

Veney's 37 Point Outburst Powers Fort over Gap

Fort Defiance's Tyreek Veney was unstoppable at Buffalo Gap on December 20. From beyond the arc and on drives down the lane, he carried the Indians to a 58 – 55 Shenandoah District victory over the Bison.

The game was back-and-forth with the teams alternating the lead throughout the game. FDHS started the fourth quarter down 40 – 36 but played perhaps their best quarter of the season to pull out the win. Only four players scored for Fort all night, but all four came through in the pivotal fourth period.

With the win, Fort's record improved to 5 – 2. The loss dropped the BGHS record to 6 – 2. Fort's Kaden Johnson did a fine job holding Bennett Bowers to just 14 points which was key to the victory. Also key to Fort's win was a great job on the boards against a tall Buffalo Gap squad. Henry Gutshall had his best rebounding game of the year and had help from the rest of his teammates.

But the game belonged to Tyreek. He was hot in all four quarters. Gap opened the game with a basket. After Henry hit one of two free throws, the Bison again scored to lead 4 – 1. That's when Tyreek began his onslaught. First he hit a three pointer from the top of the key. Then he stole the ball and drove the length of the court to give Fort a 6 - 4 lead. Gap tied the score, then Tyreek again scored on a drive. Gap again tied it, then Gio Armendariz Cruz scored on a nice drive to give Fort a 10 – 8 lead. Fouled on a drive, Tyreek hit both free throws to push the lead to four with 1:44 to go. Gap responded with a free throw, then Sam Garber hit one of two free throws to make it 13 – 9. After Gap closed to 13 – 11, Tyreek drove through a host of Gap players, scored, and was fouled on the shot. His free throw closed the scoring at the end of one with Fort taking a 16 – 11 lead.

The second quarter belonged to Gap. Tyreek scored every point Fort made in the quarter. His three pointer gave Fort its biggest lead, 19 – 11. After two Indians missed free throws, Gap closed to 19 – 15. Tyreek hit both ends of a one and one to make it 21 – 15. As he has done every game, Henry drew a charging foul but Fort couldn't capitalize as it saw Gap score the next seven nine points to go up 24 – 21. After a FD timeout, Tyreek hit a three from the top of the key to tie it up. Gap then scored a bucket with 38 seconds left to go u 26 – 24 and finished the scoring with a free throw to take a 27 – 24 lead into the locker room at the half.

Gap took a 29 – 24 to start the third quarter. Tyreek hit a layup then Sam came up with a big steal and layup to make it 29 – 28. Gap went back in front by four at 32 – 28 then Tyreek's three pulled the Indians back within one. His drive then gave Fort a brief lead at 33 – 32. Turnovers then hurt FDHS and allowed Gap to grab its biggest lead at 40 – 33 with 40 seconds to go. Tyreek again came through with a three pointer to make it 40 – 36 at the end of the third in favor of the Bison.

Fort's fourth quarter play was heroic. Tyreek hit another three to get the Indians within one, 40 – 39. Gio then drove the baseline and tossed in a basket to return the lead to the Indians. After Gap retook the lead at 42 – 41, Henry found the range from the top of the key for a three pointer.

With 5:08 to go, Gap's three point play tied the game. Tyreek again scored down the lane but once again BGHS knotted the score at 46. Sam then bombed in a three pointer from the corner to make it 49 – 46. Gap hit a free throw but Tyreek once again couldn't be stopped driving down the lane and gave the Indians a 51 – 47 lead with 3:34 to go. Gap wasn't about to roll over, though, and quickly tied it at 51's. Tyreek then put a dagger in the Bison with his sixth three pointer of the night from the top of the key with 44 seconds left. Gap was forced to foul but Sam came through, hitting both ends of two one-and-one free throws including two with 7.3 seconds left after Bowers had pulled the Gap back within one at 56 – 55 with a three pointer. In the final seconds, Tyreek intercepted a pass to seal the win for the Indians.

What a game this was for Tyreek! For the first five games of the season, he had some trouble getting his three point attempts to drop. He had nine treys during the first six games. In this game alone, he hit six, most from the top of the key. His quickness enabled him to drive past the Bison defenders and when he stretched to shoot on his drives, it seemed as though he stayed afloat for an incredible amount of time while his defenders rose to stop him then dropped back to the court until he flipped the ball in. Tyreek ended the game with six three pointers, seven deuces, and five of seven from the charity stripe. His 37 points was the most scored by a Fort player for many years.

