

Olympus holds off Bingham in fast-paced finish

By Bruce Smith
MatchupUT.com

Olympus coach **Matt Barnes** thinks this is what high school basketball is all about. He was in a good mood after his Titans held off top-ranked Bingham 68-63 Tuesday night in a non-region game.

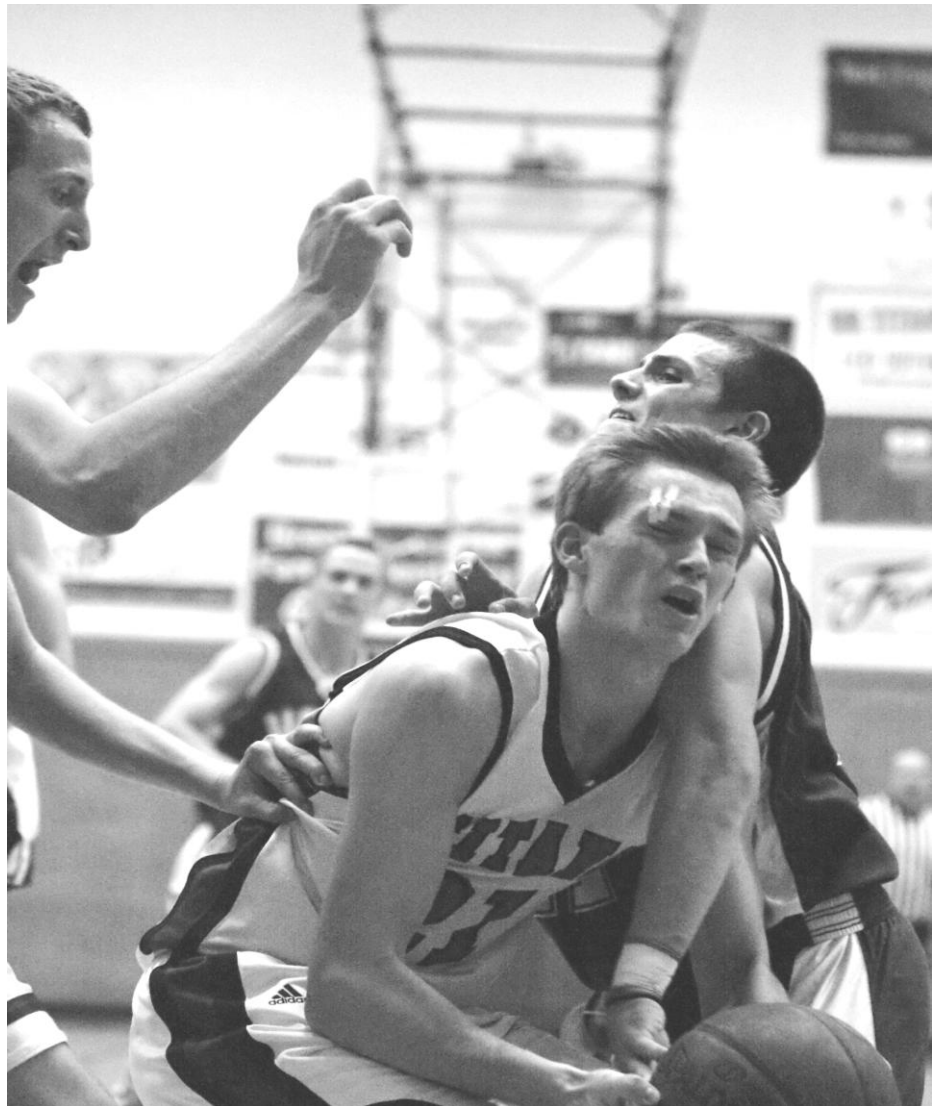
The Titans had built a 15-point lead, only to watch Bingham rally behind **Shad Sommerville**, **Nate Girsberger** and **Ben Clifford** to narrow the gap. A three-pointer by Girsberger cut the margin to two points with three minutes left.

“A good team like that is going to make a run,” Barnes said. “We knew it was coming. We had two or three chances to make a three-pointer and build it to ... what? ... 18.”

