

# Henry Gutshall



## Varsity Boys Basketball

2020 - 2021





Fort Defiance  
Gymnasium

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

# Fort Defiance High School Boys Varsity Basketball 2020 – 2021 Roster



## Fort Defiance - Basketball Boys Varsity Roster (as of 01-10-21 )

Number	Name	Position	Year
1	Landon Simmons		11
2	Ashton Dove		12
3	Kaden Johnson		10
4	Joshua Jones		11
5	Evan Sutton		12
10	Scotty Wright	F	12
14	Jackson Liskey		10
20	Tyreek Veney		10
22	Mason Angel		12
24	Ryan Cook		12
42	Henry Gutshall		10

Team Management	Name
<b>School Colors:</b>	Royal Blue and White
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Brandon Fulk
<b>Assistant Coach:</b>	Tyler Hoffman, Todd Zetwick
<b>Athletic Trainer:</b>	Gabby Mayo
<b>Mascot(s):</b>	Indians

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

# Fort Defiance High School Boys Varsity Basketball 2020 – 2021 Season Results




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## Winter 2020-21 Boys Varsity Basketball (as of 02-09-21)

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Date	Event Type	Opponent	Loc.	Score	W/L/T	Points	--
01-08-21	Game	Buffalo Gap	Home	54 - 48	W	7	
01-11-21	Game	Waynesboro	Away	56 - 44	W	7	
01-12-21	Game	Riverheads	Home	47 - 50	L	0	
01-15-21	Game	Stuarts Draft	Away	54 - 36	W	7	
01-19-21	Game	Wilson Memorial	Home	60 - 61	L	0	
01-20-21	Game	Waynesboro	Home	53 - 35	W	7	
01-22-21	Game	Staunton	Home	47 - 44	W	7	
01-26-21	Game	Buffalo Gap	Away	68 - 51	W	7	
01-27-21	Game	Staunton	Away	32 - 42	L	0	
01-29-21	Game	Riverheads	Away	66 - 56	W	7	
02-02-21	Game	Stuarts Draft	Home	65 - 63	W	7	
02-05-21	Game	Wilson Memorial	Away	65 - 53	W	7	
02-08-21	Region Tournament	Fluvanna County	Home	41 - 65	L		
<b>Total :</b>					<b>9 - 4 - 0</b>	<b>63</b>	
<b>Simplified Power Ranking :</b>						<b>5.25</b>	

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## Shenandoah District Standings

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Team	Conference Record	Overall Record	Points
Fort Defiance	7 - 4 - 0	9 - 4 - 0	63.00
Staunton	7 - 4 - 0	8 - 4 - 0	
Wilson Memorial	6 - 4 - 0	9 - 5 - 0	63.00
Buffalo Gap	5 - 5 - 0	7 - 5 - 0	
Riverheads	3 - 7 - 0	5 - 7 - 0	
Stuarts Draft	3 - 7 - 0	3 - 7 - 0	

# First District Championship in 25 Years!





*Henry  
Gutshall*

**Fort Defiance High School  
2020-2021**

# Game #1

## Fort Defiance 54, Buffalo Gap 48

### Fort Defiance sweeps Buffalo Gap in prep basketball action

News Virginian Staff Reports  
Jan 8, 2021

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**F**ORT DEFIANCE — Fort Defiance got its boys basketball season off to a roaring start Friday night as the Indians knocked off the Buffalo Gap Bison 54-48 in Shenandoah District play.

The Indians led 31-27 at halftime and appeared to have the game in hand by holding the Bison to four third-quarter points for a 43-31 advantage. However, Gap threw a scare into the host team in the final eight minutes by outscoring the Indians 17-11, but the deficit was just a little too much to overcome.

Bennett Bowers sparked the Bison comeback with eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers and Tanner Rivenburg had seven fourth-quarter points.

Ryan Cook led the Indians with a game-high 21 points, while Kaden Johnson added 10.

For the Bison, Bowers knocked down five 3-pointers en route to a 19-point performance. Rivenburg tallied 16 points, including a trio of triples, and Ethan Teter had 10 points.

Fort (1-0, 1-0) travels to Waynesboro on Monday, while Gap (0-1, 0-1) heads to Wilson on Tuesday.



# Game #2

## Fort Defiance 56, Waynesboro 44

### Fort Defiance rolls past Waynesboro in boys basketball

STEVE COX the News Virginian  
Jan 11, 2021



Waynesboro's MyKal Gardner (24) and Samir Moore (30) attempt to block Fort Defiance's Joshua Jones during a Monday matchup in Waynesboro.

Logan Bogert, The News Virginian

STEVE COX the News Virginian

**A**fter a 12-12 first-quarter tie Monday evening, it was all Fort Defiance the rest of the way as the Indians pulled away for a 56-44 win in boys hoops action.

There was plenty for Fort head coach Brandon Fulk to like about his team's performance, but there's still plenty of work to do.

"We got off to a slow start, turning the ball over in the first quarter, but I thought the second quarter was tremendous and the third quarter we were really good," said Fulk. "I went from feeling really excited about our play to disappointed in our play in the fourth quarter. I didn't like the effort or our focus in the final quarter," said Fulk. "We're still trying to learn how to win. This is a good learning experience. We have to learn to play four full quarters of basketball."

Waynesboro's Charles Haynes hit a pair of 3-pointers in the opening quarter to spark the Little Giants, but Ryan Cook scored all 12 of Fort's points as the first eight minutes ended in a 12-12 tie.

Fort outscored the Little Giants 18-6 in the second quarter to take control. Two buckets by Cook and a 3-pointer by Evan Sutton sparked a 7-0 spurt, giving Fort a 28-15 lead. At the break, the Indians led 30-18.

Fort kept the lead in double figures the rest of the way and led by as many as 18 points in the second half.

Cook poured in 31 points to lead the Indians. He was the only player in double digits for the winners, but eight players broke into the scoring column. "We didn't have balanced scoring, but we got a lot of people involved," said Fulk.

Maki Devaughn led the Little Giants with 13 points.

Fort returns to action Tuesday when the Indians host Riverheads. Waynesboro plays again Thursday when it hosts Staunton.

**Fort Defiance 56, Waynesboro 44**

**FORT DEFIANCE 12 18 14 12 — 56**

**WAYNESBORO 12 6 10 16 — 44**

**FORT DEFIANCE (56) —** Dove 1 0-4 2, Johnson 2 1-2 6, Jones 3 0-2 6, Sutton 1 2-2 5, Veney 1 0-0 2, Angel 1 0-1 2, Cook 13 4-10 31, Gutshall 1 0-0 2, Simmons, Wright, Liskey **TOTALS:** 23 7-21 56.

**WAYNESBORO (44)** — Sipe 2 2-1 6, Haynes 2 0-2 6, Sites 2 1-2 6, Moore 2 0-0 4, Devaughn 6 1-3 13, Kirby 3 1-2 7, Barber 1 0-0 2, Groves, Blair, Strother, Gardner, Clark, **TOTALS:** 18 4-10 44.



# Game #3

## Riverheads 50, Fort Defiance 47

BOYS BASKETBALL

### **Riverheads boys basketball survives Fort Defiance's fourth quarter rally**

By Steve Cox For The News Virginian  
Jan 12, 2021

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**F**ORT DEFIANCE — Riverheads took an 11-point lead midway through the fourth quarter and then held off a late Fort Defiance rally to take a 50-47 victory Tuesday in Shenandoah District basketball action.

"Down the stretch, that was a sign of an inexperienced team," said Riverheads head coach Chad Coffey. "Sometimes inexperienced teams get hesitant when things start getting tight. I don't think we became hesitant, we just couldn't slow down and take care of the basketball. It's something we can learn from. I have a feeling there's going to be a lot of games like this in the district this year."

The teams struggled to score in the first half as the Indians went to the break with a slim 20-19 lead.

Early in the third period, each team's leading scorer started to heat up. Ryan Cook scored three straight buckets for the Indians while Adam Painter poured in the first 10 points of the quarter for Riverheads.

Cook's buckets had the Indians on top 29-24, but Riverheads outscored the home team 14-1 during the remainder of the quarter to take the lead.

A 3-pointer and a 12-footer from Painter pulled Riverheads even before a fast-break layup by the senior guard gave Riverheads the lead, 31-29, with three minutes left in the third quarter.

Bennett Dunlap buried a 3-ball from the corner and Noah Williams worked inside for a bucket, pushing the Riverheads advantage to 36-29. Joshua Jones snapped the Fort scoring drought with 1-of-2 from the foul line before Riverheads' guard D'ante Gray made two foul shots for a 38-30 Gladiators' lead at the end of three quarters.

An inside move by Steven Sorrells resulted in two points to give Riverheads a 47-36 cushion in the final quarter, but then the Indians came storming back. Henry Gutshall worked the paint for a bucket before Tyreek Veney and Cook knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers to make it a one possession game, 47-44, with 1:44 remaining.

After a Riverheads turnover, Fort had a chance to tie after calling a timeout with 50 seconds left. Cook had a good look at a long three, but the shot bounced off the back iron and Riverheads controlled the rebound.

Gray went to line for a 1-and-1 with 33 seconds left and hit the front end to put Riverheads up by four points, 48-44. The teams traded turnovers before Fort misfired on a jumper with Riverheads again controlling the boards. The Indians again fouled Gray and this time the Riverheads guard hit both shots to make it 50-44. Fort's Veney hit a 3-pointer with less than a second left on the clock for the final 50-47 margin.

"That first foul shot D'ante made was huge. They had cut it down to three and that free throw made it a two-possession game," said Riverheads head coach Chad Coffey.

Painter scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half to lead the Riverheads offense. "Adam was forcing things some early in the game and I took him out and talked to him about letting the game come to him. That's what he did in the third quarter and all of the sudden he was finding open shots and making them," Coffey said.

Gray added 13 points and the Gladiators received strong performances at the defensive end from Ryan Farris and Sorrells. Farris scored just two points, but he spent most of the game hounding Cook, who finished the night with 16 points. "Cook's a player. He's going to score. You just want to play him as tough as you can and make him work," said Coffey. "Ryan (Farris) didn't score much tonight, but he took care of the basketball, ran the offense and he did a heck of a job on defense."

Sorrells patrolled the paint for the Gladiators and made some big stops at the defensive end.

"Steven drew three charges and grabbed a bunch of rebounds. He gave us what we needed inside," Coffey continued.

Fort Defiance won the junior varsity game, 32-21.

**RIVERHEADS 50, FORT DEFIANCE 47**

**RIVERHEADS (50)** — Gray 4 5-6 13, Farris 1 0-0 2, Painter 8 2-3 21, Dunlap 2 0-0 5, Morris 1 0-0 3, Williams 1 0-0 2, Sorrells 2 0-0 4, Lightner, Barger, ,TOTALS 18 7-9 50.

**FORT DEFIANCE (47)** — Johnson 1 2-3 4, Jones 2 1-2 5, Sutton 0 2-3 2, Wright 1 0-0 2, Veney 3 0-0 9, Cook 7 1-2 16, Gutshall 4 0-0 9, Simmons, Dove, Liskey, Angel, TOTALS 18 6-10 47.

**RIVERHEADS 10 9 19 12 — 50**

**FORT DEFIANCE 8 12 10 17 — 47**

# Game #4

## Fort Defiance 54, Stuarts Draft 36

BOYS BASKETBALL

### Ryan Cook eclipses 1,000 points as Fort Defiance subdues Stuarts Draft in boys basketball

Bill Meade For the News Virginian  
Jan 15, 2021



Fort Defiance senior Ryan Cook shoots a deep three early in the fourth quarter Friday in Stuarts Draft. Cook reached the 1,000 point milestone for his career in the Indians' 54-36 win over the Cougars.

Aiden Hearn For The News Virginian

**S**TUARTS DRAFT — On a night when Fort Defiance senior Ryan Cook reached the 1,000 point milestone for his career, the rest of the Indians made sure that Cook could celebrate with a win.

The Indians defeated Stuarts Draft 54-36 in Shenandoah District boys basketball on Friday night.

When Fort sophomore Kaden Johnson assisted senior Scotty Wright to break an early 2-2 tie, the Indians never gave up their lead.

By the end of the first period, the Indians extended the lead to 16-10 and by halftime led 26-19.

The Cougars did a nice job defensively on Cook to begin in denying him the ball, but junior Joshua Jones took up much of the scoring slack.

“Josh (Jones) did a fantastic job for us tonight,” said Fort Defiance head coach Brandon Fulk.

But Cook heated up in the second half and collected his milestone points after a steal and subsequent basket at the other end, early in the fourth period.

“I’ve had the opportunity and pleasure to coach Ryan (Cook) for the past four seasons,” Fulk said. “He’s a fantastic athlete and this is a great accomplishment. Ryan is a great example of an athlete who is going to play baseball at the D-I level who enjoys playing other sports in high school. It’s been a lot of fun to see him perform and develop.”

The Indians’ senior finished the game with 15 points.

