

Big Second Quarter Spurt leads Wilson Memorial over Fort Defiance

Wilson Memorial went on a 18 – 0 second quarter run to doom the Fort Defiance Indians on Senior Night in the Don Landes gym on February 14. Fort led 28 – 21 with 4:57 to go in the quarter before Wilson went on the rampage to take a 39 – 28 lead they never relinquished. The final score was Wilson 61, Fort Defiance 48. The win left Fort with a 12 – 9, record, 6 – 5 in the Shenandoah District. Wilson extended its record to 18 – 3, 8 – 2. Two of Wilson's three losses were to district leader Staunton.

Fort had won four of its previous five games and the hopes were they could pull an upset. It looked that way early on, as Fort led 21 – 18 at the end of the first quarter and extended their lead to 28 – 21 before the bottom dropped out of their attack.

Wilson got two field goals to go up 4 – 0 before Bradley Hebb made two consecutive three pointers, sandwiched around another Hornet bucket, to level the score at 6's. After a Wilson three pointer from Chase Snyder, who had eight of them for the game, Rhylan Martin got two on a putback. Wilson went up 11 – 8 before Carter Berry tied the score with a triple. Another Snyder three pointer gave Wilson a 14 – 11 lead which was quickly extended to 16 – 11. Tripp Hanger bombed in a three and Connor Batten did likewise to give the home team its first lead, 17 – 16. Wilson went up 18 – 17 but Fort scored the last four of the quarter, all by Connor as he got a jumper then two free throws. So Fort led 21 – 18 at the end of the period.

During the period, Fort made five three pointers. Unfortunately, their good shooting from beyond the arc died after that. They managed only four more the rest of the game, going 9 for 29. Fort played the game without its leading scorer, Gio Armendariz Cruz, who rolled his ankle during practice the day before.

The first half of the second quarter saw Fort extend its lead. Bradley scored in the lane then Tripp got a field goal to drop. Bradley again scored and Evan Braun made a free throw to give the Indians a 28 – 21 lead with 4:57 to go in the quarter. This is where Wilson, led by Snyder's four three pointers, went on their big run, taking a 39 – 28 lead before Tripp finally scored a trey for the Indians. Snyder answered with his own three to give the Hornets a 42 – 31 lead at the break.

The Hornets poured it on to start the second half, zooming out to a 49 – 31 lead before Connor hit his second triple of the night. Tripp made a three, Bradley got a free throw, and Jasigh Ransome made a trey to give Fort a 10 – 0 run but again the offense ran out of gas. Fort was only able to score one more point the rest of the quarter on a foul shot by Elijah Pultz as Wilson extended its lead to 56 – 42 at the end of the third quarter.

Elijah got a putback to open the fourth quarter then Evan scored to get the Indians to a ten point deficit at 56 – 46 but again the offense cooled as Wilson held the ball well the last three minutes of the game. Fort's only points came on an Elijah putback as the final score was Wilson 61, Fort Defiance 48.

Going into this game, Fort was in 4th place in Region 2B. The top eight schools were 1. Central Woodstock 2. Buckingham 3. Luray 4. Fort Defiance 5. Page County 6. Stuarts Draft 7. Strasburg 8. Riverheads. If Fort can hold onto 4th place, the Indians will host a Regional Quarterfinal game in Region 2B Boys. These standings could change before the end of the season, of course.

Fort had three players in double figures: Bradley and Tripp each got 11 while Connor had 10. Snyder led Wilson with 24, all on three pointers. Keyvon Jones tossed in 10. Fort's free throw shooting, as it has been all season, was miserable, 5 for 17.

Grandfather's notes: Since this was Senior night, Gus started for the Indians. He didn't score but played a fair amount in the first three quarters and got at least four rebounds. He did not play in the fourth quarter. I believe he was pleased, though, if for no other reason than he personally had fifteen fans in the stands cheering him on, fourteen of whom were part of his family.

Fort's last regular season game is an away match at Waynesboro on Monday, February 17.

Here's Fort's box score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
John Whetzel	0	0	0-0	0
Bradley Hebb	2	2	1-6	11
Jasigh Ransome	0	1	0-2	3
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	0-0	0
Miguel Uribe	0	0	0-0	0
Evan Braun	1	0	1-3	3
Carter Berry	0	1	0-0	3
Rhylan Martin	1	0	0-0	2
Elijah Pultz	2	0	1-4	5
Tripp Hanger	1	3	0-0	11
Connor Batten	1	2	2-2	10
Ayden Thornton	0	0	0-0	0
Gus Gutshall	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	8	9	5-17	48

The Staunton NewsLeader had this article about the game:

HIGH SCHOOL

Wilson boys win behind 24 from Snyder: Friday basketball roundup

Patrick Hite

Staunton News Leader

Wilson tops Fort boys

FORT DEFIANCE — Chase Snyder knocked down four 3-pointers in the second quarter as Wilson went from up three at the start of the second to up 11 at halftime. Wilson went on to beat Fort Defiance 61-48 in Shenandoah District boys basketball Friday.

Snyder finished the night with 24 points, including eight 3s, to lead Wilson Memorial (18-3, 8-2 Shenandoah) to its sixth win in the last seven games. Keyvon Jones added 10 points for the Hornets in the win.

Fort Defiance (12-8, 6-5 Shenandoah) got 11 points each from Bradley Hebb and Tripp Hanger. Connor Batten added 10 points for the Indians.

Wilson is at Riverheads Saturday night and at Stuarts Draft Monday to finish out the regular season. Fort finishes the regular season at Waynesboro Monday.