

## **FDHS Downs Rockbridge 48 - 42**

Tyreek Veney celebrated his birthday on December 9 by scoring 26 points in a 48 - 42 victory for the Fort Defiance High School's Boys Varsity Basketball team over Rockbridge High School at RHS. It was the second time this season that the Indians had beaten the taller Wildcats. The win pushed their season record to 3 - 1.

The rematch was starkly similar to the first time these two teams sparred with the Wildcats taking a first quarter lead only to see the Indians rally in the second quarter. After Jack Liskey drew a charging foul on Rockbridge's first possession, Henry Gutshall's left hander gave the Indians a 2 - 0 lead. Tyreek then bombed in a three pointer to give the Indians a 5 - 0 opening. RHS came back with two free throws by Matthew Burkhart then Jack's driving layup pushed the lead to 7 - 2 with 5:10 to go in the quarter then Tyreek added a drive to make it 9 - 2 with 4:16 to go. Coach Brandon Fulk then substituted for Henry and Jack but this strategy backfired. The Indians went stone cold, not scoring for the remainder of the quarter. Meanwhile, Rockbridge, which had missed all of its field goals to this point, warmed up and scored on four driving shots to take a 10 - 9 lead. During this stretch, Fort had several uncharacteristic turnovers.

Tyreek's in-close jumper returned the lead to the Indians to open the second quarter. Henry then found Sam open underneath to push the lead to three, 13 - 10. Henry then tipped in a Tyreek miss to make it 15 - 10. A few plays later, Henry's good defensive position allowed him to pick up another charging foul. Both teams shot themselves in the foot with several turnovers during this stretch. With 4:18 to go, Rockbridge's three pointer got them back within two, 15 - 13. Tyreek answered with a three of his own to make it 18 - 13. Three RHS free throws made it 18 - 16. Henry was fouled while shooting on an out-of-bounds play and he swished both free throws to push the lead to 20 - 16 with 2:16 to go. A defensive lapse allowed Rockbridge to get an easy bucket underneath pulling them within two. On the next possession, Jack was fouled and made one of two free throws. The half ended with a 21 - 18 advantage for FDHS.

Tyreek's two runners, one from each side of the court, opened the scoring in the second half and gave Fort a 25 - 18 cushion with 6:51 to go before Rockbridge called timeout. After a Rockbridge turnover, he then made one of two free throws. RHS answered with an offensive rebound put-back to get within five at 26 - 20 with 4:48 to go. Tyreek again had the answer for Fort with another driving layup to make it 28 - 20 before RHS countered with a three pointer. Tyreek continued his barrage with another three pointer. RHS rebounded a missed trey with a score to make it 31 - 25 with 3:10 to go. With FDHS now in a zone defense, Rockbridge hit a jumper to close it to 31 - 27. A Fort turnover gave RHS a chance to get closer but they were unable to do so. On Fort's next possession, Henry was left open from the top of the key and he banged in a three pointer to make it 34 - 27. Both teams had trouble scoring for the rest of the quarter and it ended with Fort maintaining its seven point lead.

The fourth quarter the score tightened as Rockbridge hit a three pointer to pull within four, 34 - 30. With 5:58 to go, another three pointer got them within one. A FDHS turnover gave them a chance to take the lead but they were off the mark on two consecutive trips down the floor. Fort's cold streak was snapped by Tyreek with a three pointer to help the Indians' cause. Sam Garber took a nice pass from Henry and was fouled on his shot. His two free throws made it 39 -

33 FDHS with 4:00 to go. Tyreek's runner was off the mark but he got his own rebound and was fouled. His two free throws increased the lead to eight at 41 - 33 but a bad turnover gave Rockbridge an easy layup. Fort called timeout with 2:26 to go, nursing a 41 - 36 lead. Again Sam took a feed from Henry and was fouled on his drive. He hit one of two free throws so FDHS led 42 - 35 with 2:17 to go. After missing three shots on its next possession, RHS fouled Jack who hit both shots on the one-and-one. Burkhart then scored in close to make it 44 - 37. FDHS went into its stall offense which forced Rockbridge to foul. They fouled Kaden Johnson who knocked in both free throws. Rockbridge wasn't done, though, as they swished another three pointer making it 46 - 40 with 37.2 seconds left. They were forced to foul again and this time it was Tyreek who hit one of two from the charity stripe giving Fort a comfortable seven point lead. Tyreek then picked up his fourth foul with 25.1 seconds to go as RHS hit both free throws. Sam finished the scoring for the night, making one of two foul shots, leaving the final score 48 - 42 in favor of the Indians.

Tyreek's 26 points, including ten in the third quarter, pushed his season average to 22.5 ppg. Henry added nine, Sam Garber six, and Jack five. Rockbridge was led by Burkhart and Keaton Owsley with 12 and 11 points, respectively. Fort did a good job with its stingy man-to-man defense, switching well and limiting Rockbridge to a very poor shooting percentage. Fort's shooting was less than spectacular, also, but good enough to get the job done.

Fort plays Tuesday night at Broadway High School.

**Fort's Box Score:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>2 Pt Goals</b>	<b>3 Pt Goals</b>	<b>Free Throws</b>	<b>Total</b>
Gio Armendariz Cruz	0	0	0-2	0
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	2
Kaden Johnson	0	0	2-2	2
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	0	4-6	6
Tyreek Veney	5	4	4-6	26
Jack Liskey	1	0	3-4	5
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	2	1	2-2	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15-22</b>	<b>48</b>

**Rockbridge's Box Score:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>2 Pt Goals</b>	<b>3 Pt Goals</b>	<b>Free Throws</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brandon Mays	3	0	0-0	6
Lincoln Hundley	0	1	0-0	3
Andreas Poindexter	1	0	0-0	2
Matthew Burkhart	2	2	2-2	12

Henry Lambert	0	1	0-0	3
Keaton Owsley	3	0	5-6	11
Tucker Entsminger	0	1	0-0	3
Davonde Stores	0	0	0-0	0
Milo Mulitalo	1	0	0-0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7-8</b>	<b>42</b>

The following short article is from the Daily News Record:

**Fort Defiance 48, Rockbridge County 42:** In Lexington, Tyreek Veney exploded for 26 points to carry Fort Defiance to a non-district win over Rockbridge County on Friday.

Henry Gutshall added nine points for the Indians (3-1) in the bounce-back victory while Samuel Garber chipped in with six points and Jack Liskey was also solid with five points

Although the struggles continued for the Wildcats (0-4), Matthew Burkhart impressed with a team-high 12 points while Keaton Owsley added 11 and Brandon Mays finished with six.

Fort Defiance 9 12 13 14 — 48

Rockbridge County 10 8 9 15 — 42

FORT DEFIANCE (48) — Cruz 0 0-2 0, Hebb 0 0-0 0, Johnson 0 2-2 2, Garber 1 4-6 6, Patterson 0 0-0 0, Veney 9 4-6 26, Jones 0 0-0 0, Liskey 1 3-4 5, Alexander 0 0-0 0, Gutshall 3 2-2 9. Totals 14 15-22 48.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY (42) — Mays 3 0-0 6, Hundley 1 0-0 3, Poindexter 1 0-0 2, Burkhart 4 2-2 12, Lambert 1 0-0 3, Owsley 3 5-6 11, Entsminger 1 0-0 2, Jay 0 0-0 0, Stores 0 0-0 0, Muliato 1 0-0 2. Totals 15 7-8 42.

3-Point Goals — Fort Defiance 5 (Veney 4, Gutshall), Rockbridge County 5 (Burkhart 2, Hundley, Lambert, Entsminger).