The Cougars battled in the third quarter, at one time cutting the Fort lead to 36-28 on a three-pointer by senior Ethan Cash, but the Indians responded immediately on a triple by Johnson.

The Draft never moved any closer as senior Jo’-el Howard sustained an injury at the start of the fourth period and the Cougars could only score six points in that period.

It was senior night for the Cougars as Cobey Rothgeb, Howard, Jayden Watkins, Cash and Colton Clinedinst were honored before the game for their contributions to the Cougars’ program.



For the Indians, Jones finished with 14 points and sophomore Henry Gutshall scored 10. "I was ecstatic at how Henry (Gutshall) played," Fulk said. "He has the best footwork of any player on the team and is a fast learner."

The Fort only committed seven turnovers for the game.

The Indians (3-1 overall, 2-1 district) host Wilson Memorial on Tuesday night in a key early county showdown.

Stuarts Draft was led by Howard with 11 points while Cash added 10.

The Cougars travel to Riverheads on Tuesday.

**FORT DEFIANCE 54, STUARTS DRAFT 36**

**FORT DEFIANCE (54)** — Simmons 0 2-2 2, Johnson 1 2-2 5, Jones 7 0-0 14, Wright 2 0-0 4, Veney 2 0-0 4, Cook 6 2-2 15, Gutshall 4 2-2 10. Totals 22 8-8 54

**STUARTS DRAFT (36)** — Rothgeb 1 0-0 2, Cash 4 0-0 10, Watkins 2 0-0 4, Schages 1 2-2 4, Howard 5 0-0 11, Stinespring 1 0-0 2, Nice 1 1-2 3. Totals 15 3-4 36

**FORT DEFIANCE 16 10 16 12 — 54**

**STUARTS DRAFT 10 9 11 6 — 36**

# Game #5

## Wilson 61, Fort Defiance 60

BOYS BASKETBALL

### **Wilson Memorial boys basketball team rallies to knock off Fort Defiance**

Ben Craft  
Jan 19, 2021

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**F**ORT DEFIANCE — In a game where his team trailed by 12 just minutes earlier, Wilson Memorial guard Jaziel Mensah stepped to the free-throw line, took a deep breath and prepared to take two shots to give his team the lead with 6.2 seconds left.

The senior did not disappoint.

The Green Hornets completed an impressive comeback Tuesday night, knocking off the Fort Defiance Indians on the road 61-60 in a statement win in Shenandoah District boys basketball.

Wilson began the game strongly, scoring the first nine points of the contest. Mensah was the highlight early as he split defenders with ease with a Eurostep to begin the scoring for the night, and junior Josh Johnson banked in two triples early.

However, as the quarter progressed Indians senior Ryan Cook, one of the most prolific scorers in program history, began to cut into the lead. Cook lifted floaters over defenders to the tune of six first-quarter points, and Fort Defiance cut the lead to just one as the first quarter ended 16-15.

Cook's efforts continued to help the team in the second quarter, as he hit a moving 3-pointer with 5:45 remaining in the half to tie the game for the first time since the opening whistle. Wilson struggled with ball-control and finding the right shots in the entire quarter, and the Indians capitalized to take a 31-26 advantage into the half.

In the third quarter, Wilson junior Jaxon Hartman picked up guarding Cook, and he did well to contain him for the rest of the game, but Tyreek Veney stepped up to show off his scoring prowess, hitting a triple early and dropping in several more buckets.

“Jaxon played great defense on Ryan Cook in the second half, making him work for everything,” Wilson head coach Jeremy Hartman said. “We tried to make somebody else make a play, and Tyreek Veney played a heck of a game.”

Fort Defiance sophomore Henry Guttershall showed off his fancy footwork in the post as he made all three of his shot attempts to help extend the Indians' lead to nine going into the fourth quarter.

Mensah, who had missed his last four shot-attempts following his quick start, began the fourth quarter with an and-one as it looked like Wilson would begin its comeback. However, Veney continued his excellent night, and his layup with 3:45 left in the game put the Indians up by 12.

Mensah dropped in another and-one, and the comeback was on as Fort Defiance began to show its inexperience, according to their head coach Brandon Fulk.

“I thought we were the better team for the majority of the game, but my concern with this group is we don’t have a whole lot of experience on how to play with a lead,” Fulk said. “Offensively with that lead, we took shots too many times that were too quick, and the difference late was our inability to guard number one [Jaziel Mensah]. We held to him to six points and I felt we executed our game plan well with him. Then all of the sudden, we didn’t have anyone who wanted to keep in front of him.”

Hornets sophomore Lucas Schatz also aided in the comeback efforts with four quick points in the last few minutes, but it was two straight baskets from Mensah with a minute and a half remaining in the game that turned the contest into a one-possession game for the first time since the second quarter.

Following a made free-throw to put Fort Defiance up two, Johnson hit a 3-pointer to put the Hornets up by one. Veney was determined to give his team the chance to win, as he had been doing the entire second half, and he sprinted down the court and dropped in a layup to reclaim the lead and put Fort Defiance up 60-59 with just 17 seconds left.

On the next possession, Mensah drove to the lane and was fouled with 6.2 seconds, and he swished both free throws to put the Hornets up 61-60. Fort Defiance had one last possession, but a floater by senior Evan Sutton missed the mark, and the putback attempt failed to connect as well.

Coach Hartman praised the late-game heroics of his star player.

“He’s played in some tough games in his career, so we’re thankful he’s on our side,” Hartman said. “He never gets rattled. He’s even-keeled, never too high or too low. I think he was a little frustrated in the first half because he missed a lot of easy shots, but he made the plays when he needed to, and that’s what seniors should do.”

Mensah led the way in scoring for the Hornets with 18 points, while Johnson dropped in 12 off of four 3-pointers. For the Indians, Veney supplied 20 points, and Cook had 18.

With Wilson’s win, they are now 5-1 on the year and 3-1 in district play, putting themselves in a good position to contend for the Shenandoah District’s only automatic berth into the Region 3C tournament. Wilson will travel to Riverheads (3-2, 2-2) on Friday for a district matchup.

“This is a testament to our team that they refused to lose,” Coach Hartman said. “I don’t think we played overly well, but we made winning plays when we needed to make them, and that’s the sign of a good team.”

Fort Defiance fell to 2-2 and will host Turner Ashby (0-5) on Wednesday night.

