

FDHS Suffers Heartbreaking Double Overtime Loss to Alleghany

Fort Defiance's Boys Basketball team suffered their first loss of the season on December 7 as Alleghany High School pulled out a 66 – 64 double overtime victory over the Indians. After another poor shooting first half, FDHS battled back to make the second half and both overtimes a see-saw battle. In the end, AHS's Chase DePriest bombed in a three pointer with 4.2 seconds remaining in the second overtime to give the Mountaineers the win.

Fort has nothing to be ashamed of in this loss. The Indians again battled back from a ten point deficit to take the lead in the second half. Going against a team that had only one player on its roster shorter than 6 feet tall, FDHS rebounded well and almost pulled out its second consecutive come-from-behind victory. The Indians battled a team which shot the ball well; the Mountaineers made seven three-point shots while Fort only made three.

Tyreek Veney had another monster game, scoring 28 points. Sam Garber had his best night of the season thus far with 18 and Henry Gutshall pitched in 12. Only two other players scored for the Indians and Tyreek, Sam, and Henry had all of Fort's field goals in the exhausting game.

The first quarter did not start well for Fort Defiance. After Alleghany opened the scoring, Tyreek hit a three pointer to give Fort a 3 – 2 lead. Henry drew the first of three offensive fouls he collected for the game but Kaden Johnson's three pointers wouldn't drop while Alleghany hit two to give them a 8 – 3 lead with 4:08 to go. Another three point play pushed their lead to 11 – 3 with 2:30 to go before Henry hit one of two free throws. Alleghany extended their lead to 14 – 4 before Henry buried two more free throws, followed by Tyreek's deuce on a drive to get the Indians within 6 at 14 – 8. Alleghany's field goal as time expired in the quarter gave them a commanding 16 – 8 lead after the first period.

The lead quickly went back to ten to start the second quarter before Tyreek found Henry open to get the Indians back within 8. Alleghany went back up 20 – 10 but Sam buried a three pointer from the top of the key to make it 20 – 13. Alleghany answered with a three of its own to make it 23 – 13. Henry then popped in a jumper from the foul line and Tyreek followed with another driving bucket to make it 23 – 17 but Alleghany answered to go back up by ten at 27 – 17. Tyreek's layup helped the cause as did Sam's jumper from the foul line but the half ended with AHS having a 28 – 21 lead.

Fort was plagued by poor shooting throughout the first half again. But against the Mountaineers who had a 6'6", 6'5", 6'4", and two 6'3" players on their team the Indians rebounded well. Alleghany's big 6'6" post player Halen Lowman was held to zero points.

Like their previous game against Turner Ashby, the third quarter was better for FDHS. AHS opened the quarter with a field goal before Tyreek's runner in the lane made it 30 – 23. Sam's three pointer with 5:32 to go pulled the Indians within four. On Fort's next possession, Tyreek took a nice feed from Henry to score in close. He then drew an offensive foul on Alleghany's next possession. Sam's drive knotted the score at 30's with 4:36 to go. Fort then took advantage

of a flagrant foul called against Alleghany's Eli Entsminger, with Jack's two free throws giving Fort the lead at 32 – 30, completing an eleven point run for the Indians. Alleghany responded with a field goal to tie the score before Tyreek's drive put Fort back up, 34 – 32. After Alleghany tied the score, Kaden hit two free throws but Alleghany hit two of four free throws to tie the score again with 1:44 left. Henry hit one of two from the charity stripe to give the Indians a 37 – 36 lead but, down the stretch in the third quarter, turnovers by Fort's underclassmen guards hurt the cause. Tyreek scored again on a layup but Alleghany hit another three pointer to take the lead at 42 – 40 at the end of the quarter.

