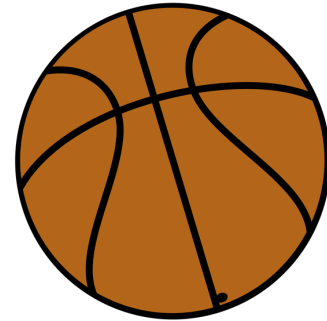


Fort Defiance High School



Varsity Boys Basketball

2022 - 2023

FORT DEFIANCE BASKETBALL 2022- 23



Fort Defiance High School

Boys Varsity Basketball

2022 – 2023 Roster



Number	Name	Year
32	Alexander, Jaden	11
40	Bruce, Alphonzo	12
1	Cruz, Giovanni Armendariz	10
4	Fink, Carter	11
10	Garber, Samuel	11
42	Gutshall, Henry	12
2	Hebb, Bradley	10
3	Johnson, Kaden	12
22	Jones, Dell Ray	11
24	Liskey, Jack	12
12	Metz, Austin	11
5	Patterson, Conner	11
20	Veney, Tyreek	12

Team Information:

Head Coach: Brandon Fulk

Assistant Coaches: Tyler Hoffman, Todd Zetwick

Athletic Trainer: Jackson Roper

Mascot: Indians

School Colors: Royal Blue and White

School Administration:

Superintendent: Dr. Eric Bond

Principal: Alan Shull

Asst. or Associate Principals: Mark Mace, Lea Dean

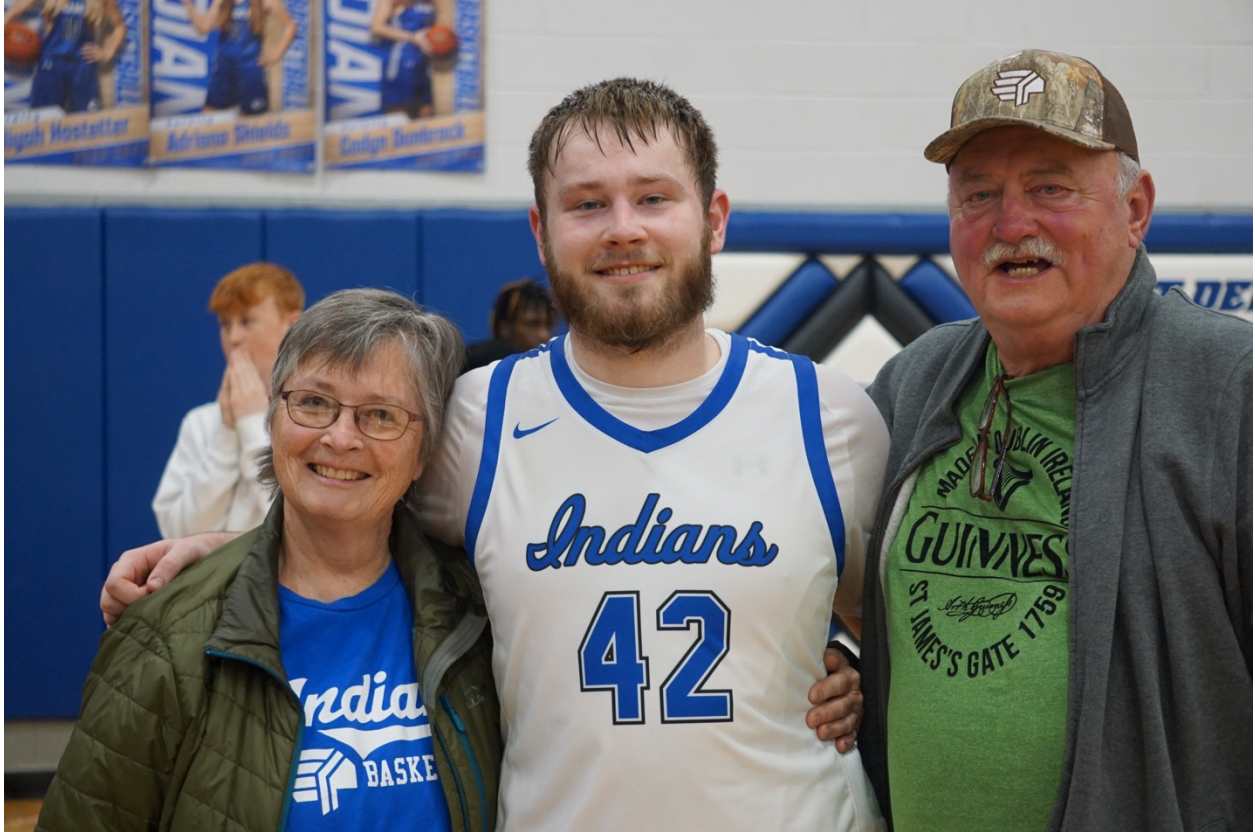
Athletic Director: Richard A. Miller



Henry with his parents Ann and Josh on Senior Night



Henry with Grandparents Joe and Lynn Hill on Senior Night



Henry with Grandparents Allen and Susan Gutshall on Senior Night



Henry with brother Gus (injured in JV game) on Senior Night

Preseason Predictions

Boys Basketball Preview: Shenandoah District

SHENANDOAH DISTRICT BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW: League Is Filled With Depth, Experience

By CODY ELLIOTT Daily News-Record
Dec 13, 2022



Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney takes a shot against Riverheads' Landon Lightner during a game last year.

Daniel Lin / DN-R

There may not be a league in the area as competitive as the Shenandoah District.

From top to bottom, the Shenandoah is filled with talented teams with the potential to beat anyone, including defending league champion Wilson Memorial, which looks good early.

There's plenty of star power, too, with Wilson Memorial's Finn Irving, Buffalo Gap's Bennett Bowers, Staunton's Manny Chapman and Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney the notable names.

Early on, the entire league has looked impressive — even a rebuilding Waynesboro team.

And while there's a long way to go, there's no reason to doubt any team is capable of beating another in the league and each one has legitimate playoff potential this season.

As another season gets underway, here's a look at the league's boys basketball teams:

Fort Defiance

One of the area's most experienced teams this season will be Fort Defiance.

Under seventh-year head coach Brandon Fulk, the Indians have been a solid program.

But after struggling with consistency a year ago, Fort will look to right the ship.

Senior guard Tyreek Veney (18.8 ppg) is back as one of the area's top players, along with fellow seniors Henry Gutshall (6.7 ppg), Kaden Johnson (5.0 ppg), Jack Liskey and Alphonzo Bruce, juniors Sam Garber (5.6 ppg) and Conner Patterson and sophomore Bradley Hebb.

Although the loss of Josh Jones will hurt at the forward spot, key newcomers include four juniors in Dell Ray Jones, Jalen Alexander, Carter Fink and Austin Metz, along with a talented freshman that has already opened eyes in point guard Gio Armendariz Cruz.

With several guys with multiple years of varsity experience and a commitment that Fulk praised throughout the offseason, the hope for Fort is to contend for a league title.

“We break every huddle with, ‘Together,’” Fulk said. “That’s to reinforce it’s about all of us. Each person has significant value in many different ways for our team. It’s not about Coach Fulk, the assistant coaches or specific players. It’s about all the many parts making up one strong body.”

Fort Defiance High School

Boys Varsity Basketball

2022 – 2023 Schedule and Results

Basketball Boys – Varsity
School Year: 2022 - 2023

Date	Opponent	Location	Score	W/L
11/17/22	Luray (Scrimmage)	Fort Defiance High School	72 - 42	W
11/29/22	Rockbridge County	Fort Defiance High School	50 - 42	W
12/1/22	Turner Ashby	Turner Ashby High School	64 - 54	W
12/7/22	Alleghany	Fort Defiance High School	66 - 64	L (2 OT)
12/9/22	Rockbridge County	Rockbridge High School	48 - 42	W
12/13/22	Broadway	Broadway High School	50 - 26	L
12/16/22	Turner Ashby	Fort Defiance High School	59 - 41	W
12/20/22	Buffalo Gap	Buffalo Gap High School	58 - 55	W
12/29/22	Monticello	Monticello High School	43 - 37	W
12/30/22	Alleghany	Alleghany High School	44 - 36	L
1/6/23	Riverheads	Fort Defiance High School	48 - 45	L
1/10/23	Wilson Memorial	Fort Defiance High School	47 - 40	W
1/12/23	Broadway	Fort Defiance High School	50 - 35	L
1/13/23	Waynesboro	Waynesboro High School	59 - 46	W
1/17/22	Staunton	Staunton High School	57 - 34	L
1/20/22	Stuarts Draft	Fort Defiance High School	50 - 45	W
1/24/23	Buffalo Gap	Fort Defiance High School	32 - 29	L
1/26/22	Monticello	Fort Defiance High School	59 - 46	W
1/31/23	Riverheads	Riverheads High School	63 - 31	W
2/3/23	Wilson Memorial	Wilson Memorial High School	56- 35	L
2/7/23	Waynesboro	Fort Defiance High School	38 - 25	W
2/10/23	Staunton	Fort Defiance High School	36 - 53	L
2/13/23	Stuarts Draft	Stuarts Draft High School	55 - 34	W
	Liberty Christian			
2/17/23	Academy (Regional)	Fort Defiance High School	66 - 49	W
2/21/23	Spotswood (Regional)	Spotswood High School	40 - 60	L
Season Record			Overall	Shenandoah District
			14-10	7-5



Scrimmage: Fort Defiance 72, Luray 42

FDHS Crushes Luray in Scrimmage on November 17

by Joe Hill

Fort Defiance High School began the 2022-23 Boys Varsity Basketball season with a blowout of Luray in a scrimmage on November 17. Though the scoreboard reset the score to 0 – 0 to start each quarter, the total of the four quarters' results was Fort 72, Luray 42 and that included the third quarter where FDHS played subs for most of the quarter and got outscored 22 – 14 by the Bulldogs. To open the season, the Indians went on a 9 – 0 blitz. Sam Garber opened the scoring with a nice assist from Henry Gutshall followed by two from Tyreek Veney. Henry then hit the first of his two three pointers with 5:38 to go and Tyreek scored on a fast break to make it 9 – 0 before Luray finally got on the board. Henry scored in close and, on the next possession, snared an offensive rebound with 4:02 to go and put it back in. Kaden Johnson finished off the first quarter scoring with a trey to give FDHS a 16 – 4 lead at the end of the period.

Fort continued its domination in the second quarter. Buckets by Tyreek off a steal, Conner Patterson on a nice pass from Bradley Hebb, Henry on a left handed sky hook, Del Ray Jones on a nice pass from Conner, Bradley from the free throw line, and Sam on a layup after a steal made it 12 – 0 in the first 3:30 of the quarter. Gio Armendariz Cruz made one of two free throws to make the score 13 – 3. Sam hit a three pointer from the top of the key and Tyreek closed Fort's scoring in the second on a fast break to make the score 18 – 7 in that quarter. The overall total at the half was 34 – 11 FDHS.

Lots of players got to see action in the third quarter. Jack Liskey hit a three pointer at the start of the period followed by Gio's field goal. Gio then made 1-2 from the free throw line. Luray went ahead 8 – 6 in the quarter but Gio tied it with a bucket and Connor made it 10 – 8 FDHS. Fort could only manage two more baskets in the quarter with a bucket each by Austin Metz and Kaden Johnson. Luray hit two consecutive three pointers near the end of the quarter to give them a 22 – 14 moral victory in the quarter.

The starters returned in the fourth quarter and again FDHS took control. Tyreek hit a three point bomb and later made 1 of 2 free throws. His drive pulled the Indians within one at 7 – 6 before Sam took a nice feed from Henry after his steal to give the Indians a 8 – 7 lead which they did not relinquish. Sam completed the three point play then Henry hit his second three pointer with 5:06 to go to push the lead to 12 – 7. Henry's jumper off the glass made it 14 – 10 then he found Sam loose under the basket for two more. Henry finished his scoring with a great spin move down the left side of the lane to push the score to 18 – 10. Bradley scored in traffic from in close then Sam got his first dunk to make the score 22 – 10. Tyreek finished the night with a drive at 0:34 and the quarter ended 24 – 12 in Fort's favor. The overall score was 72 – 42 in favor of FDHS.

Fort did a good job of mixing up zone and man-to-man coverage, limiting the Bulldogs to few good shots. Sam controlled the backboard and Henry had several good assists. Tyreek showed

no ill effects of the ankle injury he had dealt with over the previous two months. FDHS did a fine job of handling the ball with very few turnovers. Ten Indians scored during the game, led by Tyreek and Henry with 16 each.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Sam Garber	5	1	1-2	14
Henry Gutshall	5	2	0-0	16
Tyreek Veney	6	1	1-2	16
Jack Liskey	0	1	0-0	3
Kaden Johnson	1	1	0-0	5
Bradley Hebb	2	0	0-0	4
Gio Armendariz Cruz	2	0	2-4	6
Connor Patterson	2	0	0-0	4
Del Ray Jones	1	0	0-0	2
Austin Metz	1	0	0-0	2
TOTAL	25	6	4-8	72



Seniors pose under their posters displayed on the wall of the Don Landes Gym at FDHS

Game #1: Rockbridge County 53, Fort Defiance 46

FDHS Outplays Rockbridge in Season Opener

by Joe Hill

Fort Defiance High School opened the 2022-23 Boys Varsity Basketball season with a solid 50 – 42 win over Rockbridge on November 29 at FDHS. The tall Wildcats featured a roster with four players 6’3” or taller but Fort held its own led by Tyreek Veney with 15 points and Henry Gutshall with 11. Key to the win was a strong defensive effort in the third quarter when Rockbridge went 6:30 with only three points while Fort broke open a 22 – 22 tie to extend the lead to 35 – 25 going into the fourth quarter.

Starting for the Indians were Kaden Johnson, Sam Garber, Jack Liskey, Tyreek, and Henry. Henry opened the Indians’ season with a jumper from the foul line. The Wildcats then went on a scoring blitz with two three pointers and a foul shot and led 7 – 2 with 4:31 to go in the first quarter. Henry hit one of two free throws then Tyreek scored on a drive off a steal. A few moments later, he hit a three pointer to give the Indians an 8 – 7 lead. Conner Patterson’s jumper increased Fort’s lead to 10 – 7 before Rockbridge closed the quarter with two jumpers to take a 11 – 10 lead after one quarter.

Tyreek hit one of two free throws to tie the score as the second quarter opened and Conner’s field goal made it 13 – 11 with 6:54 to go. After Rockbridge evened the score, Sam gave Fort the lead back at 15 – 13 and Gio Armendariz Cruz extended the lead with a close-in jumper. Bradley Hebb capitalized on a steal to give the Indians a 19 – 13 lead with 5:30 to go. Neither team scored for the next two minutes until Gio’s 3-pointer pushed Fort’s lead to 22 – 13. Rockbridge scored two field goals in the last two minutes to leave the score 22 – 17 at the half.

The third quarter didn’t start well for FDHS. Rockbridge tied the game with 6:30 left before Fort clamped down on defense. Kaden hit both of his free throws and Tyreek’s 3-pointer pushed Fort’s lead back to 27 – 22. Rockbridge closed to 27 – 24 but Henry’s spinning move gave Fort a 29 – 24 edge. He was fouled on the play and hit his free throw to make it 30 – 24. After a mad loose ball scramble, Tyreek grabbed the ball and pumped in a three pointer to give Fort a nine point lead. Sam’s steal and layup gave Fort its biggest lead at 35 – 24. Rockbridge managed only one free throw down the stretch of the quarter making the score Fort 35, Rockbridge 25 after three quarters.

The teams traded baskets to start the fourth. Tyreek’s deuce made it 37 – 27 before Rockbridge hit a three pointer. Sam hit one of two free throws with 4:54 to go to give Fort a 38 – 30 lead. Rockbridge’s attempt to make a comeback was thwarted with two monster blocked shots by Sam on the next two possessions. Fort took a timeout with 4:02 to go before Henry was fouled. He hit both ends of the one-and-one and Sam’s layup gave the Indians some breathing room at 42 – 30 with three minutes to go. Rockbridge hit a three pointer to narrow the lead but the Wildcats were forced to foul on the next several possessions. Unfortunately for them, they fouled Fort’s best free throw shooters in Henry, Jack, and Tyreek. Tyreek made one of two free throws to give Fort a 42 – 35 lead. The Wildcats closed within five but Jack hit

both of his foul shots with 1:29 to go. Rockbridge quickly scored but they fouled Henry who hit both of his free throws to give Fort a 47 – 39 lead. They fouled him again and he hit one of two to make the score 48 – 39. Rockbridge's three pointer brought them within six at 48 – 42 with 8.8 seconds. They quickly fouled Jack who again buried both of his foul shots to make the final score Fort 50, Rockbridge 42.

Eight Indians got on the scoreboard led by Tyreek and Henry. Rockbridge was led by Henry Lambert with 11 points. Rockbridge hurt itself at the free throw line, making only 7 of 16 shots. Fort had an uncharacteristic number of missed layups and turnovers but rebounded very well against the taller Wildcats. Last year, Fort split its two games with Rockbridge, losing the season opener. The Indians play again on Thursday night against Turner Ashby on the Knight's court. They have a rematch with Rockbridge scheduled on December 9.

Before the game started, Tyreek and Alphonzo Bruce received the Michael Ruckman Courage Award, named in honor of FDHS graduate Mike Ruckman who died in 2021 after an 8-year battle with cancer. Both Tyreek and Alphonzo lost their fathers during 2021.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	1	1	0-0	5
Bradley Hebb	1	0	0-0	2
Kaden Johnson	0	0	2-2	2
Conner Patterson	2	0	0-0	4
Sam Garber	3	0	1-2	7
Tyreek Veney	2	3	2-4	15
Jack Liskey	0	0	4-4	4
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-1	0
Henry Gutshall	2	0	7-9	11
TOTAL	11	4	16-22	50

Rockbridge's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Brandon Mays	3	1	0-1	9
Lincoln Hundley	0	0	0-0	0
Andreas Poindexter	0	0	0-2	0
Matthew Burkhart	2	1	2-2	9
Henry Lambert	1	3	0-2	11
Keaton Owsley	1	0	3-4	5
Tucker Entsminger	0	0	0-0	0
Davonde Stores	0	0	1-2	1
Milo Mulitalo	3	0	1-3	7
TOTAL	10	5	7-16	42

The Daily News Record had this small article about the game:

Fort Defiance 50, Rockbridge County 42: In Don Landes Gymnasium on Tuesday, Tyreek Veney scored 15 points to guide Fort Defiance to a non-district win over Rockbridge County.

Henry Gutshall added 11 points for the Indians (1-0) while Samuel Garber had seven.

For the Wildcats (0-1), Henry Lambert led the way with 11 points while Brandon Mays and Matthew Burkhart each added nine and Milo Mulitalo finished with seven in the loss.

Rockbridge County 11 6 8 17 — 42

Fort Defiance 6 16 13 15 — 50

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY (42) — Mays 4 0-1 9, Hundley 0 0-0 0, Poindexter 0 0-2 0, Burkhart 3 2-2 9, Lambert 4 0-2 11, Owsley 2 3-4 5, Entsminger 0 0-0 0, Stores 0 1-2 1, Mulitalo 6 1-3 7. Totals 15 7-16 42.

FORT DEFIANCE (50) — Cruz 2 0-0 5, Hebb 1 0-0 2, Johnson 0 2-2 2, Patterson 2 0-0 4, Garber 3 1-2 7, Veney 5 2-4 15, Liskey 0 4-4 4, Gutshall 2 7-9 11. Totals 17 16-22 50.

3-Point Goals — Rockbridge County 5 (Lambert 3, Mays, Burkhart), Fort Defiance 4 (Veney 3, Cruz).



Game #2: Fort Defiance 64, Turner Ashby 54

FDHS Pulls Amazing Comeback to Defeat Turner Ashby 64 - 54

by Joe Hill

Fort's basketball team and its fans will remember this game in the Turner Ashby High School gym for a long time. It was certainly a game of two different halves. The first half was beyond miserable for the Indians. Shot after shot rimmed out for them whereas TAHS was red hot, making six three-pointers. Several FDHS boys picked up early fouls and no one could get the offense started. After a buzzer-beater three pointer for the Knights, the halftime score was 32 – 17 in their favor. It looked like a repeat of last year when Fort would bow to the Knights in both games.

After the game, Coach Brandon Fulk was asked what he told the boys at halftime because he should bottle it. He said he didn't say anything special, just that "we should just play our game." It worked. The third quarter was spectacular for the Indians, outscoring their opponents 19 – 1 to turn a fifteen point deficit into a four point lead going into the fourth quarter. Then, in the fourth Tyreek Veney scored 12 points including 6 – 6 from the foul line while teammate Henry Gutshall hit all eight of his free throws in the quarter to give Fort a 64 - 54 win. It was their second consecutive win over a larger school. The twenty five point turnaround will not be soon forgotten.

The game was marred by many personal fouls. Fort had 21 called against them while Turner Ashby had 25 including many in the fourth quarter when they mistakenly fouled Fort's two best free throw shooters. For the game, Tyreek was 11 – 11 from the charity stripe while Henry was 11 – 12. As a team, Fort shot 26 – 30, 87%, which is remarkable for any team at any level.

The game started off well for Fort. Kaden Johnson missed a field goal attempt but got his own rebound and scored to open the scoring at the home of the Knights. After drawing an offensive foul, Henry grabbed a rebound and put it back in to give Fort a 4 – 0 lead but it didn't last long. Two straight three pointers by Owen Lyons gave the Knights a 6 – 4 lead before Henry scored in close to knot the game at 6's with 4:24 to go. After TAHS pushed their lead to 12 – 6, Henry again scored on a drive then Tyreek followed with two free throws to get the Indians within two with 2:02 to go. But the Knights scored on the next two possessions to make the score 16 – 10 at the end of the first.

Another three pointer to open the second quarter pushed their lead to 19 – 10 before Tyreek scored on a drive, was fouled, and sank his free throw to make it 19 – 13 with 7:05 to go. Things then took a turn for the worse for Fort as the Knights went on a scoring spree to push their lead to 24 – 13. Meanwhile, Sam Garber picked up his third personal with 4:31 to go and had to sit. Henry's two foul shots made the score 24 – 15. Jack Liskey's two free throws helped Fort creep closer at 24 – 17 before TAHS again hit a field goal and a three pointer to move their lead to 29 – 17. The miserable quarter ended with Turner Ashby hitting a buzzer-beater three pointer to give them a 32 – 17 lead at the half. Fort had made only one field goal the entire quarter.

Then came that superb third quarter: Tyreek got his offense rolling with a drive. Henry followed with one of two free throws to make the score 32 – 20. TAHS hit one of two free throws to push their lead to 33 – 20 but it turns out this was the only point they would score in the period. Tyreek's two free throws with 4:26 to go made the score 33 – 22 before Sam finally got his offensive game rolling with a three pointer from the top of the key. Gio Armendariz Cruz scored on a drive to pull the Indians within six at 33 – 27 with 3:30 to go. Sam again bombed in a three pointer and Gio scored again on a drive to pull the Indians within one. Henry's spinner in the lane gave Fort its first lead since early in the game. Sam's two pointer in the lane ended the quarter's scoring for Fort at 36 – 33. It was a 19 – 1 quarter for the Indians.

The fourth quarter was contentious. TAHS opened with a score to pull within one but Gio answered with another driving layup. TAHS followed with two free throws but then sent Tyreek to the foul line for a one-and-one. He buried both shots returning Fort's lead to three at 40 – 37. After a FDHS timeout with 5:50 to go, Tyreek intercepted a pass and drove the length of the court to give the Indians a five point lead. TAHS answered with another three pointer to pull back within two, 42 – 40. Tyreek then drove and scored, was fouled on the shot, and completed the three point play to make it 45 – 40. TAHS hit two jumpers sandwiched around Sam's one of two free throws to make the score 46 – 44. Then, for the third time in the game, Tyreek scored on a drive and was fouled. His free throw pushed the lead to 49 – 44. TAHS returned with a three point play of its own to make the score 49 – 47 with 2:45 to go. Tyreek's two free throws made it 51 – 47 then Gio gave FDHS some breathing room with another drive down the lane to make it 53 – 47. From here, Fort relied on its good foul shooting as TAHS repeatedly fouled in desperation. After a TAHS miss, Henry grabbed the rebound and was fouled. He hit his shots making it 55 – 47. Sam hit one of two free throws making it 56 – 47. Over the next two minutes, Henry would hit six more consecutive free throws while TAHS scored two field goals and a three pointer. Gio scored Fort's last points on a nice drive which made the final score 64 – 54.

