

# Oly goes back to basics

By Matt Payne  
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Trailing Region 6 rival East by two points coming out of halftime, Olympus resorted to one of basketball's most fundamental principles — the closer you are to the basket, the easier it is to make your shot.

The return to basics worked wonders for the Titans, who used a suffocating defense and close-range efficiency on offense to open the third quarter on a 21-2 run that all but ended what had been a competitive game.

"The full-court press got us going," Olympus coach Matt Barnes said. "We came out and were really aggressive and used that to get some easy baskets. That gave us the momentum and carried us the rest of the way."

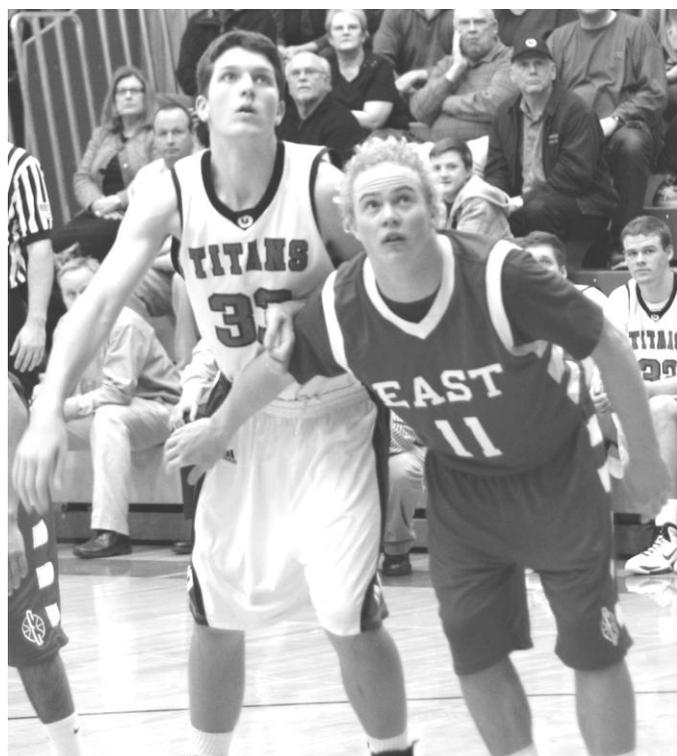
Olympus took what East gave them — which was the ball in many cases — then waited for an open look to attack. The result was a double-digit scoring night for all five Olympus starters, with Will Cannon leading the way with a team-high 22 points.

"Instead of taking a quick shot, we passed it around and got a lot of layups," Barnes said. "That's who we are. Our strength is inside, and we did a great job of converting."

Colton Stewart, who finished with 14 points, joined Cannon to help the Titans dominate on the block. The formidable front-court duo provided a powerful inside presence that served to open up teammates on the perimeter.

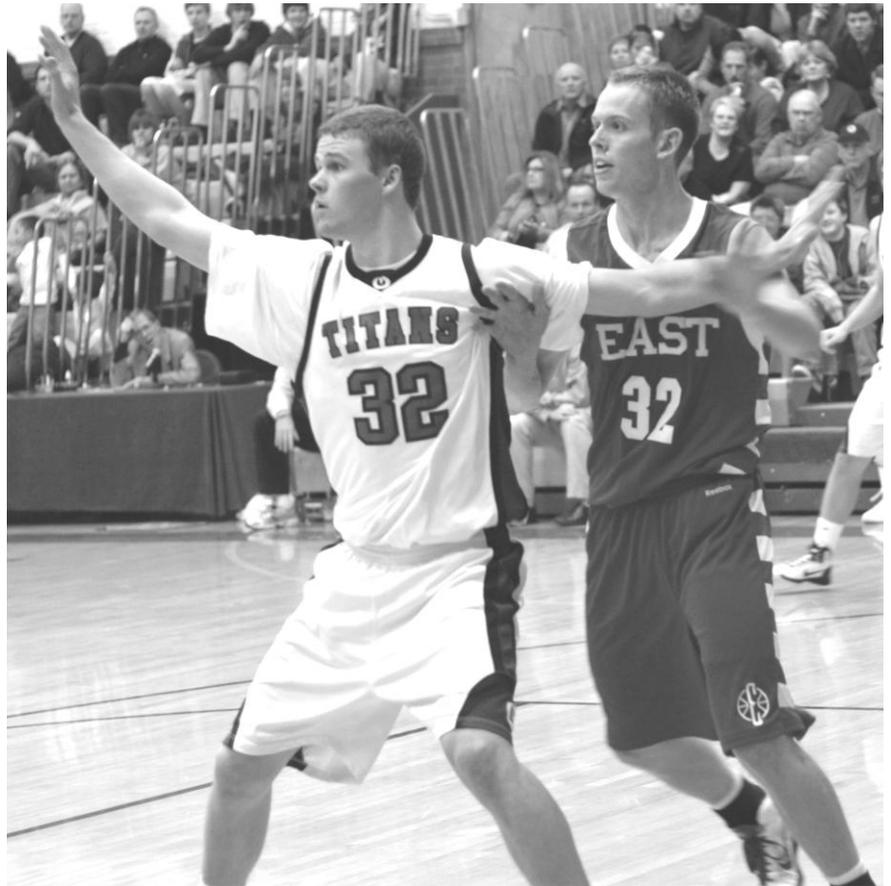
Point guard Sam Williams was the main beneficiary. After struggling early in the game, he scored the first five points of the second half — on a steal and breakaway layup and then a second-