### **WILSON 61, FORT DEFIANCE 60**

**WILSON (61)** — Hartman 3 1-2 8, Mensah 7 4-5 18, Carter 1 0-0 3, Johnson 4 0-0 12, Podgorski 0 0-0 0, Wright 0 0-0 0, Freeman 0 0-0 0, Briseno 1 0-0 2, Irving 2 2-4 7, Schatz 3 2-2 9, Armstrong, Lavender, Mundie. Totals 21 9-13 61

**FORT DEFIANCE (60)** — Simmons 0 0-0 0, Johnson 2 1-2 5, Jones 2 1-2 5, Sutton 0 1-2 1, Liskey 1 0-0 3, Veney 8 2-2 20, Cook 7 2-2 18, Angel 0 2-2 2, Gutshall 3 0-0 6, Wright, Dove. Totals 23 9-12 60

**WILSON 16 10 11 24 — 61**

**FORT DEFIANCE 15 16 15 13 — 60**

# Game #6

## Fort Defiance 53, Waynesboro 35

### **Fort Defiance boys basketball team finishes strong to beat winless Waynesboro**

Hubert F. Grim III, For The News Virginian  
Jan 20, 2021

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**F**ORT DEFLIANCE — Fort Defiance head coach Brandon Fulk had finally seen enough of watching the erratic play from his Indians. A late third-quarter timeout ensued where Fulk adamantly expressed his displeasure.

The Indians responded to their coach's tongue-lashing, hitting Waynesboro with a game-breaking 23-10 blitz over the final 11 minutes Wednesday night en route to a 53-35 victory over the winless Little Giants in nondistrict boys basketball.

Although far from masterpiece, the win enabled Fort to brush aside a devastating loss 24 hours earlier when the Indians failed at a chance to take control of the district's lone Class 3 automatic bid to the Region 3C tournament. The Indians let slip through their fingers a double-digit, fourth-quarter lead to Wilson Memorial, which Fort is battling for the regional berth, in a 61-60 setback.

Fulk didn't attribute a residual hangover from the gut-wrenching defeat to Wednesday's less-than-inspiring performance, but to the team they were playing. The Indians had beaten Waynesboro 56-44 in the season's first meeting.

"They thought they were going to just showed up tonight and win," Fulk said.

It wasn't until Fulk's timeout chat that the team finally appeared to wake up.

“The timeout wasn’t so much about the overall game, but on the possession before I called time we jogged down the floor and set up in the wrong defense,” he said. “That is inexcusable. We had been playing the same defense for several minutes. I am trying to raise the standard for the guys that I know they are capable of playing. You can’t be making those kind of mistakes in close games.”

The Indians had a 30-23 lead when Fulk delivered his message. Following the timeout, Landon Simmons drilled a 3-pointer and Henry Gutshall hit two free throws after a Waynesboro turnover as the margin suddenly grew to 35-25 with 1:31 left in the quarter.

Kaden Johnson then went on a personal 6-0 run for a 41-27 advantage with 24.2 seconds on the clock.

Ryan Cook’s coast-to-coast layup after a steal extended the lead to 44-29 early in the fourth period, and the Giants never staged a challenge.

Any win is good, but Fulk said the team has to take more ownership.

“They need to think the game a whole lot more,” he said. “The energy and leadership has to come from within the uniforms. The guys in the polos on the sideline can’t play. Consistent energy is an issue right now.”

The Indians struggled to a 21-16 halftime lead after trailing 9-7 when the first period concluded. The margin should have been a lot more, but Fort failed to capitalize on 15 Waynesboro turnovers, scoring just four points.

“We left a lot of points out there for the taking,” Fulk said. “Our transition game wasn’t any good.”

Despite giving up only 35 points, the Fort coach still wasn’t happy with the defense.

“We still aren’t there fundamentally defensively,” he said. “We had way too many breakdowns, the kind of mistakes that will cost you on those close games.”

But Fulk did hand out high praise to the junior Simmons.

“Landon may not always score a lot of points, but is constant energy and motion,” he said. “He is our energy spark and energy giver. We need our guys to be more like him.”

For Waynesboro head coach Sidney Diggs, it was Groundhog Day from what he watched in the previous five games.

“Too many turnovers and we keep taking shots that shouldn’t be taken,” he said. “It was the same old things, but we need to keep our heads up and push forward.”

Cook paced the Indians with 24 points, 12 in each half. Simmons and Johnson each had eight points.

Vinny Sipe, who transferred to Waynesboro from Fort over the summer, hit up his old teammates for 15 points. Adam Groves contributed nine.

Waynesboro (0-6) plays its third game in four nights Thursday with a trip to Riverheads. Fort (4-2) wraps up its first rotation through the Shenandoah District schedule at home Friday against Staunton.

The Indians dominated the jayvee game 54-17. Samuel Garber led the way with 12 points and Connor Patterson added 10. For the Giants, who were playing their first game in two weeks because of health and safety protocols, Vaiden Hite tallied seven.

### **FORT DEFIANCE 53, WAYNESBORO 35**

**WAYNESBORO (35)** — Sipe 7 0-0 15, Groves 2 3-4 9, Blair 0 1-3 1, Sites 1 0-0 2, Moore 3 0-2 6, Barber 1 0-0 2, Haynes, Gardner, Clark, TOTALS 14 5-9 35.

**FORT DEFIANCE (53)** — Simmons 3 1-2 8, Dove 0 0-2 0, Johnson 3 2-3 8, Jones 1 0-0 2, Veney 2 2-2 7, Cook 9 5-8 24, Gutshall 1 2-4 4, Sutton, Wright, Liskey, Angel, TOTALS 19 12-21 53.

**WAYNESBORO 9 7 13 6 — 35**

**FORT DEFIANCE 7 14 20 8 — 53**

# Game #7

## Fort Defiance 47, Staunton 44

### Fort Defiance boys basketball team rallies to beat Staunton

Ben Craft  
Jan 22, 2021

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**F**ORT DEFIANCE — After losing a lead in a big game to Wilson Memorial earlier in the week, the Fort Defiance Indians were not about to repeat their mistake.

Off the backs of a huge third quarter and strong play down the stretch from sophomore Henry Gutshall, the Indians overcame a halftime deficit to scrape by the Staunton Storm 47-44 on Friday night in a tight Shenandoah District boys basketball contest.

The first quarter showcased two teams struggling to find an offensive rhythm as Fort repeatedly lost the ball or threw errant passes, and Staunton failed to convert on opportunities close to the rim.

Fort senior Ryan Cook led the way with six points, but Staunton sophomore Maaliah Cabell dominated the glass early with offensive rebounds to extend possessions, helping Staunton hold the 11-10 advantage at the end of the first period.