Tyreek lead Fort's scoring with 21 while Henry banged in 19. Sam and Gio each had 10 for the Indians. Lyons led the Knights with 17 including five three pointers. Fort's ball handling throughout the game was commendable with very few turnovers. Their field goal shooting was subpar but they made up for it at the foul line.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	5	0	0-0	10
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Kaden Johnson	1	0	0-0	2
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	2	2-5	10
Tyreek Veney	5	0	11-11	21
Jack Liskey	0	0	2-2	2
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	4	0	11-12	19
TOTAL	16	2	26-30	64

Turner Ashby's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Micah Shank	0	0	1-2	1
Beau Baylor	4	0	1-6	9
Solomon Shifflett	1	1	0-0	5
Jack Fox	1	0	2-2	4
Owen Lyons	0	5	2-2	17
Mark Moseley	0	0	1-3	1
Grayson Smith	0	2	0-0	6
Nolan Bailey	3	0	3-4	9
Samuel Bass	1	0	0-0	2
TOTAL	10	8	10-19	54

Here is an article about the game which appeared in the December 2, 2022 Daily News Record:

Boys Basketball

Second-Half Rally Lifts Indians Over TA

By JOHN BREEDEN Daily News-Record



Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney drives around Turner Ashby's Grayson Smith (Daniel Lin / DN-R)

BRIDGEWATER — After a first-half struggle, things started to slowly turn around for Fort Defiance in the second.

The Indians faced a double-digit deficit at intermission, but stormed back in the third

quarter to take the lead and hold on for a 64-54 win over non-district rival Turner Ashby in boys basketball action at Larry S. Pence Gymnasium on Thursday.

Fort Defiance head coach Brandon Fulk said he told his team at half to stay confident and the shots would fall eventually.

What he felt plagued them in the first half was they were “quiet” defensively.

“We were not very physical,” Fulk said. “We didn’t do a very good job at all on the glass, we gave up a lot of second chances. We didn’t make adjustments to [Knights guard Owen Lyons] shooting the ball on the perimeter and we didn’t make him do something different with the ball on the floor. I challenged them to be the team I think we could be in the second half.”

The Indians surely lived up to Fulk’s challenge as they outscored TA 19-1 in the third quarter and coughed up only two turnovers in the second half.

Fulk said the biggest second-half number that stood out to him was that the team scored on 23 of 36 possessions.

Four different Fort players tallied double digits in points, led by senior Tyreek Veney with 21.

Fulk was “absolutely” happy with how his team shared the wealth and feels he doesn’t have a team where the ball needs to stick to one player.

“Two games in, I think we’ve been pretty patient about sharing the basketball,” Fulk said. “Finding the right guy, finding the open guy, making the right passes and trusting each other. Tyreek’s an exceptional talent, but we got a lot of other good pieces.”





Turner Ashby's Nolan Bailey drives into the paint against Fort Defiance's Henry Gutshall (Daniel Lin / DN-R)

One of the “pieces” he mentioned was junior Samuel Garber, who had 10 points on the night for the Indians (2-0). Other top scorers included senior Henry Gutshall with 19 and sophomore Gio Armendariz Cruz with 10.

Veney felt like they played more as a team in the second half after Fulk's halftime speech in the locker room.

“I felt everybody listened to him,” Veney said. “We came out with more intensity on the defensive end. The bench came out a little bit better, when in the first half, we were a little dead. In the first half, I feel like we weren’t playing like ourselves.”

Veney said perhaps pregame jitters got to them in the first half, but that changed in the second.

He didn’t like his game at first because he couldn’t hit shots but in the second half, he said he changed his approach.

“I just started taking it to the [basket] more,” Veney said. “Tried to shoot a little bit of mid-range jump shots, just tried to see the ball go through the hole. Fortunately, I got to the free-throw line a lot and knocked them down.”

This was an away game for the Indians, but the Fort fans made their presence felt. The crowd was lively in the second half comeback and Veney said it was awesome to see that support.

“Last year, it was like that, too, but it didn’t turn out so well for us,” Veney said. “I just appreciate all the fans coming to support us.”

If handled the right way, Fulk hopes this win will be a confidence builder on what his team can be.

He said he hopes going down in the first half will be a learning experience and that they can’t expect to be down 15 at halftime in every game and be able to rally.

“That’s a recipe for a loss,” Fulk said. “We can’t do that. We got to start better defensively [and] learn from that. We know the road’s long and tough, as far as the competition we’ll continue to see. We’ll just try to learn from it.”

Contact John Breeden at 540-574-6291 or jbreedden@dnronline.com. | Follow John on Twitter: @John_R_Breedden



Sam dunks during warmups



Fort Defiance's Henry Gutshall puts up a shot against Turner Ashby's Nolan Bailey (Daniel Lin / DN-R)



Fort Defiance's Henry Gutshall looks for an opening against Turner Ashby's Nolan Bailey (Daniel Lin / DN-R)

Game #3: Alleghany 66, Fort Defiance 64 (2OT)

FDHS Suffers Heartbreaking Double Overtime Loss to Alleghany

by Joe Hill

Fort Defiance's Boys Basketball team suffered their first loss of the season on December 7 as Alleghany High School pulled out a 66 – 64 double overtime victory over the Indians. After another poor shooting first half, FDHS battled back to make the second half and both overtimes a see-saw battle. In the end, AHS's Chase DePriest bombed in a three pointer with 4.2 seconds remaining in the second overtime to give the Mountaineers the win.

Fort has nothing to be ashamed of in this loss. The Indians again battled back from a ten point deficit to take the lead in the second half. Going against a team that had only one player on its roster shorter than 6 feet tall, FDHS rebounded well and almost pulled out its second consecutive come-from-behind victory. The Indians battled a team which shot the ball well; the Mountaineers made seven three-point shots while Fort only made three.

Tyreek Veney had another monster game, scoring 28 points. Sam Garber had his best night of the season thus far with 18 and Henry Gutshall pitched in 12. Only two other players scored for the Indians and Tyreek, Sam, and Henry had all of Fort's field goals in the exhausting game.

The first quarter did not start well for Fort Defiance. After Alleghany opened the scoring, Tyreek hit a three pointer to give Fort a 3 – 2 lead. Henry drew the first of three offensive fouls he collected for the game but Kaden Johnson's three pointers wouldn't drop while Alleghany hit two to give them a 8 – 3 lead with 4:08 to go. Another three point play pushed their lead to 11 – 3 with 2:30 to go before Henry hit one of two free throws. Alleghany extended their lead to 14 – 4 before Henry buried two more free throws, followed by Tyreek's deuce on a drive to get the Indians within 6 at 14 – 8. Alleghany's field goal as time expired in the quarter gave them a commanding 16 – 8 lead after the first period.

The lead quickly went back to ten to start the second quarter before Tyreek found Henry open to get the Indians back within 8. Alleghany went back up 20 – 10 but Sam buried a three pointer from the top of the key to make it 20 – 13. Alleghany answered with a three of its own to make it 23 – 13. Henry then popped in a jumper from the foul line and Tyreek followed with another driving bucket to make it 23 – 17 but Alleghany answered to go back up by ten at 27 – 17. Tyreek's layup helped the cause as did Sam's jumper from the foul line but the half ended with AHS having a 28 – 21 lead.

Fort was plagued by poor shooting throughout the first half again. But against the Mountaineers who had a 6'6", 6'5", 6'4", and two 6'3" players on their team the Indians rebounded well. Alleghany's big 6'6" post player Halen Lowman was held to zero points.

Like their previous game against Turner Ashby, the third quarter was better for FDHS. AHS opened the quarter with a field goal before Tyreek's runner in the lane made it 30 – 23. Sam's three pointer with 5:32 to go pulled the Indians within four. On Fort's next possession, Tyreek took a nice feed from Henry to score in close. He then drew an offensive foul on Alleghany's next possession. Sam's drive knotted the score at 30's with 4:36 to go. Fort then took advantage of a flagrant foul called against Alleghany's Eli Entsminger, with Jack's two free throws giving Fort the lead at 32 – 30, completing an eleven point run for the Indians. Alleghany responded with a field goal to tie the score before Tyreek's drive put Fort back up, 34 – 32. After Alleghany tied the score, Kaden hit two free throws but Alleghany hit two of four free throws to tie the score again with 1:44 left. Henry hit one of two from the charity stripe to give the Indians a 37 – 36 lead but, down the stretch in the third quarter, turnovers by Fort's underclassmen guards hurt the cause. Tyreek scored again on a layup but Alleghany hit another three pointer to take the lead at 42 – 40 at the end of the quarter.

Sam took a pass from Henry and tied the score to open the fourth quarter. Alleghany regained the lead at 44 – 42 but two consecutive drives by Tyreek, one after he made a nice steal, gave Fort a 46 – 44 advantage. With 5:30 to go, Henry scored on a nice drive to give the Indians a four point cushion but Alleghany quickly answered with two. Sam scored in close to make it 50 – 46. But Alleghany roared back to tie it with 2:06 to go. Both teams then missed free throws and open shots that would have given their teams the lead. With 22.9 seconds to go, Sam rebounded a AHS miss and FDHS called time out. Tyreek was fouled, giving him two shots with 3.9 seconds to go and the score tied, but his two free throws wouldn't drop so the quarter ended with a 50 – 50 tie.

To start the first overtime, Henry scored on a nice spinner then he intercepted a pass. Tyreek's deuce gave Fort a 54 – 50 lead with 3:07 to go but they couldn't hang onto it as Alleghany's Anthony Webb hit two consecutive three pointers to give the Mountaineers a 56 – 54 advantage. Henry drew another charging foul with 34 seconds left and fed Tyreek who was fouled. This time his free throws were on the mark so the score was tied 56 all with 19 seconds remaining in the overtime. The Mountaineers held for the final shot but they missed as the teams headed for a second overtime.

Sam's 15 footer gave FD the lead in the second overtime, 58 – 56. By this time, he was exhausted and fighting leg cramps. Meanwhile, Alleghany tied the score but Jack's two free throws gave Fort a 60 – 58 lead. Alleghany scored to tie the score then hit one of two free throws to take a 61 – 60 lead. Sam returned to the game and hit a layup with 1:03 to go to give the Indians a 62 – 61 lead. Alleghany's Entsminger scored to return the lead to the Mountaineers but Tyreek's two pointer gave the Indians a 64 – 63 lead. Alleghany was able to pull out the victory with a three point dagger by DePriest, his only bucket of the game, with 4.2 seconds to go. Fort's last chance came down to a drive by Kaden but the shot was blocked. Alleghany had won the marathon, 66 – 64.

Fort returns to action at Rockbridge on Friday night.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	0-0	0
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Kaden Johnson	0	0	2-2	2
Sam Garber	6	2	0-0	18
Tyreek Veney	10	1	5-9	28
Jack Liskey	0	0	4-4	4
Henry Gutshall	4	0	4-6	12
TOTAL	20	3	15-21	64

Alleghany's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Xzavier Hayslett	6	2	6-9	24
Eli Entsminger	5	0	2-5	12
Garrett Via	0	0	0-0	0
Anthony Webb	1	4	0-0	14
Christopher Haden	3	0	1-2	7
Tyler Jackson	0	0	0-0	0
Chase DePriest	1	0	0-0	3
Ryan Cole	2	0	0-1	4
Hunter DePriest	0	1	0-0	2
Halen Lowman	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	18	7	9-17	66

The following short article appeared in the Daily News Record:

Alleghany County 66, Fort Defiance 64: Inside Don Landes Gymnasium, guard Tyreek Veney scored a season-high 28 points but it wasn't enough as Fort Defiance suffered its first loss of the year in a double-overtime non-district setback at the hands of Alleghany County.

Samuel Garber added 18 points for the Indians (2-1) while Henry Gutshall finished with 12.

Alleghany County 16 12 14 8 6 10 — 66

Fort Defiance 8 12 19 10 6 8 — 64

ALLEGHANY COUNTY (66) — Hayslett 8 6-9 24, Entsminger 5 2-5 12, Via 0 0-0 0, Webb 5 0-0 14, Harden 3 1-2 7, Jackson 0 0-0 0, C. DePriest 1 0-0 3, Cole 2 0-1 4, H. DePriest 1 0-0 2, Lowman 0 0-0 0. Totals 25 9-17 66.

FORT DEFIANCE (64) — Cruz 0 0-0 0, Hebb 0 0-0 0, Johnson 0 2-2 2, Garber 8 0-0 18, Patterson 0-0 0, Veney 11 5-9 28, Jones 0 0-0 0, Liskey 0 4-4 4, Gutshall 4 4-6 12. Totals 23 15-21 64.

3-Point Goals — Alleghany County 7 (Webb 4, Hayslett 2, C. DePriest), Fort Defiance 3 (Garber 2, Veney).



Game 4: Fort Defiance 48, Rockbridge 42

FDHS Downs Rockbridge 48 - 42

by Joe Hill

Tyreek Veney celebrated his birthday on December 9 by scoring 26 points in a 48 - 42 victory for the Fort Defiance High School's Boys Varsity Basketball team over Rockbridge High School at RHS. It was the second time this season that the Indians had beaten the taller Wildcats. The win pushed their season record to 3 - 1.

The rematch was starkly similar to the first time these two teams sparred with the Wildcats taking a first quarter lead only to see the Indians rally in the second quarter. After Jack Liskey drew a charging foul on Rockbridge's first possession, Henry Gutshall's left hander gave the Indians a 2 - 0 lead. Tyreek then bombed in a three pointer to give the Indians a 5 - 0 opening. RHS came back with two free throws by Matthew Burkhart then Jack's driving layup pushed the lead to 7 - 2 with 5:10 to go in the quarter then Tyreek added a drive to make it 9 - 2 with 4:16 to go. Coach Brandon Fulk then substituted for Henry and Jack but this strategy backfired. The Indians went stone cold, not scoring for the remainder of the quarter. Meanwhile, Rockbridge, which had missed all of its field goals to this point, warmed up and scored on four driving shots to take a 10 - 9 lead. During this stretch, Fort had several uncharacteristic turnovers.

Tyreek's in-close jumper returned the lead to the Indians to open the second quarter. Henry then found Sam open underneath to push the lead to three, 13 - 10. Henry then tipped in a Tyreek miss to make it 15 - 10. A few plays later, Henry's good defensive position allowed him to pick up another charging foul. Both teams shot themselves in the foot with several turnovers during this stretch. With 4:18 to go, Rockbridge's three pointer got them back within two, 15 - 13. Tyreek answered with a three of his own to make it 18 - 13. Three RHS free throws made it 18 - 16. Henry was fouled while shooting on an out-of-bounds play and he swished both free throws to push the lead to 20 - 16 with 2:16 to go. A defensive lapse allowed Rockbridge to get an easy bucket underneath pulling them within two. On the next possession, Jack was fouled and made one of two free throws. The half ended with a 21 - 18 advantage for FDHS.

Tyreek's two runners, one from each side of the court, opened the scoring in the second half and gave Fort a 25 - 18 cushion with 6:51 to go before Rockbridge called timeout. After a Rockbridge turnover, he then made one of two free throws. RHS answered with an offensive rebound put-back to get within five at 26 - 20 with 4:48 to go. Tyreek again had the answer for Fort with another driving layup to make it 28 - 20 before RHS countered with a three pointer. Tyreek continued his barrage with another three pointer. RHS rebounded a missed trey with a score to make it 31 - 25 with 3:10 to go. With FDHS now in a zone defense, Rockbridge hit a jumper to close it to 31 - 27. A Fort turnover gave RHS a chance to get closer but they were unable to do so. On Fort's next possession, Henry was left open from the top of the key and he banged in a three pointer to make it 34 - 27. Both teams had trouble scoring for the rest of the quarter and it ended with Fort maintaining its seven point lead.

The fourth quarter the score tightened as Rockbridge hit a three pointer to pull within four, 34 - 30. With 5:58 to go, another three pointer got them within one. A FDHS turnover gave them a chance to take the lead but they were off the mark on two consecutive trips down the floor. Fort's cold streak was snapped by Tyreek with a three pointer to help the Indians' cause. Sam Garber took a nice pass from Henry and was fouled on his shot. His two free throws made it 39 - 33 FDHS with 4:00 to go. Tyreek's runner was off the mark but he got his own rebound and was fouled. His two free throws increased the lead to eight at 41 - 33 but a bad turnover gave Rockbridge an easy layup. Fort called timeout with 2:26 to go, nursing a 41 - 36 lead. Again Sam took a feed from Henry and was fouled on his drive. He hit one of two free throws so FDHS led 42 - 35 with 2:17 to go. After missing three shots on its next possession, RHS fouled Jack who hit both shots on the one-and-one. Burkhart then scored in close to make it 44 - 37. FDHS went into its stall offense which forced Rockbridge to foul. They fouled Kaden Johnson who knocked in both free throws. Rockbridge wasn't done, though, as they swished another three pointer making it 46 - 40 with 37.2 seconds left. They were forced to foul again and this time it was Tyreek who hit one of two from the charity stripe giving Fort a comfortable seven point lead. Tyreek then picked up his fourth foul with 25.1 seconds to go as RHS hit both free throws. Sam finished the scoring for the night, making one of two foul shots, leaving the final score 48 - 42 in favor of the Indians.

Tyreek's 26 points, including ten in the third quarter, pushed his season average to 22.5 ppg. Henry added nine, Sam Garber six, and Jack five. Rockbridge was led by Burkhart and Keaton Owsley with 12 and 11 points, respectively. Fort did a good job with its stingy man-to-man defense, switching well and limiting Rockbridge to a very poor shooting percentage. Fort's shooting was less than spectacular, also, but good enough to get the job done.

Fort plays Tuesday night at Broadway High School.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	0-2	0
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	2
Kaden Johnson	0	0	2-2	2
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	0	4-6	6
Tyreek Veney	5	4	4-6	26
Jack Liskey	1	0	3-4	5
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	2	1	2-2	9
TOTAL	9	5	15-22	48

Rockbridge's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Brandon Mays	3	0	0-0	6
Lincoln Hundley	0	1	0-0	3
Andreas Poindexter	1	0	0-0	2
Matthew Burkhart	2	2	2-2	12
Henry Lambert	0	1	0-0	3
Keaton Owsley	3	0	5-6	11
Tucker Entsminger	0	1	0-0	3
Davonde Stores	0	0	0-0	0
Milo Mulitalo	1	0	0-0	2
TOTAL	10	5	7-8	42



Henry, Jared, and Alphonzo await the National Anthem to be played

The following short article is from the Daily News Record:

Fort Defiance 48, Rockbridge County 42: In Lexington, Tyreek Veney exploded for 26 points to carry Fort Defiance to a non-district win over Rockbridge County on Friday.

Henry Gutshall added nine points for the Indians (3-1) in the bounce-back victory while Samuel Garber chipped in with six points and Jack Liskey was also solid with five points

Although the struggles continued for the Wildcats (0-4), Matthew Burkhart impressed with a team-high 12 points while Keaton Owsley added 11 and Brandon Mays finished with six.

Fort Defiance 9 12 13 14 — 48

Rockbridge County 10 8 9 15 — 42

FORT DEFIANCE (48) — Cruz 0 0-2 0, Hebb 0 0-0 0, Johnson 0 2-2 2, Garber 1 4-6 6, Patterson 0 0-0 0, Veney 9 4-6 26, Jones 0 0-0 0, Liskey 1 3-4 5, Alexander 0 0-0 0, Gutshall 3 2-2 9. Totals 14 15-22 48.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY (42) — Mays 3 0-0 6, Hundley 1 0-0 3, Poindexter 1 0-0 2, Burkhart 4 2-2 12, Lambert 1 0-0 3, Owsley 3 5-6 11, Entsminger 1 0-0 2, Jay 0 0-0 0, Stores 0 0-0 0, Muliato 1 0-0 2. Totals 15 7-8 42.

3-Point Goals — Fort Defiance 5 (Veney 4, Gutshall), Rockbridge County 5 (Burkhart 2, Hundley, Lambert, Entsminger).

Game 5: Broadway 50, Fort Defiance 26

Indians Drop 50 – 26 Decision at Broadway

by Joe Hill

The Fort Defiance Indians left their offense behind as they traveled to Broadway on December 13 and fell to the Gobblers, 50 – 26. The FDHS squad scored only eight points in the second half. Sam Garber was a bright spot for Fort, scoring 11 points including nine in the first quarter when FDHS was still competitive.



Senior Captains Get Briefed Before Tussle with Gobblers

Broadway's Caleb Barnes blanketed Tyreek Veney all night and held him to a season low six points. Henry Gutshall, who also has been averaging in double digits, had a season low three points. In fairness, the BHS defense included frequent hand checks and over-the-back rebounds which the officials allowed throughout the game. Fort's coach Brandon Fulk even picked up a technical foul in the fourth quarter after he, like many of the FDHS fans,

became exasperated with the poor officiating.

The game started out OK for the Indians. Henry was fouled as he went up for a jumper. He hit both free throws but BHS quickly came back with two baskets. Henry then took a charging foul but the Indians couldn't capitalize. Meanwhile, BHS hit two more field goals to go up 8 – 2. Sam finally got Fort going with a deuce then a trey to make it 8 – 7. His layup gave Fort its last lead of the game at 9 – 8. BHS went up 13 – 9 before Sam hit another layup to make it 13 – 11 in Broadway's favor at the end of the first quarter.

Tyreek knotted the score at 13's on a drive to open the second quarter. He was fouled on the shot but failed to make it a three point play. BHS went up 16 – 13 with 3:53 to go in the quarter before Sam got Fort closer with a jumper from the foul line. Broadway increased the lead to 18 – 15 with 2:37 to go. Fort then failed to score on its next several trips down court. Turnovers hurt the Indians as BHS went up 22 – 15 before Jack hit a three pointer to get Fort within four at 22 – 18. BHS scored right before halftime to take a 24 – 18 lead into the locker room.

Just like the second quarter, Tyreek opened the third quarter with a drive but didn't convert on his free throw after being fouled on the shot. Henry was fouled while shooting and managed one of two free throws to pull the Indians within three at 24 – 21. Again, poor ball handling

killed any hopes Fort had of a comeback. Meanwhile, Broadway scored ten consecutive points to take a commanding 34 – 21 lead. Bradley Hebb hit one of two free throws to make it 34 – 22 after three periods.

The fourth quarter was especially tough for the Indians. Tyreek got his final two points early in the quarter and Gio Armendariz Cruz hit two free throws to get the Indians within ten at 36 – 26. These were the last points Fort would score. BHS hit several three pointers and coasted to a twenty point lead when FDHS finally threw in the towel and emptied its bench.

Barnes led Broadway with 14 points. Tristan Yoder pitched in 11.

Fort, with a 3 – 2 record, returns to action on Friday night with a home game against Turner Ashby. In order for the Indians to get back on the winning track they'll need to get more scoring from its entire lineup. Meanwhile, they should put this game in the rear view mirror.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	2-2	2
Bradley Hebb	0	0	1-2	1
Kaden Johnson	0	0	0-0	0
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	4	1	0-0	11
Tyreek Veney	3	0	0-2	2
Jack Liskey	0	1	0-0	3
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	0	0	3-4	3
TOTAL	7	2	6-10	26

Broadway's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Caleb Barnes	5	1	1-2	14
Samuel Post	0	0	1-2	1
Hunter Jerichen	3	0	1-2	7
Danzel Familia	0	0	0-0	0
Breyton Miller	2	0	1-3	5
Jet Gonzales	2	0	0-0	4
Bonner Michael	1	0	2-2	4
Kevin Santiago	0	0	0-0	0
Tristan Yoder	3	1	2-2	11
Braden Burkhalter	1	1	0-0	5
TOTAL	17	3	8-13	50

Boys Basketball

Gobblers Clamp Down, Pull Away For Win Over Indians

By MARK GRIFFIN For The Daily News-Record

Dec 14, 2022



Broadway's Caleb Barnes reaches up for a rebound against Fort Defiance during last season's meeting between the two teams. Barnes had 14 points and 10 rebounds in the Gobblers' 50-26 win on Tuesday.

Daniel Lin / DN-R

BROADWAY — A big second-half surge was the key for Broadway as it rolled past Fort Defiance 50-26 in non-district boys basketball action at home on Tuesday.

Trailing by six at the break, the Indians got a Tyreek Veney layup and a free throw by Henry Gutshall to cut the Gobblers' lead to 24-21 with 5:26 to go in the third, and it looked like it would be a battle the rest of the way.

Instead, it was all Broadway from there as the Gobblers went on a 10-0 run to lead 34-22 after three quarters and then scored the game's last 12 points. Fort Defiance could muster just five points the last quarter and a half as the Broadway press produced many steals and forced an abundance of turnovers.