Sam took a pass from Henry and tied the score to open the fourth quarter. Alleghany regained the lead at 44 – 42 but two consecutive drives by Tyreek, one after he made a nice steal, gave Fort a 46 – 44 advantage. With 5:30 to go, Henry scored on a nice drive to give the Indians a four point cushion but Alleghany quickly answered with two. Sam scored in close to make it 50 – 46. But Alleghany roared back to tie it with 2:06 to go. Both teams then missed free throws and open shots that would have given their teams the lead. With 22.9 seconds to go, Sam rebounded a AHS miss and FDHS called time out. Tyreek was fouled, giving him two shots with 3.9 seconds to go and the score tied, but his two free throws wouldn't drop so the quarter ended with a 50 – 50 tie.

To start the first overtime, Henry scored on a nice spinner then he intercepted a pass. Tyreek's deuce gave Fort a 54 – 50 lead with 3:07 to go but they couldn't hang onto it as Alleghany's Anthony Webb hit two consecutive three pointers to give the Mountaineers a 56 – 54 advantage. Henry drew another charging foul with 34 seconds left and fed Tyreek who was fouled. This time his free throws were on the mark so the score was tied 56 all with 19 seconds remaining in the overtime. The Mountaineers held for the final shot but they missed as the teams headed for a second overtime.

Sam's 15 footer gave FD the lead in the second overtime, 58 – 56. By this time, he was exhausted and fighting leg cramps. Meanwhile, Alleghany tied the score but Jack's two free throws gave Fort a 60 – 58 lead. Alleghany scored to tie the score then hit one of two free throws to take a 61 – 60 lead. Sam returned to the game and hit a layup with 1:03 to go to give the Indians a 62 – 61 lead. Alleghany's Entsminger scored to return the lead to the Mountaineers but Tyreek's two pointer gave the Indians a 64 – 63 lead. Alleghany was able to pull out the victory with a three point dagger by DePriest, his only bucket of the game, with 4.2 seconds to go. Fort's last chance came down to a drive by Kaden but the shot was blocked. Alleghany had won the marathon, 66 – 64.

Fort returns to action at Rockbridge on Friday night.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	0-0	0
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Kaden Johnson	0	0	2-2	2
Sam Garber	6	2	0-0	18
Tyreek Veney	10	1	5-9	28
Jack Liskey	0	0	4-4	4
Henry Gutshall	4	0	4-6	12
TOTAL	20	3	15-21	64

Alleghany's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Xzavier Hayslett	6	2	6-9	24
Eli Entsminger	5	0	2-5	12
Garrett Via	0	0	0-0	0
Anthony Webb	1	4	0-0	14
Christopher Haden	3	0	1-2	7
Tyler Jackson	0	0	0-0	0
Chase DePriest	1	0	0-0	3
Ryan Cole	2	0	0-1	4
Hunter DePriest	0	1	0-0	2
Halen Lowman	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	18	7	9-17	66

The following short article appeared in the Daily News Record:

Alleghany County 66, Fort Defiance 64: Inside Don Landes Gymnasium, guard Tyreek Veney scored a season-high 28 points but it wasn't enough as Fort Defiance suffered its first loss of the year in a double-overtime non-district setback at the hands of Alleghany County.

Samuel Garber added 18 points for the Indians (2-1) while Henry Gutshall finished with 12.

Alleghany County 16 12 14 8 6 10 — 66

Fort Defiance 8 12 19 10 6 8 — 64

ALLEGHANY COUNTY (66) — Hayslett 8 6-9 24, Entsminger 5 2-5 12, Via 0 0-0 0, Webb 5 0-0 14, Harden 3 1-2 7, Jackson 0 0-0 0, C. DePriest 1 0-0 3, Cole 2 0-1 4, H. DePriest 1 0-0 2, Lowman 0 0-0 0. Totals 25 9-17 66.

FORT DEFIANCE (64) — Cruz 0 0-0 0, Hebb 0 0-0 0, Johnson 0 2-2 2, Garber 8 0-0 18, Patterson 0-0 0, Veney 11 5-9 28, Jones 0 0-0 0, Liskey 0 4-4 4, Gutshall 4 4-6 12. Totals 23 15-21 64.

3-Point Goals — Alleghany County 7 (Webb 4, Hayslett 2, C. DePriest), Fort Defiance 3 (Garber 2, Veney).