

The following article appeared in the Staunton News Leader on December 11:

A week into the boys basketball season, The News Leader takes a look at the teams in the Shenandoah District.

Only three of the first-team all-district players from a year ago are back. The district also has one new coach, although he's not a new name to the area. Former Lee High and University of North Carolina star Kevin Madden takes over at Staunton.

Fort Defiance

Last year: 11-12

Postseason: Lost in regional quarterfinals to Luray

Key returning players (with 2023-24 stats):

- Gio Armendariz Cruz, Jr. (17 ppg, 5 rpg, 4 apg)
- Tripp Hanger, Jr. (7 ppg, 3 rpg, 1 apg)
- Bradley Hebb, Sr. (5 ppg, 2 rpg, 3 apg)
- Evan Braun, Jr. (4 ppg, 4 rpg)
- Jasigh Ransome, Jr. (5 ppg, 3 rpg, 2 apg)
- Rhylan Martin, Sr. (4 ppg, 2 rpg, 1 apg)
- Carter Berry, Sr. (3 ppg, 3 rpg)
- Gus Gutshall, Sr. (3 ppg, 3 rpg)

Newcomers:

- Elijah Pultz, Jr.
- Connor Batten, Jr.
- Ayden Thornton, Jr.

Other:

Fort Defiance has eight returners so they are an experienced squad. They have a lot of guys who can play multiple positions and produce in many ways.

"We expect to be competitive and finish in the top half of the district," said Fort coach Mike Gale. "We hope to be playing our best basketball by the end of the season."

Past FDHS Basketball Records:

2013-14	22 – 3
2014-15	18 – 6
2015-16	12 – 11
2016-17	11 – 12
2017-18	11 – 16
2018-19	3 – 23
2019-20	6 – 17
2020-21	8 – 3
2021-22	10 – 12
2022-23	14 – 10
2023-24	11 - 12