The offensive rebounds for the Storm continued into the second quarter, and despite the Indians briefly grabbing the lead off a Tyreek Veney finger roll, the Storm distanced themselves slightly by taking a 24-18 lead into the half.

“We focused on that yesterday, during pregame and at the half,” Fort Defiance head coach Brandon Fulk said of the rebounding disparity. “We’ve got to be able to get more guys involved in terms of inside position and knowing where rebounds typically come off. I told our guys, ‘we held them to 44 if we can rebound better, it’s going to be very difficult for them to score.’”

In the third quarter, the Indians finally came alive as they matched their entire first-half total with an 18-point outburst, while holding the Storm to just seven. Veney scored seven points by himself in the period as he penetrated the lane and forced defenders to foul him or give away easy layups.



“You can’t give up 18 points in one quarter,” Staunton head coach Terrell Mickens. “We still had a chance to win the game in the end, so we still try to take some positives from it.”

The game returned to a defensive battle in the fourth quarter with just eight total points in the first four minutes of play as Fort sat with a 40-35 lead.

Besides a single free throw, scoring would stop for the next two minutes until Storm sophomore Jonathan Moore flipped in a quick layup and then immediately stole the ball to even the game at 40-40.

Gutshall began his clutch performance when he was fouled with 1:14 remaining as he hit two crucial free throws to give the Indians a two-point advantage. Cook also sank two free throws with 28.2 seconds left to give the Indians a 46-42 advantage.

Staunton guard Jamal Brown responded with an impressive pass to Cabell, and after a missed free throw on a one-and-one by Cook, the Storm had the ball with 5.4 seconds left and down by two points.

Cabell received the ball in the paint, where he had been strong all game, and Gutshall swiped the ball from him and was promptly fouled. He sank 1-of-2 to give the Indians the 47-44 lead they would never relinquish.

“He’s got a lot of confidence in himself and his teammates have a lot of confidence in him,” Fulk said of Gutshall. “He’s just a sophomore, so I’m excited to see where he can go. Those are gigantic plays.”

Staunton had a chance with 1.6 seconds left, but Brown’s heave missed the mark as the Indians defended well on the final possession.

Despite the outcome, Mickens sees the game as a learning opportunity for his guys.

“I’m proud of them,” he said. “Young guys stepping up there, they’re still learning, but we have to go through some stuff. We pulled out one on Tuesday close, and we lost one close tonight. So they know how it feels to pull it out and how it feels to fall short.”

Cook scored 18 points for Fort, while Veney added 12.

Moore scored 12 points for the Storm on 5-of-6 shooting, and Cabell bruised his way to 11.

With the win, Fort Defiance (5-2, 3-2) moves into a second-place tie with Staunton (4-2, 3-2) after the first rotation through the district schedule. Fort travels to Buffalo Gap on Tuesday, while Staunton hosts Riverheads.

**FORT DEFIANCE 47, STAUNTON 44**

**STAUNTON (44)** — Brown 1 1-2 3, Scott 1 0-2 2, Chapman 4 0-0 8, Simms 2 0-0 5, Moore 5 0-0 12, Jones 0 1-2 1, Cabell 5 1-2 11, Tolar 1 0-0 2, Desper, Watts, TOTALS 19 3-7 44.

**FORT DEFIANCE (47)** — Dove 1 0-0 2, Johnson 1 0-0 2, Jones 1 0-0 2, Sutton 1 0-0 2, Wright 1 0-0 2, Veney 4 4-6 12, Angel 0 0-2 0, Cook 6 5-6 18, Gutshall 1 2-3 5, Simmons, Liskey, TOTALS 16 11-15 47.

**STAUNTON 11 13 7 13 — 44**

**FORT DEFIANCE 10 8 18 11 — 47**

# Game #8

## Fort Defiance 68, Buffalo Gap 51

### Fort Defiance sweeps Buffalo Gap in basketball

News Virginian Staff Reports  
Jan 26, 2021

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#### Indians move into tie for first place

The Fort Defiance boys team moved into a first-place Tuesday night after the Indians dominated the Buffalo Gap Bison 68-51 in Shenandoah District boys basketball.

Fort (6-2, 4-2) entered the night one game behind Wilson Memorial, but the Green Hornets suffered a 60-52 home loss to Stuarts Draft. The two teams are battling for the lone Region 3C bid from the Shenandoah District.

Ryan Cook and Tyreek Veney combined to score 54 of Fort's 68 points. Cook lit up the Bison for 34 and Veney added 20.

The Indians took control right out of the gate, bolting to a 22-12 lead after eight minutes. They extended their advantage to 38-20 at halftime, and coasted home in the second half.

For Gap (4-4, 3-4), Ethan Teter led the way with 14 points. Noah Canterbury scored 13 and Tanner Rivenburg 11.

The two teams have games again Wednesday, both on the road. The Indians play Staunton for the second time in six days after winning 47-44 on Friday. The Bison travel to Waynesboro.

# Game #9

## Staunton 42, Fort Defiance 32

BOYS BASKETBALL

### Staunton boys basketball team beats Fort Defiance

Bill Meade, For The News Virginian  
Jan 27, 2021



Staunton's Jamal Brown jumps to catch a pass during Wednesday night's game against the Fort Defiance Indians in Staunton. The Storm won, 42-32.

Jaclyn Barton/The News Virginian

Bill Meade, For The News Virginian

**S**TAUNTON — Playing shorthanded due to COVID protocol, Staunton relied on a rugged defensive effort to defeat visiting Fort Defiance, 42-32, on Wednesday night in boys basketball.

Without three players on the roster, Staunton held the Indians to just five points in the fourth quarter, pitching a shutout over the final six minutes of the game.

"That was great team defense," said Staunton head coach Terrell Mickens. "I was really proud of them."

Staunton avenged an earlier narrow loss to the Indians.

For most of the game, Staunton sophomore Ammanuel Chapman guarded Fort senior star Ryan Cook. With some switching help from his teammates, Chapman made Cook earn his nine points, including just two free throws in the second half.

"He (Chapman) always guard the best player on the other team," Mickens said.

The Shenandoah District contest proved to be a defensive struggle from the outset as the visitors took a 5-4 lead into the second quarter.

Both teams played stifling man-to-man defenses with good shooting opportunities at a premium.

Back-to-back three-pointers by Fort sophomore Tyreek Veney gave the Indians a 15-7 lead early in the period, but from then on, the boys from Staunton clamped down, holding the Indians to just 17 points for the remaining 21 minutes of the game.

Staunton finally took the lead at the end of the third quarter on a basket by Chapman and a three-pointer by senior Scotty Wright with 8.4 seconds left in the period.

