

Garber's 37 leads Fort Defiance past hapless Waynesboro 105 - 95

Senior Sam Garber got a career high 37 points, including 10 three pointers, as the Fort Defiance Indians ran past the Waynesboro Little Giants 105 – 95 on January 10 in the Waynesboro Gym. Fort won its third straight game and upped its season record to 5 – 6, 2 – 0 in the Shenandoah District while Waynesboro fell to 1 – 11, 0 – 4. Fort, deploying its run-and-gun offense, also got a career high 27 points from sophomore Gio Armandariz Cruz and 13 from senior Carter Fink.

Despite breaking the century mark for the second straight game, Fort did not dominate the Waynesboro lads who actually led the visitors 84 – 83 with 5:19 to go in the contest. Fort then went on a 10 – 0 run, aided by three scores on drives by Gio, to seal the victory.

Sam was hot in the first half, hitting seven of his ten three pointers in the first two periods. He opened scoring in the game with two treys. Waynesboro got a field goal and a three of their own to pull within one at 6 – 5 then Jasigh Ransome hit a three for the Indians. Waynesboro tied the score at 9's then Gio scored on a drive. With the score 12 – 11 in favor of the Little Giants, Austin Metz hit a three pointer from the top of the key to give FDHS a 14 – 12 lead. Waynesboro tied the score then Carter Berry hit a three from the top of the key. Carter Fink followed that with a put back off an offensive rebound to give Fort a 19 – 14 lead. Sam's third three of the contest made it 22 – 14 then Waynesboro scored to make it 22 – 16. Rhylan Martin took a nice pass from Gus Gutshall and banged home a two pointer to make it 24 – 16 but Waynesboro responded with two layups off fast breaks to make it 24 – 20. Tripp broke loose for a layup then Sam hit his fourth three pointer of the quarter to make it 29 – 20. Waynesboro scored four straight before Gio ended the scoring in the quarter with a drive to the paint to make it 31 – 24 in favor of FDHS after one period.

Gio opened scoring in the second quarter with another drive. After Waynesboro scored six consecutive points, mostly by beating Fort's press, Sam's fifth three pointer made it 36 – 30. Waynesboro got a field goal then Gio turned an offensive rebound into two points to make it 38 – 32. Tripp then fed Gus nicely inside and the junior scored with 5:24 to go giving Fort a 40 – 32 advantage. Jasigh's driving layup pushed the lead to 42 – 32. Waynesboro responded with a bucket then Sam hit his sixth three pointer to make it 45 – 34. Fort's next points came from Carter Fink at the foul line but only after Waynesboro had pulled within five at 45 - 40. Carter again made one of two free throws then Waynesboro made two free throws of their own to make the score 47 – 42 with 1:50 to go in the half. Gio's field goal and Sam's seventh three pointer gave Fort a 54 – 46 halftime lead.

Waynesboro wouldn't go away. In the third quarter, Fort got Sam's eighth and ninth three pointers but meanwhile Waynesboro got back within five at 60 - 55. Gio's two free throws made it 62 – 55 but Waynesboro scored the next four points to get within three at the 5:23 mark. Gio's bucket in the paint returned Fort's margin to five at 64 – 59 then FDHS went cold. Waynesboro knotted the score at 64 – 64 with 3:59 to go in the quarter. Gio hit a three pointer and Fort led 67 – 66 with 3:13 to go. Waynesboro made two free throws to take a 68 – 67 advantage with 2:46 to go before Sam scored in close to return the lead to the visitors. Sam got two more after

Waynesboro had retaken the lead and Carter Fink got a put back with 1:20 to go to give the Indians a 73 – 70 lead. Waynesboro’s three pointer tied the score then Evan Braun got a neat tip in to give Fort a 75 – 73 lead. A free throw by the home team made it Fort 75, Waynesboro 74 at the end of the third period.

