

# Gus Gutshall



## Junior Varsity Boys Basketball

2020 - 2021

## Fort Defiance High School 2020 - 21 Boys JV Basketball

### Notes:

The 2020-21 basketball season was during the heart of the COVID-19 epidemic. Fort Defiance was fortunate to be able to field a team during this time though play was limited to competition among Augusta County, Waynesboro, and Staunton schools. Only 25 fans (parents) were allowed to attend the games but fortunately this was the initial season for the NFHS network so Lynn and I were able to watch Gus' games via video streaming. Gus was as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Stewart Middle School at the time. In December, 2020, he tried out for and made the Fort Defiance High School JV basketball team.

I could find no records of the JV season on websites such as MaxPreps or the Shenandoah District. NFHS didn't keep its recordings from the first season. So finding records of this season was not an easy task. However, during the pandemic I wrote a daily blog of my activities and was able to find some, though very limited, information about each of the games and piece together this season's section in Gus' basketball book.

The 2020-2021 season began with games in January. Due to the shortened season and some bad weather, only twelve games were completed. One game was even called off after the first quarter due to weather. Fort Defiance ended up with a 4 - 8 record.

My blog notes which are included here have some of the same compliments and complaints that I continued for the next five years: pleasure with Gus' steady and level-headed play; displeasure about his playing time, the way he was used on the court, and his teammates' lack of basic basketball skills

Of course, I have very few game pictures from this season since Lynn and I were not allowed in the gym for the games.

Looking back, this was a fortunate season for all of us. His family and I were fortunate to be able to watch Gus and his Indian teammates play via video streaming. Gus was fortunate to be able to play basketball while the rest of the country was paralyzed by the COVID-19 pandemic though his season was far from ideal. At least he got to play....and we loved watching him!

Joe Hill



A promotional graphic for the Fort Defiance JV Basketball team for the 2020-2021 season. The background is split diagonally from the top-left to the bottom-right, with a blue upper-left section and a white lower-right section. In the center, a large image of a male player in a black jersey with "INDIANS" and the number "44" in blue, holding a basketball labeled "THE ROCK". Behind him is a large, stylized grey silhouette of a Native American head wearing a feathered headdress. To the right of the player, the word "Guts" is written in a large, blue, cursive script, with the word "Augustus" in a smaller, blue, cursive script positioned above it. At the bottom, a row of ten smaller images shows the rest of the team, all wearing similar black jerseys with blue lettering and holding "THE ROCK" basketballs. At the very bottom, the text "Fort Defiance High School Basketball 2020-2021" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

*Augustus*  
*Guts*

**Fort Defiance High School  
Basketball 2020-2021**

## 2020 - 21 JV Roster



### Fort Defiance - Basketball Boys JV Roster (as of 01-07-21 )

Number	Name	Position	Year
2	Austin Metz	G	9
3	Carter Fink		9
5	Bradley Hebb		8
11	Jalen Alexander		9
12	Talyn Armentrout		8
24	Dylan Shifflett		10
25	Samuel Garber	G	9
31	Dell Ray Jones		9
34	Landon Barb		9
42	Conner Patterson		9
44	Carter Berry		8
52	Augustus Gutshall		8

Team Management	Name
School Colors:	Royal Blue and White
Head Coach:	Will Henderson
Athletic Trainer:	Gabby Mayo
Mascot(s):	Indians

School Administration	Name
Superintendent:	Dr. Eric Bond
Principal:	Alan Shull
Asst. or Associate Principals:	Mark Mace, Lea Dean
Athletic Director:	Richard A. Miller



*Gus shooting a foul shot against Stuarts Draft*



## 2020 - 21 Season Schedule and Record

2020 - 2021 Fort Defiance JV Boys Basketball			
Date	Opponent	Score	W/L
Friday, January 8, 2021	Buffalo Gap	L 22 - 54	0 - 1
Saturday, January 9, 2021	Wilson Memorial	L	0 - 2
Tuesday, January 12, 2021	Riverheads	W 32 - 21	1 - 2
Friday, January 15, 2021	Stuarts Draft	L 38 - 45	1 - 3
Wednesday, January 20, 2021	Waynesboro	W 54 - 17	2 - 3
Friday, January 22, 2021	Staunton	L 23 - 56	2 - 4
Monday, January 25, 2021	Waynesboro	Game suspended	
Wednesday, January 27, 2021	Staunton	L 22 - 41	2 - 5
Friday, January 29, 2021	Riverheads	W 36 - 26	3 - 5
Tuesday, February 2, 2021	Stuarts Draft	W 44 - 32	4 - 5
Wednesday, February 3, 2021	Wilson Memorial	L 27 - 36	4 - 6
Thursday, February 4, 2021	Buffalo Gap	L 34 - 41	4 - 7
Friday, February 5, 2021	Wilson Memorial	L 37 - 51	4 - 8



