

FDHS JV's Win Rematch with Rockbridge

Fort Defiance High School's Boys Junior Varsity Basketball team got revenge for its season-opening nineteen point defeat to the Rockbridge Wildcats with a 43 - 34 win at Rockbridge on December 9.

It took over three minutes for either team to score in the opening quarter. After a rash of turnovers and missed shots by both squads, Tripp Hanger blasted a three pointer from the wing on an out-of-bounds play to open the scoring for the Indians. His second three point shot with 3:12 to go made it 6 - 0 FDHS. It took Rockbridge almost six minutes to get its first bucket. With 1:06 to go, Carter Berry scored in close. A RHS three pointer cut the lead to 8 - 5. As time expired in the quarter, RHS was fouled on a layup attempt but managed only one of two free throws, leaving the score FDHS 8, RHS 6, after one quarter.

Rhylan Martin got Fort's scoring going to start the second quarter with a 12' jump shot, making it 10 - 6. Rockbridge scored on a drive after a FDHS miss. Both teams struggled to get the ball in the hoop for the next few minutes until Tripp drained his third three pointer of the night to make it 13 - 8 in favor of the Indians. RHS made one free throw to get within four at 13 - 9. After a FD turnover, a RHS drive made it 13 - 11 with 2:45 to go. Another Fort turnover and a basket by RHS knotted the score at 13's with 2:14 to go. FDHS then turned the ball over on four consecutive trips down the court. A RHS bucket gave them their first lead of the game, 15 - 13 before Evan Braun evened the score with a close-in jumper. That's the way it ended at the half.

The second half went better for the JV's. Carter took the ball on Fort's first possession and fed Evan underneath with a nice pass to make it 17 - 15 but RHS answered right back. Jasigh Ransome scored on a runner down the lane but again the Wildcats evened it at 19 each with 5:43 to go. Isaac Marshall, who had been held scoreless in the first half, got a three to drop from the corner but RHS got a field goal to make it 22 - 21 with 4:49 to go. A minute later, Tripp banked in his fourth trey. On the next possession, he was fouled on a drive. He made both free throws to give Fort a six point cushion. Rockbridge answered with a three of their own before Carter again made a nice pass to Evan who laid it in for a 29 - 24 advantage. Tripp took a nice pass from Carter and scored to make it 31 - 24 before RHS hit a three pointer. On the next possession, Carter scored on a layup and was fouled. His three point play made it 34 - 27 with 1:19 to go. Carter again scored on a drive to make it 36 - 27. Curiously, the RHS scoreboard had the score as 37 - 27 though the video of the game shows the score should have been 36 - 27 at this point.

To start the fourth quarter, Fort was unable to connect on several attempts from the field. Meanwhile, Rockbridge hit two free throws to make it 36 - 29. A layup after a missed shot made it 36 - 31. After going over four minutes without scoring in the quarter, Jasigh hit both ends of the one-and-one to make it 38 - 31 with 2:05 to go. Again he was fouled and made his free throws to up the lead to 40 - 31. Despite several ball handling mistakes in the last 90 seconds, the JV's were able to hold on for the win. Carter added to Fort's scoring with a free throw with a minute to go. RHS was able to get a three pointer in the last minute and Evan found the range in close so the final score was 43 - 34. The scoreboard was never corrected and showed FDHS as winning by ten.

Tripp led the Indians with 16 points. They played without the services of Gus Gutshall whose sprained ankle kept him out for the second game in a row. Gus hopes to return to the court for the next game which will be Tuesday at Broadway High School.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Evan Braun	4	0	0-0	8
Isaac Marshall	0	1	0-0	3
Carter Berry	3	0	2-3	8
Rhylan Martin	1	0	0-0	2
Tripp Hanger	1	4	2-5	16
Jasigh Ransome	1	0	4-4	6
TOTAL	10	5	8-12	43