

Cold Second Half Dooms FDHS Against Allegheny

The Allegheny Cougars beat the Fort Defiance Indians 83 – 56 on December 14 in the FDHS gym. This game featured two completely different halves. In the first half, Fort Defiance shot better than normal, made some good passes, and led 37 – 31. In the second half, the Indians' offense died and its defense was nonexistent. Allegheny outscored FDHS 52 – 19 after the break including a 14 – 3 run to open the half and a 24 – 1 run midway in the 4th quarter. The Cougars improved their season record to 4 – 1 while Fort fell to 2 – 4.

The game couldn't have started better for the home team. FD ran out to a 10 – 0 lead on a three pointer by Del Ray Jones, a deuce by Gus Gutshall with an assist from Gio Armendariz Cruz, a three pointer by Sam Garber, and a put back by Carter Fink at the 4:20 mark. Allegheny couldn't get a basket to drop until the 3:25 mark. Tripp Hanger made a three pointer and Gio had two of three free throws with 1:34 to go giving the Indians a 15 – 6 lead but AHS scored the last six points of the quarter to make it FDHS 15, AHS 12 after one period.

Fort continued good play in the second half. Carter Fink took a pass from Gio and scored in close. Sam made one of two free throws and Gio scored three points with the old-fashioned three point play to give FD a 21 – 14 lead. Sam's three returned the lead to ten. After AHS made its only three pointer of the half, Del Ray again popped in a trey to give FD a 30 – 21 lead. Gio's two free throws extended the lead to 32 – 21 with 3:05 to go. Allegheny then made a run to cut the lead to 32 – 29 before Carter Berry scored after an offensive rebound. Tripp's three pointer in the last minute gave the Indians a 37 – 31 lead at the half.

Any thought of this good fortune continuing in the second half was lost in the first four minutes of the second half which saw AHS score the first six points of the half. After Sam hit a three pointer, Allegheny ran off eight more in a row, taking its first lead of the game at 42 – 40 with 4:11 to go then quickly extending that lead to 44 – 40. Fort got back within two when Gus scored on an out-of-bounds play but again AHS was able to easily break Fort's press, getting easy layups and scored the next 13 points to go up 57 – 42. Gio scored on a drive but that meant Fort only got seven points the entire quarter while Allegheny scored 26.

Fort's misery continued in the fourth. One exception was Carter Fink's play. Carter scored six points early in the fourth including two on a nice pass from Del Ray to close the gap to 59 – 50 but again the offense and defense collapsed allowing Allegheny to coast with a 24 – 1 run to make the score 83 – 51 with 1:30 to go. Carter Berry got a three and Rhyden Martin a field goal to close the scoring for Fort. The final was Allegheny 83, Fort Defiance 56.

Sam again led Fort's scoring with 13 but he injured his hand in the second half when he slapped the backboard trying to block a shot. Carter Fink and Gio each tossed in ten points. But unlike other games where, thanks to the platoon system of play, most players got on the score board, in this game FDHS had six players who didn't score a point. Fort rebounded fairly well against the tall Cougars who featured seven players on their roster 6' 2" or taller. Hunter DePriest led the Cougars with 17 points, one of four Allegheny players to reach double figures. He got numerous snowbirds as the Cougars beat the Fort press.

Grandfather's note: Gus had a decent game, scoring four points and getting a couple offensive rebounds. He even got to start the game! The general mood of the Fort Defiance fans around us is they do not think this system of basketball is working. It seemed to work for a half tonight but the second half was disastrous.

Another point of interest to me is that Alleghany had six adult coaches sitting on its bench. Why does a school need six coaches? Perhaps this is because Alleghany High School merged with Covington High School this year. Last year when FDHS played Alleghany, they were the Mountaineers. This year they were the Cougars. The combined school is now a Class 3 size school whereas Fort Defiance remains a Class 2 school.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	2	0	6-8	10
Bradley Hebb	0	0	0-0	0
Jasigh Ransome	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Fink	5	0	0-0	10
Trey Miller	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	0	4	1-2	13
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	2
Evan Braun	0	0	0-0	0
Rhylan Martin	1	0	0-0	2
Del Ray Jones	0	2	0-0	6
Tripp Hanger	0	2	0-0	6
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Gus Gutshall	2	0	0-0	4
Carter Berry	1	1	0-0	5
TOTAL	11	9	7-10	56

High School Boys Basketball

Big Second Half Propels Alleghany Past Fort

By CODY ELLIOTT Daily News-Record

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In Don Landes Gymnasium on Thursday, a big second half from Alleghany propelled it to a convincing 83-56 rout of Fort Defiance in non-district action on Thursday.

Senior forward Sam Garber again led the way for the Indians with 13 points in the setback, while sophomore guard Gio Armendariz Cruz and senior forward Carter Fink contributed 10 each.

Fort senior forward Dell Ray Jones and sophomore guard Tripp Hanger finished with six points apiece, while junior forward Carter Berry had five, and junior forward Gus Gutshall had four.

The Indians (2-4) will face Monticello on Thursday in a tournament at Fluvanna County High.

Alleghany 12 19 26 26 — 83

Fort Defiance 15 22 7 12 — 56

ALLEGHANY (4-1) — X. Hayslett 2 0-2 4, J. Smith 1 0-0 3, H. DePriest 8 0-0 17, D. Jordan 3 0-0 6, E. Entsminger 2 0-0 4, A. Webb 2 0-0 6, C. Harden 5 0-2 10, S. Brown 4 0-0 8, K. Caldwell 2 0-0 4, C. DePriest 4 0-1 9, J. Morris 0 0-0 0, P. Turner 6 0-0 12, M. Smith 0 0-0 0. Totals 39 0-5 83.

FORT DEFIANCE (2-4) — G. Armendariz Cruz 2 6-7 10, B. Hebb 0 0-0 0, J. Ransome 0 0-0 0, C. Fink 5 0-0 10, T. Miller 0 0-0 0, S. Garber 4 1-2 13, R. Martin 1 0-0 2, D. Jones 2 0-0 6, T. Hanger 2 0-0 6, J. Alexander 0 0-0 0, G. Gutshall 2 0-0 4, C. Berry 2 0-0 5. Totals 20 7-9 56.

3-Point Goals — Alleghany 4 (A. Webb 2, H. DePriest, C. DePriest), Fort Defiance 9 (S. Garber 4, D. Jones 2, T. Hanger 2, C. Berry).

Cody Elliott

Sports Editor