



# Ty Olsen

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Meet Ty Olsen, a 17-year-old who has excelled as a student, an athlete, and a musician.

Ty is in the 11th grade at Heritage High School. He stays pretty busy with school and extra-curricular activities, but he puts 100% effort into each one, and it shows. For starters, he has not only kept up with his studies, but he has done very well in them. He maintains a high GPA as a member of the National Honor Society and is involved in FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) as well.

Ty is a hard worker in the classroom and on the court. He plays on the Heritage High School basketball team and has accomplished great things in the sport including All-Conference Basketball Player, Academic State Champion, the Arvest Hoopfest All-Tournament, and the state tournament.

Ty grew up playing basketball, so he knows the game well. "I'm able to play a few steps ahead of the game," Ty said. "The game never seems too fast. I'm able to recognize parts of the game and implement strategies to win." He's good at it, but more importantly, he really enjoys it. "I have the opportunity to exercise in a way that's fun," Ty said. "It's invigorating and enjoyable."

Chadwick/Heritage High School

Love for basketball and sports, in general, is shared by the whole Olsen family. Basketball has become a common love for them all, but especially for Ty, his older brothers Crist (21) and Dane (19) and their dad Tom. They love watching the game at all levels- high school, college and pro, and they love playing the game just as much. All three Olsen brothers have played for Heritage. "We have had an Olsen boy playing for Heritage Highschool going on seven straight years!" Ty's mom Karen said. The brothers have also played under the same coach- their dad.

Tom, who played basketball all through high school and college, has been coaching for 25 years. He has had the privilege of being both coach and dad to Crist, Dane, and now Ty, as he enters his third season coaching his youngest son. "I wouldn't trade the time that we spend together for anything," Tom said. "Sometimes it's necessary to step out of the coach role, take a moment and enjoy

watching your son play high school basketball. Ty has a very high level of understanding of our basketball system which makes it very easy to coach him...and he always keeps me on my toes."

In addition to his athletic ability, Ty has an ear for music. He is a member of the choir at his high school and plans to study music in college. While music isn't as ingrained in the rest of the family as basketball, Karen said that the whole family has "a love and appreciation for music overall, and have certainly loved watching Ty develop within his passion".

Ty is also passionate about his faith and has a heart for leadership. He plans to pursue that and has a desire to lead worship at his church, Fellowship Bible Church Northwest Arkansas. Ty is fully supported by his family, as well as his church family. "He has been so encouraged, equipped and released by so many at our church to pursue this passion for music and leadership," Karen said.



While Karen and Tom may not have Ty's musical talent, they do share his passion for faith and leadership. Karen and Tom currently help co-lead a small group at Fellowship Bible Church NWA, and have been a part of small group leadership for almost 20 years. Karen also works at their church. She said she is blessed to work in human resources, an area she loves and has enjoyed working there for almost 17 years.

It's pretty cool when you and your family are passionate about the same thing, but even when that's not the case, Ty can count on his family's full support. In addition to his parents, Ty admires a historical figure whose life has taught him a valuable truth. "I admire Martin Luther," Ty said. "Martin Luther was the man in charge of the Protestant Reformation in Europe. At this time period, the Catholic Church was in complete control and were stealing and deceiving the masses about the truth of the Gospel. He, knowing that he could be executed or worse, chose to call the Catholic Church out on all of their misdeeds and promote what many follow today in Christianity, the belief of self-interpretation, where everyone had access to a Bible and was able to discern their own truths from it. This has taught me that if Martin Luther would risk his life for what he believed to be true of the Gospel, it should be easy for me to be courageous when I step on the floor before a state tournament game, or I'm passed my Calculus exam. The quality of fearlessness and courageousness are things that Martin Luther has taught me and motivated me with."

Ty has some great influences and role models in his life, but his passionate heart, determination, and hard work are things you don't

see every day, especially in a teenager. When asked how he manages to balance all his activities, Ty said, "Lots and lots of prayer!" "There is a lot of things to do, but the easiest way to stay on top of it all is to work your hardest in each situation as best you can."

Ty's hard work shows in everything he does, and his parents couldn't be prouder of him. "It's hard to put into words how proud we are of the young man that Ty has become," Karen said. "His dad has a funny statement in that Ty is 'living proof that one can overcome their genetics'. Seriously, we are very proud of his accomplishments, in the sports arena and academically. We also love being under his leadership in worship; it is a true joy to watch your child do something they love with such passion and giftedness! But most of all, we love his heart, his integrity, his loyalty, his quick wit, great smile and his love for the Lord. Just like it says in 3 John 1:4, 'I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth!'"

Ty knows what he is passionate about, and he knows how to work hard to excel in them. He has already achieved a lot as a high school student, and I'm sure he will continue to do so as a college student and beyond. After high school, Ty plans to attend the University of Arkansas to study business and music, and lead worship at his church.



**Brandon Simmons, Lloyd Du Preez, and Brian Carneal of Integrity Capital Wealth Management would like to congratulate Ty Olsen for being this month's Moments of Integrity award winner.**



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