

Alleghany Overcomes Indians with Fourth Quarter Surge

In a rematch of two good teams who played a double overtime game earlier in the season, the Alleghany Mountaineers put together a big fourth quarter to come from behind and defeat the Fort Defiance High School Indians basketball team 44 – 36 at Alleghany High School on December 30. The Indians overcame a slow first half and took the lead 31 – 28 at the end of the third quarter but couldn't hold the lead as they were outscored 16 – 5 in the final eight minutes. The tall Mountaineers, who featured a starting lineup averaging around 6' 3" including 6' 7" center Halen Lowman, upped their record to 7 -2 while the Indians fell to 6 – 3 in the non-district matchup.

Fort was once again hindered by lack of scoring outside their big three of Henry Gutshall, who led the Indians with 12, Tyreek Veney, who had 11, and Sam Garber, who pitched in 10. The rest of the FDHS team scored only three points in the low scoring tussle played in Alleghany's somewhat dark gym on a tiled floor.

Alleghany got on the board early with two quick baskets to go up 4 – 0 before Kaden Johnson made two free throws. Alleghany moved their lead up to 6 – 2 with a basket. FDHS went over four minutes without a field goal until Tyreek finally hit a three pointer to pull the Indians within one at 6 – 5. Alleghany responded with a three of its own to go up 9 – 5 then Sam hit a three for the Indians to make it 9 – 8 with 1:22 left. As he has done in all of Fort's games, Henry drew a charging foul but Sam's two free throws on Fort's insuing possession both rimmed out, leaving the score 9 – 8 after one.

Fort put some substitutes in to start the second half but the move backfired as Alleghany ran off six straight points to go up 15 – 8. Henry then snared an offensive rebound and scored. Tyreek's second three of the night got the Indians within two at 15 – 13. Alleghany responded with two free throws and a jumper to go back up 19 – 13 before Henry scored on an out-of-bound play with 3:34 left in the half. Again Henry picked up an offensive rebound and scored to pull the Indians within two at 19 – 17. Sam was fouled on a drive but managed only one of two free throws to keep Alleghany's lead at one, 19 – 18. With one minute to go in the half, Alleghany scored again to make it 21 – 18 which is the way the half ended.

The third quarter was a high spot for FDHS. After Alleghany hit a three to go up six, Sam hit another three pointer for the Indians. The Mountaineers got another bucket to go up 26 – 21. Sam then scored, was fouled, and converted the three point play to pull Fort within two. On the next trip down the court, Henry scored in the lane to tie the game at 26's with 1:42 to go in the quarter. Henry's low post play against the tall Mountaineers was superb and he gave the Indians their first lead at 28 – 26 with a nice spin shot in the lane. Tyreek followed that up with another three pointer to give the Indians their largest lead of the night, 31 – 26. Alleghany scored at the buzzer to make it 31 – 28 at the end of the third period.

Unfortunately, the fourth quarter brought cold shooting and some sloppy ball handling to the Indians. After Alleghany scored to pull within one at 31 – 30, Gio Armendariz Cruz hit one of two free throws to give Fort a two point advantage. That advantage quickly disappeared as Alleghany scored the next six points including an easy layup after a bad FDHS pass. Henry

drove down the lane to get the Indians within two at 36 – 34 but Alleghany responded with a three pointer to go up 39 – 34 with 3:06 to go. Neither team could score in the next minute and a half until Tyreek’s deuce got the Indians within three at 39 – 36. Fort was forced to foul in the last minute and Alleghany buried both shots of the one-and-one with 53.9 seconds to go. Another errant pass from Fort’s guards gave Alleghany an easy bunny, plus a free throw on the shot, to go up 44 – 36 which is how the game ended.

Fort’s defense looked good against the tall Mountaineers but the offense continues to struggle. For the second game in a row, free throw shooting was subpar as was the field goal percentage.

FDHS returns to action on Friday, January 6, with a district contest against Riverheads.

Fort’s Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	1-2	1
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Kaden Johnson	0	0	2-2	2
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	2	2-5	10
Tyreek Veney	1	3	0-2	11
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	6	0	0-0	12
TOTAL	8	5	5-11	36

Alleghany’s Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Xzavier Hayslett	3	1	0-2	9
Eli Entsminger	1	1	0-0	5
Garrett Via	0	0	0-0	0
Anthony Webb	0	0	0-0	0
Christopher Harden	4	0	1-1	9
Chase Depriest	0	0	0-0	0
Siemien Brown	0	0	0-0	0
Davien Moore	2	0	0-0	4
Ryan Cole	0	1	0-0	3
Hunter Depriest	1	0	0-0	2
Halen Lowman	4	0	4-4	12
TOTAL	15	3	5-7	44

Here's an article about the game which appeared in the Waynesboro NewsVirginian: