Clay Harris, a former point guard for the Indians, said Fort Defiance played good defense and that his young squad made “silly” turnovers, which led to a second-half run by Fort that ultimately put the game away.

“Coach Fulk does a great job with those kids,” Harris said. “They executed tonight and they went on a little run. We tried to battle back and we just couldn't get back.”

Despite the loss, Harris credits his team for fighting until the last buzzer. The other top scorers for the Knights (1-7) included Bailey with 10 points and junior Jack Fox with five.

A parallel Harris noticed from the first game against the Indians was the run they went on was the difference-maker, noting they had a double-digit lead after the opening half in their first game, but couldn't hold off Fort's second-half momentum.

“All year, we've been struggling to stop the run and make a run of our own,” Harris said. “Basketball's all about making runs and we just had to get a run of our own and we never could.”

Turner Ashby 11 6 5 19 — 41

Fort Defiance 13 11 9 26 — 59

TURNER ASHBY (41) — Shank 2 0-0 4, Baylor 6 3-4 15, Sports 0 0-0 0, Fox 2 0-0 5, Lyons 1 0-0 3, Seifert 0 0-0 0, Moseley 0 0-0 0, Smith 1 0-0 3, Bailey 4 1-2 10, Bass 0 0-0 0. Totals 16 4-6 41.

FORT DEFIANCE (59) — Cruz 0 2-2 2, Hebb 1 1-4 3, Johnson 0 3-4 3, Fink 1 0-0 2, Patterson 0 0-0 0, Garber 4 2-2 11, Metz 1 0-0 2, Veney 8 7-8 24, Jones 0 0-0 0, Liskey 0 2-2 2, Alexander 0 1-2 1, Bruce 0 0-0 0, Gutshall 3 0-0 7. Totals 18 18-24 59.

3-Point Goals — Turner Ashby 5 (Fox, Lyons, Smith, Bailey 2), Fort Defiance 5 (Garber 3, Veney, Gutshall).

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