The Indians never could regain the upper hand, but closed to within a point early in the fourth on another long-range three from Veney.

Sophomore Jonathan Moore responded immediately for Staunton from beyond the arc to put his team ahead by four.

Veney scored a basket for the Indians' final points of the night with about six minutes to go in the game.

Staunton finished the game on an 8-point run on baskets by freshman Prodigy Simms and junior Jaquante Scott and four free throws by junior Jamal Brown.

"He (Brown) is my coach on the floor," Mickens said. Brown finished with six free throws, six rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Sophomore Maaliah Cabell scored eight points with six rebounds and two blocks for Staunton, while Scott pulled down eight boards.

For the Indians, Veney led all scorers with 15 points.

Staunton hosts Stuarts Draft on Friday.

**STAUNTON 42, FORT DEFIANCE 32**

**FORT DEFIANCE (32)** — Johnson 1 0-0 2, Veney 6 0-0 15, Angel 1 0-0 2, Cook 3 3-6 9, Gutshall 2 0-0 4. Totals 13 3-6 32.

**STAUNTON (42)** — Brown 0 6-8 6, Scott 2 0-0 5, Chapman 3 0-0 6, Simms 2 0-0 5, Moore 2 0-0 5, Watts 0 0-1 0, Jones 2 1-1 5, Cabell 4 0-0 8. Totals 16 7-10 42.

**FORT DEFIANCE 5 16 6 5 — 32**

**STAUNTON 4 14 11 13 — 42**

# Game #10

## Fort Defiance 66, Riverheads 56

### Fort Defiance boys basketball team outlasts Riverheads

Nancy Sorrells, For The News Virginian  
Jan 30, 2021

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Riverheads' Adam Painter works to keep the ball away from Fort Defiance defender Henry Gutshall on Friday night in Greenville.

Nancy Sorrells/For The News Virginian

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Nancy Sorrells, For The News Virginian

**G**REENVILLE — In a fast and furious shortened season, every game counts, especially as the action heads into the final week of the regular season.

With the rankings in post-season play on the line, Fort Defiance came into the Gladiator gym ready for a shootout. It was nip and tuck with the final outcome in doubt until the waning seconds, but the Indians managed to hang on for a 66-56 Shenandoah District win Friday night.

The win puts Fort at 7-3 and 5-3. The Indians are battling Wilson for the Shenandoah District's automatic berth into Region 3C. Fort came into the evening trailing Wilson, also victorious Friday night, by a half game in the standings. Riverheads, now 5-4 and 3-4, is currently the top seed in Region IB.

"I told the guys before tonight's game that 'the tournament starts tonight.' We had to win tonight and we have to win the next two," Fort Defiance coach Brandon Fulk said.

Fulk's Indians did not have an easy time turning back Chad Coffey's Gladiators. Riverheads' Tye Morris opened the game with a baseline shot, that was quickly followed by an Adam Painter three-pointer from the top of the arc and then another from downtown by Morris to put the home team up 8-0.

Fort's Ryan Cook finally broke the ice for his team with short jumper in the lane at the six-minute mark to start an 8-1 scoring spree. Joshua Jones then ducked inside the paint for two more. Tyreek Veney, who led all scorers with 27, dropped in a pair of free throws before Jones scored four more to put the visitors up at the buzzer, 10-9.

The Gladiators took control in the second period when Ryan Farris tallied five points and Painter dropped in a pair from long range for six. All told the Gladiators outpaced the Indians 16-9 to take a 25-19 lead into the locker room.

The Indians charged out of the locker room to light up the scoreboard with 12 points before Riverheads could answer. Veney dropped in a pair of three-pointers and Cook capitalized on his team's defensive pressure to tally six on fast breaks. With three minutes gone off the clock, Fort was up 31-25.

Painter powered up a rebound for two and was fouled to get one more point and finally put the Gladiators on the board in the second half. However, the Veney-Cook combo charged right back. After three periods the visitors were clinging to a slim 43-41 lead.



Riverheads' Bennett Dunlap dropped in a three-pointer to open the final frame and put Riverheads up 44-43. However, the Indian defense doubled down with full court pressure to take the lead and add some breathing room. Joshua Jones broke the Riverheads press for a bucket and a free throw to take the lead to 11, 59-48. However Noah Williams got inside for Riverheads, Ryan Farris drilled a shot for three, and Dunlap added another three to trim the lead to four, 60-56, with 1:08 left.

The Gladiators could get no closer and were forced to foul down the stretch to make the final 66-56.

"We gutted that one out and were able to win," a relieved Fulk said. Ty Veney and Ryan Cook were great offensively and were able to help control things at the end. I am just really proud of my guys." Fort hosts Stuarts Draft on Tuesday.

"Hats off to them," said Riverheads coach Chad Coffey. "We had a lead and let them erase it. Instead of coming out in the second half and finishing it, we dug ourselves a hole. Still we are doing a lot of things right and continue to get better. Every night in this district is a dogfight because it is so balanced."

Riverheads travels to Wilson on Saturday for a 3:30 p.m. matchup.

Fort Defiance also won the junior varsity game, 36-24.

### **FORT DEFIANCE 66, RIVERHEADS 56**

**FORT DEFIANCE (66)** — Johnson 1 0 0-0 2, Jones 3 0 4-5 10, Wright 1 0 2-3 4, Veney 2 6 5-6 27, Cook 6 0 8-11 20, Gutshall 1 0 1-2 3, TOTALS 14 7 19-25 66.

**RIVERHEADS (56)** — Gray, Farris 2 2 0-0 10, Painter 2 4 3-4 19, Lightner, Dunlap 3 2 0-0 12, Byer, Morris 3 1 2-3 11, Williams 1 0 0-0 2, Sorrells 1 0 0-0 2, TOTALS 12 9 5-7 56.

**Fort Defiance 10 9 24 23 — 66**

**Riverheads 9 16 16 15 — 56**

# Game #11

## Fort Defiance 65, Stuarts Draft 63

### Fort Defiance boys basketball team grabs win over Stuarts Draft in final seconds

Ben Craft  
Feb 2, 2021

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**F**ORT DEFIANCE — With the clock ticking down in a tight contest and a court full of upperclassmen, it was two sophomores who provided the heroics for Fort Defiance.

Indians' second-year player Tyreek Veney nailed six 3-pointers, and Henry Gutshall lifted up to bank in the contested game-winning shot with 7.8 seconds left to give Fort a 65-63 win over Stuarts Draft in a game they once trailed by 13 points in Shenandoah District boys basketball.