Fort returns to the hardwood with trip to Alleghany High on Thursday, December 22.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	2	0	0-0	4
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Kaden Johnson	0	0	0-2	0
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	2	5-6	13
Tyreek Veney	7	6	5-7	37
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	0	1	1-4	4
TOTAL	10	9	11-19	58

Buffalo Gap's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Donald Strother	3	0	2-4	8
Bennett Bowers	5	1	1-2	14
Kasey Fitzgerald	0	0	0-0	0
Gary Logan Hewitt	1	0	0-0	2
Micah Canterbury	5	0	4-5	14
Jackson LaPorte	7	0	3-5	17

Tyler Hohenstein	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	21	1	10-16	55

Here's an article about the game which appeared in the Harrisonbug Daily News Record:

https://www.dnronline.com/sports/high_school/veney-explodes-for-37-carries-fort-to-win-over-gap/article_17a31581-8052-5ec8-bceb-adda6a6e3be7.html

Boys Basketball

Veney Explodes For 37, Carries Fort To Win Over Gap

By BRANDON ELLIS For The Daily News-Record

Dec 21, 2022



Fort Defiance's Brandon Fulk talks with his team during a break in the action earlier this season.

Daniel Lin / DN-R

SWOOPE — It was the best game of Tyreek Veney's decorated career.

The Fort Defiance senior guard, who has been one of the best players in the area for several years now, exploded for a career-high 37 points and made the game-sealing steal late to carry his team to a big-time 58-55 victory over Buffalo Gap in Shenandoah District boys basketball action in Swoope on Tuesday.

Indians head coach Brandon Fulk credited Veney for coming up big on both ends of the court.

“He was a little bit up and down [early in the year], but made some clutch plays for us,” Fulk said. “He’s been struggling shooting the ball, especially from the perimeter. We ran a couple of plays for him in the second half. Obviously he was huge, he started feeling it and made some miraculous shots. What did he end up with? 37? That’s pretty impressive.”

Veney's offensive production was certainly impressive, but perhaps the biggest play of the game came on the other end when the quick guard was able to clutch a one-handed snag for a steal on Gap's last possession.

That play by Veney sealed the win for Fort, which was big to open play in a competitive Shenandoah District.

“That was big,” Fulk said about Veney's late swipe. “He got back and got a finger on it and it was still a one-possession game. That was a good effort by him at the end of the game.”

The Bison were paced by three players as senior Jackson Laporte had 17, while seniors Micah Canterbury and Bennett Bowers both had 14 points. Bowers trimmed the Indians lead to one with a 3 from the corner but the Indians got free throws from Samuel Garber to push the lead back to three, which led to the theft by Veney.

Bison head coach Chad Ward had no problem admitting what the difference in Tuesday's game was.

“Tyreek Veney had 37 and lit us up,” Ward said. “He had the game of his life. He was the best player on the floor.”

The Bison (6-2, 0-1 Shenandoah) controlled the second and third quarters, forcing the Indians to make some quick adjustments on the bench down four at the end of the third quarter and it paid off.

Garber finished with 13 points to add to Veney's big night for the Indians (5-2, 1-0 Shenandoah).

Fulk talked about what the message was to his team in between the final two frames.

“I tried to talk about just getting stops,” Fulk said. “I thought we were solid tonight. Offensively, I kept telling the guys make shots and we’ll be OK. ... It's a great win for us. [Gap is] really tough to defend. To start district play with a win on the road is big for my group.”

Fort Defiance 16 8 12 22 — 58

Buffalo Gap 11 16 13 15 — 55

FORT DEFIANCE (58) — Cruz 2 0-0 4, Hebb 0 0-0 0, Johnson 0 0-2 0, Garber 3 5-6 13, Patterson 0 0-0 0, Veney 13 5-7 37, Jones 0 0-0 0, Liskey 0 0-0 0, Gutshall 1 1-4 4. Totals 18 11-19 58.

BUFFALO GAP (55) — Strother 3 2-4 8, Bowers 6 1-2 14, Fitzgerald 0 0-0 0, Hewitt 1 0-0 2, Canterbury 5 4-5 14, Jackson LaPorte 7 3-5 17, Hohenstein 0 0-0 0. Totals 23 10-16 55.

3-Point Goals — Fort Defiance 9 (Veney 6, Garber 2, Gutshall), Buffalo Gap 1 (Bowers).