*Gus with two off the glass. Note the COVID masks of those watching the game.*

## Notes taken from my blog about each game:

### **January 8--Buffalo Gap 52, Fort Defiance 22:**

This was the first basketball games of the season so it was our first experience with livestreaming. We paid around \$10 for the first month of this service but I'm not sure we'll get our money's worth. The streaming was anything but smooth. It frequently froze and buffered making it very frustrating to try to watch the game.

Gus didn't get to play much at all in his JV game and his team got blown out. They lost by 32 points, 54 - 22. Their guards were terrible at being able to handle the ball and for some reason the coach didn't play him until the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. There's no way he would have done worse than the kids in there the first three quarters.

### **January 9--Wilson Memorial (No score available):**

Ann and Josh decided to come to our basement tonight with Freddie and Gus to use our streaming setup to watch basketball. I thought they were coming over to watch Henry and Gus' games from last night. But it turns out that Gus had a JV game rescheduled to tonight at Wilson Memorial High School. So they watched his game instead. The streaming worked OK but not perfectly. And, like last night, Gus only saw a couple of minutes of play. I feel sorry for him; it would be different if he were on a fine team but the team is now 0 - 2. He is 6' 3" and would do well under the basket but the offense that FDHS runs has all of the players on the perimeter so frequently he is 20 feet from the basket when someone shoots. So he has little chance to rebound and score. I've disliked this offense for years; Henry's JV team ran the same plays. Plus, the Fort JV guards cannot handle the ball at all. Lynn and I haven't watched the game from tonight (we'll watch it tomorrow or later) but last night the team must have had 30 turnovers. Hard to watch...

### **January 12--Fort Defiance 32, Riverheads 21:**

Tonight was the third basketball game for both Henry and Gus. The two came into their games with opposite early experiences. Gus' JV squad is 0 - 2 and he has gotten to play very little. Henry's varsity team is 2 - 0 and he has played roughly 50% of the time. Both played Riverheads.

In Gus' game, he didn't get to play the entire first quarter. His teammates played poorly and fell behind 7 - 2 at the end of the quarter. After a couple of minutes into the second quarter, Gus got to play. His team made a good comeback and went ahead 16 - 13 at half. Gus didn't score but rebounded and played defense well. To start the third quarter, he was back on the bench. Shortly thereafter, Riverheads went up 17 - 16. Then Fort got hot and took a 27 - 19

lead at the end of the third quarter. Gus saw some action near the end of the quarter. He stayed in to start the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and continued to do well, hitting a nice baseline jumper to add to the lead. He got several rebounds but the coach took him out when he picked up his third foul. The JV's won their first game of the season, 32 – 21.

#### **January 15--Stuarts Draft 45, Fort Defiance 38:**

The JV game was hard to watch. Fort led the entire first half and built up a 38 – 31 with about 4 minutes left. Gus had played a good bit, scored four points, and got lots of rebounds. But at the 4 minute juncture of the game he had been taken out. Over the last four minutes, with Gus on the bench, Stuarts Draft scored 14 points and Fort didn't score. The Fort guards threw the ball away, then threw it away, then threw it away. Over and over again they turned the ball over. Gus later said it was six consecutive times they turned it over. They are just poorly taught and coached. Gus should feel good about his play.



#### **January 20--Fort Defiance 54, Waynesboro 17:**

On January 15, Gus' JV team was ahead by double digits with four minutes to go in the game when he was taken out; Stuarts Draft scored the next 14 points and won. Then last night, as I wrote, Henry was taken out with 2:21 left and Fort holding a 57 – 48 lead. Wilson Memorial then outscored Fort 13 – 3 to win, 61 – 60. Lynn has told me literally hundreds of times, "It's only a game!" Maybe so, but this kind of disappointment hits me hard. Fort does not have a championship JV or varsity team. They will lose other games but I hope they only lose games to superior teams, not when their own coaches screw up.