It was a game of runs throughout the contest as the Indians scored the first two points before Broadway went on an 8-0 run to take an 8-2 lead at 4:12 of the first quarter. Junior Sam Garber then got hot for the Indians, scoring nine straight points, including a 3-pointer, and the Gobblers held a slim 13-11 lead after one.

Both teams were cold early on in the second period before Broadway went on an 11-2 run to lead 24-18 at the break. The Indians opened the third period with buckets from Veney and Gutshall to take the lead, but the tide turned against the visitors in a hurry.

"I thought our press was key," Gobblers head coach Dwight Walton said. "I knew that we couldn't get into a grind with Fort because they execute so well. I thought [we'd be successful] if we pressed and ran in spurts and we did that tonight. Defense creates offense."

Senior Caleb Barnes led Broadway with 14 points and 10 rebounds. He also guarded Veney, who was averaging 25 points the past three games, and held the Fort Defiance senior to just six points.

Sophomore Tristan Yoder added 11 for the Gobblers (4-1). Garber led the Indians (3-2) with 11.

"I like defense and I take pride in being able to guard the best players," said Barnes.

Fort Defiance 11 7 4 4 — 26

Broadway 13 11 10 16 — 50

FORT DEFIANCE (26) — Gutshall 0 3-4 3, Garber 5 0-0 11, Veney 3 0-2 6, Liskey 1 0-0 3, Hebb 0 1-2 1, Armanderiz Cruz 0 2-2 2, Bruce 0 0-1 0. Totals 9 6-9 26.

BROADWAY (50) — Miller 2 1-2 5, Jerichen 3 1-2 7, Yoder 4 2-2 11, Barnes 6 1-2 14, Gonzalez 2 0-0 4, Burkhalter 2 0-0 5, Michael 1 2-2 4. Totals 20 7-10 50.

3-Point Goals — Fort Defiance 2 (Garber and Liskey) Broadway 3 (Yoder, Barnes and Burkhalter).

Cody Elliott

Preps Writer

Game 6: Fort Defiance 59, Turner Ashby 41

FDHS Dominates Turner Ashby 59 - 41

by Joe Hill



Henry battles for the basketball with Nolan Bailey

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



Henry fights through Bailey's hook

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.



Henry rejects Bailey's shot

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
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:

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.

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.



Good Friends On and Off the Court

Game 7: Fort Defiance 58, Buffalo Gap 55

Veney's 37 Point Outburst Powers Fort over Gap

by Joe Hill

Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney was unstoppable at Buffalo Gap on December 20. From beyond the arc and on drives down the lane, he carried the Indians to a 58 – 55 Shenandoah District victory over the Bison.

The game was back-and-forth with the teams alternating the lead throughout the game. FDHS started the fourth quarter down 40 – 36 but played perhaps their best quarter of the season to pull out the win. Only four players scored for Fort all night, but all four came through in the pivotal fourth period.

With the win, Fort's record improved to 5 – 2. The loss dropped the BGHS record to 6 – 2. Fort's Kaden Johnson did a fine job holding Bennett Bowers to just 14 points which was key to the victory. Also key to Fort's win was a great job on the boards against a tall Buffalo Gap squad. Henry Gutshall had his best rebounding game of the year and had help from the rest of his teammates.



Indians Prepare to Corral Bison

But the game belonged to Tyreek. He was hot in all four quarters. Gap opened the game with a basket. After Henry hit one of two free throws, the Bison again scored to lead 4 – 1. That's when Tyreek began his onslaught. First he hit a three pointer from the top of the key. Then he stole the ball and drove the length of the court to give Fort a 6 - 4 lead. Gap tied the score, then Tyreek again scored on a drive. Gap again tied it, then Gio Armendariz Cruz scored on a nice drive to give Fort a 10 – 8 lead. Fouled on a drive, Tyreek hit both free throws to push the lead to four with 1:44 to go. Gap responded with a free throw, then Sam Garber hit one of two free throws to make it 13 – 9. After Gap closed to 13 – 11, Tyreek drove through a host of Gap players, scored, and was fouled on the shot. His free throw closed the scoring at the end of one with Fort taking a 16 – 11 lead.

The second quarter belonged to Gap. Tyreek scored every point Fort made in the quarter. His three pointer gave Fort its biggest lead, 19 – 11. After two Indians missed free throws, Gap closed to 19 – 15. Tyreek hit both ends of a one and one to make it 21 – 15. As he has done every game, Henry drew a charging foul but Fort couldn't capitalize as it saw Gap score the next seven nine points to go up 24 – 21. After a FD timeout, Tyreek hit a three from the top of the key to tie it up. Gap then scored a bucket with 38 seconds left to go u 26 – 24 and finished the scoring with a free throw to take a 27 – 24 lead into the locker room at the half.

Gap took a 29 – 24 to start the third quarter. Tyreek hit a layup then Sam came up with a big steal and layup to make it 29 – 28. Gap went back in front by four at 32 – 28 then Tyreek's three pulled the Indians back within one. His drive then gave Fort a brief lead at 33 – 32. Turnovers then hurt FDHS and allowed Gap to grab its biggest lead at 40 – 33 with 40 seconds to go. Tyreek again came through with a three pointer to make it 40 – 36 at the end of the third in favor of the Bison.

Fort's fourth quarter play was heroic. Tyreek hit another three to get the Indians within one, 40 – 39. Gio then drove the baseline and tossed in a basket to return the lead to the Indians. After Gap retook the lead at 42 – 41, Henry found the range from the top of the key for a three pointer. With 5:08 to go, Gap's three point play tied the game. Tyreek again scored down the lane but once again BGHS knotted the score at 46. Sam then bombed in a three pointer from the corner to make it 49 – 46. Gap hit a free throw but Tyreek once again couldn't be stopped driving down the lane and gave the Indians a 51 – 47 lead with 3:34 to go. Gap wasn't about to roll over, though, and quickly tied it at 51's. Tyreek then put a dagger in the Bison with his sixth three pointer of the night from the top of the key with 44 seconds left. Gap was forced to foul but Sam came through, hitting both ends of two one-and-one free throws including two with 7.3 seconds left after Bowers had pulled the Gap back within one at 56 – 55 with a three pointer. In the final seconds, Tyreek intercepted a pass to seal the win for the Indians.



Tyreek Scorches Bison for 37 Points

What a game this was for Tyreek! For the first five games of the season, he had some trouble getting his three point attempts to drop. He had nine treys during the first six games. In this game alone, he hit six, most from the top of the key. His quickness enabled him to drive past the Bison defenders and when he stretched to shoot on his drives, it seemed as though he stayed afloat for an incredible amount of time while his defenders rose to stop him then dropped back to the court until

he flipped the ball in. Tyreek ended the game with six three pointers, seven deuces, and five of seven from the charity stripe. His 37 points was the most scored by a Fort player for many years.

Fort returns to the hardwood with trip to Alleghany High on Thursday, December 22.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	2	0	0-0	4
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Kaden Johnson	0	0	0-2	0
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	2	5-6	13
Tyreek Veney	7	6	5-7	37
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	0	1	1-4	4
TOTAL	10	9	11-19	58

Buffalo Gap's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Donald Strother	3	0	2-4	8
Bennett Bowers	5	1	1-2	14
Kasey Fitzgerald	0	0	0-0	0
Gary Logan Hewitt	1	0	0-0	2
Micah Canterbury	5	0	4-5	14
Jackson LaPorte	7	0	3-5	17
Tyler Hohenstein	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	21	1	10-16	55



Indians Take Down Bison in Crucial Shenandoah District Game

Here is an article about the game which appeared in the Harrisonburg Daily News Record:

Boys Basketball

Veney Explodes For 37, Carries Fort To Win Over Gap

By BRANDON ELLIS For The Daily News-Record

Dec 21, 2022



Fort Defiance's Brandon Fulk talks with his team during a break in the action earlier this season.

Daniel Lin / DN-R

SWOOPÉ — It was the best game of Tyreek Veney's decorated career.

The Fort Defiance senior guard, who has been one of the best players in the area for several years now, exploded for a career-high 37 points and made the game-sealing steal late to carry his team to a big-time 58-55 victory over Buffalo Gap in Shenandoah District boys basketball action in Swoope on Tuesday.

Indians head coach Brandon Fulk credited Veney for coming up big on both ends of the court.

"He was a little bit up and down [early in the year], but made some clutch plays for us," Fulk said. "He's been struggling shooting the ball, especially from the perimeter. We ran a couple of plays for him in the second half. Obviously he was huge, he started feeling it and made some miraculous shots. What did he end up with? 37? That's pretty impressive."

Veney's offensive production was certainly impressive, but perhaps the biggest play of the game came on the other end when the quick guard was able to clutch a one-handed snag for a steal on Gap's last possession.

That play by Veney sealed the win for Fort, which was big to open play in a competitive Shenandoah District.

"That was big," Fulk said about Veney's late swipe. "He got back and got a finger on it and it was still a one-possession game. That was a good effort by him at the end of the game."

The Bison were paced by three players as senior Jackson Laporte had 17, while seniors Micah Canterbury and Bennett Bowers both had 14 points. Bowers trimmed the Indians lead to one with a 3 from the corner but the Indians got free throws from Samuel Garber to push the lead back to three, which led to the theft by Veney.

Bison head coach Chad Ward had no problem admitting what the difference in Tuesday's game was.

"Tyreek Veney had 37 and lit us up," Ward said. "He had the game of his life. He was the best player on the floor."

The Bison (6-2, 0-1 Shenandoah) controlled the second and third quarters, forcing the Indians to make some quick adjustments on the bench down four at the end of the third quarter and it paid off.

Garber finished with 13 points to add to Veney's big night for the Indians (5-2, 1-0 Shenandoah).

Fulk talked about what the message was to his team in between the final two frames.

"I tried to talk about just getting stops," Fulk said. "I thought we were solid tonight. Offensively, I kept telling the guys make shots and we'll be OK. ... It's a great win for us. [Gap is] really tough to defend. To start district play with a win on the road is big for my group."

FORT DEFIANCE BASKETBALL 2022- 23

Fort Defiance 16 8 12 22 — 58

Buffalo Gap 11 16 13 15 — 55

FORT DEFIANCE (58) — Cruz 2 0-0 4, Hebb 0 0-0 0, Johnson 0 0-2 0, Garber 3 5-6 13, Patterson 0 0-0 0, Veney 13 5-7 37, Jones 0 0-0 0, Liskey 0 0-0 0, Gutshall 1 1-4 4. Totals 18 11-19 58.

BUFFALO GAP (55) — Strother 3 2-4 8, Bowers 6 1-2 14, Fitzgerald 0 0-0 0, Hewitt 1 0-0 2, Canterbury 5 4-5 14, Jackson LaPorte 7 3-5 17, Hohenstein 0 0-0 0. Totals 23 10-16 55.

3-Point Goals — Fort Defiance 9 (Veney 6, Garber 2, Gutshall), Buffalo Gap 1 (Bowers).



Gus and the FDHS JV team had a very successful season, too.

Game 8: Fort Defiance 43, Monticello 37

Strong Second Half Propels FDHS past Monticello

by Joe Hill

The Fort Defiance High School Indians basketball team has been a slow starter all season, falling behind in every game at some point in the first half. This game was no different which saw Fort's deficit grow to as much as 10 points in the third quarter before roaring back to defeat the Monticello Mustangs 43 – 37 at Monticello High on December 29. The win gave Fort a 6 – 2 record for the year; the Mustangs dropped to 1 – 6.

Fort's first quarter was very uncharacteristic for the senior-led team. The boys had seven turnovers in the quarter and fell behind 9 – 7 at the end of the period. After an initial Mustang bucket, Henry Gutshall took a pass from Tyreek Veney and leveled the score. Monticello had one of two free throws then Tyreek drove in the lane to give FDHS a 4 – 3 lead with 4:39 to go in the quarter. After several Fort turnovers and two baskets by Monticello, the score was 7 – 4 in favor of the Mustangs. Sam Garber then bombed in a three pointer to even it at sevens but Monticello got the last bucket of the quarter to take the lead after one.

Fort then went stone cold and fell behind 14 – 7 in the first four minutes of the second quarter. Finally, Gio Armendariz Cruz got a layup on an out-of-bounds play for Fort's first bucket of the quarter but Monticello responded with a basket to go up 16 – 9. Tyreek hit one of two free throws to make it 16 – 10 but a Mustang three pointer increased their lead to 19 – 10 with 32 seconds to go in the half. Kaden Johnson then got an assist from Henry for a basket to make the score 19 – 12 at the half in favor of Monticello. Fort's shooting percentage for this half was abysmal including only 1 of 7 from the free throw line.

Tyreek opened the scoring in the third with a drive. He was fouled on the shot and hit his free throw to pull the Indians within four at 19 – 15. Consecutive three point plays by Monticello gave them their largest lead of the game at 25 – 15. Henry grabbed an offensive rebound and stuck it back in and Sam hit another three pointer from the top of the key to get FDHS back within five. After Henry drew a charging foul with 5:03 to go, MHS took a timeout to slow Fort's momentum but it didn't work. Sam got a nice pass from Tyreek and scored. Then Tyreek followed with a drive of his own to get the Indians within one at 25 – 24 with 4:12 to go. Monticello went up three with a basket then Tyreek hit both ends of a one-and-one to make the score 27 – 26 with 2:29 to go in the period. Monticello was able to get one more basket in the quarter but Fort was not. So the score after three periods was Monticello 29, FDHS 26.

Tyreek's three knotted the game at 29's but Monticello scored to give them a two-point advantage. Tyreek hit one of two free throws with 6:50 to go to pull Fort within one then Monticello scored again to give them a 33 – 30 lead. At this point the momentum took a big swing toward Fort Defiance. Gio's two pointer off a drive got FDHS within one. Then Kaden hit both ends of his one-and-one to give Fort its first lead since early in the game at 34 – 33. Tyreek then added a deuce to increase the lead to three. Kaden was fouled again and he buried both foul shots to give FDHS a five-point lead with 1:40 to go, 38 – 33.

Monticello pressed hard to get back in the game and almost caught the Indians in a backcourt violation but Coach Brandon Fulk called a timeout just before the Mustangs intercepted a pass and scored. It proved to be the coaching move of the game as Fort was able to hold onto the ball and get it to Kaden who was fouled with 1:04 to go. He hit one of two free throws to give FDHS a six-point lead, 39 – 33. Monticello quickly responded with a basket in the lane but Tyreek found Sam all alone under the basket to return the lead to six at 41 – 35. The Mustangs then fouled Henry on the inbounds pass and he iced the game by hitting both free throws to give Fort a comfortable eight-point lead at 43 – 35 with 17 seconds to go. Monticello scored in the waning seconds to make the final score Fort 43, Monticello 37.

Fort's seniors certainly came through in the last quarter, finally finding the range on free throws. Prior to then, they had hit only 5 - 15 from the charity stripe. In the final three minutes of the game, they went 7 – 8 from the line.

Tyreek led the Indians with 16. Sam added ten. No player scored in double figures for the Mustangs though ten different players scored. Fort has no time to rest as it returns to the hardwood with trip to Alleghany High on Friday, December 30.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	2	0	0-1	4
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-4	0
Kaden Johnson	1	0	5-6	7
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	2	2	0-0	10
Tyreek Veney	4	1	5-9	16
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	2	0	2-3	6
TOTAL	11	3	12-23	43

Monticello's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Ben Giese	3	1	0-0	9
Ben Ritterbrand	0	1	0-0	3
Esteban Newell	1	0	0-0	2
Joshua Walker	3	0	0-0	6
Teddy Matthews	1	0	0-0	2
Aaron Morgan	1	0	1-2	3
Spence Doherty	1	0	0-0	2
Jason Bittner	1	0	0-0	2
Jacob Messinger	2	0	1-1	5
Ezekiel Pour	1	0	1-3	3
TOTAL	14	2	3-6	37



Here's an article about the game which appeared in the Waynesboro News Virginian:

Fort Defiance boys basketball team surges late to defeat Monticello

Ben Craft

Dec 29, 2022



Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney attempts a three-pointer on Thursday night during a game against Monticello in Charlottesville.

Ben Craft, The News Virginian

Ben Craft

CHARLOTTESVILLE — It took them 29 minutes to grab a lead, but the Fort Defiance boys basketball team got the job done on Thursday night.

After a sluggish first half, an 8-10 fourth-quarter performance from the charity stripe and senior play propelled the Indians to a 43-37 victory over the hosting Monticello Mustangs in non-district action.

"I didn't think we were engaged enough and focused enough in the first half," Fort Defiance head coach Brandon Fulk said. "I challenged them at halftime. I thought the difference in the game came down the stretch when the game was tied, and we made a lot of free throws. We've been in that situation a lot this year where we had to make free throws in tight games in the fourth quarter. That's where we won the game."

The two teams struggled to convert looks and maintain ball possession in the low-scoring opening quarter. However, a buzzer-beater by senior Ben Giese allowed the Mustangs to enter the second quarter with a slight 9-7 lead.

The Indians' shooting struggles continued in the second quarter, as they often settled for three-point attempts or heavily contested looks in the paint. Fort Defiance went the first five minutes of the second quarter without scoring, trailing by seven at halftime after only scoring 12 points in the first half.

"We've continued to struggle shooting the ball, and I think some of that is more of us rather than our opponents," Fulk said. "The type of shots and the timing of shots are things we have to get better at."

Senior Tyreek Veney, and the rest of the Indians, began to find offensive momentum in the third quarter. Veney scored six in the quarter as the Indians outdid their entire first-half output to cut the Mustang's lead to 29-26 heading into the final period.

Fort Defiance finally grabbed the lead after a pair of free throws from senior Kaden Johnson with 2:55 remaining in the game. Veney added a bucket on the following possession to give the Indians some cushion. Johnson nailed three more free throws in the closing minutes to help Fort seal the win and prevent any heroics from Monticello.

"I thought Monticello played extremely hard and made it tough," Fulk said. "It was in doubt for most of the game, but a couple of our older guys stepped up and made some plays down the stretch. We were pretty good defensively in the last four minutes too."

Veney led all scorers with 16 points, while Sam Garber provided 10 for Fort Defiance.

The Indians improve to 6-2 (1-0) with the victory and play at Alleghany County on Friday night.

FORT DEFIANCE 43, MONTICELLO 37

MONTICELLO 9 10 8 10 — 37

FORT DEFIANCE 7 5 14 17 — 43

FORT DEFIANCE (43) — Veney 5 5-9 16, Garber 4 0-0 10, Gutshall 2 2-3 6, Hebb 0 0-4 0, Johnson 1 5-6 7, Cruz 1 0-1 2, Liskey 0 2-2 2, Metz, Fink, Alexander, Jones, Patterson, Bruce, TOTALS 14 14-25 43.

MONTICELLO (37) — Ritterbrand 1 0-0 3, Walker 3 0-0 6 Giese 4 0-0 9, Morgan 1 1-2 3, Newell 1 0-0 2, E. Pour 1 1-3 3, Messinger 2 1-1 5, Doherty 1 0-0 2, Bitner 1 0-0 2, Matthews 1 0-0 2, White, J. Pour, Harlow, Pannone, TOTALS 16 3-6 37.

Game 9: Alleghany 44, Fort Defiance 36

Alleghany Overcomes Indians with Fourth Quarter Surge

by Joe Hill

In a rematch of two good teams who played a double overtime game earlier in the season, the Alleghany Mountaineers put together a big fourth quarter to come from behind and defeat the Fort Defiance High School Indians basketball team 44 – 36 at Alleghany High School on December 30. The Indians overcame a slow first half and took the lead 31 – 28 at the end of the third quarter but couldn't hold the lead as they were outscored 16 – 5 in the final eight minutes. The tall Mountaineers, who featured a starting lineup averaging around 6' 3" including 6' 7" center Halen Lowman, upped their record to 7 -2 while the Indians fell to 6 – 3 in the non-district matchup.

Fort was once again hindered by lack of scoring outside their big three of Henry Gutshall, who led the Indians with 12, Tyreek Veney, who had 11, and Sam Garber, who pitched in 10. The rest of the FDHS team scored only three points in the low scoring tussle played in Alleghany's somewhat dark gym on a tiled floor.

Alleghany got on the board early with two quick baskets to go up 4 – 0 before Kaden Johnson made two free throws. Alleghany moved their lead up to 6 – 2 with a basket. FDHS went over four minutes without a field goal until Tyreek finally hit a three pointer to pull the Indians within one at 6 – 5. Alleghany responded with a three of its own to go up 9 – 5 then Sam hit a three for the Indians to make it 9 – 8 with 1:22 left. As he has done in all of Fort's games, Henry drew a charging foul but Sam's two free throws on Fort's ensuing possession both rimmed out, leaving the score 9 – 8 after one.

Fort put some substitutes in to start the second half but the move backfired as Alleghany ran off six straight points to go up 15 – 8. Henry then snared an offensive rebound and scored. Tyreek's second three of the night got the Indians within two at 15 – 13. Alleghany responded with two free throws and a jumper to go back up 19 – 13 before Henry scored on an out-of-bound play with 3:34 left in the half. Again Henry picked up an offensive rebound and scored to pull the Indians within two at 19 – 17. Sam was fouled on a drive but managed only one of two free throws to keep Alleghany's lead at one, 19 – 18. With one minute to go in the half, Alleghany scored again to make it 21 – 18 which is the way the half ended.

The third quarter was a high spot for FDHS. After Alleghany hit a three to go up six, Sam hit another three pointer for the Indians. The Mountaineers got another bucket to go up 26 – 21. Sam then scored, was fouled, and converted the three point play to pull Fort within two. On the next trip down the court, Henry scored in the lane to tie the game at 26's with 1:42 to go in the quarter. Henry's low post play against the tall Mountaineers was superb and he gave the Indians their first lead at 28 – 26 with a nice spin shot in the lane. Tyreek followed that up with another three pointer to give the Indians their largest lead of the night, 31 – 26. Alleghany scored at the buzzer to make it 31 – 28 at the end of the third period.

Unfortunately, the fourth quarter brought cold shooting and some sloppy ball handling to the Indians. After Alleghany scored to pull within one at 31 – 30, Gio Armendariz Cruz hit one of two free throws to give Fort a two point advantage. That advantage quickly disappeared as Alleghany scored the next six points including an easy layup after a bad FDHS pass. Henry drove down the lane to get the Indians within two at 36 – 34 but Alleghany responded with a three pointer to go up 39 – 34 with 3:06 to go. Neither team could score in the next minute and a half until Tyreek’s deuce got the Indians within three at 39 – 36. Fort was forced to foul in the last minute and Alleghany buried both shots of the one-and-one with 53.9 seconds to go. Another errant pass from Fort’s guards gave Alleghany an easy bunny, plus a free throw on the shot, to go up 44 – 36 which is how the game ended.

Fort’s defense looked good against the tall Mountaineers but the offense continues to struggle. For the second game in a row, free throw shooting was subpar as was the field goal percentage. FDHS returns to action on Friday, January 6, with a district contest against Riverheads.

Fort’s Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	1-2	1
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Kaden Johnson	0	0	2-2	2
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	2	2-5	10
Tyreek Veney	1	3	0-2	11
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	6	0	0-0	12
TOTAL	8	5	5-11	36

Alleghany’s Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Xzavier Hayslett	3	1	0-2	9
Eli Entsminger	1	1	0-0	5
Garrett Via	0	0	0-0	0
Anthony Webb	0	0	0-0	0
Christopher Harden	4	0	1-1	9
Chase Depriest	0	0	0-0	0
Siemien Brown	0	0	0-0	0
Davien Moore	2	0	0-0	4
Ryan Cole	0	1	0-0	3
Hunter Depriest	1	0	0-0	2
Halen Lowman	4	0	4-4	12
TOTAL	15	3	5-7	44

Game 10: Riverheads 48, Fort Defiance 45

Riverheads Three Pointers Doom Indians, 48 - 45

by Joe Hill

Riverheads hit 13 three pointers including six in the fourth quarter to squeak out a 48 – 45 win over the Fort Defiance Indians on January 6 in the FDHS gym. For the game, Riverheads only had three two point field goals and three foul shots but banged in 13 treys to give them a come-from-behind victory over Fort. The winning shot was made as time expired and broke a 45 – 45 tie. The loss gives Fort a 6 – 4 record for the season while the Gladiators improved to 3 – 5.

