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## OSU men's basketball: Beavers gain some attention with OT victory over Texas

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EAST RUTHERFORD, N. J. - The Oregon State men's basketball team signed up for the TicketCity Legends Classic looking for tough games and some national recognition.

No doubt there's going to be notice taken of the Beavers now.

OSU took a 100-95 win over Texas in overtime in the championship round on Saturday at the Izod Center.

The Beavers kept chipping at a small deficit in the second half and finally sent it into overtime.

"These are guys that have big hearts, they have courage, they have a lot of character, so they don't quit," coach Craig Robinson said.

"It happened to us in the Hofstra game and now it's happened to us on a bigger stage away from home and we've shown ourselves that we can come back.

"So this is a very important win for us this season."

The Beavers (4-0) will take on No. 18 Vanderbilt in the tournament championship game on Monday.

The Commodores took an 86-79 win over North Carolina State in the other semifinal.

One game removed from a career-high 35 points against Hofsta, Jared Cunningham hit 20 of 23 free throws and scored 37 against the Longhorns. He also had nine rebounds.

Cunningham hit all eight of his free throws in overtime.

He also hit two free throws with 8.3 seconds left to send the game into overtime at 81-81.

"When the team really needed me I came through and I'm glad I can help my team win," Cunningham said.

Cunningham also had a taste of guarding J'Covan Brown, who entered the game with a 31.5 point average.

Brown finished with 25 points, but only seven in the second half.

Cunningham said he started to read Brown's moves.

"I tried to sit on his opposite hand that he's going to spin to and I tried to get the ball back for the team," he said.

Cunningham's defense was so intense that he wound up with a bloodied face.

"I might have to get some stitches. J'Covan Brown hit me in the face," Cunningham said of the collision that left him with blood around his mouth for the rest of the game. "I saw the blood and was a little worried, because I didn't want it to get on my jersey. But I wasn't coming out. I stayed out on the court and was able to make some big plays."

The Beavers jumped out fast in overtime.

Ahmad Starks and Angus Brandt hit back-to-back 3-pointers and three free throws gave OSU a 90-83 lead with 1-minute, 43 seconds to go.

Texas did cut it to 92-90, but the Beavers clinched it from the line.

Brandt had 14 points and Devon Collier 17 for the Beavers.

"They were definitely a good team," Cunningham said. "They came out prepared and ready to play and we did the same. They got up on us kind of early but we fought to the end and I'm proud of the team for doing that."

The Beavers spent most of the second half trying to make up a small deficit to the Longhorns and finally got it done.

Cunningham stole a pass and the Beavers called time with 27 seconds to go, then hit one of two free throws to make it 80-79 with 18.8 left.

Texas freshman guard Myck Kabongo was fouled with 17 seconds left, but only made one of two.

The Longhorns looked on the brink of blowing it open when they took a 72-64 lead, but back-to-back baskets by Kevin McShane and the Beavers were right back in it with 6:03 to go.

The Beavers trailed 50-45 at the half.

The Beavers were on a 7-0 run and led 30-28 on a steal and score by Roberto Nelson, but came to a screeching halt when Brown hit a 3-pointer and was fouled for a four-point play.

The Longhorns grabbed the momentum and the lead.

A big run, however, was not forthcoming.

OREGON ST. 100, TEXAS 95 (OT)

TEXAS (2-1) - Holmes 3-4 6-6 12, Wangmene 5-7 1-2 11, Lewis 3-11 0-0 7, Kabongo 3-7 7-10 13, Brown 8-14 4-6 25, McClellan 5-9 1-1 12, Bond 1-2 3-4 5, Gibbs 2-2 0-1 4, Dick 0-0 0-0 0, Chapman 3-4 0-0 6. Totals 33-60 22-30 95.

OREGON ST. (4-0) - Burton 3-3 1-2 7, Collier 6-11 5-10 17, Brandt 4-6 3-4 14, Cunningham 8-18 20-23 37, Starks 2-11 2-2 8, McShane 3-3 0-0 6, Barton 0-0 0-0 0, Moreland 3-4 0-2 6, Nelson 2-7 0-0 5. Totals 31-63 31-43 100.

Halftime-Texas 50-45. End Of Regulation-Tied 81. 3-Point Goals-Texas 7-18 (Brown 5-8, Lewis 1-3, McClellan 1-5, Kabongo 0-2), Oregon St. 7-18 (Brandt 3-4, Starks 2-7, Nelson 1-3, Cunningham 1-4). Fouled Out-Bond, Burton, Chapman, Holmes, Lewis, Wangmene. Rebounds-Texas 37 (Brown 6), Oregon St. 33 (Cunningham 9). Assists-Texas 15 (Brown 9), Oregon St. 16 (Burton, Nelson 4). Total Fouls-Texas 35, Oregon St. 27. A-4,187.