

# Olympus gets defensive and locks down Highland

By James Edward  
Deseret News

It's not every day that an Olympus team known for its outside shooting can win a basketball game with just one three-pointer.

Then again, if the Titans can consistently defend and rebound like they did Tuesday against visiting Highland, they don't need to be a team that lives and dies from behind the arc.

Despite an off night from leading scorer **Nicholas Paulos** and most of the Olympus shooters, the Titans rolled to a 55-41 victory by stopping the Rams defensively for all but a few minutes.

Olympus limited its opponent to six points in the first quarter, one in the third, and weathered a barrage of three-pointers from Highland in the fourth quarter before pulling away down the stretch by making 14 of 16 free throws in the final three minutes.

"I was so proud of the way we played defense tonight. We got after them and defended them," said Olympus coach **Matt Barnes**. "I told my guys, enjoy the win, it's a great game it's a great rivalry, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us."

Neither team shot

**GAME SUMMARY**

Highland	6	12	1	22	-	41
Olympus	13	10	13	19	-	55

**HIGHLAND (41)** – Alex Fatzinger-Bruce 5, Lew Evans 5, Nate Fakahafua 14, Sam Orchard 14, Steven Divver 3. Totals 14-44 6-11 41.

**OLYMPUS (55)** – Joe Bourne 1-4 6-8 8, Will Watkins 3-6 6-8 13, Nicholas Paulos 2-7 4-4 8, Connor Brady 2-9 0-0 4, Ben Sonntag 6-8 2-3 14, Judd Wagstaff 0-0 0-0 0, Dan Moss 0-0 0-0 0, Manny Riak 2-4 2-2 6, Andrew Pellatt 0-1 0-0 0, Sam Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Ryan Reynolds 0-0 0-0 0, Will Anderson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 16-39 22-27 55.

**Total fouls:** Highland 21, Olympus 15.  
**Fouled out:** Brady. **Three-pointers:** Highland 7 (Fakahafua 3, Orchard 2, Divver, Evans), Olympus 1 (Watkins).

particularly well in the first quarter, but the Titans still built a 13-6 lead by crashing the offensive glass. Four offensive rebounds led to seven points in the first quarter, a theme that would continually bail Olympus out its long-range shooting struggles.

The Titans finished with 11 offensive rebounds and 17 second-chance points compared to five offensive rebounds and zero second-chance points for the Rams.

**Ben Sonntag** scored six of his 14 points for Olympus on second-chance points.

"He's really coming into his own the last two or three weeks, the last three games especially he's been at least 10

boards a game and a monster inside," said Barnes. "He's figuring things out; he's a huge lift for us."

After falling behind 19-6, the Rams got hot in the final two minutes of the first half and whittled the lead to 23-18.

As quickly as Highland found that shooting stroke, it disappeared at the half. The Rams missed all seven field goals in the third quarter, turned it over six times and fell behind 36-19 after scoring just one point.

Overwhelmed by the Titan defense most of the game, Highland finally discovered some consistent rhythm in the fourth quarter. In the first three minutes of the quarter Nate Fakahafua knocked down three three-pointers and Sam Orchard added another as the Rams closed to within 39-31 with plenty of basketball remaining.

"Give them credit, Nate hits a couple threes in the fourth, and boom, boom it's back to eight," said Barnes.

After weathering Highland's 12-3 run, the Titans settled down both offensively and defensively and eventually iced the game at the line.

**Will Watkins** added 13 points and the only three-pointer of the game for Oly.