It was a very disheartening loss for FDHS which led 36 – 30 going into the fourth quarter. Tyreek Veney scored 12 for FDHS, all three pointers, while Henry Gutshall scored 10. Henry had a particularly good game. He missed only one shot from the field, had a steal and several rebounds and hit a crucial three pointer in the fourth quarter. But, inexplicably, Coach Brandon Fulk had him on the bench for the last 2:25 of the game. The Indians could have used his level headedness as they turned the ball over with a bad pass with 28.9 seconds left in the game to give Riverheads a chance for the game-winner.

Kaden Johnson had a good shooting night for the first time this season, hitting two three pointers and 2 – 2 from the free throw line for eight points. Bradley Hebb pitched in six. For the Gladiators, Carter Mooneyham had 18, including five three pointers, and Bennett Dunlap had 15, all coming on treys.

Fort had a poor shooting first quarter, making only one field goal in the first seven minutes. Riverheads opened with a three then Tyreek tied it with a three of his own. Sam Garber hit one of two free throws then Riverheads went up 5 – 4. Henry made one of two foul shots to tie it but Riverheads hit a field goal and two foul shots to go up 9 – 5. Gio Armendariz Cruz made one of two from the foul line to get Fort within one with 1:10 to go. Bradley Hebb then drove the lane for a deuce to get the Indians within one at 9 – 8 but Riverheads began its three point barrage to go up 12 – 8. Bradley made another basket just as time expired to make it 12 – 10 after the first period in favor of RHS.

Bradley scored again to tie the game to start the second quarter. Gio then tipped in a missed shot to give the Indians a 14 – 12 lead but Riverheads tied it at 14. Del Ray Jones then hit a three pointer to make it 17 – 14 in favor of the Indians but once again Mooneyham struck from three to tie the game then hit another to make it 20 – 17, RHS. Henry made both ends of a one-and-one to pull FD within one at 20 – 19 but Mooneyham once again buried his shot from beyond the arc to give Riverheads a 23 – 19 lead. Henry's spin shot in the lane made it 23 – 21 and that's the way the first half ended.

It was an unusual half for Fort's two leading scorers. Tyreek only had three at the break and Sam only one. Riverheads played with only eight players dressed for the game.

The third quarter was Fort's best quarter of the night. Kaden finally got his shot on track with a three pointer to give the Indians a 24 – 23 advantage. Henry took a nice pass from Sam and scored to make it 26 – 23. Riverheads knotted the score with a Dunlap three pointer but then Kaden and Tyreek each hit three pointers to give Fort a 32 – 26 advantage with 4:02 to go. Henry made a nice steal and Gio followed with a drive to push the lead to 34 – 26. After a Riverheads foul shot, Kaden hit two free throws with 38.3 seconds left to give FDHS a 36 – 27 lead, their largest of the night. Dunlap hit another three pointer to make it 36 – 30 at the end of the quarter.

Another three pointer pulled Riverheads within three at 36 – 33 to open the fourth quarter but Henry answered with a three to push the lead back to 39 – 33. Riverheads then hit four straight three pointers, three by Dunlap, to go from six down to six up at 45 – 39. Tyreek then hit two treys in a row to tie the game with 2:25 to go. The score remained unchanged, with each team having opportunities to take the lead, until Riverheads got the last possession and Henley Dunlap buried a three from the corner as time expired.

FDHS returns to action on Tuesday, January 10, hosting Wilson Memorial.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	2	0	1-2	5
Bradley Hebb	3	0	0-2	6
Kaden Johnson	0	2	2-2	8
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	0	0	1-4	1
Tyreek Veney	0	4	0-1	12
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	1	0-0	3
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	2	1	3-4	10
TOTAL	7	8	7-15	45

Riverhead's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gabe Milo	2	0	0-1	4
William Gardner	0	2	0-0	6
Carter Mooneyham	1	5	1-3	18
Henley Dunlap	0	1	0-0	3
Chris Brooks	0	0	0-0	0
Aden Slack	0	0	0-0	0
Bennett Dunlap	0	5	0-0	15
Jackson Brammer	0	0	2-2	2
TOTAL	3	13	3-6	48

Game 11: Fort Defiance 47, Wilson 40

Indians knock off Shenandoah District Leader Wilson, 47 - 40

by Joe Hill

Fort Defiance used a tough defense and a fine game from Sam Garber to defeat Wilson Memorial 47 – 40 on January 10 in the Don Landes Gym at FDHS. Wilson came into the game undefeated in district play, 3 – 0, but Fort was clearly the better team in this game. It was an unusual game for the Indians in that Tyreek Veney was held to only four points, his season low, but his teammates picked up the slack to defeat the Hornets. Fort's defensive job on Wilson's Finn Irving was key to the victory. Irving only managed 9 points, with most of them coming in the last few minutes.

Sam, who started the game on the bench, led FDHS with 15 points. He hit three timely three pointers in the game. Henry Gutshall and Gio Armendariz Cruz added 8 each. Jack Liskey scored five. Lucas Schatz led WMHS with 17.

Bradley Hebb got the Indians started with a field goal on a drive but Wilson answered to tie it at 2 – 2. A Schatz three pointer gave the Hornets a 5 – 2 lead before Henry answered with a three from the top of the key to tie the score. After Wilson got a free throw from Schatz, Sam hit a jumper from the free throw line to give the Indians a 7 – 6 lead. Wilson responded with a jumper to take a 8 – 7 lead, their last of the night. Jack pumped in a trey from the side to put FDHS up 10 – 8 and Gio scored in close to give the Indians a 12 – 8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Henry picked up his second foul early in the second quarter on a terrible call from the officials so he had to sit a good bit of the period. After the Hornets hit a free throw to make the score 12 – 9, Kaden Johnson hit a three pointer from the top of the key to make it 15 – 9. Sam's three from the corner gave the Indians a nine point advantage at 18 – 9. WMHS scored but Sam hit another jumper to make it 20 – 11 with 4:52 left in the second. Several turnovers then hindered Fort from being able to push their lead. Meanwhile, Wilson hit a three pointer to make the score 22 – 14. Then Sam again swished a jumper from the foul line. Tyreek scored on an acrobatic shot off a drive to make the score 24 – 17. Jack then got ahead of everyone else and hit a layup to give the Indians a nice 26 – 17 lead at the half.

The third quarter was a good one for the Indians. Gio's deuce upped the lead to 28 – 17. Then Sam hit another three pointer from the corner to make it 31 – 17 and Bradley's two pointer on a reverse layu gave FDHS a surprising 16 point lead at 33 – 17. Wilson clawed back to 33 – 17 but Sam's three again from the corner made it 36 – 20 with 3:16 to go. The Indians didn't score the rest of the period but Wilson managed only three so the score was 36 – 23 after three periods.

Gio scored on a drive to open the fourth quarter. Fort didn't score for the next two minutes while Wilson hit two deuces to close the gap to 38 – 27. Henry took a pass and drove down the left hand side of the lane and flipped it in to make it 40 – 27. He picked up his 4th foul shortly

thereafter but managed to play the rest of the game without fouling out. Meanwhile, thanks to sloppy ball handling by the Indians, Wilson closed the gap to 40 – 34 with 1:30 to go. Gio then was fouled but he missed his first shot of the one-and-one but Sam leaped high to snare the rebound and pass to Tyreek. Tyreek was fouled and he hit both of his free throws to give FDHS an eight point lead at 42 – 34. Another poor pass by FDHS gave Wilson an easy layup but WMHS made the mistake of fouling Henry with 55 seconds to go. He buried both shots of the one-and-one to return the lead eight at 44 – 36. Irving quickly scored for Wilson but then the Hornets fouled Gio who made both of his free throws to make it 46 – 38 with 40 seconds left. On Fort's next possession, Henry was again fouled and he hit one of two free throws to give FDHS a 47 – 38 spread. Wilson got the final bucket of the contest which made the final score Fort 47, Wilson 40. It was a good win for the Indians.

The win makes Fort's season record 7 – 4, 2 – 1 in the Shenandoah District. Wilson's season record is also 7 – 4 and their Shenandoah District record dropped to 3 – 1. FDHS returns to action on Thursday, January 12, hosting Broadway.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	3	0	2-3	8
Bradley Hebb	2	0	0-0	4
Kaden Johnson	0	1	0-0	3
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	3	3	0-0	15
Tyreek Veney	1	0	2-3	4
Jack Liskey	1	1	0-1	5
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	1	1	3-4	8
TOTAL	11	6	7-11	47

Wilson Memorial's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Colton Lavender	0	0	0-0	0
Ardan Podgotski	1	0	0-0	2
Eli Irving	0	1	1-2	4
Max Vess	1	0	0-0	2
Finn Irving	4	0	1-1	9
Lucas Schatz	2	3	4-6	17
Grant Wright	3	0	0-3	6
TOTAL	11	4	6-12	40

The following article was from the Harrisonburg Daily News Record:

Fort Defiance 47, Wilson Memorial 40: Samuel Garber scored 15 points, including a trio of 3-pointers, as Fort Defiance used a strong second-quarter run to deliver Wilson Memorial its first Shenandoah District setback of the season inside Don Landes Gymnasium.

Freshman standout Gio Armendariz Cruz finished with eight points for the Indians, while senior Henry Gutshall also had eight, and Jack Liskey, another senior, scored five.

Tyreek Veney and Bradley Hebb finished with four points apiece for Fort in the victory.

Lucas Schatz led the Green Hornets, who had a four-game losing streak snapped, with 17 points, while standout senior guard Finn Irving was held to nine points on the evening.

The Indians (7-4, 2-1 Shenandoah), who snapped a two-game skid themselves, are right back at it Thursday with a non-district home game against longtime area rival Broadway, while Wilson (7-4, 3-1 Shenandoah) will travel to Riverheads on Friday for a 7:30 p.m. tip.

Wilson Memorial 8 9 6 17 — 40

Fort Defiance 12 14 10 11 — 47

WILSON MEMORIAL (40) — Lavender 0 0-0 0, Podgorski 1 0-0 2, E. Irving 1 1-2 4, Vess 1 0-0 2, F. Irving 4 1-1 9, Schatz 3 4-6 17, Wright 3 0-3 6. Totals 13 6-12 40.

FORT DEFIANCE (47) — Cruz 3 2-3 8, Hebb 2 0-0 4, Johnson 1 0-0 3, Garber 6 0-0 15, Patterson 0 0-0 0, Veney 1 2-3 4, Jones 0 0-0 0, Liskey 2 0-1 5, Gutshall 2 3-3 8. Totals 17 7-10 47.

3-Point Goals — Fort Defiance 6 (Garber 3, Johnson, Liskey, Gutshall)

Game 12: Broadway 50, Fort Defiance 35

Broadway Sweeps Fort Defiance 50 – 35

by Joe Hill

The Fort Defiance Indians dropped a 50 – 35 non-district game to the Broadway Gobblers on January 12 in the FDHS gym. Broadway shot out to a 17 point lead early in the second quarter, mainly on the shooting of guard Tristan Yoder, but Fort roared back to make it a four point game at the end of the second and third quarters. Broadway's strong fourth quarter, 15 – 4, doomed the home team which dropped to 7 – 5 (2 – 1 in the Shenandoah District). It was the second time this season that Broadway has topped the Indians.

Fort played the game without the services of Bradley Hebb who had an injury to his elbow. Midway in the fourth quarter, Gio Armendariz Cruz went down with a hyperextended knee which makes both players doubtful for tomorrow night's game at Waynesboro.

Yoder was unstoppable in the first quarter, hitting two three-pointers and a two point jumper. His first trey gave BHS a 3 – 0 lead. Sam Garber took a nice pass from Tyreek Veney and scored, bringing the Indians to 3 – 2. After a Broadway bucket, Yoder hit another three pointer to put the Indians behind 8 – 2. Tyreek answered with a jump shot. Another Broadway three pointer upped their lead to 11 – 4. After BHS made a field goal to raise their lead to 9 at 13 – 4, Henry Gutshall hit two free throws to make it 13 – 6. The fourth BHS three pointer of the quarter gave the Gobblers a comfortable 16 – 6 lead at the end of the quarter.

BHS poured in on to start the second quarter, scoring the first 8 points, including another Yoder triple, to give them a large 23 – 6 lead. This turned out to be their largest lead of the night as FDHS mounted a comeback. Aiding their efforts was that Yoder picked up his second foul and sat out the rest of the quarter. Gio got FDHS going with a three pointer, Del Ray Jones rammed in a three of his own, then Kaden Johnson hit one of two free throws, making it 23 – 13. A BHS three pointer pushed the lead back to thirteen at 26 – 13 before Sam scored inside on a nice pass from Tyreek. After a BHS foul shot, Henry spun down the left side of the court for two making it 27 – 17. Tyreek and Sam then hit back-to-back three pointers to get the Indians back in the game, 27 – 23, at the half.

Neither team could change the spread in the third quarter. Yoder hit a three to open play in the second half. A field goal gave them a 32 – 23 advantage before Sam hit a jumper. Then Henry buried a three pointer from the top of the key making it 35 – 28. Tyreek finished the scoring in the quarter with a three pointer from the side leaving Broadway's advantage at four, 35 – 31, after three quarters.

Unfortunately for the Indians, Broadway dominated the last quarter. After a field goal with 4:51 to go, Yoder was fouled shooting a three pointer and hit all three of his free throws making it 40 – 31. Tyreek took a nice pass from Henry to score inside. Shortly afterwards, he stole the ball and his layup made it 41 – 35. The Indians' offense then abandoned them as Broadway scored the last nine points of the night, aided by several FDHS turnovers.

Tyreek led Fort with 12 points. Sam had 9 and Henry 7. Yoder led BHS with 19; Braylon Miller scored 16. FDHS returns to action on Friday, January 13, with an important district matchup at Waynesboro.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	1	0-0	3
Kaden Johnson	0	0	1-2	1
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	3	1	0-0	9
Tyreek Veney	3	2	0-0	12
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	1	0-0	3
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	1	1	2-4	7
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	7	6	3-6	35

Broadway's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Jowell Santiago	0	1	0-0	3
Caleb Barnes	0	0	2-2	2
Hunter Jerichen	2	0	1-3	5
Braylon Miller	3	2	4-6	16
Jet Gonzales	2	0	0-0	4
Conner Michael	0	0	0-0	0
Tristan Yoder	2	4	3-3	19
TOTAL	9	7	10-14	50

Game 13: Fort Defiance 59, Waynesboro 46

Fort Defiance topples Waynesboro 59 - 46

by Joe Hill

Waynesboro had no answer for Sam Garber and Tyreek Veney as the Fort Defiance Indians took down the Waynesboro Little Giants 59 – 46 on January 13 in the cold, dark Waynesboro gym. The win boosts Fort's record to 8 – 5, 3 – 1 in the Shenandoah District. Waynesboro's record dropped to 3 – 10, 1 – 3 in the District.

Fort was two men down for the game as Bradley Hebb and Gio Armendariz Cruz both were out with injuries. Bradley has an infection in his elbow and Gio is nursing a hyperextended knee. But Sam and Tyreek rose to the occasion, netting 24 and 19 points, respectively. Henry Gutshall, who was in foul trouble most of the night, pitched in six and Jack Liskey added five. The Indians pulled ahead midway in the first quarter and never trailed afterwards, building up a lead of up to nineteen points by the third quarter.

Henry opened the scoring by hitting one of two free throws. Jack followed with a triple to put the visitors up 4 – 0. Waynesboro hit two free throws and a field goal to tie the score, then Tyreek got his first basket to put the Indians up 6 – 4. A Waynesboro three pointer gave the Little Giants a temporary lead in the game, 7 – 6, and they added another bucket to get a 9 – 6 lead. Tyreek tied it with 2:24 to go with his first three pointer, then Sam took over. He hit one of two free throws then buried a three pointer to give the Indians a 13 – 9 lead. The Indians had the ball and could have held for the last shot in the quarter but they shot too soon which gave Waynesboro the chance to score. Waynesboro's Charles Haynes hit a driving layup and was fouled on the shot. He made his free throw, leaving the score 13 – 12 after the first period.

Waynesboro tied the score at 13's to open the second quarter. Henry picked up his second foul which forced him to sit nearly all of the period. Sam drove and scored, making it 15 – 13 in favor of FDHS. After WHS tied the score, Kaden Johnson's drive made it 17 – 15. Waynesboro closed to 17 – 16 then Sam snared an offensive rebound and put it back in, making the score 19 – 16. Tyreek then drained two consecutive three pointers from downtown to give Fort a nice 25 – 16 advantage. Waynesboro hit a trey to make it 25 – 19 with 1:53 to go. Sam bombed another three pointer and Jalen Alexander scored in close to give FDHS a 30 – 19 lead. Waynesboro added a triple before the end of the quarter making the score 30 – 22 at the half.

Waynesboro pulled within five with a three pointer to open the second half but Sam's nice move and left hand score made it 32 – 25. Tyreek added a pair of free throws and Sam hit one of two to give FDHS a 10 point lead with 5:57 to go. Sam then stepped in front of a Waynesboro pass and made the layup to make it 37 – 25. Waynesboro closed to 37 – 28 but Henry found Sam open under the basket for an easy deuce. On the next possession, Fort had the ball out under the Waynesboro goal. On a nice in-bounds play, Henry was wide open for an easy score, making it 41 – 28 with 3:23 to go. Henry then hit two free throws and Sam scored a layup on a long football-type pass to give Fort a gigantic 45 – 28 lead. Sam's spinner in the lane

gave the Indians their biggest lead of the night, 47 – 28. After Waynesboro hit a free throw, Henry added one of two for the Indians making the score 48 – 31. Waynesboro hit a buzzer-beater at the end of the quarter which left the score at 48 – 33 in favor of Fort.

Waynesboro picked up some momentum to start the fourth quarter. Henry picked up his 4th foul and had to return to the bench early in the period. Meanwhile, Waynesboro scored the first five points to pull within ten at 48 – 38. Jack broke the momentum with a layup with 6:08 to go. Waynesboro scored to close to 50 – 40 but Sam added a field goal then made a nice pass to Tyreek for a layup. Sam missed the front end of a one-and-one opportunity but Tyreek leaped high to snare the rebound and score, making it 56 – 40. Waynesboro closed to 56 – 42 but Tyreek hit two free throws with 42 seconds left to make it 58 – 42. FDHS then emptied its bench. Connor Patterson was able to knock in one of two free throws in the final seconds. The final score was 59 – 46.

This was by far the best game of the season for Sam. He not only was unstoppable on offense, he dominated the boards and had several steals. Waynesboro had only one player in double figures, Haden Morris with 10.

The win sets up a big game on Tuesday night as FDHS goes to Staunton to face the Storm, which is also 3 – 1 in the District. The Indians also have games with Monticello and Stuarts Draft next week.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Kaden Johnson	1	0	0-1	2
Conner Patterson	0	0	1-2	1
Sam Garber	8	2	2-5	24
Tyreek Veney	3	3	4-4	19
Jack Liskey	1	1	0-0	5
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	1	0	0-0	2
Henry Gutshall	1	0	4-6	6
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	15	6	11-18	59

Waynesboro's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Jaylin McCoy	0	1	2-5	5
Satori Nash	1	0	0-0	2
Charles Haynes	1	2	1-1	9
Jackson Darden	0	1	0-0	3
Zevian Robinson	2	1	2-2	9
Vaiden Hite	0	1	0-0	3
Shakil McGuffin	0	0	0-0	0
Haden Morris	2	2	0-0	10
Patrick Jackson Jr.	1	0	0-0	2
Javon Wells	1	0	1-2	3
TOTAL	8	8	6-10	46



Indians Scalp Little Giants at Waynesboro

The following article was in the Waynesboro News Virginian newspaper:

BOYS BASKETBALL | FORT DEFIANCE 59, WAYNESBORO 46

Fort Defiance boys basketball team beats Waynesboro

Ben Craft

Jan 13, 2023



Waynesboro's Charlie Haynes looks to pass as he's defended by Fort Defiance's Henry Gutshall on Friday night in Waynes
Ben Craft, The News Virginian

Ben Craft

Fort Defiance's Sam Garber had a pretty good idea before Friday's game that he was in for a big night.

The junior erupted for a career-high 24 points and established his defensive presence as he led the Indians to a 59-46 win over the Waynesboro Little Giants in Shenandoah District boys basketball action.

“The guy guarding me, I knew it was a mismatch,” Garber said. “I told the guys, ‘give it to me down low, and I’ll work with him.’”

Waynesboro played competitively in the opening quarter, only trailing by one after the opening period after a seven-point performance from sophomore Zevion Robinson.

In the second quarter, the Indians began to pull away as they dominated the paint with efficient play. Little Giants head coach John Spears said the team failed to work as a complete unit on Friday evening to prevent Fort Defiance from having its way close to the basket.

“We had a lot of missed assignments,” Spears said. “On out-of-bounds plays, they made a lot of easy layups on us. It was almost like a middle school team playing defense, which is embarrassing. We have a lack of communication. We need to look at the film and see what we need to do.”

After leading by eight at halftime, Fort Defiance looked to build some cushion, and Garber stepped up to provide it. Garber notched 11 points in the pivotal quarter as the Indians entered the final quarter with a 15-point advantage.

“I knew we needed to put some points on the board to put the game away, and that’s what we did,” Garber said.

Waynesboro sought to make it interesting in the fourth quarter after a triple from freshman Haden Morris cut the lead to 10 with six minutes left in the contest. Still, the Little Giants could not continue building momentum, and Fort Defiance closed out the game without any drama.

To go along with Garber’s 24 points, Tyreek Veney scored 19 points for Fort Defiance.

“When Sam starts hitting shots, and he’s feeling good on offense; I think he can be the best player on the floor any given night,” Fulk said of his junior. “He has a lot of skill and potential. ... I thought he was engaged the entire time on the defensive end. As good as he was on offense, I was maybe even prouder of his defensive effort.”

Morris led the Little Giants with 11 points, while Charlie Haynes provided nine.

“I give Fort all the credit. They outplayed us, outhustled us, and beat us on the boards. They shot the ball extremely well tonight,” Spears said. “They played well and deserved it. We just couldn’t match the intensity.”

The Indians improve to 8-5 (3-1) with the win and play at Staunton on Tuesday night.

Waynesboro drops to 3-10 (1-3) with the loss and hosts Riverheads on Tuesday.

“We are getting better, even though the record doesn’t show that,” Spears said of his team.

FORT DEFIANCE 59, WAYNESBORO 46

WAYNESBORO 12 10 11 13 — 46

FORT DEFIANCE 13 17 18 11 — 59

FORT DEFIANCE (59) — Veney 6 4-4 19, Garber 10 2-5 24, Gutshall 1 4-6 6, Johnson 1 0-1 2, Liskey 2 0-0 5, Alexander 1 0-0 2, Metz 0 1-2 1, Hebb, Cruz, Fink, Jones, Patterson, Bruce, TOTALS 21 11-18 59.

WAYNESBORO (46) — McCoy 1 2-5 5, Haynes 3 1-1 9, Robinson 3 2-2 9, Morris 4 0-0 11, Nash 1 0-0 2, Darden 1 0-0 3, Hite 1 0-0 3, Jackson 1 0-0 3, Wells 1 1-2 3, McGuffin, Brown, TOTALS 16 6-10 46



Senior Leaders Tyreek and Henry

Game 14: Staunton 57, Fort Defiance 34

Staunton outguns Fort Defiance 54 - 37

by Joe Hill

The Staunton Storm proved to be too much for the Fort Defiance Indians in the Paul Hatcher gym on January, 54 – 37. SHS won every quarter though FDHS kept close in the first half. The loss drops Fort to 8 – 6 overall, 3 – 2 in the Shenandoah District where they are now tied for third place with Stuarts Draft behind the Storm and Wilson Memorial.

Staunton's Manny Chapman dominated play in the first, scoring the first eleven points for SHS while Fort was only able to get a two-pointer from Bradley Hebb to make the score 11 – 2. Chapman hit three three pointers and a deuce in the first four minutes of the contest. Henry Gutshall finally got Fort Defiance rolling with a three pointer from the top of the key to make it 11 – 5. Staunton answered with a field goal before back-to-back three pointers by Tyreek Veney and Kaden Johnson got FDHS within two, 13 – 11, at the end of the quarter.



Henry scores over Maaliah Cabell

Fort didn't get closer the rest of the game. Staunton hit a two pointer to push their lead to 15 – 11. Early in the second quarter, Henry picked up his second foul so he was forced to sit out for six minutes of the period. With him out, Staunton quickly scored to make it 17 – 11. Bradley got FD within four with a driving field goal but Staunton answered with a foul shot and field goal to take a 20 – 13 lead. Tyreek drove for two to narrow the lead to five. Staunton then scored again and Bradley hit one of two free throws to make it 22 – 16 with 1:51 to go in the

quarter. After SHS increased their lead to nine with a three pointer, Sam Garber buried a three pointer then Henry returned to the court and hit one of two free throws to narrow the score to 25 – 20 at the break.