Instead, the outcome wasn't decided until the end. For most of the final quarter, the teams played at a frenzied pace, and the game didn't start to be settled until 6-foot-6 **Will Watkins** outfought Sommerville for a critical rebound.

The two players collided, and Sommerville was whistled for a foul. More importantly, Watkins, a deadly free-throw shooter, was hurt. A cut near his eye, which had occurred in Monday's practice, reopened and the bleeding forced him to go with a trainer to the locker room.

Barnes called on senior **Ben Sonntag** to take the free throws. Sonntag responded by swishing both of them to give Oly a five-point lead.



Will Watkins had to deal with a cut above his eye for most of the game, but made one of the game's key plays in Oly's win over Bingham.

“I really didn't think about it. Coach (**Weymouth**) **Anderson** said ‘go with Ben,’ so we did,” Barnes said. “That was big, and we held them off.”

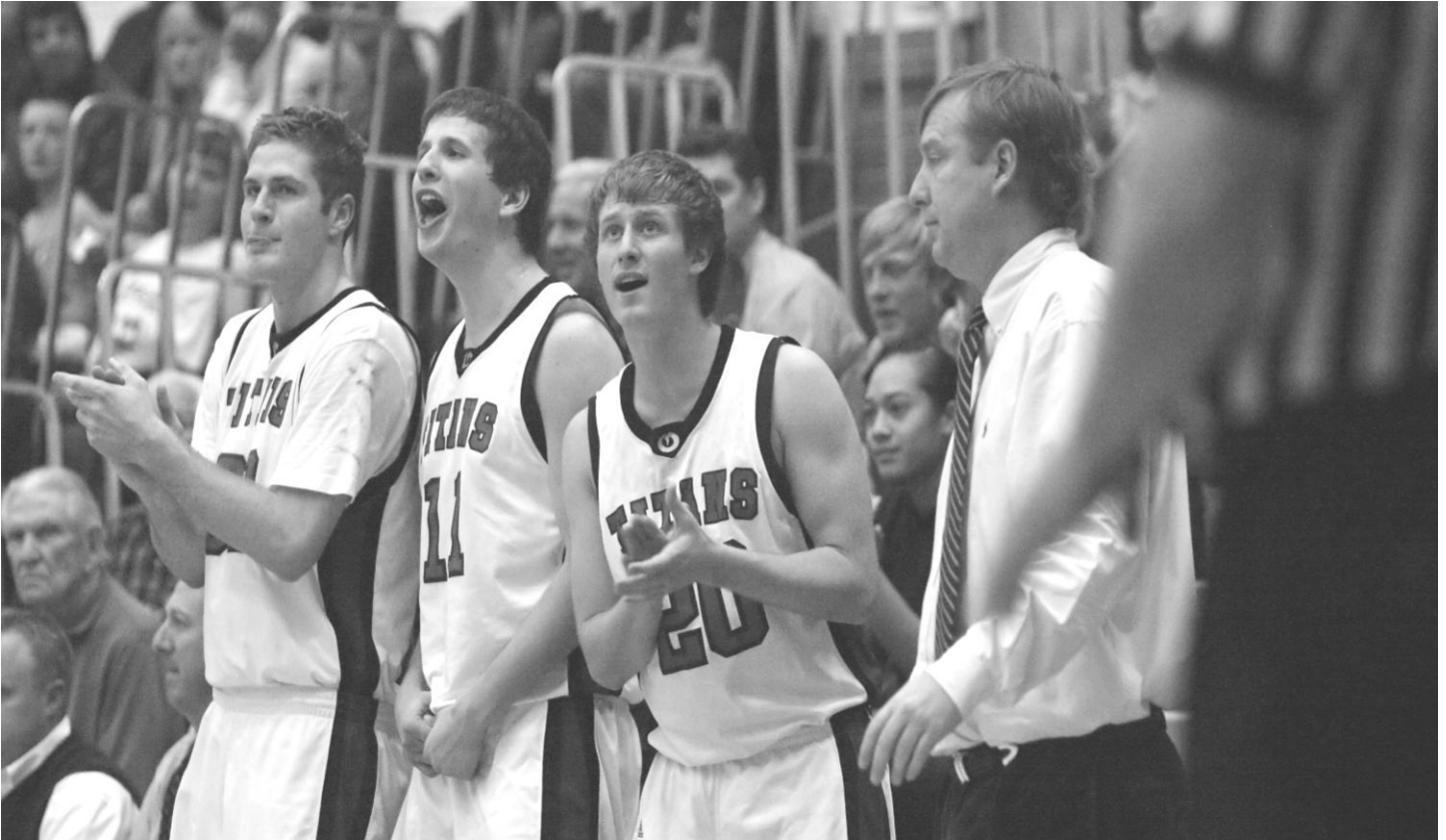
Sonntag's free throws keyed a change of momentum, and made the raucous home crowd even louder. **Joe Bourne** and **Nicholas Paulos** nailed free

