Durant wins MVP

Written by Yolande Y. Lezine
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Sports Editor

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant captured his first NBA All-Star game MVP Award, scoring 36 points, and grabbing 7 rebounds in a 152-149 Western Conference victory over the Eastern Conference at the Amway Center in Orlando, Florida.

"It's just exciting to be named an All-Star, but to step it up another level and become MVP, it's only something as a kid you dream about," Kevin Durant said.

"Coming from where I come from, I didn't think I would be here. Everything is just a blessing to me and now I get to take this award back to Oklahoma City and share it with the fans."

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His scoring display in Sunday's game ranked among the best in the game's history. Durant dazzled the crowd with a scoring barrage that included jump shots, layups and slam dunks, to help the West open a 21-point lead.

He even eclipsed West teammate Kobe Bryant, who scored 27 points and passed Michael Jordan to become the top career scorer in All-Star game history.

Durant played a game-high 37 minutes. Miami's Dwayne Wade said that Durant will be a player to watch in future games.

"That record (Kobe) got tonight, with KD in the league, I don't know how long its going to last," Wade stated.

Durant said that Sunday's honor ranks high on his list of career achievements including the gold medal he won at the world championships in 2010.

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"It ranks right up there at the top, " Durant stated. "I keep saying it, but I'm excited I got it, and I'm glad I get to celebrate this with my family and my teammates and everybody in Oklahoma City."{jcomments on}