In the second half, Staunton scored first to make it 27 – 20 but Henry took a nice pass from Sam and scored to make it 27 – 22. With the score 28 – 22, a significant play took place as the referees, who had struggled to watch the game closely the entire night, made a terrible call when Staunton clearly kicked the ball out of bounds but were awarded the ball. The Fort crowd went berserk, as they should have, and Coach Brandon Fulk was tagged with a technical. Staunton hit the two free throws on the technical and scored on the out-of-bounds which gave them a 32 – 22 lead. This was potentially a six point swing as FDHS should have gotten the ball out of bounds but instead SHS scored four points without FD touching the ball. On Fort's next possession, Kaden was slammed to the ground on a deliberate attempt to maim him by the Storm player but a flagrant foul was not called. This was a travesty and Kaden spent the rest of the game on the bench nursing his hurt leg. It was typical of the kind of refereeing FDHS had to deal with on Staunton's home court.

The Storm was the better team but didn't need nor deserve such poor referees. At times it seemed like it was five against eight for the Indians. FDHS was already playing hurt as Gio Armendariz Cruz was not dressed for the game and Tyreek had two fingers on his shooting hand bandaged.

Fort did manage to score five more points in the quarter. Tyreek drove, scored, and was fouled. He hit his free throw. Later he drove again for two but FDHS fell behind 39 – 27 after three periods.



Henry drives against Storm

Staunton scored first in the fourth quarter but Tyreek answered with another deuce. SHS then increased their lead to 45 – 29 before Sam popped in another three pointer. After SHS hit a three pointer, Henry hit a nice hook shot to make it 48 – 34. Time was running out for the Indians so after Tyreek drove for two more, Staunton scored six consecutive points so both coaches emptied the bench with 1:28 to go. Fort's last point came on a free throw from Carter Fink. The final score was 54 – 37.

Tyreek led the Indians with 14. Henry scored eight and Sam six. Chapman led the Storm with 20. Three other Staunton players scored in double figures.

FDHS is back in action at home this coming Friday with an important game against Stuarts Draft.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Kaden Johnson	0	1	0-0	3
Bradley Hebb	2	0	1-2	5
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	0	2	0-0	6
Tyreek Veney	5	1	1-1	14
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	2
Henry Gutshall	2	1	1-4	8
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Fink	0	0	1-2	1
TOTAL	9	5	4-9	37

Staunton's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Prodigy Sims	2	0	2-3	6
Maaliah Cabell	5	0	3-7	13
Alex Stell	1	0	0-0	2
Andre Johnson	0	0	0-0	0
Ammanuel Chapman	4	4	0-0	20
Terry Tucker	0	0	0-0	0
Jonathan Moore	0	3	2-2	11
Braylen Fields	0	0	0-0	0
Howard Kilgore	0	0	0-0	0
Kayden Jackson	1	0	0-1	2
Debron Vest	0	0	0-0	0
Levi Rodriguez	0	0	0-0	0
Payton Dunn	0	0	0-1	0
TOTAL	13	7	7-14	54

The following article was in the Waynesboro News Virginian newspaper:

BOYS BASKETBALL | STAUNTON 54, FORT DEFIANCE 37

Staunton boys basketball team overwhelms Fort Defiance

STEVE COX For The News Virginian

Jan 18, 2023



Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney drives to the basket against the Storm on Tuesday in Staunton.

Chris Lassiter, For The News Virginian

STEVE COX For The News Virginian

STAUNTON — Staunton put three players in doubles figures Tuesday night, and the Storm's defense limited Fort Defiance to just 17 points in the second half in a 54-37 victory over the Indians in Shenandoah District boys basketball action.

"Defensively, I thought we were pretty good in the first half. The guys played so hard on defense, but we had trouble scoring," said Staunton head coach Terrell Mickens. "We continued to play well on defense in the second half, and we were starting to make some shots."

Staunton point guard Manny Chapman owned the first three minutes of the game. Chapman started the scoring with a 3-pointer from the right corner and then knocked down a pull-up jumper from 12 feet out for a quick 5-0 Storm lead. After a bucket by Bradley Hebb, Chapman moved to the left corner for a three and then hit a step-back 3-pointer from the top of the key to put Staunton on top 11-2.

The Indians battled back with 3-pointers from Henry Gutshall, Tyreek Veney and Kaden Johnson to trail by just two points, 13-11, after one quarter.

A dunk by Staunton big man Maaliah Cabell and a 3-ball by teammate Jonathan Moore gave Staunton its biggest lead of the first half, 25-16. A 3-pointer by Samuel Garber and a free throw by Gutshall pulled Fort back to within five points, 25-20, at the half.

Staunton used a 7-0 spurt in the third quarter to push its lead to double figures. A 10-footer by Chapman and a layup by Alex Stell capped the run, giving the Storm a 34-22 lead. Veney and Chapman traded 3-pointers before a steal and layup by Prodigy Simms pushed the Staunton cushion to 39-25. A jumper by Veney cut the Staunton lead to 39-27 at the end of three quarters.

Chapman poured in a game-high 20 points for the Storm, followed by Cabell with 13 and Moore with 11. Veney paced the Indians with 14.

Chapman's scoring outburst was a pleasant sight for Mickens.

"We're 11 games in, and Manny's been struggling a little at the offensive end," Mickens said. "He came out and was aggressive at the offensive end. It was good to see his shots fall. We have a three-headed monster at guard (Chapman, Simms and Moore), and all three of those guys can score in bunches. Tonight it was Manny's night."

STAUNTON 54, FORT DEFIANCE 37

FORT DEFIANCE 11 9 7 10 — 37

STAUNTON 13 12 14 15 — 54

FORT DEFIANCE (37) — Hebb 2 1-2 4, Gutshall 3 1-4 8, Veney 6 1-1 14, Johnson 1 0-0 3, Garber 2 0-0 6, Fink 0 1-2 1, Patterson, Metz, Jones, Alexander, Bruce, TOTALS 14 4-9 37.

STAUNTON (54) — Chapman 8 0-0 4, Cabell 5 3-7 13, Jackson 1 0-1 2, Moore 3 2-2 11, Dunn 0 0-1 0, Simms 2 2-3 6, Stell 1 0-0 2, Johnson, Terry, Fields, Kilgore, Vest, Rodriguez, TOTALS 20 7-14 54.



Henry shoots over the outstretched arm of Staunton's Maaliah Cabell

Game 15: Fort Defiance 50, Stuarts Draft 45

Strong Fourth Quarter Propels Fort Defiance past Stuarts Draft, 50 - 45

by Joe Hill

The Fort Defiance Indians came from five down going into the fourth quarter to overtake the Stuarts Draft Cougars 50 – 45 on January 20 in the FDHS gym. The win improves Fort's season record to 9 – 6 overall, 4 – 2 in the Shenandoah District.

FDHS struggled to get the ball in the basket the entire night as no player had a particularly good shooting night. For the third game in a row, Gio Armendariz Cruz was on crutches. Fort's big three: Tyreek Veney, Henry Gutshall, and Sam Garber again came through when they were needed. The trio scored 47 of the Indians' 50 points. Tyreek had 23, Henry 13, and Sam 11. Henry and Tyreek both were in foul trouble much of the night and when one or more of them was on the bench, scoring was tough for the Indians.

Henry opened the game with a left handed bank shot but Draft quickly scored to tie the game. They then hit a three pointer and a deuce to go up 7 – 2 before Tyreek drove in the lane for two with 4:27 to go in the first. Draft hit another three pointer to extend their lead to 10 – 4 but Henry fed Sam with a nice pass to make it 10 – 6. Tyreek then hit two free throws to make it 10 – 8. As he has done often in the past two seasons, Henry then drew a charging foul on a Draft player and Tyreek acrobatically hit a jumper on a drive to knot the score at 10's. Another Draft three pointer gave them a 13 – 10 lead but Tyreek hit two free throws with 1:58 to go in the quarter to get Fort back within one. His jumper then gave FD the lead again at 14 – 13. Bradley Hebb hit one of two free throws to give the home team a 15 – 13 advantage with 1:07 to go but the Cougars tied the score at 15's at the end of the period.



Tyreek's 23 Leads Indians past Cougars

Fort had some trouble with ball handling to open the second quarter and soon found themselves down 19 – 15. Sam banged in a three pointer to make it 19 – 18. Draft then scored to go up 21 – 18 but Sam again hit a trey from the top of the key to tie the score at 21 – 21. Fort then went on a dry spell while Stuarts Draft scored the next eight points to go up 29 – 21. Tyreek drove in for a layup, scored, and was fouled. His free throw got

the Indians closer at 29 – 24. Draft then combined a field goal and a free throw to go up 32 – 24, their biggest lead of the night, but Henry picked up an offensive rebound and scored to make the score 32 – 26 which is how the half ended.

The third quarter saw Henry take charge. On an assist from Sam, he scored to pull Fort within four at 32 – 28. Sam hit one of two free throws, then Henry again used his left hand to bank home a winner. Henry then fed Sam with one of the nicest assists of the evening which gave Fort the lead again at 33 – 32. After a Draft three gave them the lead back, Henry again hit a jumper to tie the score at 35 – 35 with 3:01 to go. Fort then got ice cold and didn't score the remainder of the quarter. Meanwhile, Draft hit a three pointer and a field goal to go up 40 – 35 at the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter was a nail biter. Tyreek's two pointer got the Indians back within three at 40 – 37. Kaden hit one of two free throws to make it a two point game but with 5:03 Henry picked up his fourth foul and had to sit. Draft hit a free throw to go up 41 – 38 but Tyreek's crucial three pointer tied the game at 41's with 3:01 to go. Henry finally got back in with 2:28 to go and it turned out to be just what Fort needed.

Henry, playing with four fouls, took a pass near the foul line and drove down the left hand side



Henry Ready to Come In

for a basket. He was fouled on the play and he zipped his free throw to give FDHS a 44 – 41 lead. Draft fought back, scoring a basket in the paint to pull within one at 44 – 43. Then, after Tyreek missed the front end of a one-and-one, Draft scored to retake the lead at 45 – 44 with 41 seconds left. After a Fort steal, Tyreek drove for two, was fouled, and hit his three point play to give the Indians the lead at 47 – 45. Fort grabbed the rebound off a Draft miss and Bradley Hebb was fouled. He hit the front end of the one-and-one but missed his second. Tyreek skied to grab the missed shot and was fouled. He hit both of

his free throws with 8.8 seconds left, giving FDHS six points in the final 41 seconds to make the final score 50 – 45.

The win was badly needed by Fort after its loss to Staunton on Tuesday night. Staunton and Wilson lead the District, each with 5 – 1 records. Fort is in third at 4 – 2 and Buffalo Gap comes in next at 3 – 3.

FDHS is back in action at home next week with back-to-back games against Buffalo Gap and Monticello.



Fort Cheerleaders Urge Indians to Victory

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Kaden Johnson	0	0	1-3	3
Bradley Hebb	0	0	2-4	5
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	2	2	1-2	11
Tyreek Veney	6	1	8-9	23
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	6	0	1-1	13
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Fink	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	14	4	13 - 19	50

Stuart Draft's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Thomas Clements	0	0	0-0	0
Colin Graham	0	0	0-0	0
Derrick Moore	0	0	0-0	0
Harley Frame	1	2	1-4	9
Ryan Ramsey	0	1	0-0	3
Trent Cote	0	0	0-0	0
Landon Graber	3	2	0-0	12
Donovan Jenkins	6	0	2-4	14
Christian Moats	2	1	0-0	7
TOTAL	12	6	3-8	45

Game 16: Buffalo Gap 32, Fort Defiance 29

Buffalo Gap Nips Fort Defiance 32 – 29

by Joe Hill

Buffalo Gap used a strong third quarter to take the lead and held off frigid shooting Fort Defiance on January 24 on the Indians home court, 32 - 29. The low scoring tussle was not so much because of great defense but due to the fact that neither team shot the ball well. The loss puts Fort's record at 9 – 7, 4 – 3 in the Shenandoah District. Gap's record improved to 3 – 4 in the District.

Gap's win means these two teams split during the regular season as FDHS won the first meeting, 58 – 55. But this game was much unlike the first matchup as Fort went out to an early lead but lost their advantage with missed shot after missed shot. No one on Fort's team shot the ball well. Their field goal percentage was unavailable but it had to be under 20% for the game. In their first meeting, Tyreek alone scored 37. Tonight the team could only muster 29.

Tyreek's two free throws opened the scoring for FDHS. Bradley Hebb scored in close to make it 4 – 0 then Tyreek flew down the lane for two more to give the home team a 6 – 0 lead before Buffalo Gap got on the board. With the score 6 – 2, Henry Gutshall found the range from the left hand side of the rim to make the score 8 – 2 with 4:10 to go in the quarter. Tyreek then found Sam Garber open underneath for a bucket to push the lead to eight at 10 – 2. Gap hit a free throw then buried a three pointer late in the quarter to leave the score at 10 – 6 after one period.

Both teams went stone cold to start the second. Neither team scored for the first two and one half minutes before Gap hit two successive field goals to tie the score at 10 – 10 with 3:30 to go. Tyreek then rained in a three pointer then he found Del Ray Jones wide open under the basket for two to give Fort a 15 – 10 lead. Fort's ball and time management was not good down the stretch of the second period, allowing BGHS to close to 15 – 14 at the half.

The third quarter was miserable for the Indians. Gap opened with a field goal to take their first lead of the game at 16 – 15. After Henry took the first of three charging fouls on the defensive side, Tyreek hit a three to return the lead to Fort at 18 – 16. BGHS tied the score then Tyreek hit two free throws to give Fort a 20 – 18 lead, its last lead of the game. Gap ran off seven straight points to go up 25 – 20. Gio Armendariz Cruz, playing his first game back after his knee injury, scored in close to make it 25 – 22. Gap scored again to make the lead 27 – 22. Henry took another charging foul but then he picked up his third personal, causing him to have to sit. Sam also was in foul trouble much of the night for Fort Defiance. The quarter ended with the home team still down five, 27 – 22.

Tyreek drove for two early in the fourth quarter to make it 27 – 24. Henry then drew his third charging foul of the night. After a Buffalo Gap free throw gave them a four point lead, 28 – 24,

Henry grabbed an offensive rebound, scored, and was fouled. He hit his free throw to pull the Indians within one, 28 – 27.

Just when the home team thought they might get back in this one, their shooting abandoned them and Henry and Sam both picked up their fourth fouls. Del Ray missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw. On Fort's next possession, Sam was fouled shooting a three pointer but he missed all three of his free throws. The score remained 28 – 27 for a long time but Gap found a player open for an easy bucket to go to 30 – 27 with just over a minute to go. Kaden Johnson found the range in the paint to get Fort back within one at 30 – 29, but the Indians had to foul. Buffalo Gap's Jackson Laporte hit both ends of his one-and-one to give Gap a 32 – 29 lead with 13.3 seconds left. Fort held for the last shot but Tyreek's three point attempt was well off the mark.

Tyreek led the Indians with 14 points. Henry scored five but no other FDHS player scored more than two. Fort's defense and rebounding were solid against the Bison. Bennett Bowers was held to only 10 points. But, in order for them to get back on the winning track, they must shoot the ball better. And, their stellar players Henry and Sam need to be on the court instead of the bench.

Fort is scheduled to host Monticello tomorrow night but the weather forecast is ominous. School has already been called off for tomorrow in Augusta County due to the forecast.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	1	0	0-0	2
Bradley Hebb	1	0	0-0	2
Kaden Johnson	1	0	0-0	2
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	0	0-3	2
Tyreek Veney	2	2	4-4	14
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	1	0	0-1	2
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	2	0	1-1	5
TOTAL	9	2	5-9	29

Buffalo Gap's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Donald Strother	0	1	0-1	3
Bennett Bowers	3	1	1-2	10
Kasey Fitzgerald	0	0	0-0	0
Gary Logan Hewitt	0	0	0-0	0
Wesley Gray	0	0	0-0	0
Blake Robertson	1	0	0-0	2
Micah Canterbury	5	0	1-3	11
Jackson LaPorte	2	0	2-2	6
Tyler Hohenstein	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	11	2	4-8	32



FDHS Prepares to take on Bison

Game 17: Fort Defiance 57, Monticello 33

Fort Defiance Rolls Over Monticello 59 - 46

by Joe Hill

The Fort Defiance Indians made it a sweep of the matchup with Monticello on January 26 with a 59 - 46 drubbing of the Mustangs in the Don Landes gym. The Indians built up a twenty point lead by the beginning of the third quarter and held off a late charge by MHS to pick up their tenth victory of the year. Fort's record is now 10 - 7, 4 - 3 in the Shenandoah District.

As usual, Fort was led their big three: Tyreek Veney had 19, Henry Gutshall 12, and Sam Garber 11. Gio Armendariz Cruz had eight and Kaden Johnson five for FDHS. Ben Guise led the Mustangs with 12.

Gio opened the scoring for FDHS after taking a nice pass from Tyreek. Monticello tied the game at 2's. After two FDHS turnovers, Tyreek stole the ball took it the distance to make it 4 - 2 with 5:54 to go. The Mustangs tied the score but Sam untied it with a three pointer from the top of the key. Monticello got a field goal to pull within one then Gio scored again in the paint to make it 9 - 6 with 3:47 to go. MHS then scored two quick field goals to take their only lead of the game at 10 - 9 with 2:57 to go. Tyreek's trey put Fort back on top, 12 - 10. Monticello then hit two free throws to tie it at 12's with 1:31 left in the quarter. Sam's three pointer out of the corner gave FDHS a 15 - 12 lead then Tyreek swished two free throws to make it 17 - 12. Monticello's two free throws closed out the quarter's scoring with the Indians taking a 17 - 14 lead at that point.

The second quarter proved to be much to the Indians' liking. Henry, who had been quiet up to that point, buried a three pointer to open the period. Then he was fouled and hit both of his free throws to make it 22 - 14. MHS got a free throw then Tyreek stroked in another three pointer to make it 25 - 15 with 5:50 to go. As he has done all season long, Henry's smart defense allowed him to pick up a charging foul on Monticello's next possession. He hit the front end of the ensuing one-and-one to make it 26 - 15. Tyreek then hit two free throws with 4:07 to go. Gio again scored on a drive in the paint to give Fort a commanding fifteen point lead at 30 - 15. Monticello broke out of their slump with a field goal and two foul shot to make it 30 - 19 before Kaden hit a three for the Indians. On the next possession, Del Ray Jones then found himself open in the corner for a three with 1:35 to go, leaving Fort in command at 36 - 19. Tyreek's two free throws with 45 seconds to go closed the half's scoring with Fort leading 38 - 19.

Both teams started slowly in the third quarter. The Mustangs got an early bucket but did FDHS didn't score until the 5:21 when Sam bombed in a three pointer from the corner. This gave the Indians their largest lead at 41 - 21. MHS then hit two consecutive three pointers to make it 41 - 27. Henry again came up with a momentum stopper for the Mustangs by taking his second charging foul with 4:03 to go. The Indians still weren't able to score and MHS closed to 41 - 29. At that point, Henry took a pass down low, spun to his left and used his left hand to give FD

a 43 - 29 advantage. Two field goals for the visitors made it 43 - 33 with 1:05 to go. As time wound down in the quarter, Tyreek drove and made an acrobatic reverse layup at the buzzer to end the quarter with the home team leading 45 - 33.

Monticello continued chipping away at Fort's lead. A three pointer to start the final period left them down by nine at 45 - 36. Bradley Hebb then hit one of two free throws to make it 46 - 36 but the Mustangs again scored to make it 46 - 38. Fort's guards again turned the ball over, giving MHS a chance to get even closer and they did with a jumper to make it 46 - 40. On Fort's next possession, Henry took a pass near the foul line and found Gio open underneath for a great assist. This made it 48 - 40 but again the Fort guards' sloppy ball handling gave MHS an opening. With 3:43 to go, they closed within five, 48 - 43, with another three pointer. Tyreek hit one of two free throws to make it 49 - 43.

On a missed MHS field goal, Henry snared the rebound and was fouled. He calmly hit both ends of the one-and-one to push Fort's lead back to eight at 51 - 43. Another MHS trey returned the lead to only five at 51 - 46 with 2:00 to go. Unfortunately for the Mustangs, these were the last points they would score. Kaden hit both ends of his one-and-one with 1:12 to go to return the lead to seven. Henry's two free throws made it 55 - 46. Tyreek and Sam each had layups near the end to make the final score 59 - 46.

Henry had a particularly good game with zero turnovers, two charging fouls taken, several rebounds and assists, and 12 points including 7 for 8 from the free throw line and a three pointer. Tyreek also was 7 for 8 from the free throw line and had three field goals and two three point shots to his credit. Sam banged in three three-pointers and Del Ray and Kaden each had one.

The Fort Junior Varsity team did not play since this was a rescheduled game and was a non-District encounter. Both teams return to action on Tuesday night with a trip to Riverheads.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	4	0	0-1	8
Bradley Hebb	0	0	1-2	1
Kaden Johnson	0	1	2-2	5
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	3	0-0	11
Tyreek Veney	3	2	7-8	19
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	1	0-1	3
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	1	1	7-8	12
TOTAL	9	8	17-22	59

Monticello's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Ben Giese	3	2	0-0	12
Ben Ritterbrand	0	3	0-0	9
Esteban Newell	1	0	2-2	4
Joshua Walker	3	0	0-2	6
Teddy Matthews	0	0	0-0	0
Aaron Morgan	1	0	0-0	2
Spence Doherty	0	0	0-0	0
Jason Bittner	0	0	0-0	0
Jacob Messinger	1	0	1-2	3
Jayby Pour	2	0	2-2	6
Thomas White	1	0	0-0	2
Ezekiel Pour	0	0	2-2	2
TOTAL	12	5	7-10	46

*Kaden on Defense*

Game 18: Fort Defiance 63, Riverheads 31

Fort Defiance Gets Revenge with 63 – 31 Blowout of Riverheads

by Joe Hill

The Fort Defiance Indians made up for an early season loss to Riverheads with a 63 – 31 beat down of the Gladiators on January 31 on the Riverheads home court. In the first matchup, Riverheads hit 13 three pointers against the Indians zone defense but in tonight's game Fort switched to a man-to-man defense and limited the Gladiators to just five treys. Fort jumped out to a big first half lead and, after Riverheads made somewhat of a comeback in the third quarter, blew the Gladiators away with a 25 point fourth quarter. The win raised Fort's record to 11 – 7 for the season, 5 – 3 in the Shenandoah District. Riverheads dropped to 7 – 10, 2 – 7.

The Indians were led by Tyreek Veney's 21 points. Nine players scored for FDHS: Kaden Johnson had eight; Henry Gutshall, Jack Liskey, and Alphonzo Bruce each had six. Riverheads had no one in double figures.

The Gladiators took their only lead of the game, 3 – 0, in the opening minutes as Bennet Dunlap buried a three pointer. It turned out to be one of only two shots he made the entire night and the only points RHS would score the entire quarter. Henry got things going for FDHS with his characteristic drive down the left hand side of the paint. Tyreek then grabbed a loose ball and drove in for a layup to give the Indians a 4 – 3 advantage. Kaden then took a pass from Henry and smacked in a three pointer to make it 7 – 3. Del Ray Jones came off the bench to hit a three of his own to make it 10 – 3. Tyreek ended the first period with two free throws giving the visitors a 12 – 3 lead.

Carter Fink, who had not seen much action all season, got in to start the second quarter and immediately hit two jumpers in the paint. His first came on an assist from Sam Garber; his second on a nice pass from Gio Armendariz Cruz. Riverheads scored to make it 16 – 5 with 4:33 to go in the quarter but Tyreek bombed in a three pointer to make it 19 – 5. On Fort's next possession, Henry found him open again and Tyreek again knocked down the three to make it 22 – 5. With 1:55 to go in the quarter, Bradley Hebb hit two free throws. On Fort's next possession, he again found himself at the foul line and once again put both shots in to make it 26 – 5. Riverheads hit a three pointer to make it 26 – 8. With two seconds to go in the half, Henry took an inbounds pass near the bucket, spun to his left and lofted a soft hook which found paydirt as the buzzer sounded. Fort had run up a 20 point lead by halftime, 28 – 8.

Riverheads did not shoot well against the tight FDHS defense. They did manage to score to open the second half but Kaden scored on an assist from Tyreek to make it 30 – 10. Riverheads scored twice in succession to get the score to 30 – 14 but Henry's stickback after an offensive rebound made it 32 – 14. Sam then swished a three pointer from the top of the key. Riverheads got another field goal which made the score 35 – 16. After a RHS three pointer, Tyreek hit one of two free throws to make the score 38 – 19. Riverheads finished off their best quarter of the night with another three pointer so the score after three periods was 38 – 22.

