

Titans' second-half run too much for Colts

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

The Olympus Titans started the 2010-11 basketball season with basically a new varsity team, and it didn't take long for coach Matt Barnes to show his hand.

Colton Stewart scored 26 points and Will Cannon added 14 as the Titans broke open a close game in the second half and whipped Cottonwood in the season opener for both teams.

The Titans trailed most of the first half, but led 28-26 at halftime. A 14-0 run to start the second half ended any doubt in the outcome.

"It was a huge run," Barnes said. "We talk about that all the time. It was important to get off to a fast start."

Stewart and Cannon were the biggest reasons for Oly's second-half outburst. Stewart had 15 points after halftime, and Cannon was especially noticeable near the basket. He led both teams with 10 rebounds.

"Stewart was just great," Barnes said. "Colton had a great year on JV last year and now is his chance to play varsity, and he did just great."

Stewart also showed an uncanny ability to shoot from long range. He scored several times on short shots near the basket, but also backed out and



Spencer Lindsley applies some defense on Cottonwood's Zach Watts.

canned a pair of three-pointers. Thus, he was difficult to cover with a man-to-man defense.

When he missed, the 6-foot-7 Cannon was often the tallest player around and was there to grab the rebound. He helped Oly to a 35-25 advantage on the boards.

Cottonwood coach Cory

Martin, sitting in the hot seat for the first time after serving as an assistant, said he saw a lot of positives in the loss.

"They just outplayed us, but it was good for us to see what can happen if we take a break," Martin said.

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OLYMPUS BASKETBALL: Titans 68, Cottonwood 51



LEFT: Sam Williams drives past Cottonwood's Hunter Hanks.

ABOVE: Carter Young defends Cottonwood guard Parker Vassau.

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The Colts didn't take many breaks in the first half, and returnees Daniel Kristensen and Parker Vassau had the Titans on their heels for the first 16 minutes.

Kristensen, the Colts' center, showed a nice touch on several shots that he didn't have last year. He finished with 10 points. Vassau was the Colts' top scorer with 14 points, and impressed even the Oly crowd with his outside-shooting ability, making three baskets from long range.

Playing on their home court, where the Titans are traditionally tough (they were 9-2 last season), Oly benefited from a foul differential and made 24-30 free throws. The Titans tried to increase the pace of the game by implementing a full-court press, but it had little effect on Cottonwood.

"That was another one of our highlights," Martin said. "We handled their press well. Now we just need to make that an advantage for us."

GAME SUMMARY

Cottonwood	14	12	9	16	-	51
Olympus	12	16	22	18	-	68

COTTONWOOD (51) – Hunter Hanks 0-0 0-0 0-0, Parker Vassau 4-10 3-5 14, Vlad Malugin 0-2 2-2 2, Zach Watts 1-7 3-5 5, Daniel Kristensen 5-10 0-0 10, Parker Swope 2-6 1-1 5, Danny Schwartz 2-5 2-3 6, Ryan Mackay 3-3 0-0 7, Steven Haglund 0-2 1-2 1, Connor Durrant 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 17-45 13-19 51.

OLYMPUS (68) – Sam Williams 1-5 1-2 4, Carter Young 0-3 4-4 4, Jordan Marsh 1-8 2-2 4, Will Cannon 5-6 4-6 14, Colton Stewart 9-15 6-7 26, Spencer Lindsley 0-2 0-0 0, Tanner Curtis 2-2 5-6 9, Jackson Coleman 0-4 0-0 0, J.T. Timmons 1-3 2-2 5, Taran Bailey 1-1 0-1 2. Totals 20-49 24-30 68.

Total fouls: Cottonwood 25, Olympus 17.

Fouled out: Kristensen. **Technical fouls:** None.

Three-point shooting: Cottonwood 4-12 (Vassau 3, Haglund), Olympus 4-21 (Stewart 2, Williams, Timmons).

Rebounds: Cottonwood 23 (Vassau 5), Olympus 39 (Cannon 12).

Turnovers: Cottonwood 15, Olympus 13.