

Titans miss their chance to beat Highland

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

For three quarters, the Olympus Titans had Highland exactly where they wanted.

The Rams were behind.

Oly was coming off a big win at Bountiful, held a five-point lead and the huge crowd on hand was generously on their side. It would take a miracle to beat them.

But Sam Orchard and Nate Fakahafua found one. Orchard scored 19 points, and Fakahafua anchored the defense that limited the Titans for just three points in the fourth quarter and Highland escaped with a 53-50 win in a pivotal Region 6 game.

“We missed a few easy shots, some foul shots, but we never doubted,” said Highland coach Keith West. “I told the kids before the game, “Don’t try to get it done in one move.”

The win was the Rams first over Olympus since 2006. They improved to 13-2 overall and 5-1 in region. Olympus dropped to 10-5 and 4-2.

It was a game the Titans regretted all season.

Behind the scoring of Will Cannon, who finished with a team-high 17, and Colton Stewart, who had 15, the Titans led 15-10 at the end of the first, 30-27 at the half and 47-42 heading into the final quarter.

Most of the fourth quarter was played as the offenses held long possessions. Orchard landed a crucial three-pointer with four minutes left that gave Highland a 48-47 lead. Olympus countered with a trey by Stewart, to retake the lead.

“Cannon was terrific and Stewart gave us some problems,” West said.

The Rams’ coach complimented Steven Divver, who said later that this game was one of the highlights of his season.

Divver was asked to guard Oly’s Sam Williams, and proudly noted that Williams didn’t score for the only time all season.



The Titans discuss the game’s final play during a timeout.

GAME SUMMARY

Highland	10	17	15	11	- 53
Olympus	15	15	17	3	- 50

HIGHLAND (53) – Sam Orchard 5-12 8-10 19, Steven Divver 1-1 0-0 3, Lew Evans 3-10 0-0 8, Nate Fakahafua 4-6 3-5 11, Liam Thomas 1-2 1-1 3, Matt Barker 3-3 0-1 6, David Divver 1-1 0-0 3, Todd Connolly 0 0-0 0. Totals 18-35 12-17 53.

OLYMPUS (50) – Tanner Curtis 1-4 2-3 4, Sam Williams 0-2 0-1 0, Carter Young 2-4 0-0 5, Will Cannon 5-9 6-8 17, Colton Stewart 5-12 3-4 15, J.T. Timmons 1-1 0-0 2, Spencer Lindsley 0-0 0-0 0, Jordan Marsh 2-5 0-0 5, Nic Johnson 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 17-38 11-16 50.

Total fouls: Olympus 18, Highland 15. **Fouled out:** Cannon.

Three-point shooting: Highland 5-12 (Evans 2, Orchard, S. Divver, D. Divver). Olympus 5-15 (Stewart 2, Young, Marsh, Cannon).

Rebounds: Olympus 20 (Stewart 6), Highland 18 (Evans, Fakahafua 6). **Turnovers:** Highland 11, Olympus 11.

Divver felt the pressure in the final minute as Oly had the ball and looked for the tying basket.

Cannon was having the best night.

However, the Titans gave the ball to Williams, who made the most three-pointers for Oly during the season.

“Sam is our man,” said coach Matt Barnes. “He’s the guy we wanted with the ball. He’s great on the dribble, he can get by guys and he’s a great shooter. He made big shots for us all season.”

On this night, Williams had taken only one previous shot, and his three-pointer missed.

“I had hit the game-winner against Box Elder and I had a good game against Bountiful, so they (the Titans) wanted me to shoot,” Williams recalled. “It was a 15-foot fadeaway and it hit the side of the rim.”