

Fort Defiance Rolls Over Monticello 59 - 46

The Fort Defiance Indians made it a sweep of the matchup with Monticello on January 26 with a 59 - 46 drubbing of the Mustangs in the Don Landes gym. The Indians built up a twenty point lead by the beginning of the third quarter and held off a late charge by MHS to pick up their tenth victory of the year. Fort's record is now 10 - 7, 4 - 3 in the Shenandoah District.

As usual, Fort was led their big three: Tyreek Veney had 19, Henry Gutshall 12, and Sam Garber 11. Gio Armendariz Cruz had eight and Kaden Johnson five for FDHS. Ben Guise led the Mustangs with 12.

Gio opened the scoring for FDHS after taking a nice pass from Tyreek. Monticello tied the game at 2's. After two FDHS turnovers, Tyreek stole the ball took it the distance to make it 4 - 2 with 5:54 to go. The Mustangs tied the score but Sam untied it with a three pointer from the top of the key. Monticello got a field goal to pull within one then Gio scored again in the paint to make it 9 - 6 with 3:47 to go. MHS then scored two quick field goals to take their only lead of the game at 10 - 9 with 2:57 to go. Tyreek's trey put Fort back on top, 12 - 10. Monticello then hit two free throws to tie it at 12's with 1:31 left in the quarter. Sam's three pointer out of the corner gave FDHS a 15 - 12 lead then Tyreek swished two free throws to make it 17 - 12. Monticello's two free throws closed out the quarter's scoring with the Indians taking a 17 - 14 lead at that point.

The second quarter proved to be much to the Indians' liking. Henry, who had been quiet up to that point, buried a three pointer to open the period. Then he was fouled and hit both of his free throws to make it 22 - 14. MHS got a free throw then Tyreek stroked in another three pointer to make it 25 - 15 with 5:50 to go. As he has done all season long, Henry's smart defense allowed him to pick up a charging foul on Monticello's next possession. He hit the front end of the ensuing one-and-one to make it 26 - 15. Tyreek then hit two free throws with 4:07 to go. Gio again scored on a drive in the paint to give Fort a commanding fifteen point lead at 30 - 15. Monticello broke out of their slump with a field goal and two foul shot to make it 30 - 19 before Kaden hit a three for the Indians. On the next possession, Del Ray Jones then found himself open in the corner for a three with 1:35 to go, leaving Fort in command at 36 - 19. Tyreek's two free throws with 45 seconds to go closed the half's scoring with Fort leading 38 - 19.

Both teams started slowly in the third quarter. The Mustangs got an early bucket but did FDHS didn't score until the 5:21 when Sam bombed in a three pointer from the corner. This gave the Indians their largest lead at 41 - 21. MHS then hit two consecutive three pointers to make it 41 - 27. Henry again came up with a momentum stopper for the Mustangs by taking his second charging foul with 4:03 to go. The Indians still weren't able to score and MHS closed to 41 - 29. At that point, Henry took a pass down low, spun to his left and used his left hand to give FDHS a 43 - 29 advantage. Two field goals for the visitors made it 43 - 33 with 1:05 to go. As time wound down in the quarter, Tyreek drove and made an acrobatic reverse layup at the buzzer to end the quarter with the home team leading 45 - 33.

Monticello continued chipping away at Fort's lead. A three pointer to start the final period left them down by nine at 45 - 36. Bradley Hebb then hit one of two free throws to make it 46 - 36

but the Mustangs again scored to make it 46 - 38. Fort's guards again turned the ball over, giving MHS a chance to get even closer and they did with a jumper to make it 46 - 40. On Fort's next possession, Henry took a pass near the foul line and found Gio open underneath for a great assist. This made it 48 - 40 but again the Fort guards' sloppy ball handling gave MHS an opening. With 3:43 to go, they closed within five, 48 - 43, with another three pointer. Tyreek hit one of two free throws to make it 49 - 43.

On a missed MHS field goal, Henry snared the rebound and was fouled. He calmly hit both ends of the one-and-one to push Fort's lead back to eight at 51 - 43. Another MHS trey returned the lead to only five at 51 - 46 with 2:00 to go. Unfortunately for the Mustangs, these were the last points they would score. Kaden hit both ends of his one-and-one with 1:12 to go to return the lead to seven. Henry's two free throws made it 55 - 46. Tyreek and Sam each had layups near the end to make the final score 59 - 46.

Henry had a particularly good game with zero turnovers, two charging fouls taken, several rebounds and assists, and 12 points including 7 for 8 from the free throw line and a three pointer. Tyreek also was 7 for 8 from the free throw line and had three field goals and two three point shots to his credit. Sam banged in three three-pointers and Del Ray and Kaden each had one.

The Fort Junior Varsity team did not play since this was a rescheduled game and was a non-District encounter. Both teams return to action on Tuesday night with a trip to Riverheads.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	4	0	0-1	8
Bradley Hebb	0	0	1-2	1
Kaden Johnson	0	1	2-2	5
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	1	3	0-0	11
Tyreek Veney	3	2	7-8	19
Jack Liskey	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	1	0-1	3
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	1	1	7-8	12
TOTAL	9	8	17-22	59

Monticello's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Ben Giese	3	2	0-0	12
Ben Ritterbrand	0	3	0-0	9
Esteban Newell	1	0	2-2	4

Joshua Walker	3	0	0-2	6
Teddy Matthews	0	0	0-0	0
Aaron Morgan	1	0	0-0	2
Spence Doherty	0	0	0-0	0
Jason Bittner	0	0	0-0	0
Jacob Messinger	1	0	1-2	3
Jayby Pour	2	0	2-2	6
Thomas White	1	0	0-0	2
Ezekiel Pour	0	0	2-2	2
TOTAL	12	5	7-10	46