throws a few moments later to finally seal the win and hand Bingham its first loss of the season.

The Miners started off well, scoring the game's first six points and holding Oly scoreless for four minutes. But **Connor**

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OLYMPUS BASKETBALL



Connor Brady, Andrew Pellatt and Spencer Harris keep active on the bench by cheering on their teammates.

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Brady and Paulos hit three-pointers, a part of their offense that was missing in earlier games, and the Titans rallied.

Oly built a 32-24 halftime advantage, thanks to its fine shooting from the field (53 percent for the game), and Bingham's foul troubles. Clifford got two fouls early and was in trouble most of the game.

Clifford still finished with 19 points and seven rebounds. His importance was shown several time as his teammates committed several key fouls in the fourth quarter to keep him from having to risk picking up his fifth and leaving the game.

Bingham was led by Sommerville, whose quickness and physical play helped net him 23 points. Girsberger had 16, including all of Bingham's three-pointers.

Paulos, who is still recovering from mononucleosis, paced Oly with 22 points, including a perfect effort at the free-throw line. Watkins and Brady each had 12. **Andrew Pellatt** also had a nice game with six points and six rebounds.

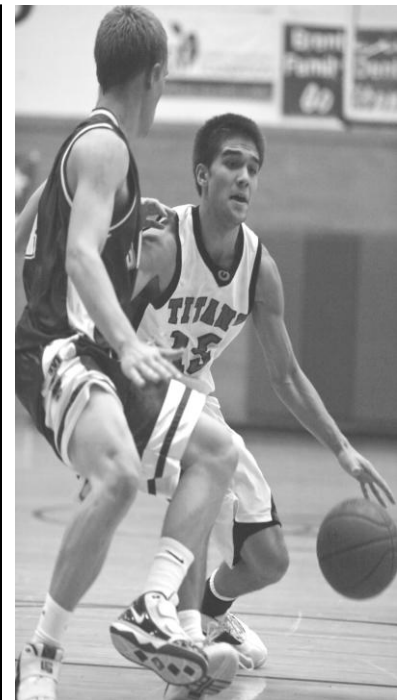
GAME SUMMARY

Bingham 10 14 15 24 - 63
Olympus 10 22 18 18 - 68

BINGHAM (63) – Sommerville 9-16 5-6 23, Girsberger 5-11 2-2 16, Hannay 0-4 0-0 0, Clifford 8-12 3-4 19, Brown 0-2 0-4 0, Arnell 0-7 0-0 0, Parker 1-4 3-3 5, Phouthavong 0-2 0-0 0, Anderson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 23-58 13-19 63.

OLYMPUS (68) – Bourne 2-2 2-7 6, Watkins 3-6 6-8 12, Paulos 7-14 6-6 22, Brady 5-10 0-0 12, Sonntag 1-3 5-6 7, Riak 1-2 1-2 3, Pellatt 3-3 0-1 6, Harris 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 22-41 20-30 68.

Total fouls: Bingham 24, Olympus 21. **Fouled out:** Arnell, Sommerville. **Three-point goals:** Bingham 4 (Girsberger 4), Olympus 4 (Paulos 2, Brady 2).



Joe Bourne tries to dribble past a Bingham defender.