The fourth quarter was loaded with scoring for the visitors. Riverheads scored first to close within fourteen at 38 – 24. Then Kaden hit his second three pointer of the night, followed by Sam's two in close and another trey from Tyreek to give FD a 46 – 24 lead with 6:04 to go. Riverheads scored to make it 46 – 26 then Tyreek snared an offensive rebound, scored, and was fouled. He completed the three point play with 4:48 to go. On Fort's next time down the court, he was fouled and he hit both free throws to make the score 51 – 26. Jack hit one of two free throws to increase the lead to 52 – 26. Riverheads hit another three to make it 52 – 29. Jack scored on a nice drive then he hit a three pointer to make it 57 – 29. The rest of the scoring for Fort came in the final minute and it all came from Alphonzo.

Alphonzo had not scored all season. In 2021-22 he scored only three points. But in one minute in this game he went 3 – 3 from the field and scored six points. His outburst brought loud accolades from his teammates.



Alphonzo Has One Minute Outburst at Riverheads

Riverheads did manage to get one last field goal before Alphonzo ended the scoring at 63 – 31. The Indians had very satisfying smiles on their faces as they shook hands with the Gladiators after the final buzzer.

Next up for the varsity is a rematch against the team currently in second place in the District, Wilson Memorial, on Friday night. The Indians are now in third place.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	0-0	0
Bradley Hebb	0	0	4-4	4
Carter Fink	2	0	0-0	4
Kaden Johnson	1	2	0-0	8
Sam Garber	1	1	0-0	5
Tyreek Veney	3	3	6-7	21
Jack Liskey	1	1	1-2	6
Del Ray Jones	0	1	0-0	3
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	3	0	0-0	6
Alphonzo Bruce	3	0	0-1	6
TOTAL	14	8	11-14	63

Riverhead's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gabe Milo	2	0	0-1	4
J.P. Crawford	2	0	0-0	4
William Gardner	0	3	0-0	9
Carter Mooneyham	2	0	0-0	4
Henley Dunlap	0	0	0-0	0
Chris Brooks	1	0	0-0	2
Aden Slack	1	0	0-0	2
Bennett Dunlap	0	2	0-0	6
Jackson Brammer	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	8	5	0-1	31



Game 19: Wilson Memorial 56, Fort Defiance 35

Wilson overpowers Fort Defiance 56 - 35

by Joe Hill

Wilson Memorial evened the 2022-23 series with Fort Defiance with a 56 – 35 win over the Indians at Wilson on February 3. It was a night in which Wilson was hot and Fort was not. The Green Hornets hit nine three pointers and outscored FDHS in every corner to get revenge for the Fort victory on January 10.

Fort's shooting was as cold as the wintry weather was outside. Wilson, led by Finn Irving who scored his 1,000th career point in the first quarter, was cheered on by a large home crowd that saw the District's second place team dominate the third place team beginning with a 16 – 1 run in the first quarter.

Fort opened with a 4 – 0 lead. Sam Garber hit a two in close then Tyreek Veney took a pass from Sam and scored to give the Indians their only bright spot of the night. Wilson ran off the next ten points to go up 10 – 4. Henry Gutshall then hit one of two free throws making it 10 – 5 then WMHS hit two three pointers to take a 16 – 5 lead. Gio Armendariz Cruz scored on a drive and Tyreek's two free throws pulled Fort to 16 – 9 at the end of the corner but the damage was already done.

Tyreek opened the second period with a three pointer but Wilson hit three straight field goals to go up 20 – 12. Sam got two more to make it 20 – 14. Wilson scored to go up 22 – 14 then Sam scored again in close to get the Indians within six at 22 – 16 but that's the closest they got for the rest of the game. After a WMHS three pointer, Henry scored on a nice move inside to make it 25 – 18 with 4:05 to go in the period. It turned out that would be Fort's last bucket of the half. Meanwhile, Wilson scored ten unanswered points aided by a technical foul called on Fort's coach Brandon Fulk. The half ended 35 – 18 in favor of the Green Hornets.

The third quarter was another bleak shooting one for FDHS. Tyreek managed to get a three pointer, Gio hit two free throws, and Jack Liskey hit a jumper. Meanwhile, Wilson scored 12 points to go up 47 – 25 at the end of the period.

Henry got another jumper to fall to open the final period but Wilson came back with five more to extend their lead to 52 – 27. Gio hit two more free throws with 6:13 to go and Del Ray Jones got two with an assist from Gio to make it 52 – 31. Gio got Fort's remaining points on a three pointer and one of two from the foul line. Meanwhile, Wilson kept their starters in until one minute to go despite leading by 20. The final score was 56 – 35.

Tyreek led Fort with 10. Gio also had 10. Sam had six and Henry five. One bright spot for Fort was that Henry drew two more offensive fouls during the game. Irving led Wilson with 15; Lucas Schatz pitched in 14.

The loss makes Fort's season record 11 – 8, 5 - 4 in the Shenandoah District. Wilson improved its record to 13 – 6, 8 – 2 in the District. FDHS returns to action on Tuesday, February 7, hosting Waynesboro.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	1	1	5-6	10
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Kaden Johnson	0	0	0-0	0
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	3	0	0-0	6
Tyreek Veney	1	2	2-2	10
Jack Liskey	1	0	0-0	2
Del Ray Jones	1	0	0-0	2
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	2	0	1-2	5
TOTAL	9	3	8-10	35

Wilson Memorial's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Colton Lavender	1	1	0-0	5
Ardan Podgotski	0	3	0-0	9
Eli Irving	1	1	0-0	5
Max Vess	0	2	0-0	6
Finn Irving	2	3	5-6	15
Lucas Schatz	7	0	0-0	14
Grant Wright	1	0	0-0	2
TOTAL	12	9	5-6	45

Here is an article about the game that appeared in the Waynesboro News Virginian:

BOYS BASKETBALL | WILSON MEMORIAL 56, FORT DEFIANCE

Wilson Memorial's Finn Irving hits 1,000 career points in win over Fort Defiance

STEVE COX For The News Virginian

Feb 3, 2023



Wilson Memorial senior Finn Irving surpassed 1,000 career points Friday after making a shot from three early in the first quarter against Fort Defiance.

News Virginian File

STEVE COX For The News Virginian

FISHERSVILLE — Wilson Memorial knocked down nine 3-pointers at the offensive end and stymied Fort Defiance on the defensive end to take a 56-35 victory over the Indians Friday evening in Shenandoah District boys' basketball action.

It was also a historic night for the Hornets' program as senior Finn Irving surpassed the 1,000 career point mark with a 3-pointer early in the first quarter. Irving needed three points to hit the mark, but he missed his first 3-pointer before making two free throws. He then knocked down a long 3-pointer to surpass the 1,000-point mark and put Wilson ahead for good in the game, 7-4.

"I never get nervous before a game, but I was a little uptight tonight. I was anxious," Irving admitted.

During his junior year, Irving realized he might be able to reach the coveted career mark. "It's something I wanted to do when I started playing my freshman year. COVID bit me as we missed out on playing 10 games. When I started scoring the way I did last year, I thought it might be attainable. It was nice to see that shot go in tonight, and I'm really happy I was able to do it at home."

The score was tied early at 4-4. After Irving's 3-pointer to surpass 1,000 point mark, Wilson teammate Max Vess hit from long range, staking the Hornets to a 10-4 lead. The long-range barrage continued with 3-balls from Aiden Podgorski and Colton Lavender, making the score 16-5. Fort closed the quarter with a bucket from Gio Armendariz Cruz and two foul shots by Tyreek Veney to trim the Hornets' lead to 16-9.

The teams traded buckets for much of the second period as the Wilson lead was still seven, 25-18, before the Hornets closed the half with a 10-0 run to break the game open. Lucas Schatz scored inside, and Podgorski hit again from downtown, putting the Hornets up 30-18. Irving scored the final five points of the half on a dunk, along with 3-of-4 from the foul line, as Wilson entered the half with a commanding 35-18 margin.

Wilson opened the second half with buckets from Schatz and Grant Wright to push the advantage to 21 points, and the Hornets coasted the rest of the way to the 56-35 victory.

Hornets' head coach Jeremy Hartman was pleased with his team's play at both ends of the court.

"The guys played really, really well on defense," said Hartman. "We wanted to try and keep a body in front of Tyreek and Sam Garber. We got lucky a couple of times as they missed some open looks, but most of the night, we made Fort take contested shots.

"Offensively, I thought we played with patience. Our focus in practice has been execution and valuing each possession. When we get to the postseason, taking care of the basketball is going to be important, so that's something we've emphasized the last couple of weeks."

Irving paced the Hornets with 15 points, while Schatz was close behind with 14. Veney and Cruz each finished with 10 points for the Indians.

In an exciting junior varsity game, Jasigh Ransome hit the go-ahead shot on a driving layup in traffic with 12 seconds left to lift the Fort to a 42-41 victory.

WILSON MEMORIAL 56, FORT DEFIANCE

FORT DEFIANCE 9 9 7 10 — 35

WILSON 16 19 12 9 — 56

FORT DEFIANCE (35) — Garber 3 0-0 6, Veney 3 2-2 10, Cruz 2 5-6 10, Liskey 1 0-0 2, Jones 1 0-0 2, Gutshall 2 1-2 5, Hebb, Johnson, Fink, Patterson, Metz, Alexander, Bruce, 12 8-10 35.

WILSON MEMORIAL (56) — F. Irving 4 5-6 15, Schatz 7 0-0 14, Vess 2 0-0 6, Podgorski 3 0-0 9, Lavender 2 0-0 5, E. Irving 2 0-0 5, Wright 1 0-0 2, Flesher, Snyder, Pittman, Dana, Harman, TOTALS 21 5-6 56.

Game 20: Fort Defiance 38, Waynesboro 25

Fort Defiance tops Waynesboro in 38 – 25 Slugfest

by Joe Hill

In a game which didn't create highlight reels for either team, Fort Defiance outlasted Waynesboro 38 – 25 on February 7 in the Don Landes Gym at FDHS. Both teams had trouble getting the ball in the hoop all night and both shot themselves in the foot numerous times with turnovers. The win, though, guaranteed Fort will end up this season with a winning record as its record now stands at 12 – 8, 6 – 4 in the Shenandoah District.

Sam Garber led the Indians with 11. Tyreek Veney, who had an off night shooting, still pitched in nine and Henry Gutshall added six as, once again, these three led Fort's scoring. Charles Haynes led Waynesboro with 10. The Little Generals record dropped to 4 – 16, 2 – 8 in the District.

The game started with each team shooting bricks. Neither team scored until Waynesboro finally took a 2 – 0 lead with 5:20 to go in the quarter. It would be their only lead of the night. Gio Armendariz Cruz scored on a drive for Fort and was fouled on the play. His free throw gave Fort its first lead at 3 – 2. Henry then scooped up an offensive rebound and flipped in two to make it 5 – 2. After Waynesboro scored to get within one at 5 – 4, Sam hit a three pointer from the corner to make it 8 – 4 with 1:57 to go. Waynesboro's threat of scoring was nullified by Henry's good defense as he drew an offensive foul on the next possession, something he has done all season long. The first quarter ended at 8 – 4. Fort's shooting was poor but Waynesboro's was even worse.

Waynesboro closed to 8 – 6 to open the second period but Tyreek responded with a trey to give the home team a 11 – 6 lead. Carter Fink drew a foul while shooting and got one of his two free throws to fall making the score 12 – 6 with 3:45 to go. Waynesboro closed to 12 – 8 but Kaden Johnson buried a three from the corner to make it 15 – 8. Again Waynesboro responded with a deuce but Sam buried another three pointer from the corner to make it 18 – 10 at the half.



Henry spun to his left and flipped in a jumper to give FDHS a double digit lead to start the second half but Waynesboro quickly hit a three to make the score 20 – 13. Once again, each team then went several possessions without scoring. Finally, with 4:39 to go, Sam hit a two

pointer to make it 22 – 13. Henry finished the scoring in the period with a jump shot from the foul line to make it 24 – 13 after three quarters.

The fourth quarter finally brought some scoring to the game as FDHS managed 14 points and Waynesboro 12. After a WHS trey, Sam got it going for Fort with another three pointer, this time from the top of the key, to make the score 27 – 16. Again Waynesboro hit a three pointer to pull within eight. Henry then took a pass down low and found Jack Liskey open for a three pointer at the top of the key to make the score 30 – 19. Waynesboro responded with a bucket so the score was 30 – 21 with 5:12 to go. Two more baskets by the Little Generals found them inching back in contention at 30 – 25. Tyreek broke their momentum with a drive for a score for the Indians. He was fouled on the shot but he missed his free throw. Henry was there for the offensive rebound and he pitched it back to Tyreek who drove for another score, putting the game out of reach at 34 – 25. Gio added two on a drive and Tyreek followed with another two pointer in the paint to give Fort the 38 – 25 margin which is how the game ended.

Fort's final home game of the season will be Friday night against the Staunton Storm. It will be Senior Night and Fort's seniors will be honored: Tyreek Veney, Henry Gutshall, Kaden Johnson, Jack Liskey, and Alphonzo Bruce.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	2	0	1-1	5
Kaden Johnson	0	1	0-0	3
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Fink	0	0	1-2	1
Sam Garber	1	3	0-0	11
Tyreek Veney	3	1	0-1	9
Jack Liskey	0	1	0-0	3
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	3	0	0-0	6
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	9	6	2-4	38

Waynesboro's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Jaylin McCoy	0	1	0-0	3
Satori Nash	0	0	0-0	0
Charles Haynes	5	0	0-0	10
Jackson Darden	0	0	0-0	0
Zevian Robinson	0	1	0-0	3
Vaiden Hite	0	0	0-0	0
Shakil McGuffin	0	0	0-0	0
Haden Morris	1	1	0-0	5
Patrick Jackson Jr.	0	0	0-0	0
Javon Wells	2	0	0-0	4
TOTAL	8	3	0-0	25

*Henry and Kaden*

Game 21: Staunton 53, Fort Defiance 36

Staunton completes sweep of Fort Defiance 53 - 36

by Joe Hill

The Staunton Storm led the entire way to a convincing 53 - 36 win over the Fort Defiance Indians at FDHS on February 10. Staunton ran its District-leading record to 17 - 4, 10 - 1 in the Shenandoah District, as they out shot and out rebounded the home team on Senior Night at the Don Landes Gym. Fort fell to 12 - 9, 6 - 5 in the Shenandoah District. The Indians are now in third place in the District and complete their regular season Monday night at Stuarts Draft. Staunton opened the game with back-to-back three pointers. Fort's shooting was ice cold. After a Staunton field goal making it 8 - 0, FDHS finally got on the board with a deuce from Sam Garber. Sam and Tyreek Veney led the Indians with 10 each for the night. Fort's shooting continued off target and they fell behind 10 - 2 with 3:04 to go in the quarter. Tyreek finally found the range on a drive to leave the score 10 - 4 at the end of the quarter.

Another three pointer and a field goal for the Storm put the Indians in a 15 - 4 hole to start the second period. Sam hit another jumper with 5:00 to go and Henry Gutshall followed with a left hander to make it 15 - 8 with 3:09 left. Tyreek was fouled on a drive and hit both of his free throws to get FDHS within five at 15 - 10. After a Storm field goal, Sam passed to Henry who then found him open on a give-and-go to pull Fort back within five at 17 - 12. Unfortunately, FDHS didn't get closer the rest of the evening. Staunton hit another three pointer to go up 20 - 12. Sam got a nice assist from Del Ray Jones to make it 20 - 14 but again Staunton responded with a trey and a field goal. Gio Armendariz Cruz floated a jumper in the lane as time expired which made the score Staunton 25, Fort 16 at the break.

The game was probably Fort's sloppiest of the year. Multiple players made multiple turnovers. Confounding Fort's misery was Staunton's ability to hit three pointers. For the game, they made eight of them.

The third quarter began with another two pointer from Sam. After a Staunton bucket, Kaden Johnson drilled home a three pointer to make it 27 - 21 but again the Storm popped in a trey to go up 30 - 21. Tyreek hit two free throws with 4:28 to go then both teams were unable to score for several possessions. Finally Staunton hit another three pointer to make the score 33 - 23 with

just over three minutes to go in the quarter. Tyreek drove for two but Staunton tacked two more

on to make it 35 - 25. As he has done in almost every game this season, Henry drew another charging foul but the Indians couldn't capitalize. Staunton took advantage of multiple turnovers to end the quarter with a commanding 39 - 25 lead.

After yet another three pointer by Staunton, Henry hit a nice jumper in the lane to make it 42 - 27. Staunton's Maaliah Cabell then got two consecutive highlight reel dunks which pleased the visiting crowd. Tyreek's two free throws made it 46 - 29. Del Ray popped in two on a nice pass from Kaden then he hit a three pointer which made the score 47 - 34. Staunton scored again to

go up 49 - 34 with 56 seconds remaining. At that point, Coach Brandon Fulk emptied his bench. Carter Fink was able to score near the buzzer making the final score Staunton 53, Fort 36. Besides Tyreek and Sam's ten points, Del Ray had five and Henry four. It was a tough offensive night for the Indians. Prodigy Simms led the Storm with 18. Nine Staunton players scored.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	1	0	0-0	2
Kaden Johnson	0	1	0-0	3
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	5	0	0-3	10
Tyreek Veney	2	0	6-6	10
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	1	1	0-0	5
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	2	0	0-0	4
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Fink	1	0	0-0	2
TOTAL	12	2	6-9	36

Staunton's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Prodigy Sims	6	2	0-0	18
Maaliah Cabell	3	0	1-2	7
Alex Stell	0	2	0-0	6
Andre Johnson	2	0	0-1	4
Ammanuel Chapman	1	1	0-0	5
Terry Tucker	0	1	0-0	3
Jonathan Moore	0	0	0-0	0
Jack Jones	0	2	0-0	6
Braylen Fields	1	0	0-0	2
Howard Kilgore	0	0	0-0	0
Kayden Jackson	0	0	0-0	0
Debron Vest	0	0	0-0	0
Levi Rodriguez	0	0	0-0	0
Payton Dunn	1	0	0-0	2
TOTAL	14	8	1-3	53

Game 22: Fort Defiance 55, Stuarts Draft 34

Huge Second Half Propels Fort Defiance Past Stuarts Draft, 55 - 34

by Joe Hill

The Fort Defiance Indians turned a one point deficit at halftime into a 21 point win at Stuarts Draft on February 13 in the last regular season game for the Indians. The victory gave the Indians a 13 - 9 final season record, 7 - 5 in the Shenandoah District, and now they await word on who/where/when their Regional game will be. Fort Defiance finished third in the District, behind Staunton and Wilson Memorial and ahead of Buffalo Gap, Riverheads, Stuarts Draft, and Waynesboro. The Cougars ended their season with a 7 - 13 record, 3 - 9 in the District.

Fort's big three again were the reason for the win: Tyreek Veney had 23 points, Sam Garber 13, and Henry Gutshall 12. These three accounted for 48 of the 55 points FDHS got for the night. Both Henry and Tyreek had eight point outbursts in the third quarter which helped turn the halftime deficit into a ten point lead by the end of the quarter. Donovan Jenkins led Stuarts Draft with 17, half of his team's points.

Stuarts Draft got on the board first in the game with a three pointer. Sam then scored in the paint for the visitors then Henry snared an offensive rebound and scored to make it 4 - 3 in favor of FDHS. Sam again scored down low to make it 6 - 3 with 4:25 to go in the quarter. Kaden Johnson banged in a three pointer then Sam hit one of two free throws to give Fort a 10 - 3 advantage. Draft closed to 10 - 5 at the end of the quarter. Tyreek picked up his second foul in the quarter so he had to miss the last part of the first and some of the second quarter as well.

The second quarter was not a good one for Fort. Draft scored the first six points to take a 11 - 10 lead while Fort went scoreless for the first four minutes. Finally Tyreek got things going with a three pointer from the top of the key to return the lead to Fort at 13 - 11. Sam knocked down a three moments later and the Indians held a 16 - 11 advantage. SDHS got a three pointer before Gio Armendariz Cruz hit one of two free throws with 1:40 to go, making the score 17 - 14 in favor of the visitors. Another three pointer from Draft tied the game then they went ahead with a jumper, 19 - 17. Tyreek hit another three pointer from the top of the key to give Fort a 20 - 19 lead but Draft got the last bucket of the quarter to take a 21 - 20 lead into halftime.

The second half saw a different Fort Defiance team on the court. Henry started the ball rolling with a nice drive down the left hand side of the lane to return the lead to Fort at 22 - 21. Then, as he has done in every game, he broke Draft's momentum by taking a charging foul. Gio spun into the lane with a deuce to make it 24 - 21. SDHS responded with a bucket to make it 24 - 23. Sam got two more in the paint then, after a Draft basket, Tyreek bombed in a trey to give Fort at 29 - 25 lead with 4:08 to go. Henry then took over. First he hit two free throws to push the lead to 31 - 25. After SDHS got a basket and a foul shot, he spun into the lane to make it 33 - 28. SDHS got two more fouls shot to drop, then Henry worked free in the paint for two more

to go up 35 - 30. Tyreek swished a three pointer then stole the ball and went the distance for a layup to give Fort a 40 - 30 lead at the end of the quarter.

The fourth quarter again went Fort's way. Tyreek drove and scooped in a basket to make it 42 - 30. On Draft's next possession, Sam flew in and made a monster block on a Stuarts Draft layup attempt. Then he took a pass from Tyreek and scored on Fort's end of the court, making it 44 - 30 with 4:30 to go. Draft finally scored to make it 44 - 32 then they fouled Tyreek who hit both of his free throws with 2:15 to go. Next, Henry, who sat out the first four minutes of the quarter, was fouled and he hit both ends of the one-and-one to push Fort's lead to 48 - 32. After a Tyreek free throw, Draft got a bucket then Tyreek got another steal and score to make it 51 - 34. Draft had to foul down the home stretch. Sam hit one of two free throws then Tyreek hit two more freebies to make the score 54 - 34 with 41 seconds left. At this point, Coach Brandon Fulk emptied his bench. Austin Metz got one of two free throws to fall in the waning seconds which made the final score Fort 55, Stuarts Draft 34.

This game was reminiscent of Fort's first game with Stuarts Draft which saw them turn a deficit into a win with a big second half performance. For tonight's game, Fort scored 35 points and held Draft to just 13 in the second half.

The regional pairings haven't been announced yet but with the win against Draft, Fort hopes to host a first round Regional game, perhaps on Friday, February 17.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	1	0	1-2	3
Kaden Johnson	0	1	0-0	3
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	4	1	2-4	13
Tyreek Veney	3	4	5-9	23
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	4	0	4-4	12
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	1-2	1
Carter Fink	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	12	6	13 - 21	55

Stuart Draft's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Thomas Clements	0	0	0-0	0
Colin Graham	1	1	0-0	5
Derrick Moore	0	0	0-0	0
Harley Frame	2	1	0-0	7
Ryan Ramsey	0	0	0-0	0
Trent Cote	0	0	0-0	0
Donovan Jenkins	6	0	5-5	17
Christian Moats	1	0	0-0	2
Aiden Conner	0	1	0-0	3
TOTAL	10	3	5-5	34



Indians rally in second half to defeat Stuarts Draft in final regular season game

The Waynesboro News Virginian had this article about the game:

BOYS BASKETBALL | FORT DEFIANCE 55, STUARTS DRAFT 34

Strong second half propels Fort Defiance boys basketball team past Stuart Draft

STEVE COX For The News Virginian

Feb 14, 2023

STUARTS DRAFT — Fort Defiance took control in the second half Monday night and pulled away for a 55-34 victory over Stuarts Draft in Shenandoah District boys basketball action.

Draft led by a point, 21-20, at the half, but the Indians outscored the Cougars 35-13 in the final two quarters to take the win.

"I wasn't happy with our defense in the first half. On offense, we didn't take advantage of Draft's switching on defense, and we settled for too many perimeter shots," said Fort coach Brandon Fulk. "It was a frustrating first half."

Harley Frame knocked down a 3-pointer for Draft's first points of the game, but Fort scored the following 10 points, four by Sam Garber and three by Kaden Johnson on a 3-pointer. Draft failed to score for more than seven minutes until Donovan Jenkins made two foul shots with one second left in the quarter.