The game started slowly as both teams struggled to control the ball early in the first quarter. The Cougars took advantage of a string of early Fort turnovers to build an early lead with a dominating inside presence and a pair of triples from junior Chase Schages.

Despite a half-court make and 10 first-quarter points from Fort senior Ryan Cook, Stuarts Draft took a 23-17 lead into the second, where the Cougars only built on their momentum. Stuarts Draft senior Blake Stinespring converted on all three of his inside tries, and senior Cobey Rothgeb's 3-pointer with 5:42 remaining in the second put his team up by 13 points.

Veney started the game off slow, missing his first six shot attempts, but started to come alive in the second quarter when he converted from long-range on three consecutive attempts to pull his team within five.

"He's a kid that if he misses five or 10 shots, it doesn't seem to faze him on the next one," Fort head coach Brandon Fulk said. "He's a confident kid, and he should be. We need him to be selective on when he shoots, but when he gets his feet set, he's a lockdown shooter for sure."

Stuarts Draft shot an incredibly efficient 16-22 in the first half to take 41-33 advantage into the intermission. Cook's 12 points were a large part of how the Indians kept the game relatively close despite shooting significantly worse from the field than their opponent.

"We had good ball movement which opened up some gaps for us, and we got post touches as well," Stuarts Draft head coach Brad Dewitt said of the hot start. "That enabled us to get some open shots and we managed to knock them down."

Veney picked up where he left off once the third quarter began by hitting an early triple, and the Indians began to charge. Fort shored up some of their defensive woes that allowed for easy inside and fastbreak buckets in the first half to start to mount their comeback.

With 2:12 remaining in the third period, junior Landon Simmons swished a long-range try to bring the Indians within one possession for the first time since the early minutes of the game. Stinespring continued to convert on his tries for the Cougars, who managed to fend off Fort for a little while to take a 51-47 lead into the final quarter.

"Blake [Stinespring] is starting to realize that he can be a pretty good post-player," Dewitt said of his big man. "The past couple of games, he has really played well. He's starting to get that confidence where we want to get him the ball."

Veney's sixth triple of the game came with 6:02 in the fourth, and just a couple of minutes later, his teammate Cook penetrated through the lane to hit a layup that gave Fort the 57-56 lead.

With 60 seconds remaining, the Indians were holding onto a 63-60 advantage with the ball, but a costly turnover allowed Stuarts Draft to race down the court, where Schages silenced the few fans in attendance with a game-tying 3-pointer.

Sophomore Gutshall has stepped up for Fort all year, and with 7.8 seconds left on the clock, he stepped up again. Gutshall caught the ball and turned around in the face of the defender, putting up a hook shot that found its way off the glass through the bottom of the net to give Fort the 65-63 lead they would not relinquish.

"We had a couple of options on that play, and he was able to finish it," Fulk said. "He's a confident player. I trust him with the ball and making decisions with the ball, so I kind of quickly said I want the ball in his hands. I know that's probably surprising considering the other guys we have, but he finished it and got a good look for us."

Veney led all scorers with 24 points, while Cook's strong first-half allowed him to continue his march up the Fort Defiance leaderboard with 20 more points for his resume.

For Stuarts Draft, Schages scored 15 off four 3-pointers of his own, and Stinespring converted 7-of-8 tries for 14 total points.

Fort Defiance improves to 6-3 in Shenandoah District play and 8-3 overall. They will end their regular season on the road at Wilson Memorial (6-2, 10-2) on Friday.

Stuarts Draft fell to 2-7 in the district and overall and will wrap up their district play on Friday at home against Riverheads (3-6, 5-6). Despite falling short, Dewitt continues to look for ways to uplift his team.

"I'm proud of how we played," he said. "We're continuing to get better each day, and the boys are staying positive. I'm disappointed that we lost, but there are a lot of positives that we can take from that. And you have to tip your hat to Fort. They made quite a few plays down the stretch."

#### **STUARTS DRAFT 63, FORT DEFIANCE 65**

**STUARTS DRAFT (63)** — Rothgeb 1 3-3 8, Cash 2 0-0 5, Watkins 1 0-0 2, Jones 2 0-0 5, Schages 5 1-1 15, Howard 4 2-3 12, Stinespring 7 0-0 14, Nice 1 0-0 2, Bridge, Wayne, Harris, Willis, Clinedinst. TOTALS 23 6-7 63

**FORT DEFIANCE (65)** — Simmons 1 0-0 3, Johnson 1 2-2 4, Jones 2 0-0 4, Wright 1 0-1 2, Veney 9 0-1 24, Cook 8 2-3 20, Guthshall 3 0-0 6, Angel 0 0-0 0, Dove, Sutton, Liskey. TOTALS 25 4-7 65

**STUARTS DRAFT 23 18 10 12 — 63**

**FORT DEFIANCE 17 16 14 18 — 65**

# Game #12

## Fort Defiance 65, Wilson 53

### Fort Defiance boys basketball team beats Wilson Memorial to win district title

Bill Meade, For The News Virginian  
Feb 5, 2021



Wilson Memorial's Jaxon Hartman shoots a jump shot against Fort Defiance on Friday in Fishersville. Fort Defiance defeated Wilson Memorial, 65-53.

Aiden Hearn/For The News Virginian

**F**ISHERSVILLE — With a district championship and a regional home game awaiting the winner, the visiting Fort Defiance Indians took down Wilson Memorial 65-53 Friday night at The Hive in boys basketball.

The Indians broke a 7-7 tie in the first period and held off each challenge presented by the Green Hornets.

The victory gave the Indians the regular season championship in the Shenandoah District, breaking a three-way tie between the Indians, Hornets and Staunton. Since Staunton was defeated by Buffalo Gap, the Fort was the outright champion of the league.

Fort Defiance now will host the Jefferson District second-place team in the 3C West Regional first round on Monday night.

Meanwhile, the loss sent Wilson on the road to play Spotswood, the Valley District champ.

The regional field contains eight teams.

The Fort closed the first period with an 8-0 run on a basket by Scotty Wright, a three-point play by Ryan Cook and a three-point heave from long distance by Landon Simmons which beat the buzzer.

With an eight-point lead in hand, the Indians were able to hold off the Hornets in the second quarter, going up by a dozen by halftime.

The Indians looked to break the game open in the third quarter, but five straight points by Wilson's Jaziel Mensah-Agyekum cut the Hornets' deficit to 42-36.

But the Fort built its lead back to 13 points by the end of the period, outscoring Wilson 8-1.