We did have more basketball to watch tonight. Both JV and Varsity played Waynesboro. Waynesboro's JV's were terrible, perhaps the worst JV team I've seen in all my days of watching/playing basketball. Gus got in with a little over two minutes to go in the first quarter and immediately scored then grabbed a couple of rebounds. At the end of the quarter the score was Fort 9, Waynesboro 0. I can't remember the last time I saw a team go the entire quarter without scoring. At the end of the half the score was 22 – 2. And it wasn't that the Fort team was playing great—quite the opposite. They were playing down to their level of competition. Fort's coaching in this game was inexplicable. With a lead of 26 – 2 in the third quarter, the coach still had his starters in and was pressing. He finally substituted a few players in, but not Gus. He finally got in with two minutes to go in the quarter and the score 33 – 6. He

went 2 – 2 from the free throw line to give them a 37 – 10 lead at the end of the third quarter. He played a little more than half of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as Fort cruised to a 54 – 17 easy win.

#### **January 22--Staunton 56, Fort Defiance 23:**

Tonight was another basketball night: Fort Defiance vs Staunton. The JV game was first, as always. Gus got in with one minute to go in the quarter and Fort ahead 9 – 6. Staunton closed to 9 – 8 then Gus put Fort up 11 – 8 at the quarter with nice short jumper. Staunton took off in the second quarter, building an 20 – 13 lead thanks to multiple turnovers by FDHS. It is so hard to watch kids play basketball who can't dribble or pass. Gus did fine—no turnovers, couple of rebounds, and 1 – 1 from the field. Unfortunately for Fort, Staunton outscored them 19 – 2 in the second quarter and took a 27 – 13 lead at the half. It was a miserable quarter for Fort.

The third quarter was no better. Gus got in after a couple minutes but they were down 30 – 13 by that time. The onslaught continued though Gus did hit a jumper for two of the few points Fort could muster. The quarter ended with Staunton ahead 47 – 17. If you were counting Fort turnovers you'd need a legal pad. Gus didn't play any in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The final score was Staunton JV 56, Fort JV 23.

#### **January 25--Waynesboro:**

Tonight was supposed to have been a basketball night. Gus had a JV game against Waynesboro. The first time they played, I labeled Waynesboro as the worst JV team I'd ever watched. As usual, Gus didn't start but he's only an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Gus got in very early, though, thanks to a couple of fouls on one of the Fort boys. He missed a jumper and two free throws but rebounded well. Then he got pulled out. At the end of the first quarter, Waynesboro led 14 – 7. Fort's shooting and ball handling was even worse than Waynesboro's. Strangely, at the end of the quarter the game was postponed and the players sent home because of icy roads. At the time the temperature was 31° with freezing rain. I had never seen that happen before.

#### **January 27--Staunton 41, Fort Defiance 22:**

Staunton's JV's are the team that put a big whooping on Fort the first time they played. The game started out like that was going to continue. Staunton led 12 – 3 at the end of the first quarter as Fort managed to make only one basket the entire quarter, a three pointer. Gus was put in late in the quarter and got to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. He promptly hit a nice jumper to help the Fort cause though Staunton continued to lead. FDHS made it respectable, 16 – 10, with Gus doing a good job on the boards. The halftime score was 20 – 13. Gus did fine; 1 – 1 from the field, two or three rebounds, no fouls, and zero turnovers. His teammates, unfortunately, were not so good. Several boys had picked up two fouls early on and the turnovers are always too many to count.



Gus got in midway through the third quarter with Staunton up to a 25 – 14 lead. The Fort guards make so many fundamental mistakes: bad passes, walks, double dribbles, stopping their dribble in corners, etc. And all that Gus apparently has been told to do is to set screens, giving him virtually no chance to score. He needs to be more aggressive on offense, too, because as it is now he rarely touches the ball. His only opportunity to score were two missed free throws as Staunton built a commanding 39 – 16 lead. The final was 41 – 22.

#### **January 29--Fort Defiance 36, Riverheads 26:**

Tonight was another FDHS basketball game, this time against Riverheads for both JV and Varsity. Last time they played, Fort JV team won but the varsity lost. Tonight, Fort's JV's took an early 10 – 2 lead and were up 12 – 6 at the end of the quarter. Gus didn't see any action. He finally got in with 5:38 to go in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. He got to play the rest of the quarter. He didn't take any shots but had some nice passes and zero turnovers. At the break they were ahead 22 – 12. With Gus on the bench until a few seconds left in the quarter, the JV's continued to dominate and led 33 – 19 going into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Gus had a chance to make two free throws in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter but he missed both. The game was never close; the final score was 36 – 26.



