

FDHS Varsity vs Monticello High School
December 10, 2021
At Monticello High School

This wasn't an easy game to write about. It did involve a fine win for the Indians against a much larger school at Monticello. And it included a great game from Fort's Tyreek Veney who scored 26 points. After the game, Tyreek explained that his Dad wasn't there because he had to go to the hospital. Sam Veney had a history of heart issues and, at one point, was on the list for a heart transplant. When we got home from the game, we learned that Sam had died. What a heartbreaking story to tell in a write-up about a basketball game! Tyreek, his sister, and dad lived with their grandparents. Sam was a fine athlete himself at Fort Defiance High School and was an ardent, vocal supporter of his son Tyreek.

The game itself was Fort's finest this far in the season. Monticello had a big team yet Fort held its own on the backboards. Henry had three rebounds himself in the first three minutes. Monticello opened with a 3 – 0 lead but Tyreek answered with a three pointer to tie it. On one of his rebounds, Henry found Tyreek ahead of the crowd and his outlet pass led to an easy basket to give Fort a 7 – 3 lead. Sam Garber hit a two pointer and Tyreek followed with another three to make it 14 – 7 in favor of the Indians. The Mustangs closed to 14– 10 but Tyreek scored again, this time on a nice drive to make the score 16 – 10. A strange flagrant foul was then called on Bradley Hebb which gave Monticello two free throws and possession, but all they could get out of it was one free throw which left the score 16 – 11 at the end of the first.

Sam took over to start the second quarter. He hit a three pointer then added a jumper to make the score 22 – 11. Tyreek bombed a three pointer in to make the score 25 – 12 then took a nice pass from Henry to run the score up to 27 – 12. Monticello scored but Henry got a nice putback to give FDHS a 29 – 14 lead. After another bucket from Sam, Fort led 31 – 16 with 2:28 to go in the quarter. Henry then drove for a score and held his ground to take his first of two charging fouls against the Mustangs with three seconds to go in the quarter, giving FDHS a 33 – 19 lead at the half.

Off the inbounds play to start the second half, Henry scored two more, then drove for two more after Sam had hit a three pointer to give Fort a 40 – 22 lead. A give and go from Tyreek to Sam put the Indians up 42 – 22. Kaden Johnson hit a three pointer from the corner to give Fort a huge lead at 45 – 24. Tyreek drove for two more and was fouled on the shot. He hit his free throw to give Fort its biggest lead, 50 – 28.

Monticello tried to get back in the game with a couple of made three pointers but a Jack Liskey layup with 10 seconds to go in the quarter left Fort with a 52 – 41 lead going into the last quarter.

Monticello kept crawling back toward the Indians but two free throws from Tyreek and another bucket from Henry ran the Fort lead back to 56 – 45 with 5:09 to go. Henry took another charge to help Fort's cause but Monticello was hot again and closed the lead to 56 – 49. A

single free throw from Kaden gave fort a 57 – 49 lead with 2:38 to go. Henry again went to work on a drive to push the lead to 59 – 49. Down the stretch, Tyreek and Sam were splendid from the free throw line to thwart Monticello’s attempt to come back. The final score was 66 – 56.

For the game, Tyreek had 26, Sam 19, and Henry 12. That made up 57 of the team’s 66 points. Sadly, after the game, Tyreek, unaware of his father’s passing, commented that no one in his family had seen him have such a good game.

Besides the win, leaving FDHS with a 1 – 2 record so far this season, some good news is that Josh Jones was able to attend the game without wearing a boot on his ankle and may be available for action later this month. He has been missed.

Here’s Fort’s Box Score:

Name	FG	FT	Total
Landon Simmons	0	1-4	1
Kaden Johnson	1	1-2	4
Conner Patterson	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	6	5-8	19
Tyreek Veney	8	7-9	26
Bradley Hebb	0	0-0	0
Jack Liskey	1	0-0	2
Alphonso Bruce	1	0-0	2
Henry Gutshall	6	0-1	12
FDHS	23	14-24	66

FROM THE DNR:

Fort Defiance 66, Monticello 56: In Charlottesville, Tyreek Veney poured in 26 points as Fort Defiance earned its first win with a 66-56 non-district victory over Monticello.

Sam Garber added 19 points for the Indians (1-2) while Henry Gutshall finished with 12.

Fort Defiance 15 18 19 14 — 66

Monticello 11 8 22 15 — 56

FORT DEFIANCE (66) — Simmons 0 1-4 1, Johnson 1 1-2 4, Garber 6 5-8 19, Veney 8 7-9 26, Hebb 0 0-0 0, Liskey 1 0-0 2, Bruce 1 0-0 2, Gutshall 6 0-0 12. Totals 23 14-23 66.

MONTICELLO (56) — Geise 1 0-0 2, Hansberry 4 8-11 18, Matthews 0 0-0 0, Christmas 2 2-2 7, Bittner 0 0-0 0, Kent 5 1-2 12, Ritterband 1 4-6 5, Walker 2 0-3 6, Provencio 1 0-0 3, McCall 0 0-0 0. Totals 16 15-24 56.

3-Point Goals — Fort Defiance 6 (Veney 3, Garber 2, Johnson), Monticello 7 (Hansberry 2, Walker 2, Provencio, Christmas, Kent).