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**TOP:** Colton Stewart gets ready to make a move on East's Arik Mawien early in the Titans' win.

**BOTTOM:** Taran Bailey battles an East player for position.



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chance three-pointer. He added another three a minute later, which only fueled Olympus' run.

"We just started playing as a team more in the second half," Cannon said. "We came out with a lot of energy and had nice camaraderie."

For East, standout Parker Van Dyke got off to a hot start, scoring seven points in the first quarter. He used a variety of crossovers and pull-up jumpers to create space and score.

His sweet mid-range game, though, became a moot attribute in the second half as East could hardly get the ball past half court. Seven of Olympus' first 10 third-quarter field goals came off East turnovers. Van Dyke, in particular, was prone to losing the ball and finished with an inauspicious double-double—17 points and 10 turnovers.

Tanner Curtis also finished with 17 points for East. He hit two three-pointers to fuel a late run that saw the Leopards pull within eleven late in the fourth quarter before Olympus put the game away.

For Olympus, now 7-4, this was as close to a must-win game as there can be in early-season play. The Titans fell to Woods Cross at home last week and will now play five of their next six games on the road.

"If we wanted to make a run at this thing we needed to win this one, and that's something we talked about at halftime," Barnes said. "Then they came out and performed. It was a great win for us."

**LEFT: Coach Matt Barnes**

**RIGHT: Nic Johnson** posts up on an East player

### GAME SUMMARY

<b>East</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>- 58</b>
<b>Olympus</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>- 72</b>

**EAST (58)** – Parker Van Dyke 8-16 0-0 17, Tanner Curtis 7-16 1-1 17, Jack Larson 5-5 1-6 11, Vaha Vainuku 2-4 1-2 5, Arik Mawien 1-1 0-0 2, Nick Sessions 0-4 1-2 1, Luke Baptiste 0-2 0-0 0, Mike Hansen 1-3 1-3 3, John Fakahafua 1-3 0-0 2, Mitch Cox 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-53 5-14 58.

**OLYMPUS (72)** – Tanner Curtis 5-9 2-2 12, Sam Williams 4-10 2-2 12, Carter Young 4-7 0-4 10, Will Cannon 6-10 10-14 22, Colton Stewart 4-18 6-7 14, J.T. Timmons 0-2 0-0 0, Nic Johnson 1-4 0-2 2, Spencer Lindsley 0-0 0-0 0, Jordan Marsh 0-2 0-0 0, Taran Bailey 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-62 20-31 72.

**Total fouls:** East 22, Olympus 16. **Fouled out:** Larson, Stewart.

**Three-point shooting:** East 3-14 (Curtis 2, Van Dyke). Olympus 4-18 (Williams 2, Young 2).

**Rebounds:** Olympus 37 (Cannon 16), East 35 (Fakahafua 9).

**Turnovers:** East 22, Olympus 10.