*Even the players wore masks during warmups*

**February 2--Fort Defiance 44, Stuarts Draft 32:**

Watching the JV's is not easy. Stuarts Draft turned the ball over its first nine possessions. Fort missed its first ten shots from the field. Fort did manage two foul shots and a field goal and led 4 – 2 after five minutes of play. Gus got in with two minutes to go in the quarter. Stuarts Draft finished the quarter with a plethora of turnovers. The score at the end of the first was FDHS 10, Stuarts Draft 2. As the second quarter opened, Gus got an offensive rebound and put it back in. As a reward, I suppose, the coach took him out. Go figure. When Gus went out, the score was 12 – 2 in Fort's favor. Moments later it was 13 – 12. The half ended 19 - 18 in favor of Stuarts Draft. This is how the Fort JV's have played all season. On January 15, against this same team, Gus' JV team was ahead by double digits with four minutes to go in the game when he was taken out; Stuarts Draft scored the next 14 points and won.

In the second half, Gus sat out the first half of the third quarter and got in with Stuarts Draft leading 24 – 23. He made a nice put back but the refs ruled he had fouled first so it didn't count. He played the rest of the quarter; FDHS was down 30 – 29. But then the streaming network went out and we missed the entire 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Ann and Josh reported that he played the entire 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and did well as Fort got revenge with a 44 – 32 win. She Facetime called us so we could see a little bit though it wasn't the same as streaming. This turned out to be a good birthday for Gus! I'm glad the coach finally figured out to leave him in.

**February 3--Wilson Memorial 36, Fort Defiance 27:**

Gus had a make-up JV basketball game tonight with Wilson Memorial. The first half had the same troubles with the streaming service that the varsity game last night had. It didn't start working until the end of the half. Ann helped us out by Zooming from her camera which worked OK but was a lot of trouble for her. The second half the NFHS stream worked OK. Gus played almost the entire first half. I believe he had one point on a foul shot. At the half, Fort led 19 – 16. Gus was on the bench to start the second half. Any bets on what happened? After four minutes the score was WMHS 22, FDHS 19. It's not that Gus is a dominant player, he just doesn't make the stupid mistakes that the other kids do. They throw the ball away over and over and over. He got back in with 3:30 to go in the quarter. He made a nice spin move and scored with 30 seconds to go—their only score of the quarter. And though he played throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, his team couldn't score. Meanwhile, WMHS had several buckets. With 51 seconds to go in the game Fort finally scored in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter—two foul shots. They made one more free throw and banked a desperation three pointer in to make the final score WMHS 36, FDHS 27. For the second half, they had a grand total of two field goals, eight points.

**February 4--Buffalo Gap 41, Fort Defiance 34:**

Tonight Gus had a JV basketball game at Buffalo Gap which we were able to watch on the NFS network. We watched in our bedroom while the Gutshalls watched downstairs. The poor JV's picked up where they left off last night, unable to score in the first four minutes. Fortunately, Gap was little better and only led 2 – 0 at that point which is when Gus got in. He played the rest of the quarter but didn't see action in the second quarter. Both teams played miserably with Fort squeaking out a 10 – 9 lead at the half. I didn't really keep records but I'm betting the shooting percentage for both teams was somewhere around 10%.

Gus got in the last three minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. After shooting terribly all game, Gap hit three consecutive three-pointers to take a 25 – 19 lead at the end of the quarter. Gus got to play a little in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter but it was more of the same. After Gap went out to a ten point lead in the 4<sup>th</sup>, Fort made a run and got within three but in the end Gap hit their free throws and won 41 – 34. Tomorrow the JVs will have their fourth game in four days. Both play Wilson Memorial away.

**February 5--Wilson Memorial 51, Fort Defiance 37:**

First, as always, was Gus' JV game. Both games were away so Lynn and I watched them on my iPad while Ann's family was in the basement using the TV with AirPlay. A pleasant surprise was that Gus was on the starting five. This is his first time all season. That's great as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader since there are plenty of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders on the team. Gus played the entire quarter, got lots of rebounds, and hit a nice 10 foot jumper as Fort led 10 – 9 at the end of the quarter. This was a team which blew them away the first time they played. Even though this was their fourth game in four days, it was the best quarter I've seen them play all season.

He sat out the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. No surprise, it was not a good one for Fort. The halftime score was 23 – 16 in favor of Wilson Memorial. He did return to the floor as the second half began but only for three minutes. The quarter was, unfortunately, more typical of what has happened all season. Their turnovers and missed shots continued while Wilson poured it on. The score at the end of the third was 38 – 23. Gus didn't play again and they could have used him. I'm sorry for the way this game ended especially with such a good beginning. Despite Wilson subbing throughout the quarter, Fort still could get no closer. The final score was 51 – 37.



