

## Fort Defiance Gets Revenge with 63 – 31 Blowout of Riverheads

The Fort Defiance Indians made up for an early season loss to Riverheads with a 63 – 31 beat down of the Gladiators on January 31 on the Riverheads home court. In the first matchup, Riverheads hit 13 three pointers against the Indians zone defense but in tonight's game Fort switched to a man-to-man defense and limited the Gladiators to just five treys. Fort jumped out to a big first half lead and, after Riverheads made somewhat of a comeback in the third quarter, blew the Gladiators away with a 25 point fourth quarter. The win raised Fort's record to 11 – 7 for the season, 5 – 3 in the Shenandoah District. Riverheads dropped to 7 – 10, 2 – 7.

The Indians were led by Tyreek Veney's 21 points. Nine players scored for FDHS: Kaden Johnson had eight; Henry Gutshall, Jack Liskey, and Alphonzo Bruce each had six. Riverheads had no one in double figures.

The Gladiators took their only lead of the game, 3 – 0, in the opening minutes as Bennet Dunlap buried a three pointer. It turned out to be one of only two shots he made the entire night and the only points RHS would score the entire quarter. Henry got things going for FDHS with his characteristic drive down the left hand side of the paint. Tyreek then grabbed a loose ball and drove in for a layup to give the Indians a 4 – 3 advantage. Kaden then took a pass from Henry and smacked in a three pointer to make it 7 – 3. Del Ray Jones came off the bench to hit a three of his own to make it 10 – 3. Tyreek ended the first period with two free throws giving the visitors a 12 – 3 lead.

Carter Fink, who had not seen much action all season, got in to start the second quarter and immediately hit two jumpers in the paint. His first came on an assist from Sam Garber; his second on a nice pass from Gio Armendariz Cruz. Riverheads scored to make it 16 – 5 with 4:33 to go in the quarter but Tyreek bombed in a three pointer to make it 19 – 5. On Fort's next possession, Henry found him open again and Tyreek again knocked down the three to make it 22 – 5. With 1:55 to go in the quarter, Bradley Hebb hit two free throws. On Fort's next possession, he again found himself at the foul line and once again put both shots in to make it 26 – 5. Riverheads hit a three pointer to make it 26 – 8. With two seconds to go in the half, Henry took an inbounds pass near the bucket, spun to his left and lofted a soft hook which found paydirt as the buzzer sounded. Fort had run up a 20 point lead by halftime, 28 – 8.

Riverheads did not shoot well against the tight FDHS defense. They did manage to score to open the second half but Kaden scored on an assist from Tyreek to make it 30 – 10. Riverheads scored twice in succession to get the score to 30 – 14 but Henry's stickback after an offensive rebound made it 32 – 14. Sam then swished a three pointer from the top of the key. Riverheads got another field goal which made the score 35 – 16. After a RHS three pointer, Tyreek hit one of two free throws to make the score 38 – 19. Riverheads finished off their best quarter of the night with another three pointer so the score after three periods was 38 – 22.

The fourth quarter was loaded with scoring for the visitors. Riverheads scored first to close within fourteen at 38 – 24. Then Kaden hit his second three pointer of the night, followed by

Sam's two in close and another trey from Tyreek to give FD a 46 – 24 lead with 6:04 to go. Riverheads scored to make it 46 – 26 then Tyreek snared an offensive rebound, scored, and was fouled. He completed the three point play with 4:48 to go. On Fort's next time down the court, he was fouled and he hit both free throws to make the score 51 – 26. Jack hit one of two free throws to increase the lead to 52 – 26. Riverheads hit another three to make it 52 – 29. Jack scored on a nice drive then he hit a three pointer to make it 57 – 29. The rest of the scoring for Fort came in the final minute and it all came from Alphonzo.

Alphonzo had not scored all season. In 2021-22 he scored only three points. But in one minute in this game he went 3 – 3 from the field and scored six points. His outburst brought loud accolades from his teammates.

Riverheads did manage to get one last field goal before Alphonzo ended the scoring at 63 – 31. The Indians had very satisfying smiles on their faces as they shook hands with the Gladiators after the final buzzer.

Next up for the varsity is a rematch against the team currently in second place in the District, Wilson Memorial, on Friday night. The Indians are now in third place.

#### **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	0-0	0
Bradley Hebb	0	0	4-4	4
Carter Fink	2	0	0-0	4
Kaden Johnson	1	2	0-0	8
Sam Garber	1	1	0-0	5
Tyreek Veney	3	3	6-7	21
Jack Liskey	1	1	1-2	6
Del Ray Jones	0	1	0-0	3
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	3	0	0-0	6
Alphonzo Bruce	3	0	0-1	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11-14</b>	<b>63</b>

#### **Riverhead's Box Score:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>2 Pt Goals</b>	<b>3 Pt Goals</b>	<b>Free Throws</b>	<b>Total</b>
Gabe Milo	2	0	0-1	4
J.P. Crawford	2	0	0-0	4
William Gardner	0	3	0-0	9
Carter Mooneyham	2	0	0-0	4
Henley Dunlap	0	0	0-0	0
Chris Brooks	1	0	0-0	2

Aden Slack	1	0	0-0	2
Bennett Dunlap	0	2	0-0	6
Jackson Brammer	0	0	0-0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>31</b>