

Fluvanna County hands Fort Defiance Third Consecutive Loss, 102 – 86

The Fluvanna County Flucos improved their season record to 3 – 5 with a 102 – 86 trouncing of the Fort Defiance Indians on December 22 on the second day of the Route 53 Holiday Bash Basketball Tournament. Fort fell to 2 – 6. The game was played at Monticello High School.

Fort played good basketball for the first half of the first quarter, running up a 20 – 12 lead before allowing Fluvanna to go on a 17 – 2 run. Tripp Hanger was red hot, hitting 3 three point shots in the quarter. He got good help shooting from Del Ray Jones and Austin Metz who also pitched in treys for the Indians. Bradley Hebb, Gio Armendariz Cruz, and Jasigh Ransome each had field goals but the highlight of the quarter came when Gus Gutshall picked off a pass and fed Sam Garber who streaked down the court and slammed home a dunk. The offense put up 29 points in the quarter including two from Carter Fink on an out-of-bounds play in the final minute. Unfortunately, the defense was AWOL and Fluvanna County led 31 – 29 after one quarter.

The second quarter was neck-and-neck for most of the quarter. Sam's three pointer gave FDHS a 32 – 31 lead and Carter Fink's deuce after a FCHS field goal made it FD 34, FC 33 at the 6:30 mark. Tripp banged home two more three pointers, the first one coming on a nice kickout from Gus. Gio's layup gave Fort a 42 – 35 lead. Fluvanna then went on a run, aided by turnovers by Fort's guards. FDHS got two free throws from Gio but meanwhile Fluvanna had retaken the lead at 46 – 44. Jasigh's free throw got Fort back within one, then Sam scored to give Fort its final lead of the night at 47 – 46. Fluvanna scored easily after beating the Fort press and led by three. 50 – 47 at the 1:57 mark. After extending the lead to 53 – 47, Jasigh's bucket got Fort within four but FCHS got the final basket of the quarter and led 55 – 49 at the half.

There were a few bright spots in the third, including a sequence where Sam got a steal then pulled up and drained a three pointer. He followed that with a nice step-back three pointer. But the only other points Fort got manage during this period were a free throw and layup from Gio. When the dust settled, FCHS had gone on an 18 – 9 run and led 73 – 58 with 4:24 to go in the quarter. Carter Fink scored on an out-of-bounds lay, Sam turned an offensive rebound into two points, and Del Ray bombed in a three pointer at the 3:12 mark but Fluvanna still led 77 – 65 at this point. For the rest of the quarter, all Fort could manage were free throws from Tripp, Carter F., Jasigh, and Sam plus a field goal from Sam. Fort fell behind 89 – 72 at the end of the quarter.

Fluvanna repeatedly got three-on-one fast breaks after beating Fort's press or getting defensive rebounds and quickly getting the ball down the floor. Fort's players tried to crash the board on each offensive shot leaving it easy for its opposition to turn a defensive rebound into a fast break.

It looked like Fluvanna would score 120 points in the game by this point but Fort did buckle down somewhat in the fourth quarter, limiting them to just 13 points as Fluvanna emptied their bench. Fort got three pointers from Tripp and Jasigh and field goals from Gio and Evan Braun. The final score was 102 – 86.

Tripp led the Indians with 20 points. Sam got 18 and Gio 11. After the game, awards were given for the All-Academic Team, Sportsmanship, and All Tournament Team. Gus was chosen on the All-Academic Team, Austin for the Sportsmanship award, and Sam made the All-Tournament Team.

Grandfather's note: Gus played some in every quarter. He did not score but picked up a couple rebounds and steals. He did seem genuinely happy about being picked for the All-Academic Team.

Fort's Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	4	0	3-4	11
Bradley Hebb	1	0	0-2	2
Jasigh Ransome	2	1	2-3	9
Carter Fink	3	0	1-2	7
Trey Miller	0	0	1-2	1
Sam Garber	4	3	1-3	18
Austin Metz	0	1	0-0	3
Evan Braun	1	0	2-2	4
Rhylan Martin	0	0	0-0	0
Del Ray Jones	0	2	0-0	6
Tripp Hanger	6	0	2-2	20
Jalen Alexander	1	0	0-0	2
Gus Gutshall	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Berry	1	0	1-2	3
TOTAL	17	13	13-24	86