

Buffalo Gap Nips Fort Defiance 32 – 29

Buffalo Gap used a strong third quarter to take the lead and held off frigid shooting Fort Defiance on January 24 on the Indians home court, 32 - 29. The low scoring tussle was not so much because of great defense but due to the fact that neither team shot the ball well. The loss puts Fort's record at 9 – 7, 4 – 3 in the Shenandoah District. Gap's record improved to 3 – 4 in the District.

Gap's win means these two teams split during the regular season as FDHS won the first meeting, 58 – 55. But this game was much unlike the first matchup as Fort went out to an early lead but lost their advantage with missed shot after missed shot. No one on Fort's team shot the ball well. Their field goal percentage was unavailable but it had to be under 20% for the game. In their first meeting, Tyreek alone scored 37. Tonight the entire team could only muster 29.

Tyreek's two free throws opened the scoring for FDHS. Bradley Hebb scored in close to make it 4 – 0 then Tyreek flew down the lane for two more to give the home team a 6 – 0 lead before Buffalo Gap got on the board. With the score 6 – 2, Henry Gutshall found the range from the left hand side of the rim to make the score 8 – 2 with 4:10 to go in the quarter. Tyreek then found Sam Garber open underneath for a bucket to push the lead to eight at 10 – 2. Gap hit a free throw then buried a three pointer late in the quarter to leave the score at 10 – 6 after one period.

Both teams went stone cold to start the second. Neither team scored for the first two and one half minutes before Gap hit two successive field goals to tie the score at 10 – 10 with 3:30 to go. Tyreek then rained in a three pointer then he found Del Ray Jones wide open under the basket for two to give Fort a 15 – 10 lead. Fort's ball and time management was not good down the stretch of the second period, allowing BGHS to close to 15 – 14 at the half.

The third quarter was miserable for the Indians. Gap opened with a field goal to take their first lead of the game at 16 – 15. After Henry took the first of three charging fouls on the defensive side, Tyreek hit a three to return the lead to Fort at 18 – 16. BGHS tied the score then Tyreek hit two free throws to give Fort a 20 – 18 lead, its last lead of the game. Gap ran off seven straight points to go up 25 – 20. Gio Armendariz Cruz, playing his first game back after his knee injury, scored in close to make it 25 – 22. Gap scored again to make the lead 27 – 22. Henry took another charging foul but then he picked up his third personal, causing him to have to sit. Sam also was in foul trouble much of the night for Fort Defiance. The quarter ended with the home team still down five, 27 – 22.

Tyreek drove for two early in the fourth quarter to make it 27 – 24. Henry then drew his third charging foul of the night. After a Buffalo Gap free throw gave them a four point lead, 28 – 24, Henry grabbed an offensive rebound, scored, and was fouled. He hit his free throw to pull the Indians within one, 28 – 27 with 4:30 to go.

Just when the home team thought they might get back in this one, their shooting abandoned them and Henry and Sam both picked up their fourth fouls. Henry's fourth came with 4:09 to go and he was benched from that point until 27.9 seconds left. Both teams struggled to score in the last four minutes. Sam and Tyreek both missed potential go-ahead shots. Then, with 3:05 to go, Del

Ray missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw. On Fort's next possession, Sam was fouled shooting a three pointer but he missed all three of his free throws with 2:32 to go. Gio was next to miss from the field with 2:09 left. Gap held the ball at that point. At 1:12 a Gap player fell and walked but the violation wasn't called by the referees. The score remained 28 – 27 but Gap found Micah Canterbury, who led the Bison with 11, wide open for an easy bucket, making the score 30 – 27 with 54 seconds to go. Sam missed again on a three point attempt with 31 seconds remaining. After Gap missed the front end of a one-and-one, Kaden Johnson found the range in the paint to get Fort back within one at 30 – 29 with 19 seconds left, but the Indians had to foul. Buffalo Gap's Jackson Laporte hit both ends of his one-and-one to give Gap a 32 – 29 lead with 13.3 seconds left. Fort held for the last shot but Tyreek's three point attempt was well off the mark.

Tyreek led the Indians with 14 points. Henry scored five but no other FDHS player scored more than two. Fort's defense and rebounding were solid against the Bison. Bennett Bowers was held to only 10 points. But, in order for them to get back on the winning track, they must shoot the ball better. And, their stellar players Henry and Sam need to be on the court instead of the bench.

Fort is scheduled to host Monticello tomorrow night but the weather forecast is ominous. School has already been called off for tomorrow in Augusta County due to the forecast.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	1	0	0-0	2
Bradley Hebb	1	0	0-0	2
Kaden Johnson	1	0	0-0	2
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	0	0-3	2
Tyreek Veney	2	2	4-4	14
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	1	0	0-1	2
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	2	0	1-1	5
TOTAL	9	2	5-9	29

Buffalo Gap's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Donald Strother	0	1	0-1	3
Bennett Bowers	3	1	1-2	10
Kasey Fitzgerald	0	0	0-0	0
Gary Logan Hewitt	0	0	0-0	0
Wesley Gray	0	0	0-0	0
Blake Robertson	1	0	0-0	2

Micah Canterbury	5	0	1-3	11
Jackson LaPorte	2	0	2-2	6
Tyler Hohenstein	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	11	2	4-8	32