

## **Fort Defiance JV Squad Tops Wilson Memorial in District Semifinals, 44 - 39**

The Fort Defiance JV team defeated Wilson Memorial 44 - 39 in the semifinals of the Shenandoah District tournament on February 16 in the Staunton gym. The victory gave the Indians a fine 15 - 7 season record, 11 - 2 in the Shenandoah District. The JV Indians will play undefeated Staunton for the District Championship on Saturday, February 18. Key to the win, the third time Fort has beaten Wilson this season, was a great second quarter in which the Indians held the Hornets scoreless.

Tripp Hanger led the scoring for Fort Defiance with 17 which included four three pointers. Once again, Gus Gutshall came off the bench to play a great game. His four points in the second quarter moved Fort from being down 15 - 12 to being ahead 16 - 15. Gus was three for three from the field and tied Evan Braun for second in scoring with seven despite playing only half the game.

The game started out in typical fashion for the JV team: two straight turnovers on offense. Meanwhile, Wilson hit a three pointer and a field goal to take a 5 - 0 lead with 4:44 to go. They extended their lead to 7 - 0 before Tripp Hanger finally got Fort on the scoreboard with a three from the corner. Wilson responded with a trey to take a 10 - 3 lead. Isaac Marshall then hit a triple from the opposite corner to make it 10 - 6. Tripp hit another three to get FD within one at 10 - 9 but Wilson hit a three pointer and two foul shots to go up 15 - 9 at the end of the quarter.

Tripp continued his hot shooting to open the second quarter as he bombed in a three pointer from the top of the key to make it 15 - 12 in Wilson Memorial's favor. Then Gus went to work, first with a nice spinner in the lane, then on a drive down the right hand side of the lane to give Fort its first advantage, 16 - 15. After Gus went out with 3:12 left, Fort didn't score the remainder of the quarter but Wilson couldn't find paydirt the entire period so the teams went into the locker room at halftime with Fort holding a 16 - 15 edge.

Wilson opened the second half on fire. They scored two quick buckets, including a three pointer, to take a 20 - 16 lead. Carter Berry then scored in close and Isaac rebounded a miss from Tripp and scored to tie the game. Evan drove for two to give Fort the lead back at 22 - 20. Wilson hit a three pointer to take a 23 - 22 lead in the seesaw game but Evan again scored in close for Fort, giving his team a 24 - 23 lead. Wilson responded with a three pointer to go up 26 - 24 but again their shooting went cold for the remainder of the quarter. Meanwhile, Jasigh Ransome got a field goal, Gus grabbed an offensive rebound and scored, and Tripp drove for two to give the Indians a 30 - 26 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Fort managed to extend its lead early in the fourth quarter. Both Gus and Evan hit one of two free throws to make it 32 - 26 with 4:49 to go. Carter then got a steal and bucket to increase the lead to 34 - 26 with 3:33 left. Carter then took a nice pass from Tripp and scored to give FDHS a ten point lead. Wilson got a free throw to get back to 36 - 27 before Evan scored in the paint to make it 38 - 27. Wilson got a trey and took advantage of a Fort turnover to score again making the score 38 - 32 with 1:52 to go. Tripp drove for two then Wilson hit two free throws so the

score was 40 - 34 with 26 seconds left. Instead of holding the ball, Tripp launched a three pointer but it was on target so Fort's lead was extended to 43 - 34. Wilson responded with a quick three pointer and, after another FDHS turnover, closed to 43 - 39. Tripp was fouled in the final seconds and he made one of two free throws. The final score was Fort Defiance 44, Wilson Memorial 39.

**Fort's Box Score:**

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Jasigh Ransome	1	0	0-0	2
Tripp Hanger	2	4	1-2	17
Isaac Marshall	1	1	0-0	5
Gus Gutshall	3	0	1-2	7
Evan Braun	3	0	1-3	7
Rhylan Martin	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Berry	3	0	0-0	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3-7</b>	<b>44</b>