Tripp bombed in a three pointer to give Fort a four point lead but Waynesboro kept clawing back, tying the game at 78’s with 6:37 to go. Carter Fink converted a layup plus he was fouled on the play. His foul shot gave Fort a 83 – 80 lead but Waynesboro hit two more jumpers to take their last lead of the game at 84 – 83 with 5:19 to go. Gio then took over, scoring on three consecutive drives into the paint. Carter Fink’s deuce pushed the Indians’ lead back to eight at 92 – 84. Jasigh then hit two free throws. Fort led 93 – 88 with 3:38 to go then Sam put the nail in Waynesboro’s coffin with his tenth and final three pointer, making it 96 – 88 with 2:57 to go. After Waynesboro closed to 96 – 89, Sam was fouled attempting a three pointer. He made all three foul shots giving Fort a ten point lead with 2:47 to go, 99 – 89. Bradley Hebb then scored on a drive and one of two free throws to push the Indians over the century mark for the second game in a row. Gio’s deuce made it 104 – 89. Gus finished Fort’s scoring with a free throw. The final was 105 – 95.

As in the previous game, Fort scored a lot but still left lots of room on the table for improvement. From the free throw line, they made only 12 of 29 attempts. And their porous defense allowed Waynesboro to score many layups. But thanks to the big nights from Sam and Gio, who together scored 64 of the 105 points, Fort was able to take home its second straight Shenandoah District win. Fort’s guards had fewer turnovers than they have had in some previous games but still will need to tighten their ball handling when they play stiffer competition.

Fort returns home on Friday night with a Shenandoah District game against Buffalo Gap.

Grandfather’s note: Gus did get to play some in each quarter including the last minute of the fourth quarter after Fort had built up a 14 point lead. He is still very discouraged from his lack of playing time, especially since he does well when he is on the court. In tonight’s game, he had a steal, a nice assist, several offensive rebounds, and outscored five of his teammates despite getting much less playing time than the others. I understand his frustration. I don’t believe his coaches see what I see when I watch these games. I’m not sure what they see....

Fort’s Box Score:

Name	2 Pt Goals	3 Pt Goals	Free Throws	Total
Gio Armendariz Cruz	11	1	2-4	27
Bradley Hebb	1	0	1-2	3
Jasigh Ransome	1	1	2-4	7
Carter Fink	5	0	3-8	13
Trey Miller	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	2	10	3-4	37
Austin Metz	0	1	0-0	3
Evan Braun	1	0	0-3	2
Rhylan Martin	1	0	0-0	2

Del Ray Jones	0	0	0-0	0
Tripp Hanger	1	1	0-0	5
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-2	0
Gus Gutshall	1	0	1-2	3
Carter Berry	0	1	0-0	3
TOTAL	24	15	12-29	105

The following article is from the Harrisonburg Daily News Record:

High School Boys Basketball

Garber Drops 37, Indians Hit Century Mark In Win

By CODY ELLIOTT Daily News-Record

Jan 11, 2024

It was a career night for Sam Garber and one he won't forget anytime soon.

The standout senior forward hit 10 3-pointers and finished with 37 points — both career highs — as Fort Defiance hit the century mark once again while earning a thrilling 105-95 victory at Waynesboro in Shenandoah District boys basketball action on Wednesday.

Sophomore guard Gio Armendariz Cruz continued his strong play as of late, adding 27 points of his own for the Indians, while senior forward Carter Fink also hit double digits with 13 points.

Haden Morris, a sophomore, scored a career-high 30 points for the Little Giants, while junior Zevion Robinson added 22 points, and junior wing Jackson Darden finished with 14.

Fort (5-6, 2-0 Shenandoah) returns home Friday against Buffalo Gap (6-7, 0-3 Shenandoah), while Waynesboro (1-12, 0-4 Shenandoah) hits the road to take on Riverheads (4-9, 0-3 Shenandoah).

Fort Defiance 31 23 21 30 — 105

Waynesboro 24 22 28 21 — 95

Cody Elliott

Sports Editor