The scoring drought shifted to the Indians to start the second quarter as Fort failed to score for more than four minutes to start the quarter. A layup by Chris Moats and two buckets by Frame put Draft ahead 11-10. Fort regained the lead on a 3-ball by Veney at the 3:25 mark, and a 3-pointer a minute later by Garber gave the Indians a 16-11 lead. Draft surged ahead, 19-17, with an 8-1 spurt that included corner 3-pointers from Colin Graham and Aidan Connor. A 3-pointer by Veney switched the lead back to Fort with 15 seconds left, but Graham answered with a driving layup just before the buzzer, sending the Cougars to the break with a 21-20 edge.

Fort started converting shots in the paint in the third quarter as big man Henry Gutshall scored eight points from in close. The Cougars kept pace as Draft sophomore Donovan Jenkins did his work from in close, scoring all nine of Draft's points in the quarter.

A three-point play and two more foul shots by Jenkins kept the Cougars within three points, 33-30 before Fort closed the third quarter with seven straight points to push the advantage to double figures. Gutshall scored on a layup, and Veney followed with a 3-pointer and a breakaway layup following a steal, giving the Indians a 40-30 lead heading into the final quarter.

Fort's run extended to 11 straight points on buckets by Veney and Garber to start the final quarter, stretching the lead to 44-30. Veney added seven more points, and the Fort defense limited Draft to just four points in the final eight minutes as the visitors finished off the big 55-34 victory.

"That third quarter was really good," said Fulk. "We had zero turnovers in the third quarter, and I thought we rebounded better. Defensively we were pretty good. Tyreek (Veney) had some early foul trouble, but I thought he hit some big shots for us in the second half. Sam (Garber) asserted himself at both ends and played pretty well. So we responded pretty well in the third quarter."

Veney paced the Indians with 23 points, 17 coming in the second half. Garber scored 13 points, and Gutshall added 12 points. Jenkins led Draft with 17 points. He was the only Draft player to score in the second half, netting all 13 of the Cougars' points.

Both teams will continue their seasons in upcoming regional tournament action.

FORT DEFIANCE 55, STUARTS DRAFT 34

FORT DEFIANCE 10 10 20 15 — 55

STUARTS DRAFT 5 16 9 4 — 34

FORT DEFIANCE (55) — Garber 5 2-4 13, Gutshall 4 4-4 12, Johnson 1 0-0 3, Veney 7 5-9 23, Cruz 1 1-2 3, Metz 0 1-2 1, Hebb, Fink, Patterson, Jones, Liskey, Alexander, Bruce, TOTALS 18 13-21 55.

STUARTS DRAFT (34) — Frame 3 0-0 7, Jenkins 6 5-5 17, Moats 1 0-0 2, Graham 2 0-0 5, Conner 1 0-0 3, Clements, Moore, Ramsey, Cite, TOTALS 13 5-5 34.

Game 23: Fort Defiance 66, Liberty Christian Academy 49 (Regional)

Fort Defiance Stomps Liberty Christian Academy in Regional First Round, 66 - 49

by Joe Hill

The Fort Defiance Indians saved their best for the last game of the season played in the Don Landes gym, outplaying a much taller and older team from Liberty Christian Academy in the first round of Region 3C play on February 17. It was the first win for FDHS in post-season play in many years.

Liberty Christian, out of Lynchburg, had eleven seniors on their team. They were an exceptionally big team with heights of 6' 8", two at 6' 3", seven players at 6' 2", and two at 6' 0". Fort wasn't intimidated, however, and shot and rebounded their best of the season in running their overall record to 14 - 9.

Before the game, it was announced that Tyreek Veney had been selected on the All-Shenandoah District first team and Henry Gutshall and Sam Garber were picked for the All-Shenandoah District second team. As they have done all season, these three led the charge for the Indians against LCA: Tyreek scorched the nets for 33 points, Sam pitched in 16 and Henry added 11. Tyreek started slow with only two points in the first quarter but he followed that with 11 in the second quarter, 7 in the third, and 13 in the fourth.

Fort started the game ice cold. The Bulldogs hit two three pointers in the first four minutes while the Indians were missing their first six shots of the game. Facing the 6 - 0 deficit, Henry snared an offensive rebound and scored first for the home team. After a Fort turnover, LCA scored again making it 8 - 2. Henry then banged in a three pointer from the top of the key to get the Indians within three at 8 - 5 with 2:28 to go in the quarter. Liberty Christian answered with a three of their own to go up 11 - 5. Tyreek got his only bucket of the quarter off an offensive rebound with 1:35 to go then Gio Armendariz Cruz got his shot to drop on a drive reducing the lead to 11 - 9. LCA scored to go up four then Sam got fouled after grabbing an offensive rebound and hit both free throws to make it 13 - 11 in favor of the visitors. Things weren't looking so good for the Indians when LCA hit all three free throws when Henry fouled a three point shooter but Sam got Fort back in contention with a three at the buzzer to leave the score at 16 - 14, Liberty Christian, at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter was magnificent for Fort, especially Tyreek. Carter Fink scored after grabbing an offensive rebound to knot the score at 16's. Tyreek drove for two, then stole the ball and went coast-to-coast to give Fort a 20 - 16 advantage with 5:18 to go. Liberty Christian closed to 20 - 18 before Sam scored in close with 4:09 left. A three from LCA got them within one at 22 - 21 but Sam responded with a deep corner three with 3:09 to go. On Liberty's next possession, as he has done in every game, Henry's defense was superb as he drew a charging

foul. On Fort's possession, Tyreek got off a shot in a crowd but it dropped to give FD a 27 - 21 lead. Sam nailed another three pointer, making it 30 - 21. A LCA foul shot made the score 30 - 22 but Tyreek swished a three from the top of the key with under a minute to go in the half. Not done, he then stole the ball and drove the length of the court for another two giving Fort a 35 - 22 lead at the half.

The third quarter opened with Tyreek ripping a three pointer to give Fort a sixteen point lead but Liberty Christian wasn't ready to fold yet. They made a three pointer to get Fort's lead back to 13. After Henry hit two of two from the free throw line, again LCA got a three to drop. Gio was fouled on a drive and he made one of two free throws to make the score 41 - 28. LCA scored then Henry took a pass down low and spun to his left for a deuce, lifting Fort's lead to 43 - 30. Tyreek got two in the paint but LCA followed with a three. Tyreek again scored on a drive giving FDHS a 47 - 33 lead but Liberty Christian scored the last five points of the quarter to close to 47 - 38.

Sam killed any thoughts the LCA fans may have had about a comeback as he bombed in a three pointer to open the fourth quarter. Liberty closed to 50 - 40 but Henry was left wide open under the basket for an easy two with 6:45 to go. Liberty and Tyreek then traded three point shots, making the score 55 - 43. Once again, Henry's defensive footwork came through as he drew another charging foul with 5:30 to go. It remained 55 - 43 for over two minutes as Fort started holding the ball. Kaden was fouled with 2:52 to go and he made the first shot of his one-and-one. Liberty Christian was forced to foul and Tyreek then single handedly took control of the game, hitting six of seven free throws and two layups in the final two minutes. LCA managed to get two three pointers to drop but it was too little, too late. The final score was Fort Defiance 66, Liberty Christian 49.

For Liberty Christian Academy, Lane Duff scored 13, Carson Hartless had 11, and Hanson Harris scored 10. Their season ended with an 11 - 10 record.

Fort's next game will be against the top seeded team in Region 3C, Spotswood, on Tuesday night in the SHS gym. It will be a tall task for the Indians but if they play as they did most of the game against Liberty Christian they have a chance for the upset.



Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	1	0	1-2	3
Kaden Johnson	0	0	1-2	1
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	4	2-2	16
Tyreek Veney	9	3	6-7	33
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	3	1	2-3	11
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Fink	1	0	0-0	2
TOTAL	15	8	12 - 16	66

Liberty Christian Academy's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Lane Duff	2	3	0-0	13
Cole Chapman	0	0	0-0	0
Landon Etzel	1	0	4-4	6
Asher Hildebrand	0	0	0-0	0
Matthew Durst	0	0	0-0	0
Parker Damon	1	2	0-0	8
Landon Wood	0	0	0-0	0
Carson Hartless	1	3	0-0	11
Austin Jenkins	0	0	1-2	1
Riley Staples	0	0	0-0	0
Hanson Harris	2	2	0-0	10
Noah Stephens	0	0	0-0	0
Cade Elder	0	0	0-0	0
Jaden Skates	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	7	10	5-6	49

The following article is from the Waynesboro News Virginian:

BOYS BASKETBALL | FORT DEFIANCE 66, LIBERTY CHRISTIAN 49

Fort Defiance boys basketball team surges past Liberty Christian Academy

Ben Craft

Feb 17, 2023



Fort Defiance's Sam Garber drives past a defender during a Region 3C playoff game against Liberty Christian Academy on Friday night in Fort Defiance.

Ben Craft, The News Virginian

ORT DEFIANCE — Head coach Brandon Fulk said the Indians looked more locked in than they had all year in practice this week.

FIt showed on the court Friday night as Fort Defiance picked up the 66-49 win over Liberty Christian Academy in the opening round of the Region 3C boys tournament. The Indians impressed shooting the ball all night, including a dominant 34-point performance from senior Tyreek Veney.

“I thought we’ve gotten good shots all season, but outside of maybe two halves, we just haven’t made shots,” Fort Defiance head coach Brandon Fulk said. “We made shots tonight. I thought we could get whatever we wanted, and they went in.”

Veney and Garber came alive in the second quarter, leading an offensive onslaught as the Indians pulled away. Both players scored 13 first-half points as they took a 12-point lead into the intermission.

“It takes a lot of pressure off to have someone out there who can score with me,” Veney said of his scoring partner on Friday night.

The Indians thrived, moving the ball and finding the open man, mostly avoiding turnovers.

“I thought most of the year we shared the ball well, but it looks even better when things are going in,” Fulk said. “When we’re sharing the ball, and multiple guys are making shots, that gives the team confidence to keep moving the ball and getting the best shot for the group.”

The Bulldogs cut their deficit to nine entering the fourth quarter, but Garber opened the final period with his fourth triple of the night. After that, the Indians locked up defensively, and Veney sealed the game with a bucket through contact to a loud ovation with just over a minute remaining.

Veney’s 34 points led all scorers, while Garber supplied 16 and Gutshall scored 11.

“It didn’t start well. I forced a couple of threes,” Veney said of his performance. “Once I decided to get to the cup, it started dropping in, and it opened up for me. When I did shoot my shots, I had to shoot it with confidence.”

The Indians advance to play top-seeded Spotswood (21-2) on Tuesday night.

FORT DEFIANCE 66, LIBERTY CHRISTIAN 49

FORT DEFIANCE 14 21 12 19 — 66

LIBERTY 16 6 16 11 — 49

FORT DEFIANCE (66) — Veney 12 5-6 34, Garber 5 2-2 16, Gutshall 4 2-3 11, Johnson 0 1-2 1, Fink 1 0-0 2, Cruz 1 1-2 3, Alexander, Metz, Liskey, Hebb, Jones, Patterson, Bruce, TOTALS 23 11-15 66.

LIBERTY (49) — Duff 5 0-0 13, Etzel 1 4-4 6, Damon 3 0-0 8, Hartless 4 0-0 10, Harris 4 0-0 10, Spiron, Sweeney, Chapman, Hildebrand, Durst, Wood, Staples, Stephens, Elder, Skates, TOTALS 17 4-4 49.

The following article is from the Harrisonburg Daily News Record:

Boys Basketball: Region 3C First Round

Veney, Garber Guide Indians To Playoff Win

By CODY ELLIOTT Daily News-Record
Feb 18, 2023



Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney goes up for a shot against Liberty.

Daniel Lin / DN-R

FORT DEFIANCE — Momentum is unique in sports, especially when it works in your favor.

It was undoubtedly falling Fort Defiance's way Friday.

The eighth-seeded Indians used a 24-6 run that stretched across the end of the first quarter and into half to jumpstart a convincing 66-49 victory over ninth-seeded Liberty Christian Academy in the first rounds of the Region 3C boys basketball tournament inside Don Landes Gymnasium.

Garber scored on a 3-pointer at the buzzer at the end of the first quarter on a well-executed full-court set out of a timeout for the Indians.

That was the first bucket of the 24-6 run, which resulted in a double-digit halftime lead for Fort and a big confidence boost for the senior Garber.

"Most of the year, we haven't finished [that set] right," Fulk said. "You know, I thought Sam saw the ball go in early and that's a big deal for him. I thought he was great, especially in the first half."

Garber finished 6-of-13 from the field, including 4-of-8 from 3-point range, to finish with 18 points. He was also big on the defensive end with 10 boards.

But he wasn't the only Indian who had a big night as senior guard Tyreek Veney, a first-team All-Shenandoah District selection who is quickly approaching 1,000 career points, erupted for 31 points on 11-of-19 shooting, four rebounds, two assists, and a pair of steals for a stellar showing.

"We just moved the ball around, had good ball movement, and crashed the boards," Veney said. "We just wanted it. We played good defense, held them to one shot and that's what happened. That's how the results came out. Once we got going, I feel like it was hard for us to be stopped. We just had so much momentum. Sam started knocking down his shots. Me? I started feeling it, and the crowd did too. We just kept rolling from there."

The Indians had 10 assists as a team, with Garber dishing out four, and shot 51% from the field.

Henry Gutshall, a versatile senior forward with a smooth game, was his usual self, hitting 4-of-6 shots for 11 points and grabbing seven boards.

But as much as the offense shined, it was the play of senior guard Kaden Johnson, one of the area's strongest on-the-ball defenders, as he was able to lock down LCA standout senior guard Landon Etzel.

"I just take a lot of pride in my defense," Johnson said. "I watch a lot of film and I just key in. I need to be that guy who locks down their No. 1 [scorer]. I'm just a team player. I'm for the team. I love defense. This is what I live for. It's what I do."

Etzel finished 1-of-5 from the field with six points.

Johnson's final stat line was one point, two boards, an assist, and a steal, but his value for Fort doesn't go unnoticed by his teammates or coaches.

"We were really good offensively, defensively," Fulk said. "I thought the key was stopping [Etzel]. He's a really, really good player. We held him to one field goal and six points. Kaden Johnson scored one point, but he did a hell of a job on defense."

Freshman guard Gio Armendariz Cruz and junior forward Carter Fink were the only other players in the scoring column with five combined points.

But the Indians (13-9), collectively, put together their best offensive performance of the season and will need that moving forward if they hope to win.

"We gave the ball to our best scorers, and they made shots," Johnson said. "We worked hard in practice all week, designed plays for their defense, watched film, and we got the job done tonight."

Up next for Fort is a significant challenge against a familiar foe, as it travels to Penn Laird on Tuesday for a Region 3C quarterfinal at No. 1 Spotswood (21-2), which enters on an 11-game win streak.

The Indians are a former Valley District colleague of the Trailblazers, and the two teams have faced off several times in the past several postseasons, even since Fort's move to the Shenandoah District.

"A big emphasis for us is just taking care of the ball," Fulk said. "Try to limit turnovers, no lobs. Pace of play will be important. [Spotswood] wants to play at a different pace than we do, so we'll put a game plan together and see if we can go out and execute it. I told the guys coming into tonight, 'Great challenges come with



great opportunity.’ The guys embraced that thought process tonight. We’ll have to keep the same mindset next week.”

In sports, the waves of momentum can carry a team a long way, especially at the prep level.

After a big win Friday, the Indians’ confidence was oozing as they celebrated on the court with fans.

Now, as they prepare for a bigger challenge against the Trailblazers on Tuesday, they hope the momentum can take them a little further.

“We’re locked in as ever,” Veney said. “We didn’t want the season to end tonight, and it didn’t. So we’re going to go up to Spotswood, and we’ll see what happens there.”

Liberty Christian Academy 16 6 16 11 — 49

Fort Defiance 14 21 12 19 — 66

LIBERTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (49) — Dugg 5-11 0-0 13, Etzel 1-5 4-4 6, Hildebrand 0-4 0-0 0, Damon 3-7 0-0 8, Hartless 4-12 0-0 10, Harris 4-10 0-0 10. Totals 17-49 4-4 49.

FORT DEFIANCE (66) — Cruz 1-5 1-2 3, Hebb 0-0 0-0 0, Johnson 0-1 1-2 1, Fink 1-1 0-0 2, Garber 5-13 4-8 18, Veney 11-19 6-7 31, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Gutshall 4-6 2-3 11. Totals 23-45 11-15 66.

3-Point Goals — Liberty Christian Academy 10-24 (Duff 3-7, Hartless 3-7, Damon 2-4, Harris 2-2), Fort Defiance 8-20 (Garber 4-8, Veney 3-8, Gutshall 1-3, Johnson 0-1). Rebounds — Liberty Christian Academy 19 (Damon 6), Fort Defiance 29 (Garber 10). Assists — Liberty Christian Academy 8 (Damon 3), Fort Defiance 10 (Garber 4). Turnovers — Liberty Christian Academy 9, Fort Defiance 7.



Henry and Tyreek, teammates since elementary school

Game 24: Spotswood 60, Fort Defiance 40 (Regional Quarterfinals)

Spotswood Ends Fort's Season, 60 - 40

by Joe Hill

The Fort Defiance Indians saw their 2022-23 season come to an end at the hands of a talented, aggressive Spotswood team on February 21 in the Spotswood gym, 60 - 40. The Trailblazers employed a trapping man-to-man defense that caused the Indians to turn the ball over time after time. Adding to Fort's demise was the inept officiating which allowed hand checks, bumps, and over-the-backs. It was a frustrating game to watch because it seemed as though the officials left their whistles at home throughout the game.

Spotswood's defense was tough, for sure. The Trailblazers also did a good job of finding the open man on cuts. They only made three three-pointers for the game but got several baskets in the paint off nice assists.

Fort made it a game for one quarter, even leading most of the initial period. However, Spotswood turned a 11 - 8 deficit into a 28 - 11 lead by the second period. Their twenty consecutive points doomed any chance FDHS had for an upset.

Fort's first three possessions ended in turnovers. Spotswood went up 2 - 0 then Kaden Johnson bombed in a three pointer with 5:45 to go to put the visitors up. Sam Garber added a three pointer of his own so it was 6 - 2 in favor of Fort Defiance. Spotswood closed to 6 - 4 before Kaden hit two free throws to push the lead back to four. After a Trailblazer score, Tyreek turned an offensive rebound into two points and Fort went up 10 - 6. Kaden snared an offensive rebound and was fouled with his put back. He hit one of two free throws giving Fort the 11 - 8 lead they quickly lost. Two free throws by SHS got the home team within one. After two missed free throws and three turnovers by Fort, Spotswood got a three pointer at the buzzer to take a 13 - 11 lead at the end of the period.

The Indians committed at least six turnovers to start their miserable second quarter. The only highlights of the period all came from Henry Gutshall. Henry hit a three pointer, drew his 26th charging foul of the season, and made a three point play consisting of a basket and foul shot. Henry's points were the only ones scored by the Indians the entire quarter. Meanwhile, Spotswood raced to a 30 - 17 lead at the break.

The third quarter opened with Tyreek making one of two free throws on two different occasions. Meanwhile, Spotswood scored three buckets to go up 36 - 19. Tyreek then scored on a drive and was fouled. He made the free throw getting the Indians back to 36 - 22 but SHS answered with a field goal at the 2:53 mark. Tyreek, who had trouble making free throws for the first time all season, then hit one of two but Spotswood hit a three pointer and deuce,

making the score 43 - 23. Henry then hit both ends of his one-and-one and Bradley Hebb scored on a drive to leave the score at 45 - 27 at the end of the third quarter.

Tyreek's free throw in the third quarter was quite significant. With it, his career point total went to 1,000 points. He is the tenth Fort Defiance player to ever score at least 1,000 points. He ended up with 1,001 points for his career at FDHS.

Bradley scored again early in the fourth quarter after Spotswood had opened the quarter with a two pointer. Two free throws and a field goal gave them a twenty point lead at 49 - 29. More turnovers kept Fort from mounting any kind of a comeback. Tyreek hit one of two free throws at the 6:10 mark which left the score at Spotswood 51, Fort Defiance 30. Fort had a mini-run at this point with a three pointer by Sam, a field goal by Jack Liskey, and a three pointer by Kaden, making the score 53 - 38 with 3:43 to go. FDHS had to foul at this point and Spotswood canned its free throws to go up 55 - 38. Kaden scored again for the Indians with 1:47 to go but Spotswood hit its foul shots down the stretch to earn the win at 60 - 40.

Kaden led Fort's scoring with 11. Tyreek had nine and Henry eight. Spotswood had three players in double figures: Camryn Pacheco had 16, Rayne Dean had 14, and Tyler Sprague had 13.

Fort's final record was 14 - 10. Spotswood, winning its twelfth consecutive game, improved its record to 22 - 2.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	0-0	0
Kaden Johnson	1	2	3-4	11
Bradley Hebb	2	0	0-0	4
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	0	2	0-0	6
Tyreek Veney	2	0	5-12	9
Jack Liskey	1	0	0-0	2
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	1	1	3-3	8
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Fink	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	7	5	11 - 19	40

Spotswood's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Jackson Li	1	1	0-0	5
Camryn Pacheco	3	2	4-4	16
Tyler Sprague	6	0	1-2	13
Rayne Dean	4	0	6-8	14
Jonathan Harding	3	0	0-0	6
Ja Corey Shelton	0	0	0-0	0
Parker Webb	2	0	0-0	4
David Gipson	1	0	0-0	2
TOTAL	20	3	11 - 14	60



Indians tip off against the Trailblazers in the Region 3C Quarterfinals

From the Waynesboro News Virginian:

BOYS BASKETBALL | FORT DEFIANCE 40, SPOTSWOOD 60

Fort Defiance senior Tyreek Veney scores 1,000th career point in season-ending loss to Spotswood

Ben Craft

Feb 22, 2023



Tyreek Veney attempts a three-pointer during a game against Monticello on Dec. 29. Veney eclipsed 1,000 career points o

PENN LAIRD — His season ended on Tuesday night, but Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney ended his high school basketball career with an accomplishment he wasn't sure he'd reach.

The senior cracked 1,000 career points in his final game on the hardwood for the Indians, as the team fell in the Region 3C boys quarterfinals to top-seeded Spotswood, 60-40.

Although the night carried a bittersweet tone as the team reflected on its season, the milestone held a higher meaning for Veney. Veney's father, Sam Veney, died in December of 2021, and quadruple digits were something Tyreek wanted to cross off for his dad.

"I'm not going to lie; I've been stressing about it for a minute," Veney said. "At times, I didn't think I would get it, and I got down on myself. Finally, I just said I've got to do it for him, and it happened, so I'm appreciative."

Fort played well, jumping out to an early lead with a pair of triples. The Indians built an 11-8 lead against the Trailblazers, but the problems started there. Spotswood got a quick bucket and a deep three-pointer at the buzzer to take a 13-11 lead into the second quarter.

“It kind of took a little air out of us,” Fulk said of the buzzer beater. “We got the stop, but then situationally, we weren’t good once we got the stop and gave them another opportunity. He made a big shot.”

After the original 11-8 deficit, the Trailblazers scored the game’s following 20 points in a stretch that lasted most of the first half. Then, in the second quarter, Spotswood capitalized off of Indians’ turnovers to get easy fastbreak baskets and take a 13-point advantage into the intermission.

“I thought our half-court defense was really, really good. I don’t have any complaints about that, but the challenge with [Spotswood] is making it a half-court game,” Fulk said. “We went through a stretch in the second quarter where we had eight turnovers in 11 possessions, and they scored 15 points off those eight turnovers. I think if we look back at the possessions where we got our half-court set, we gave ourselves a chance.”

The first-half run ultimately made the difference in the game, as the Indians never reached striking distance again. Late in the fourth quarter, senior Kaden Johnson nailed a three-pointer to cut the lead to 15, but Fort Defiance failed to bring the game closer.

Johnson led the Indians with 11 points, while Veney scored nine.

Camryn Pacheco led all scorers with 16 points for the Trailblazers.

With the loss, the Indians see five seniors graduate who played a vital role in the team winning a Shenandoah District title in 2021 and the success this season.

“I feel like we came and left Fort better than it was,” Veney said. “Winning a district title, winning a regional game; I don’t know the last time we did that. We made our mark here, and that’s all you can do.”

FORT DEFIANCE 40, SPOTSWOOD 60

FORT DEFIANCE 11 6 10 13 — 40

SPOTSWOOD 13 17 13 17 — 60

FORT DEFIANCE (40) — Veney 2 5-12 9, Garber 2 0-0 6, Gutshall 2 3-3 8, Johnson 3 3-4 11, Hebb 2 0-0 4, Liskey 1 0-0 2, Fink, Cruz, Alexander, Metz, Jones, Patterson, Bruce, TOTALS 12 11-19 40.

