

Prep Roundup

PREP ROUNDUP: Veney Leads Fort To Win

DN-R Sports



Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney squeezes between Riverheads' Landon Lightner and Levi Byer as he goes up for during the Indians' win in Don Landes Gymnasium on Saturday.

Despite not being at full strength, once again, Fort Defiance sustained momentum on Saturday.

The Indians, who have dealt with injuries, illness and off-the-court adversity through the early portion of the season, won their third straight with a physical 48-39 Shenandoah District victory over Riverheads in boys basketball action at Don Landes Gymnasium on Saturday.

Tyreek Veney continued to shine for Fort (4-3, 1-0 Shenandoah) in the victory with a team-high 20 points while Sam Garber finished with eight and Drew Smith added six on a pair of 3-pointers.

Also chipping in for the Indians was Kaden Johnson and Henry Gutshall with five points apiece. For the Gladiators (3-2, 0-1 Shenandoah), Levi Byer scored a game-high 24 points in the loss. Tye Morris added four points for Riverheads while three other players scored three points apiece.

Riverheads 10 11 9 9 — 39
Fort Defiance 6 16 5 21 — 48

RIVERHEADS (39) — Byer 11 5-6 24, Farris 1 0-2 2, Lightner 1 1-2 3, Brooks 0 0-0 0, Slack 1 1-2 3, Dunlap 0 0-0 0, Morris 1 2-3 4, Williams 1 1-3 3. Totals 14 10-18 39.

FORT DEFIANCE (48) — Simmons 0 0-3 0, Smith 2 0-0 6, Johnson 0 5-6 5, Garber 3 0-0 8, Veney 6 6-8 20, Hebb 1 2-2 4, Liskey 0 0-0 0, Bruce 0 0-0 0, Gutshall 1 3-3 5. Totals 13 16-22 48.

3-Point Goals – Riverheads 1 (Byer), Fort Defiance 6 (Smith 2, Garber 2, Veney 2).

FDHS Varsity vs Riverheads High School
January 8, 2022
At Fort Defiance High School

Fort Defiance won its third game in a row and its first Shenandoah District game with a 48 – 39 win over Riverheads at Fort Defiance High School on January 8. With the win, Fort's season record improved 4 – 3. Fort fell behind early and trailed Riverheads the entire first quarter. The Indians' shooting in that quarter was downright terrible as the first ten shots from the field were off target. Tyreek Veney's layup near the end of the quarter pulled Fort within one point, 7 – 6, but Riverheads pulled out to a 10 – 6 lead after one.

After missing their first three shots of the second quarter, FDHS finally got it going. Tyreek hit a three pointer, Henry Gutshall took a charge, then Tyreek connected on a drive to give the Indians their first lead, 11 – 10. Riverheads scored a field goal and foul shot to take a 13 – 11 lead but Drew Smith, playing his first game of the season, hit a three pointer to put the Indians back up. Sam Garber then hit a three to push the lead to 17 – 13. Later in the quarter, Drew hit another three pointer and Bradley Hebb tossed in a bucket to give the Indians a 22 – 15 lead but Riverheads scored the last six of the quarter to make the halftime score 22 – 21.

Henry's three point play started the scoring for the Indians in the second half. Shortly thereafter, he drew another charging foul though the Indians couldn't cash in on the turnover. With 4:39 to go, Fort took a timeout with a 25 – 23 lead. The timeout didn't help as the next three shots for Fort missed their mark while Riverheads was scoring. Fort found itself behind 30 – 25 before Tyreek knocked in a couple of free throws to leave the score 30 – 27 in favor of Riverheads at the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter was a different story for the Indians. Sam hit a field goal, Tyreek followed with a three pointer, then added a field goal to give Fort a 34 – 30 lead. Bradley made two free throws to give Fort a 36 – 30 lead, having scored the previous 11 points. Trouble then hit the

Indians as Sam picked up his fourth foul with the score 36 – 32. All of his fouls came via charges with most of them very controversial calls.

Henry missed a shot in the lane but got his own rebound and was fouled with the put-back. He hit both of his free throws to make the score 38 – 32 with 3:19 to go. Tyreek drove for two after Riverheads had scored to make the score 40 – 34. Then Sam hit a big three pointer from the corner to give Fort its biggest lead, 43 – 34 with two minutes to go.

The play down the last two minutes was frenetic. Kaden got charged with a technical for responding when he was intentionally fouled hard. But he later hit five of six free throws to give Fort a 48 – 39 win.

Fans on both sides were understandably furious over the officiating. Tyreek ended up with five charging fouls. The last two minutes were filled with flagrant fouls by Riverheads and the technical on Kaden. Despite the win, numerous FDHS fans left the Don Landes Gym shaking their heads over the awful officiating.

Not only were the officials bad, but the Riverheads fans were blatantly in defiance of the mask mandate. There were approximately 100 fans on each side of the gym. Approximately 95% of Fort’s fans were masked. But only 5% of Riverheads’ fans wore them. With Augusta County only having 55% of its population fully vaccinated, it is no wonder that COVID-19 is an issue given the Riverheads fans’ rejection of this basic health mandate. COVID-19 was an issue for the team, too, as both Connor Patterson and Josh Jones were not present for the game due to COVID-19 protocols.

Here’s Fort’s Box Score:

Name	FG	FT	Total
Landon Simmons	0	0-3	0
Drew Smith	2	0-0	6
Kaden Johnson	0	5-6	5
Sam Garber	3	0-0	8
Tyreek Veney	6	6-8	20
Bradley Hebb	1	2-2	4
Jack Liskey	0	0-0	0
Alphonso Bruce	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	1	3-4	5
FDHS	14	16-22	48