

Fort Defiance JV's Lose Heartbreaker to Staunton in Overtime

The Fort Defiance JV team almost pulled off an upset against the undefeated Staunton Storm on February 10 before losing in overtime, 59 - 55. The Indians led by as much as nine in the first half but gave up three straight three pointers to the Storm to fall behind 36 - 33 after the third period. After being down by five with 1:33 to go in the game, the Indians charged back and sent the game to overtime as Isaac Marshall picked up a missed shot and scored as time expired in regulation play to send the game to an extra period. Even in the overtime period, Fort went out to a four point lead but committed turnover after turnover to hand the victory to the visitors.

The game was not officiated well at all. It was rough from the start and the referees allowed Staunton's defense to attack and strip Fort's boys of the ball multiple times. Worse, early in the second period, Gus Gutshall was elbowed above his right eye and the ensuing gash kept him out of the game for the remainder. That was really disappointing because Gus was already having his best game of the season, going 3 for 3 from the field and snaring a couple of rebounds coming off the bench.

The win gave Staunton a 19 - 0 record for the season, 11 - 0 in the Shenandoah District. Fort's record stands at 13 - 7, 9 - 2 in the District.

Evan Braun opened the game with a bucket for FDHS. After Staunton tied it, he scored again but Staunton matched his shot to even things at 4 - 4. Two consecutive bad turnovers from the Fort guards gave Staunton an easy way to go up 8 - 4 but the home team roared back. Jasigh Ransome hit a three pointer then Gus scored in close to give Fort the lead at 9 - 8. On Fort's next possession, Gus made a nice move into the paint and flipped in another score to make it 11 - 8 at the end of the quarter.

More turnovers from the Fort guards hurt the Indians as Staunton scored the first five points of the second quarter. Gus again worked free for a deuce to tie the score but shortly after he received the blow to his eye which ended his playing time for the night. Staunton went up 15 - 13 then Tripp tied it with two free throws. At the 2:40 mark the score remained tied then Fort erupted. First Carter Berry snared an offensive rebound and, with the put back, got the home team ahead 17 - 15. Evan got one of two free throws to drop as did Isaac making it 19 - 15. Staunton scored to close within two at 19 - 17 but Tripp Hanger found the range with a three pointer to make it 22 - 17. In the last minute of the quarter, both Evan and Isaac were able to get field goals which gave FDHS a 26 - 17 lead at halftime.

The lead didn't last long. Staunton scored the first six points of the second half. After Isaac got one of two free throws to drop, Fort led 27 - 23 but Staunton hit a three pointer to get within one with 3:26 to go. Tripp again fired in a trey to put Fort up 30 - 26 but then the bottom dropped out for the Indians. Staunton hit three consecutive three pointers to take a 33 - 30 lead. Again turnovers hurt Fort's chances and they fell behind 36 - 30 as the quarter was about to end. However, Carter zipped in a long three pointer as the buzzer sounded to make it a three point game at the end of the third quarter, 36 - 33.

Fort missed consecutive one and one chances to start the fourth though Evan came through with a jumper to make it 36 - 35. Staunton went up 38 - 35 then 40 - 35 then 42 - 35. One of the Staunton players lost his cool and got a technical foul called against him which enabled Tripp to make two free throws pulling the Indians back to 42 - 37. Staunton went up 44 - 37 with 4:45 and things were looking bleak for FDHS. But Carter made one of two free throws, then, after a Staunton score, Evan hit a three pointer to make it 46 - 41 with 1:33 to go. Evan again scored with 34.8 seconds left. Fort was forced to foul at this point but Staunton missed its chances on two consecutive one and ones. Tripp made his two free throws to make it a one point game with 23.5 seconds to go. Both teams then missed free throws but Staunton got one to drop with 11 seconds remaining to make it 47 - 45. Evan launched a shot near the buzzer which was off the mark but Isaac was there to grab the rebound and score as the buzzer sounded, sending the game into overtime.

Fort started well in overtime. Jasigh hit a jumper then he made two of two free throws giving Fort a 51 - 47 lead. But once again poor ball handling doomed the JV squad. Several players committed turnovers allowing Staunton to score eight consecutive points and take a 55 - 51 lead. Isaac hit two free throws with 42 seconds left to get the Indians back within two but Staunton scored to make it 57 - 53. Tripp drove down the left side of the lane for two to make the score 57 - 55 with 20 seconds left but Staunton hit both free throws in the final seconds to take a 59 - 55 win.

Tripp and Evan led the Indians with 14 points each. Isaac had eight and Jasigh seven while Gus and Carter added six each.

The Indians next game is an away match against Stuarts Draft on Monday evening.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gus Gutshall	3	0	0-0	6
Jasigh Ransome	1	1	2-2	7
Isaac Marshall	2	0	4-8	8
Tripp Hanger	1	2	6-7	14
Carter Berry	1	1	1-2	6
Rhylan Martin	0	0	0-2	0
Evan Braun	5	1	1-3	14
TOTAL	13	5	14-24	55