SPOTSWOOD (60) — Li 2 0-0 5, Pacheco 5 4-4 16, Sprague 6 1-2 13, Dean 4 6-8 14, Harding 2 0-0 4, Webb 3 0-0 6, Gipson 1 0-0 2, Barnes, Shelton, Pellot, Chalusant, Edwards, Graves, Leslie, TOTALS 23 11-14 60.



Fort Defiance's Samuel Garber looks for an open teammate under pressure from Spotswood's Jackson Li.

Daniel Lin / DN-R

From the Harrisonburg Daily News Leader:

Boys Basketball: Region 3C Quarterfinals

JUMP-START

Trailblazers Hold Off Veteran-Led Indians For Playoff Win

By CODY ELLIOTT Daily News-Record
Feb 22, 2023



Spotswood's Cam Pacheco tries to make the steal on Fort Defiance's Gio Armendariz Cruz.

Daniel Lin / DN-R

PENN LAIRD — One flick of the wrist sent the ball sailing through the net, but the impact was felt throughout the remainder of the contest in Penn Laird on Tuesday.

It was just one play — a first-quarter buzzer-beating 3 from several feet behind the 3-point line from Spotswood point guard Camryn Pacheco — but it felt like so much more.

"That shot gave us some confidence," Trailblazers head coach Chad Edwards said. "We were struggling, losing. Our young guys were looking around like, 'Oh, my gosh. Things aren't going right.' And that shot just gave our entire group a sense of calm confidence."

Pacheco's 3-pointer gave top-seeded Spotswood its first lead of the game, and it never trailed again, using a big second quarter to pull away for a 60-40 victory over area rival No. 8 Fort Defiance in the Region 3C boys basketball quarterfinals in Penn Laird.

With the victory, the Trailblazers earned a spot in the regional semifinals, where they'll host fifth-seeded Rustburg of the Seminole District on Thursday in Penn Laird.

"I felt like, when I hit the 3, my team's energy came back up," Pacheco said. "My personal confidence came back up from being in such a big hole to start the game."

Fresh off a 66-49 win over Liberty Christian Academy in their first-round game on Friday, the Indians appeared determined to begin a magical postseason journey.



Spotswood's Jonathan Harding takes a shot after driving around Fort Defiance's Samuel Garber.

Daniel Lin / DN-R

Kaden Johnson, known as a defensive specialist, scored a couple of buckets early, Fort took care of the basketball, and the pace put the Trailblazers in a half-court game.

"That's a senior-led team and a proud group of seniors," Edwards said. "They came in here, ready to go from the tip. They refused to go away. We put together a couple of good runs and some opponents might go away, but the Fort kids deserve credit. I have a lot of respect for those folks. ... They have a collection of seniors I'm impressed with. The concern for us, because we're so young, is trying to match that desperation."

On the last possession of the first quarter, Jackson Li missed a two-pointer, and the Indians grabbed the rebound before quickly turning the ball back over.

The result was Pacheco getting a clean look from a few feet behind the 3-point line at the top of the key, drilling a long-range shot to put Spotswood up 14-13 entering the second.

"It certainly didn't help," Fort Defiance head coach Brandon Fulk said about Pacheco's first-quarter shot. "It took a little air of us. We got a stop and then situationally, we weren't good once we got the stop and it gave them another opportunity. He made a big shot and credit to him, but we should not have allowed him to have that shot."

As the second quarter got underway, sophomore guard Tyler Sprague scored the first six points of the frame before Pacheco, David Gipson, and Rayne Dean took turns scoring.

It wasn't until nearly two minutes were left on the clock before half that Indians senior forward Henry Gutshall hit a 3, but Fort trailed by double digits at that point.

"We missed a lot of shots around the rim to start the game, and those are typically shots we want," Edwards said. "Tonight, they kind of rolled out instead of rolling in during the first quarter and we just couldn't score enough to really get into our press. Then, in the second quarter, we were able to score off some turnovers and get multiple possessions in a row in a press and that's where we were able to make our best run."

After taking care of the basketball so well in the opening period — something Fulk mentioned going into the game would be essential — things took a turn in the second.

The Indians got sloppy, suffering a couple of turnovers that led to quick buckets for the Trailblazers, and as a result, the home team was able to get into its daunted press attack.

"I thought our half-court defense was really, really good," Fulk said. "I really don't have any complaints about that. But, you know, the challenge with [Spotswood] is making that a half-court game. We went through a stretch there in the second where we had eight turnovers in 11 possessions. They scored 15 points off those. If we look back at those we gave up in our half-court defensive set, we gave ourselves a chance."



Spotswood's Rayne Dean puts up a shot over Fort Defiance's Henry Gutshall.
Daniel Lin / DN-R

Fort finished with 25 turnovers as a team, and although many fell on the guards in the boxscore, Fulk said those mistakes resulted from the team's issues collectively.

"We didn't keep a guy behind the ball enough for ball reversal, and we wanted to try to get the defense committed to once side to get a quick ball reversal and we just didn't respond," Fulk said. "A lot of turnovers are going to be attached to some ball handlers, but it's guys off the ball who have to be better and helpful. Turnovers tell the story."

The Indians trailed by 13 at the half, and although they cut it back to single digits at one point in the third, something Edwards noted as he credited Fulk and his staff for their halftime adjustments, the Trailblazers ultimately were able to hold off the upset.

"A lot of what they do, you have to be so instinctual," Fulk said. "You have to be able to create space and create separation and time your cuts. We didn't do that well enough. ... If you take away that stretch in the second quarter, we did a pretty good job at times."

Dean said Spotswood felt the momentum swing from Pacheco's early shot.

Once the second quarter started and the Trailblazers suddenly saw how discombobulated Fort was and the ensuing miscommunication, they cranked up the intensity.

"Fort did pretty good job with their press, but they just kind of folded at one point," Dean said. "They got tired, and we got some turnovers and that's how we started a run. When a team starts getting worn down, turnovers start coming and we can get after it."

Although Fulk left Penn Laird proud of his team's effort in the game, it was a tough loss to swallow because of the departure of many critical senior players.

Tyreek Veney, Kaden Johnson, Henry Gutshall, Jack Liskey, and Alphonzo Bruce are graduating, and three of those five have been vital parts of the varsity team since their sophomore year.

"It's been a blast," Fulk said. "It's been fun to go through the basketball journey with them. ... It's emotional and it's hard to say goodbye to them."

That trio of Veney, Johnson, and Gutshall never experienced a losing season at the varsity level, winning the program's first district title since 1996 during the COVID-shortened season in 2020 and winning a regional playoff game this season.

"I love these coaches, all the guys that played with me throughout the years," Veney said. "It's been special. It's been a good three years and I just appreciate everybody helping me get to this point and teaching me lessons to become a better man."

Veney, whose dad, Sam, a former standout for the Indians himself, passed away last year, became incredibly close with Fulk and the rest of the FDHS coaching staff during a trying time in his life.

On Tuesday, before the start of the fourth quarter, he was honored by a standing ovation from the crowd for scoring his 1,000th career point despite truly playing only two and a half seasons due to the shortened year in 2020 under COVID-19 guides.

"I had been stressing about it for a minute and at a time, I didn't think I was going to get it.," Veney admitted after the game. "But I just knew I had to do it for [my dad]."

Veney finished with nine points for Fort (13-11) on 2-of-4 shooting and 5-of-12 from the charity stripe, adding five rebounds in the process — a testament to Spotswood's defense.

Other seniors also finished strong, as Johnson had 11 points and three rebounds, while Gutshall finished with eight points, seven boards, and a steal in his final contest.

But this night, it belonged to Spotswood, as it flexed its depth and defensive intensity.

"They're really, really good and instinctual," Fulk said. "We've got to be better. Their anticipation is good. They play physical. They just do a lot of good things and that tempo doesn't work well for us. So, at times, I thought we did a good job, but the pace eventually changed with the turnovers and it went in their direction quick."

One year ago, the Trailblazers exceeded expectations as a young, inexperienced team.

With lofty goals in mind this season, Spotswood better understands what it takes to win in the postseason and the consistent effort that is needed.

"It's so different this year," Dean said. "We just feel more prepared, and I think [former Spotswood standout guard Carmelo Pacheco] helped us a lot with that. He helped me."

Sprague finished with 13 points and three rebounds for the Trailblazers (22-2), while Li had five points and three boards, and Jonathan Harding scored six points and grabbed four rebounds. Parker Webb, a junior forward, also scored four points in the win.

Dean, meanwhile, finished with 14 points, hitting 4-of-9 from the field and 6-of-8 from the free-throw line, including several big ones in the final two minutes of the game.

The 6-foot-4 big man also had five rebounds and, perhaps most impressively, dished out three assists while also serving as a base in the post and up top with his passing game.

"It's changed a lot this year," Dean said. "My teammates have been clutch with cutting back door and stuff, and I love to pass and find my teammates for buckets."

As for Pacheco, who was named the Valley District Player of the Year earlier on Tuesday, the 6-foot-3 point guard continued to showcase why he's a legitimate college prospect.

He not only led Spotswood in scoring with 16 points but filled up the stat sheet with eight rebounds, seven assists, and four steals while also playing excellent defense.

"That's what makes Cam so special," Edwards said. "On TV, they talk about putting your fingerprints all over a game. Cam does that as well as anyone, right? Cam has a bright future and I think our guys like playing with him. He willingly shares the ball. There are times we need a bucket, and he can get a bucket. But I really appreciate the defense. I have always said I'm a defensive coach, and he has just really bought into the efficiency of winning. That's something I really appreciate about him as a coach."

As Pacheco goes, the Trailblazers go, and that's why he's recognized by coaches around the league, the area, and the state as the primary reason SHS is a state contender.

And with a game like Tuesday's against Fort, it's easy for anyone from outside to see why.

"I take a lot of pride in that," Pacheco said. "My main goal is to get everyone involved, getting my teammates going. Playing with my teammates makes everything better."

Getting on the glass and getting a big board, finding an open teammate for a score, or clamping down the opposing team's best player — Pacheco is capable of doing it all.

FORT DEFIANCE BASKETBALL 2022- 23

On Tuesday, a big first-quarter shot swung momentum in Spotswood's favor and ultimately took it one step further toward reaching states.

And as Pacheco noted, he hopes to hit more shots like that in the future.

"It's lose and go home, so you have to win if you want to keep going," Pacheco said. "We're super excited. Team is locked in, and we're just taking it day by day."

Fort Defiance 11 6 10 13 — 40

Spotswood 13 17 13 17 — 60

FORT DEFIANCE (40) — Cruz 0-6 0-0 0, Hebb 2-2 0-0 4, Johnson 3-8 3-4 11, Garber 2-5 0-0 6, Metz 0-0 0-0 0, Veney 2-4 5-12 9, Jones 0-2 0-0 0, Liskey 1-4 0-0 2, Bruce 0-0 0-0 0, Gutshall 2-6 3-3 8. Totals 12-37 11-19 40.

SPOTSWOOD (60) — Li 2-6 0-0 5, Pacheco 5-15 4-4 16, Graves 0-0 0-0 0, Sprague 6-16 1-2 13, Leslie 0-0 0-0 0, Dean 4-9 6-8 14, Harding 3-3 0-0 6, Shelton 0-1 0-0 0, Webb 2-4 0-0 4, Gipson 1-2 0-0 2, Chalusant-Vega 0-0 0-0 0, Edwards 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 23-56 11-14 60.

3-Point Goals — Fort Defiance 5-20 (Johnson 2-6, Garber 2-3, Gutshall 1-3, Cruz 0-2, Veney 0-1, Jones 0-2, Liskey 0-3), Spotswood 3-10 (Pacheco 2-3, Li 1-2, Sprague 0-4, Dean 0-1). Rebounds — Fort Defiance 28 (Gutshall, Garber 7), Spotswood 28 (Pacheco 8). Assists — Fort Defiance 5 (Cruz, Johnson 2), Spotswood 15 (Pacheco 7). Turnovers — Fort Defiance 25, Spotswood 8. Total Fouls — Fort Defiance 14, Spotswood 16.

Cody Elliott

Sports Editor



Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney drives up the court against Spotswood's Tyler Sprague.

Daniel Lin / DN-R

Tyreek Veney Scores Over 1,000 Points

Tyreek joins elite list of FDHS basketball players

In the Region 3C tournament game against Spotswood, Tyreek Veney scored 9 points, putting him over the 1,000 mark for his career. There have been only ten male players in FDHS history who have achieved this:

Player	Points
Dell Curry	1,922
Troy Bower	1,493
Steve Floyd	1,248
Jimmy Crawford	1,240
Ryan Cook	1,186
Woody Hayes	1,168
Robby Carter	1,162
Joe O’Gorek	1,038
Larry Leonard	1,014
Tyreek Veney	1,001

The seniors were fortunate to play with two of these players. Ryan Cook was a senior when they were sophomores. For Tyreek this was a great accomplishment especially since in 2020-21 Fort Defiance only played 13 games thanks to COVID-19. This feat also provided Tyreek with a way to honor his dad, Sam, who died in December 2021. Hooray for Tyreek!



Tyreek celebrates after scoring 1,001 points for Fort Defiance High

FORT DEFIANCE BASKETBALL 2022- 23



FDHS Seniors wearing the Blue and White for the last time in the Don Landes Gym



Henry and Jack: teammates, classmates at FDHS and Shenandoah Valley Governor's School, good friends

2022-23 Season Statistics

SEASON--from the official FDHS scorebook

Name	2Pt FG	3Pt FG	FTM	FTA	FT%	Points	Per Game
Gio Armendariz Cruz	26	3	16	24	67%	77	3.2
Bradley Hebb	12	0	10	24	42%	34	1.4
Kaden Johnson	6	12	26	36	72%	74	3.1
Carter Fink	5	0	2	4	50%	12	0.5
Conner Patterson	2	0	1	2	50%	5	0.2
Sam Garber	53	38	24	49	49%	244	10.2
Austin Metz	1	0	1	2	50%	3	0.1
Tyreek Veney	90	47	95	132	72%	416	17.3
Dell Ray Jones	3	5	0	2	0%	21	0.9
Jack Liskey	6	5	16	19	84%	43	1.8
Jason Alexander	1	0	1	3	33%	3	0.1
Alphonzo Bruce	3	0	0	3	0%	6	0.3
Henry Gutshall	56	10	62	84	74%	204	8.5
FDHS	264	120	254	382	66%	1142	47.6
						Number of Games:	24



Senior team captains at their last game

FORT DEFIANCE BASKETBALL 2022- 23

2022-23 Team Season Statistics from Hudl.com

#	Athletes	Games Played	Value Point System	Field Goals Made	Field Goals Attempted	Field Goal %	2 Pt Field Goals Made	2 Pt Field Goals Attempted	2 Pt Field Goal %
		GP	VPS	FGM	FGA	FG%	2FGM	2FGA	2FG%
	Gio Armendariz								
1	Cruz	21	0.90	29	87	33.3%	26	76	34.2%
2	Bradley Hebb	21	0.65	12	37	32.4%	12	35	34.3%
3	Kaden Johnson	24	0.79	18	95	18.9%	6	37	16.2%
4	Carter Fink	9	1.56	5	8	62.5%	5	7	71.4%
10	Sam Garber	24	1.16	92	235	39.1%	54	116	46.6%
12	Austin Metz	8	0.69	1	4	25.0%	1	4	25.0%
	Conner								
14	Patterson	12	0.51	2	9	22.2%	2	7	28.6%
20	Tyreek Veney	24	1.04	136	322	42.2%	89	175	50.9%
22	Dell Ray Jones	21	1.28	8	21	38.1%	3	6	50.0%
24	Jack Liskey	22	1.09	11	31	35.5%	6	11	54.5%
32	Jalen Alexander	8	1.30	1	4	25.0%	1	2	50.0%
40	Alphonzo Bruce	10	0.93	3	5	60.0%	3	5	60.0%
42	Henry Gutshall	24	1.32	66	146	45.2%	56	105	53.3%
	SEASON	24	1.04	384	1004	38.2%	264	586	45.1%

#	Athletes	3 Pt Field Goals Made	3 Pt Field Goals Attempted	3 Pt Field Goal %	Free Throws Made	Free Throws Attempted	Free Throw %	Points	Points Per Game
		3FGM	3FGA	3FG%	FTM	FTA	FT%	PF	PPG
	Gio Armendariz								
1	Cruz	3	11	27.3%	16	26	61.5%	77	3.67
2	Bradley Hebb	0	2	0.0%	10	24	41.7%	34	1.62
3	Kaden Johnson	12	58	20.7%	26	36	72.2%	74	3.08
4	Carter Fink	0	1	0.0%	2	4	50.0%	12	1.33
10	Sam Garber	38	119	31.9%	24	49	49.0%	246	10.25
12	Austin Metz	0	0	0.0%	1	2	50.0%	3	0.38
14	Conner Patterson	0	2	0.0%	1	2	50.0%	5	0.42
20	Tyreek Veney	47	147	32.0%	93	129	72.1%	412	17.17
22	Dell Ray Jones	5	15	33.3%	0	2	0.0%	21	1.00
24	Jack Liskey	5	20	25.0%	18	21	85.7%	45	2.05
32	Jalen Alexander	0	2	0.0%	1	3	33.3%	3	0.38
40	Alphonzo Bruce	0	0	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	6	0.60
42	Henry Gutshall	10	41	24.4%	62	84	73.8%	204	8.50
	SEASON	120	418	28.7%	254	384	66.1%	1142	47.58

FORT DEFIANCE BASKETBALL 2022- 23

#	Athletes	Minutes	Offensive	Defensive	Total	Assists	Turnovers	Assist to
		Played	Rebounds	Rebounds	Rebounds			Turnover
		MINS	OREB	DREB	REB	AST	TO	Ratio
	Gio Armendariz							
1	Cruz	465	23	31	54	33	52	0.63
2	Bradley Hebb	290	5	26	31	9	25	0.36
3	Kaden Johnson	627	14	58	72	45	56	0.80
4	Carter Fink	32	6	8	14	0	4	0.00
10	Sam Garber	669	27	107	134	27	39	0.69
12	Austin Metz	15	0	4	4	1	1	1.00
14	Conner Patterson	50	0	5	5	2	7	0.29
20	Tyreek Veney	682	29	68	97	45	72	0.63
22	Dell Ray Jones	262	18	33	51	15	6	2.50
24	Jack Liskey	266	5	24	29	21	17	1.24
32	Jalen Alexander	19	2	2	4	2	1	2.00
40	Alphonzo Bruce	25	1	2	3	1	2	0.50
42	Henry Gutshall	619	34	100	134	42	39	1.08
	SEASON	4021	164	468	632	243	321	0.76

#	Athletes	Deflections	Steals	Blocks	Fouls	Charges
		DEFL	STL	BLK	FOUL	Taken
						CHG
	Gio Armendariz					
1	Cruz	19	11	4	11	0
2	Bradley Hebb	8	10	1	24	0
3	Kaden Johnson	23	15	1	38	5
4	Carter Fink	1	0	1	1	0
10	Sam Garber	35	34	14	36	2
12	Austin Metz	0	0	0	2	0
14	Conner Patterson	0	1	0	3	1
20	Tyreek Veney	43	35	6	51	1
22	Dell Ray Jones	22	3	1	23	0
24	Jack Liskey	11	6	0	24	4
32	Jalen Alexander	1	1	0	0	0
40	Alphonzo Bruce	2	1	0	2	0
42	Henry Gutshall	26	18	6	68	26
	SEASON	191	135	34	283	39

Final 2022-23 Shenandoah District Standings

Conference Winter 2022-23 Boys Varsity Basketball Standings

Team	Conference Record	Overall Record
Staunton	11--1	19--4
Wilson Memorial	10--2	16--7
Fort Defiance	7--5	14--10
Buffalo Gap	6--6	13--9
Riverheads	3--9	8--13
Stuarts Draft	3--9	7--13
Waynesboro	2--10	4--18

Conference Winter 2022-23 Boys JV Basketball Standings

Team	Conference Record	Overall Record
Staunton	14--0	22--0
Fort Defiance	11--3	15--8
Wilson Memorial	8--4	12--11
Riverheads	5--7	13--7
Stuarts Draft	5--8	7--11
Buffalo Gap	1--11	3--16
Waynesboro	1--11	2--19



2022-23 All-District Players: Tyreek Veney, Henry Gutshall, Sam Garber

From the **Fort Sports** Facebook Post:



Fort Sports

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Congratulations to Tyreek Veney for earning 1st Team all Shenandoah District and to Henry Gutshall and Sam Garber for earning 2nd Team recognition.



: Chris Lassiter

From the Harrisonburg Daily News Record

DN-R Sports Desk--By CODY ELLIOTT--Feb 20, 2023

Irving Wins Second Straight POY Award

For the second consecutive season, Wilson Memorial 6-foot-4 senior guard Finn Irving has been named the Shenandoah District Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

The versatile multi-sport athlete was joined on the all-district first team by teammate Lucas Schatz, Buffalo Gap's duo of Bennett Bowers and Micah Canterbury, Fort Defiance's prolific scorer Tyreek Veney, Staunton's two-headed guard attack in juniors Manny Chapman and Prodigy Simms and Stuarts Draft's forward Donovan Jenkins.

The second team, meanwhile, consisted of Staunton's Maaliah Cabell and Jack Jones, Fort's Henry Gutshall and Sam Garber, Waynesboro senior leader Charlie Haynes, Gap's Jackson LaPorte, Draft's Harley Frame and Riverheads sophomore Will Gardner.



Fort Defiance's All-Shenandoah District Players: Henry Gutshall (2nd team), Tyreek Veney (1st team), Sam Garber (2nd team)

2022-23 Season Overview

Both the varsity and JV teams had very successful, winning seasons in 2022-23. The varsity had a 14 - 10 season record, 7 - 5 in the Shenandoah District. The JV record was 15 - 8, 11 - 3 in the District. The varsity finished third in the Shenandoah District and qualified for Regional play, something that hadn't been done since the 2021 - 22 season. The JV team finished second in the District regular season and tournament.

Fort's schedule this year was not an easy one. The Indians played seven schools with larger enrollments (Monticello, Turner Ashby, Rockbridge, Broadway, Waynesboro, Wilson Memorial, and Staunton). Only four schools were smaller (Stuarts Draft, Alleghany, Riverheads, and Buffalo Gap). Other schools in the Shenandoah District scheduled some very small or weak schools so as to pad their records such as Grace Christian, Mountain View, Nelson County, Parry McCluer, Bath County, Rappahannock County, Luray, Appomattox, and Fishburne Military.

There were some really good wins for the varsity such as giving then-District leader Wilson Memorial its first loss, a 66 - 49 blowout of tall Liberty Christian Academy in the Region 3C tournament including 33 points from Tyreek, a 63 - 31 shellacking of Riverheads, Tyreek's 37 point outburst in beating Buffalo Gap, two come-from-behind victories over Stuarts Draft, and double wins over big schools Turner Ashby, Rockbridge, and Monticello. There were also some heartbreaking times such as the double overtime loss to Alleghany, the loss to Riverheads thanks to a buzzer-beating three pointer, and a three point loss to Buffalo Gap in which they scored only 29 points on a night they shot the ball miserably.

Each player had at least one monumental game. Tyreek's 37 point night at Buffalo Gap was memorable as was Sam's 24 point domination at Waynesboro. Henry had 19 against Turner Ashby and drew 26 charging fouls during the season. Kaden had 11 against Spotswood. And who can forget Alphonzo Bruce at Riverheads, who scored only six points all season, but got all six of them in one minute against the Gladiators. In the Regional quarterfinal Tyreek exceeded 1,000 career points, just the 10th FDHS player ever to achieve this.

FDHS averaged 47.6 points per game. A lion's share of that scoring, 36 points per game, came from three players: Tyreek, Sam, and Henry who averaged 17.3, 10.2, and 8.5 points per game, respectively. All three made All-Shenandoah District: Tyreek was chosen on the first team while Henry and Sam made the second team.

The Junior Varsity team had a good season, record-wise. They had some highlight games this year, too, including an exciting come-from-behind win over Wilson Memorial with the go-ahead basket coming in the final seconds on a highly contested layup by Jasigh Ransome. They took undefeated Staunton to overtime and had a nice come-from-behind win over Stuarts Draft in the last game of the regular season. They defeated Wilson in the Shenandoah District tournament and finished in second place behind Staunton.

Hats off to my grandsons! It has been a blast watching them and all of the Fort Defiance Indians play basketball for the past three years!

--Joe Hill

