

FDHS Varsity vs Rockbridge County High School
November 30, 2021
At Rockbridge County High School

Rockbridge County handed Fort Defiance a 53 – 46 loss in the season opener at Rockbridge on Tuesday, November 30. Actually, Fort’s loss began long before tip-off when senior starter Josh Jones injured his ankle and didn’t make the trip south to RCHS. This left Fort with only eight players dressed to play. By the fourth quarter, it showed as the Indians ran out of gas against a pressing team which substituted liberally to keep its players fresh.

Rockbridge started out on fire, going up 9 – 2 in the first few minutes. Fort just couldn’t get the ball to drop. When Rockbridge cooled off, Fort nudged back in contention, 13 – 8 at the end of the quarter.

First game jitters showed for both teams with more turnovers than expected. FDHS definitely missed Josh’s presence. Henry Gutshall made a nice move for a bucket and got fouled but missed his free throw. That pulled the Indians within four, 16 – 12, but Rockbridge ran off the next five points. Several late buckets by Tyreek Veney pulled the Indians within four, 30 – 26, at halftime. Henry had six in the second quarter.

To start the second half, Sam Garber hit a jumper then Henry buried two free throws to tie the score at 30. This would be the only tie of the game as Rockbridge got several offensive rebounds and kept their lead, 40 – 39, going into the fourth quarter. Fort fans could see the exhaustion on the players by this point.

In the fourth quarter, Rockbridge hit a three pointer to go up 49 – 40 then hit their free throws down the stretch to seal the win. Fort’s shooting woes were from both the field and free throw line. The final score was 53 – 46. Tyreek had 24 and Henry 12 to lead the Indians.

Fort will need to improve its shooting, reduce turnovers, and get more points from players other than Tyreek and Henry in order to win. It would help greatly if Josh is able to return to action. Fort is back in action Thursday night at Turner Ashby High School.

Rockbridge is a large high school with 1,039 students according to the Virginia Department of Education. Fort Defiance has only 726. Fort’s next opponent, Turner Ashby, has 1,016 students. FDHS plays another large school next week when they face Monticello which has 1,220 students. Next week they also play Broadway which has 962 students. They don’t play a small school until December 30 when they face Riverheads which has 477 students.

Here is Fort’s box score for the game:

| Name | FG | FT | Total |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Landon Simmons | 0 | 2-4 | 2 |
| Drew Smith | 0 | 0-0 | 0 |

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|------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Kaden Johnson | 0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Josh Jones | 0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Conner Patterson | 0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Sam Garber | 3 | 0-0 | 6 |
| Tyreek Veney | 8 | 6-10 | 23 |
| Bradley Hebb | 0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Jack Liskey | 1 | 0-0 | 3 |
| Alphonso Bruce | 0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Henry Gutshall | 5 | 2-3 | 12 |
| FDHS | 17 | 10-17 | 46 |