

## **Strong Fourth Quarter Propels Fort Defiance past Stuarts Draft, 50 - 45**

The Fort Defiance Indians came from five down going into the fourth quarter to overtake the Stuarts Draft Cougars 50 – 45 on January 20 in the FDHS gym. The win improves Fort’s season record to 9 – 6 overall, 4 – 2 in the Shenandoah District.

FDHS struggled to get the ball in the basket the entire night as no player had a particularly good shooting night. For the third game in a row, Gio Armendariz Cruz was on crutches. Fort’s big three: Tyreek Veney, Henry Gutshall, and Sam Garber again came through when they were needed. The trio scored 47 of the Indians’ 50 points. Tyreek had 23, Henry 13, and Sam 11. Henry and Tyreek both were in foul trouble much of the night and when one or more of them was on the bench, scoring was tough for the Indians.

Henry opened the game with a left handed bank shot but Draft quickly scored to tie the game. They then hit a three pointer and a deuce to go up 7 – 2 before Tyreek drove in the lane for two with 4:27 to go in the first. Draft hit another three pointer to extend their lead to 10 – 4 but Henry fed Sam with a nice pass to make it 10 – 6. Tyreek then hit two free throws to make it 10 – 8. As he has done often in the past two seasons, Henry then drew a charging foul on a Draft player and Tyreek acrobatically hit a jumper on a drive to knot the score at 10’s. Another Draft three pointer gave them a 13 – 10 lead but Tyreek hit two free throws with 1:58 to go in the quarter to get Fort back within one. His jumper then gave FD the lead again at 14 – 13. Bradley Hebb hit one of two free throws to give the home team a 15 – 13 advantage with 1:07 to go but the Cougars tied the score at 15’s at the end of the period.

Fort had some trouble with ball handling to open the second quarter and soon found themselves down 19 – 15. Sam banged in a three pointer to make it 19 – 18. Draft then scored to go up 21 – 18 but Sam again hit a trey from the top of the key to tie the score at 21 – 21. Fort then went on a dry spell while Stuarts Draft scored the next eight points to go up 29 – 21. Tyreek drove in for a layup, scored, and was fouled. His free throw got the Indians closer at 29 – 24. Draft then combined a field goal and a free throw to go up 32 – 24, their biggest lead of the night, but Henry picked up an offensive rebound and scored to make the score 32 – 26 which is how the half ended.

The third quarter saw Henry take charge. On an assist from Sam, he scored to pull Fort within four at 32 – 28. Sam hit one of two free throws, then Henry again used his left hand to bank home a winner. Henry then fed Sam with one of the nicest assists of the evening which gave Fort the lead again at 33 – 32. After a Draft three gave them the lead back, Henry again hit a jumper to tie the score at 35 – 35 with 3:01 to go. Fort then got ice cold and didn’t score the remainder of the quarter. Meanwhile, Draft hit a three pointer and a field goal to go up 40 – 35 at the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter was a nail biter. Tyreek’s two pointer got the Indians back within three at 40 – 37. Kaden hit one of two free throws to make it a two point game but with 5:03 Henry picked up his fourth foul and had to sit. Draft hit a free throw to go up 41 – 38 but Tyreek’s crucial

three pointer tied the game at 41's with 3:01 to go. Henry finally got back in with 2:28 to go and it turned out to be just what Fort needed.

Henry, playing with four fouls, took a pass near the foul line and drove down the left hand side for a basket. He was fouled on the play and he zipped his free throw to give FDHS a 44 – 41 lead. Draft fought back, scoring a basket in the paint to pull within one at 44 – 43. Then, after Tyreek missed the front end of a one-and-one, Draft scored to retake the lead at 45 – 44 with 41 seconds left. After a Fort steal, Tyreek drove for two, was fouled, and hit his three point play to give the Indians the lead at 47 – 45. Fort grabbed the rebound off a Draft miss and Bradley Hebb was fouled. He hit the front end of the one-and-one but missed his second. Tyreek skied to grab the missed shot and was fouled. He hit both of his free throws with 8.8 seconds left, giving FDHS six points in the final 41 seconds to make the final score 50 – 45.

The win was badly needed by Fort after its loss to Staunton on Tuesday night. Staunton and Wilson lead the District, each with 5 – 1 records. Fort is in third at 4 – 2 and Buffalo Gap comes in next at 3 – 3.

FDHS is back in action at home next week with back-to-back games against Buffalo Gap and Monticello.

#### **Fort's Box Score:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>2 Pt Goals</b>	<b>3 Pt Goals</b>	<b>Free Throws</b>	<b>Total</b>
Kaden Johnson	0	0	1-3	3
Bradley Hebb	0	0	2-4	5
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	2	2	1-2	11
Tyreek Veney	6	1	8-9	23
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	1-1	13
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Fink	0	0	0-0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13 - 19</b>	<b>50</b>

#### **Stuart Draft's Box Score:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>2 Pt Goals</b>	<b>3 Pt Goals</b>	<b>Free Throws</b>	<b>Total</b>
Thomas Clements	0	0	0-0	0
Colin Graham	0	0	0-0	0
Derrick Moore	0	0	0-0	0
Harley Frame	1	2	1-4	9
Ryan Ramsey	0	1	0-0	3

Trent Cote	0	0	0-0	0
Landon Graber	3	2	0-0	12
Donovan Jenkins	6	0	2-4	14
Christian Moats	2	1	0-0	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3-8</b>	<b>45</b>