

Indian JV's Rally in Final Minutes to Nip Wilson 42 - 41

The Fort Defiance JV team used a late fourth quarter spurt to pull out a come-from-behind win over the homestanding Wilson Memorial squad, 42 – 41, on February 3. The Indians found themselves down 36 – 26 late in the third quarter and were behind six, 41 – 35, with just over a minute to go. But Evan Braun scored five points in the last 75 seconds and Jasigh Ransome hit an acrobatic, highly contested layup with just 12 seconds to put the Indians ahead, 42 – 41. Wilson's shot at the buzzer was off target, enabling FDHS to extend their record to 12 – 6, 8 – 1 in the Shenandoah District.

The game started poorly for Fort. After Wilson scored on a layup off the opening tip, the Indians committed two consecutive turnovers. Jasigh's drive evened the score at 2 – 2. Evan hit two free throws to make it 4 – 2 in favor of the visitors but Wilson tied it up with two free throws. Evan and Carter Berry each hit in the paint to give Fort a 8 – 4 lead. Wilson came back to 8 – 6 but Gus Gutshall's bucket in close gave Fort a 10 – 6 lead after one period.

The next two quarters were not good ones for FDHS. The second quarter started off with Wilson tying the game with a basket and two free throws. Gus then scored again inside and Rhyland Martin's jumper gave Fort a 14 – 10 lead but Wilson hit two three pointers to take a 16 – 14 lead. Gus again answered with a soft touch in the lane to tie the score. Wilson went back up 18 – 16 but Rhyland scored on a nice drive to tie the score at 18's with 3:17 to go. It was all Wilson for the remainder of the quarter, aided by two more turnovers by the Indians. Their two baskets gave them a 22 – 18 lead going into halftime.

Evan scored to start the second half, getting the Indians within two, but Wilson ran off the next four points to go up 26 – 20. Isaac Marshall scored off a drive but Wilson answered with a three pointer to go up 29 – 22 with 4:17 left in the third. The Green Hornets pushed their lead to 31 – 22 until Evan canned a jumper to make it 31 – 24. Wilson scored again and led by nine with 2:23 to go. Rhyland then hit a twisting layup. He was fouled on the shot but missed his free throw. Wilson then buried a three pointer giving them a huge ten point lead, 36 – 26. Carter managed to find the range in close to end the quarter with the score at 36 – 28 in favor of WMHS.

Gus again scored to open the fourth. Rhyland followed with a jumper to pull the Indians within four at 36 – 32. Carter hit one of two free throws with 4:21 to go which narrowed the lead to just three. Wilson scored to extend the lead to 38 – 33. Evan then scored from the right hand side to make it 38 – 35 with 3:01 to go but Wilson came back with a field goal and a free throw to go up 41 – 35 with just over a minute to go.

Evan swished a three pointer with 1:15 to go and, after Fort regained possession, scored on a drive with 45 seconds to go to make it a one point game at 41 – 40. Under pressure, Wilson turned the ball over and Jasigh drove down the right hand side and managed to get his shot off and in despite being surrounded by Green Hornet defenders with 12 seconds to go. Wilson had a chance to win it at the buzzer but Carter grabbed the rebound from the missed attempt and the JV's had finished their comeback. The Indians outscored the Green Hornets 14 – 5 in the crucial fourth quarter.

It was a fine win for the young team. Evan led the Indians with 15 points. Both Gus and Rhyland came off the bench to score eight apiece. Gus had a particularly good game, going 4 – 5 from the field, had several rebounds, and zero turnovers. Strangely, he was not on the floor the last five minutes of the game.

Fort plays again next Tuesday night with a home game against Waynesboro.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gus Gutshall	4	0	0-0	8
Isaac Marshall	1	0	0-0	2
Tripp Hanger	0	0	0-0	0
Jasigh Ransome	2	0	0-0	4
Evan Braun	5	1	2-2	15
Carter Berry	2	0	1-2	5
Rhyland Martin	4	0	0-1	8
TOTAL	18	1	3-5	42