

FDHS JV vs Rockbridge High School  
December 21, 2021  
At Fort Defiance High School

This was not a game Fort would be proud of. In the first game of the season, Fort defeated Rockbridge 48 – 22. Alas, they lost to the same team tonight by a 40 – 30 margin. As has been the case all season, turnovers killed any hopes the Indians had of a win. They got themselves in a hole from the start, falling behind 7 - 0. Buckets by Carter Fink and Carter Berry and one free throw from Isaac Marshall left the score at 12 – 5, Rockbridge. Gio Armendariz Cruz made two but two consecutive turnovers sandwiched between a Rockbridge 3-pointer doomed the first quarter to a 15 – 7 lead for the Wildcats.

Jalen Alexander scored for the Indians but the Wildcats followed with two three-pointers to go up 21 – 9. Isaac hit both ends of a 1 -1 at the free throw line and Gio followed with a two but then four consecutive missed free throws by Gio hurt though Gus rebounded two of them but his put backs both barely spun out.

Watching from the stands, it seemed apparent that some of the Fort boys were more concerned about taking their own shots than finding their open teammates. Frequently Gus was open underneath but all five shots he took in tonight's game came about after he had gotten an offensive rebound from one of their missed shots. Never was he fed the ball when he could have made an easy two. Sometimes the boys tried going one-on-four instead of pulling the ball out when they were outnumbered.

The half ended 25 – 14 Rockbridge. Unfortunately, the third quarter was more of the same. There were turnovers after turnovers and missed free throws after missed free throws. Gus scored on a nice putback from an offensive rebound but then was pulled out for the rest of the quarter. At the end of the third quarter, the score was 33 – 21.

Jalen hit two jumpers to start the fourth quarter. Gus made one of two free throws and made another basket off an offensive rebound to help the Indians close within five, 33 – 28. Down the stretch, Rockbridge hit its free throws when Fort was forced to foul. The final score was 40 – 30. The JV's record now stands at 3 – 3.