

## **Wilson Memorial outslugs Fort Defiance 97 - 91**

The Wilson Memorial Green Hornets rode the 48 point performance by junior Chase Snyder to a decisive 97 – 91 victory in the last regular season game for both teams on February 14 in the Wilson gym. Snyder had nine three pointers, ten field goals, and a free throw for his monumental game which saw Wilson break open a game that was tied at the half. The Wilson win left three teams with identical 8 – 4 records in the Shenandoah District: Wilson, Fort, and Stuarts Draft. Staunton was undefeated in District play. Wilson’s overall record ended the regular season at 15 – 8; Fort’s dropped to 11 – 11. Both teams will enter regional play next week. Wilson is in Class 3 whereas Fort is in Class 2.

Snyder’s huge point total was memorable but most of his shots were uncontested as Fort’s defense apparently was left behind for the night. Eli Irving added 23 for the Hornets, nearly all on layups as the home team handily beat the Fort press and got easy shots for their 97 points.

Meanwhile, Fort’s shooting woes continued and ball handling was extraordinarily poor for this far along in the season. Fort took approximately 40 shots from beyond the three point arc but only ten found the mark. Tripp Hanger, normally one of the best three point shooters on the team, was home with the flu which added to Fort’s woes.

Gio Armendariz Cruz opened scoring with a drive. After Wilson tied it, Carter Fink, who led the Indians with 28 points, scored in the paint. Snyder’s three gave Wilson a 5 – 4 lead but Carter again answered for the Indians. Bradley Hebb scored on a drive to give Fort a momentary lead at 8 – 7 with 4:51 to go in the quarter. Wilson scored the next six points to go up 13 – 8 before Carter scored twice in the paint. Snyder again bombed in a three pointer but Bradley’s drive got Fort within two at 16 – 14. Wilson scored five to go up 21 – 14 until Rhylan Martin hit a three pointer for the Indians. In the final minute of the quarter Wilson scored seven while Fort got a three pointer from Evan Braun and two from Sam Garber to make it 28 – 22 in favor of the home team.

The second quarter was kinder to FDHS. Gio got a free throw but Wilson spurted to a 33 – 23 advantage before Del Ray Jones swished a three pointer. Wilson went up 35 – 26 then Carter got a bucket with 4:07 to go and followed that with a three point play to get the Indians within four at 35 – 31. After another Snyder three pointer, Sam got a triple to go. Gus Gutshall, as he has done all season, turned two consecutive offensive rebounds into points to get the Indians within two at 40 – 38. After a Wilson field goal, Del Ray again hit a three. Wilson went up 44 – 41 with 40 seconds to go but Evan Braun found the range for a three to tie it at halftime, 44 – 44.

The third quarter was disastrous for the Indians. Carter F. got two on an offensive rebound after Snyder hit another three and Gus once again scored on a put back to get the Indians within one at 49 – 48. Over the next several minutes, all Fort could manage was two free throws by Carter as the home team sprinted out to a 62 – 50 lead. Sam got two with 3:00 to go in the quarter but again the Indians could only manage a free throw by Carter Berry and one by Carter Fink over the next two minutes. Meanwhile, Wilson jumped their lead to 68 – 54. Evan scored on a layup after a steal and Sam got a three but the damage had been done. Wilson outscored Fort 28 – 15 in the quarter to take a commanding 72 – 59 lead going into the final quarter.

Bradley's drive cut the deficit to thirteen at 74 – 61 but Wilson went up 77 – 61 before Sam rang home another trey. Carter Fink's two free throws and jumper in the lane got FDHS to 79 – 68. Gio then made two free throws as Fort cut the deficit to 79 – 70 but down the stretch the Hornets didn't slow down their assault. Fort got free throws from Sam and Gio, a two pointer by Carter, a three by Gio, then two more field goals by Carter but the home team extended their lead to 92 – 81 with 2:25 to go. Fort got a bucket by Gio and a three by Sam but it was too little, too late as Wilson went up 94 – 86 with 1:32 to go. Gio got two more and Evan hit three free throws to end the scoring for the Indians. The final was 97 – 91 in favor of the Green Hornets.

