

Fort Defiance tops Waynesboro in 38 – 25 Slugfest

In a game which didn't create highlight reels for either team, Fort Defiance outlasted Waynesboro 38 – 25 on February 7 in the Don Landes Gym at FDHS. Both teams had trouble getting the ball in the hoop all night and both shot themselves in the foot numerous times with turnovers. The win, though, guaranteed Fort will end up this season with a winning record as its record now stands at 12 – 8, 6 – 4 in the Shenandoah District.

Sam Garber led the Indians with 11. Tyreek Veney, who had an off night shooting, still pitched in nine and Henry Gutshall added six as, once again, these three led Fort's scoring. Charles Haynes led Waynesboro with 10. The Little Generals record dropped to 4 – 16, 2 – 8 in the District.

The game started with each team shooting bricks. Neither team scored until Waynesboro finally took a 2 – 0 lead with 5:20 to go in the quarter. It would be their only lead of the night. Gio Armendariz Cruz scored on a drive for Fort and was fouled on the play. His free throw gave Fort its first lead at 3 – 2. Henry then scooped up an offensive rebound and flipped in two to make it 5 – 2. After Waynesboro scored to get within one at 5 – 4, Sam hit a three pointer from the corner to make it 8 – 4 with 1:57 to go. Waynesboro's threat of scoring was nullified by Henry's good defense as he drew an offensive foul on the next possession, something he has done all season long. The first quarter ended at 8 – 4. Fort's shooting was poor but Waynesboro's was even worse.

Waynesboro closed to 8 – 6 to open the second period but Tyreek responded with a trey to give the home team a 11 – 6 lead. Carter Fink drew a foul while shooting and got one of his two free throws to fall making the score 12 – 6 with 3:45 to go. Waynesboro closed to 12 – 8 but Kaden Johnson buried a three from the corner to make it 15 – 8. Again Waynesboro responded with a deuce but Sam buried another three pointer from the corner to make it 18 – 10 at the half.

Henry spun to his left and flipped in a jumper to give FDHS a double digit lead to start the second half but Waynesboro quickly hit a three to make the score 20 – 13. Once again, each team then went several possessions without scoring. Finally, with 4:39 to go, Sam hit a two pointer to make it 22 – 13. Henry finished the scoring in the period with a jump shot from the foul line to make it 24 – 13 after three quarters.

The fourth quarter finally brought some scoring to the game as FDHS managed 14 points and Waynesboro 12. After a WHS trey, Sam got it going for Fort with another three pointer, this time from the top of the key, to make the score 27 – 16. Again Waynesboro hit a three pointer to pull within eight. Henry then took a pass down low and found Jack Liskey open for a three pointer at the top of the key to make the score 30 – 19. Waynesboro responded with a bucket so the score was 30 – 21 with 5:12 to go. Two more baskets by the Little Generals found them inching back in contention at 30 – 25. Tyreek broke their momentum with a drive for a score for the Indians. He was fouled on the shot but he missed his free throw. Henry was there for the offensive rebound and he pitched it back to Tyreek who drove for another score, putting the game out of reach at 34 – 25. Gio added two on a drive and Tyreek followed with another two pointer in the paint to give Fort the 38 – 25 margin which is how the game ended.

Fort's final home game of the season will be Friday night against the Staunton Storm. It will be Senior Night and Fort's seniors will be honored: Tyreek Veney, Henry Gutshall, Kaden Johnson, Jack Liskey, and Alphonzo Bruce.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	2	0	1-1	5
Kaden Johnson	0	1	0-0	3
Conner Patterson	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Fink	0	0	1-2	1
Sam Garber	1	3	0-0	11
Tyreek Veney	3	1	0-1	9
Jack Liskey	0	1	0-0	3
Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Henry Gutshall	3	0	0-0	6
Alphonso Bruce	0	0	0-0	0
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
TOTAL	9	6	2-4	38

Waynesboro's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Jaylin McCoy	0	1	0-0	3
Satori Nash	0	0	0-0	0
Charles Haynes	5	0	0-0	10
Jackson Darden	0	0	0-0	0
Zevian Robinson	0	1	0-0	3
Vaiden Hite	0	0	0-0	0
Shakil McGuffin	0	0	0-0	0
Haden Morris	1	1	0-0	5
Patrick Jackson Jr.	0	0	0-0	0
Javon Wells	2	0	0-0	4
TOTAL	8	3	0-0	25