



## Vanderbilt 64, Oregon State 62: Brad Tinsley makes final shot in Legend Classics win over Beavers

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By



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Bill Kostroun/The Associated Press

Oregon State guard Ahmad Starks (left) pressures Vanderbilt guard Brad Tinsley during the first half of the Legends Classic title game on Monday in East Rutherford, N.J.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. -- When Brad Tinsley made a pull-up jump shot with 4.5 seconds remaining in the Legends Classic final, putting Vanderbilt ahead by two points over Oregon State, his father was happy but confused.

Carl Tinsley, a longtime girls basketball coach at Oregon City High School, turned to Tom Moriau, his friend and the athletic director and girls basketball coach at a local New Jersey high school.

"I thought he tied it," said Carl Tinsley, smiling as he stood in the Izod Center late Monday night. "I wasn't paying attention."

Soon afterward, when OSU's Jared Cunningham missed a contested shot at the buzzer, Vanderbilt had clinched a 64-62 victory and the tournament title. And Carl Tinsley and his wife, Kathy, had witnessed another memorable moment in their son's college career.

Since Brad Tinsley entered Vanderbilt in 2008, after earning co-Class 6A player of the year honors at Oregon City, his parents have lived in Nashville, Tenn., from November through May. They then move back to Oregon in the offseason and have attended each of Brad's games, home and away.

Now a senior, Tinsley is a starting guard on the nation's No. 18 team, a squad with aspirations of advancing deep in the NCAA Tournament. On Monday, though, OSU gave the Commodores (4-1) all they could handle, even with Cunningham struggling.

Cunningham, who scored 35 and 37 points in his previous two games, finished with a season-low nine points on 3 of 9 shooting. He also committed seven turnovers, as Vanderbilt's Jeff Taylor did a strong job defending Cunningham.

After Tinsley connected on his off-balance shot, Joe Burton inbounded the ball to Cunningham, who drove down the right-hand side of the court. With Taylor and other Commodores in his face, Cunningham's baseline jumper fell short, clinching the Beavers' first loss after starting the season with four consecutive victories.

"The refs never really cost you the game," said OSU coach Craig Robinson, when asked whether he thought Cunningham was fouled. "But having said that, there was a lot of contact on that (shot). ... I'm not complaining, though."

Neither was Tinsley, who finished with nine points in 29 minutes.

"It's a huge blessing for me," Tinsley said. "It's awesome to do this."

As he walked to Vanderbilt's team bus, Bill McShane stopped Tinsley to reconnect. McShane's son, Kevin, is an OSU senior reserve forward. Kevin and Brad played together on a Portland-based club team as kids. Bill was the coach.

"Big shot, Brad," Bill McShane said.

Replied Tinsley: "Hey, you taught it to me."

-- Tim Casey/Special to The Oregonian

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