Carter's 28 points was a highlight for Fort as was the play of Evan. There were few other bright spots as Gio and Sam each had poor shooting nights and Fort's guards committed entirely too many turnovers. To be honest, there has been very little, if any, improvement in this team since December.

Addendum: The Region 2B tournament pairings were announced. Fort is seeded 4<sup>th</sup> and will host Luray, seeded 5<sup>th</sup>, on Tuesday, February 20. Luray is 15 – 7 overall, 11 – 5 in the Bull Run District. Madison County is seeded 1<sup>st</sup>, Buckingham County 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Clarke County 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Grandfather's note: The results tonight were disappointing but not surprising. Fort played tonight like they have all season: a helter skelter offense with turnovers galore, poor shooting and shot selection, plus a porous defense. I don't have field goal percentage numbers but surely Fort's was under 30%. Gus, on the other hand, was 3 – 3 from the field, had zero turnovers, and four rebounds yet he played only one minute in the first and fourth quarters. Once again, the only time he touched the ball was when he got a rebound. This is the way it has been all season. Again, I'm disappointed but not surprised.

**Fort's Box Score:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>2 Pt Goals</b>	<b>3 Pt Goals</b>	<b>Free Throws</b>	<b>Total</b>
Gio Armendariz Cruz	3	1	4-6	13
Bradley Hebb	3	0	0-0	6
Jasigh Ransome	0	0	0-0	0
Carter Fink	11	0	6-10	28
Trey Miller	0	0	0-0	0
Sam Garber	2	4	1-3	17
Austin Metz	0	0	0-0	0
Evan Braun	1	2	3-3	11
Rhylan Martin	0	1	0-0	3
Del Ray Jones	0	2	0-0	6
Tripp Hanger	0	0	0-0	0
Jalen Alexander	0	0	0-0	0
Gus Gutshall	3	0	0-0	6
Carter Berry	0	0	1-2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15-24</b>	<b>91</b>

**Below is an article that appeared in the Daily News Record:**

## High School Boys Basketball

# Snyder Pours in 48 In Wilson Victory

It was a historic night for Wilson Memorial guard Chase Snyder and one that he won't soon forget.

The junior erupted for a career-high 48 points, including nine 3s, as the Green Hornets defeated Fort Defiance 97-91 in Shenandoah District boys basketball action on Wednesday.

Snyder hit 19 shots from the field for Wilson in the home victory.

Eli Irving, a junior wing, also impressed with 21 points for the Green Hornets, while senior guard Max Vess hit double digits with 10.

The Indians were led by senior forward Carter Fink with a career-high 28 points, while classmate Sam Garber, another forward, added 17.

Sophomore guard Gio Armendariz Cruz finished with 13 points for Fort.

Wilson (15-8, 8-4 Shenandoah) is the No. 8 seed in Region 3C and will play at top-seeded Spotswood (24-0) in the quarterfinals on Friday, while the Indians (11-10) wait to see where they play in Region 2B next week.

*Fort Defiance 22 22 15 32 — 91*

*Wilson Memorial 28 16 28 25 — 97*

*FORT DEFIANCE (11-10) — G. Armendariz Cruz 4 4-6 13, B. Hebb 3 0-0 6, J. Ransome 0 0-0 0, C. Fink 11 6-10 28, T. Miller 0 0-0 0, S. Garber 6 1-3 17, A. Metz 0 0-0 0, E. Braun 3 3-3 11, R. Martin 1 0-0 3, D. Jones 2 0-0 6, J. Alexander 0 0-0 0, G. Gutshall 3 0-0 6, C. Berry 0 1-2 1. Totals 33 15-25 91.*

*WILSON MEMORIAL (15-8) — A. Flesher 1 0-0 2, C. Snyder 19 1-2 48, B. Pulley 0 0-0 0, R. Mundie 2 0-0 5, M. McWhorter 1 3-4 5, E. Irving 9 3-8 21, G. Collier 0 0-0 0, M. Vess 5 0-2 10, G. Wright 2 2-5 6. Totals 39 9-21 97.*

*3-Point Goals — Fort Defiance 10 (S. Garber 4, E. Braun 2, D. Jones 2, G. Armendariz Cruz, R. Martin), Wilson Memorial 10 (C. Snyder 9, R. Mundie).*

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**Cody Elliott**

Sports Editor