In the final period, the Indians, seemingly in charge, pushed the lead to 55-39, but the Hornets sliced into the lead again, this time on consecutive baskets by Finn Irving and a three-pointer by Dajor Carter.

The Hornets could get no closer than nine points as the Indians drove away with the 2021 district trophy.

"We shot and rebounded well enough to win, but I thought we did a good job defensively," said Fort Defiance coach Brandon Fulk. "The guys embraced the defense and we wanted to limit them to just one shot because they are a really good scoring team. I'm happy for these seniors; they won just three games I think when they were sophomores."

Fulk also noted that the Indians had good balance on offense, with eight different players scoring.

Cook and Tyreek Veney each scored 20 points, while Joshua Jones pulled down 12 rebounds for the Fort.

Mensah-Agyekum and Finn Irving led the Green Hornets with 18 and 16 points respectively. Lucas Schatz had 11 rebounds for the Hornets.

### **FORT DEFIANCE 65, WILSON MEMORIAL 53**

**FORT DEFIANCE (65)** — Simmons 1 0-0 3, Johnson 2 0-0 6, Jones 2 0-0 4, Wright 1 0-0 2, Veney 7 3-3 20, Angel 1 0-0 2, Cook 7 6-8 20, Gutshall 3 2-3 8. Totals 24 11-14 65.

**WILSON MEMORIAL (53)** — Hartman 3 1-1 8, Mensah-Agyekum 5 6-8 18, Carter 1 0-0 3, Armstrong 1 0-0 2, Briseno 1 0-0 2, Irving 7 1-2 16, Schatz 2 0-0 4. Totals 20 8-11 53.

**FORT DEFIANCE — 15 18 17 15 - 65**

**WILSON MEMORIAL — 7 14 16 16 - 53**

# Game #13

## Fluvanna County 65, Fort Defiance 41

### **Fluvanna's second half dominance too much for Fort Defiance boys basketball team to handle**

Brandon Ellis, For The News Virginian  
Feb 8, 2021

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**F**ORT DEFIANCE — The Fluvanna County Flyin' Flucos used a 35-15 second-half blitz Monday night to pull away for a 65-41 win over the Fort Defiance Indians in the first round of the Region 3C boys basketball tournament.

The Flucos used the efforts of junior Maurice D'Alessandro and senior Xavvier Copeland to help pace their scoring on the night. D'Alessandro scored 19 and Copeland added 17 in the road victory to get them into the semifinals where they will travel Wednesday to Liberty Christian Academy. LCA whipped Turner Ashby 80-54 in its first round matchup.

D'Alessandro ignited Fluvanna County's second-half surge with back-to-back 3-pointers. The Flucos had watched a 25-11 lead after the first quarter dwindle to 30-26 at the break.

After Fort senior Ryan Cook hit twice, D'Alessandro bombed another triple as the lead went back to nine.

The Flucos extended their margin to 48-33 lead after three quarters.

The Jefferson District foe started the fourth quarter on a similar pattern as it did throughout the night with relentless pressure and a quick, efficient offense to put the game away by the midway point.

Fort scored only 15 second-half points.

Fluvanna County head coach Heath Bralley said how proud he was of his team's performance on the road in the playoffs.



“It’s always a challenge coming over here,” he said. “It’s always great competition. We played a really good Charlottesville team last Wednesday. I think the second half of that game was a turning point for us to learn how we needed to play, and so far we carried that over our last two games. I think we got better playing like we need to tonight.”

Fort Defiance after the second quarter had trouble handling the pressure and showed signs of their youth, especially from the line where the Indians went 5-of-13. Fort also missed several shots in the paint and force up shots from the perimeter leading into transition buckets for the Flucos.

“They knocked us on our butt right from the get-go,” Fort head coach Brandon Fulk said. “They were much more locked in from the very beginning. I don’t know if that is due to a lack of experience. I thought we did a really good job weathering the storm. I think we were down 17 and we had it back to four heading into halftime.

“I think the kids and myself felt pretty good going into half, and I’ve always felt that the beginning of the third quarter is important and most of this year we’ve been a good third quarter team, [but] they blitzed us and unfortunately we threw in the towel and didn’t handle that well,” Fulk said. “I think clearly they were the better team and they were locked in ready to go from the get-go. Hopefully it’s a learning experience for our younger guys that are returning.”

The first quarter was a period of runs for both teams. The Flucos got off to the early 10-0 lead as the Indians forced up shots and had miscues.

Fort finally got on the board with a 3-pointer from sophomore Tyreek Veney. Then sophomore Kaden Johnson hits another 3 on the next possession, forcing Fluvanna County to call a timeout at 10-6.

After the timeout, the Indians cut the deficit to two points, but the Flucos ended the 8-0 run on consecutive layups from Copeland. After Fort’s run, Fluvanna County embarked on a 15-0 spree thanks to offensive rebounding and capitalizing on Fort’s turnovers for a 25-11 margin after eight minutes.

Fort showed fight in the second quarter, outscoring the Flucos 15-5 to get the margin to a manageable 30-26 at the break.

Cook led the Indians with 17 points and Veney tallied 13.

Fulk said the Shenandoah District regular-season championship will have an impact on the program moving forward and how his team can grow from this loss.

“It’s the first time we won a district title since 1996,” Fulk said. “It’s been a tough few years for this program. I hope the senior class that went through a lot of tough times that a lot of those seniors, aside from Ryan, saw their roles really change and younger guys were getting more opportunities and playing more. I thought all those kids handled that change of role really well.

“I think this year’s group has raised expectations again for the program and hopefully has us going in an upward direction. I’m excited in what we can be next year. I think we got a group that’s hurt and hopefully this ending will be motivation for next year,” he said.

**FLUVANNA COUNTY 65, FORT DEFIANCE 41**

**FLUVANNA COUNTY (65)** — Edmonds 4 2-2 11, Rittenhouse 0 1-2 1, Copeland 8 1-2 17, Bruce 3 0-0 7, Ferguson 4 0-0 8, D’Alessandro 6 2-2 19, Johnson 1 0-0 2, Brown, Smith, Cannady, Campbell, Silverman, Gowans, Franklin, TOTALS 26 6-8 65.

**FORT DEFIANCE (41)** — Dove 1 0-0 2, Johnson 2 2-5 8, Jones 0 0-2 0, Veney 6 0-0 13, Cook 7 2-4 17, Gutshall 0 1-2 1, Simmons, Sutton, Wright, Liskey, Angel, TOTALS 16 5-13 41.

**FLUVANNA COUNTY 25 5 18 17 — 65**

**FORT DEFIANCE 11 15 7 8 — 41**

























**Fort Defiance High School  
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