



How did Olympiacos dominate The Derby vs Panathinaikos?

As the calendar turned to December 30th, it was time for one last battle between two arch-rivals in 2022.

Panathinaikos came in with a 6-9 record having lost 3 games in a row, while Olympiacos was 9-6, splitting their last 4 games.

Prior to the derby, an important question considering the absence of Olympiacos' top scorer Sasha Vekenzov (19.2 PPG) was **how the team would adjust without his contribution?**

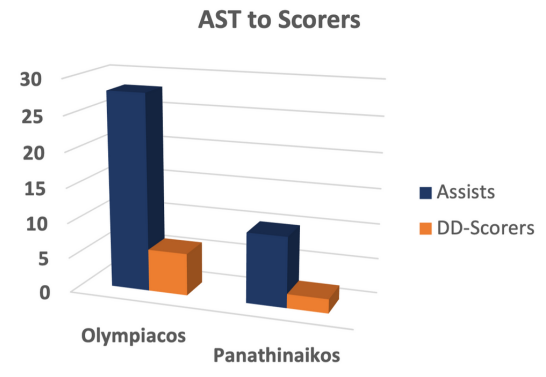
Panathinaikos coach, Dejan Radonjic, stressed pre-game the need to control the rhythm of the game and "do good things on both ends" (more on that later).



From a fan's perspective, as one of the eternal derbies in European Basketball, it's a game that is on everyone's calendar. For players, as said by **Derrick Williams**, "This is what we play for".

What we saw from **Olympiacos**

- ✓ **A balanced Q1**
 - Olympiacos went inside to Moustapha Fall who despite being double teamed on most post-ups scored 11 PTs, 5/5 shooting in Q1
 - Fall would finish with 19 PTs, shooting 9/10 from 2PT, with 7 Rebs
- ✓ **Dribble drives and off-ball cuts** – 28 total ASTs (to Pao's 10)
 - Strategically, putting Pao in trouble by attacking well on closeouts, consistently distributing the ball on offense, and remaining active throughout possessions, moving crisply without the ball
- ✓ **A 2nd QT that shifted the game's momentum**
 - Kostas Sloukas came in and scored 7 PTs, dishing out 4 ASTs in Q2
 - He contributed via left handed drives and pick/rolls, breaking the game open (36-53 at half)



- ✓ **Strong finish**
 - Olympiacos managed the 2nd half well, building their largest lead of 31 PTs (50-81), and eventually a 24 PT win (71-95)

Key Insights

- Olympiacos controlled the flow of the game and "did good things on both ends"; dominating the Derby by simply playing with **a lot more intensity**
 - **Attacking the paint** aggressively to create good scoring chances
- **Lock-down defense** – reflected in Pao's 2PT shooting percentage (37.8%).
 - Although Dwayne Bacon gave Oly a lot of problems, rarely does a single player win a game on his own and *Olympiacos shut everyone else down*

Key Numbers

- The aftermentioned 28-10 AST advantage
- Well-balanced offense – Olympiacos with 6 players in double digits, Pao with 2
- Paint dominance – 29/41 2PT FG (70.7%)
- Defensively, holding Pao to just 14/37 (37.8%) on 2s

Key Observations

An interesting defensive approach that didn't take the ball out of Dwayne Bacon's hands but rather shut everyone else down.

- Bacon took 20 shots (11 makes) and scored 30 PTs
- Pao was forced into a lot of 1-1 play, with little ball movement
- The 2nd highest scorer: Derrick Williams, 14 PTs, 5/14