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Oladipo's 1st game provides hope for Thunder in the post-Durant era

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) - Russell Westbrook and the Oklahoma City Thunder saw exactly what they need to move on after Kevin Durant: buckets in bunches from Victor Oladipo.

The 24-year-old guard scored 34 points in his debut on Monday as the Thunder began their first preseason without Durant in nearly a decade with a 142-137 overtime loss earlier this week at Real Madrid.

Getting Oladipo off to a good start was clearly the Thunder's focus for the game in the Spanish capital. He made 14 of 24 shots in 33 minutes and dished out five assists, while Westbrook left the team in his hands. Westbrook settled for 18 points in 22 minutes after sitting out the second and fourth quarters.

"I think (Oladipo) did a good job of playing aggressive," Westbrook said of his new backcourt partner. "That's the most important part of going out and competing, being aggressive, and that's what we need for him to do."

The Associated Press