

Drew Pember vs UAB 12/29/2023 - In Person

Pember has a lengthy, but slim frame and he has room to fill out both in his upper and lower body. At his position, he has an undersized frame with his body weight and his strength needs work primarily for his post defense. On the bench and during timeouts, he was engaged with his teammates and coaches responding well to information and criticism.

Pember got anything he wanted inside the arc displaying unique footwork and patience in the paint, while also drawing multiple fouls. He favors playing along the perimeter and attacking slower bigs matched up with him off the dribble. Whenever he got to the paint off drives, he used an array of pivots to fake out his defender and get the best shot possible. For example, at the 4:32 mark of the first half, he caught the ball on the pinch post, squared his man, and surveyed the floor. Once he got to the rim, he spun, pivoted, pump faked, and finished through contact with his left. Pember had another nice play towards the end of the first half when he caught the ball at the top of the key and drove hard going right then spun to his left shoulder initiating contact off the bump, and created space by shooting a contested fadeaway jumper.

Defensively, Pember struggled with his post defense and the physical play down low due to his slimmer frame and because of this, he was subjected to fouls more often. Overall, he is not a very physical defender and he has solid length, but his strength, particularly his lower body strength, at his position causes him to give up space on drives and defend the paint. For example, at the 6:58 mark of the second half, he gave little resistance on the drive and instead of going vertical, he swiped down going for the steal and gave up an and one. His rebounding defensively was also a concern because for multiple plays he gave little effort crashing the boards to conclude the possession for his team. His defensive stance tends to be straight up while off-ball and he walks during active possessions too. For example, at the 5:09 mark of the second half, he contested a three-point attempt on the left corner, and instead of turning and crashing the boards to get the rebound, he just watched and walked back into play while still on defense due to his team giving up an offensive rebound from the shot.

Pember displayed solid footwork in the paint and played through contact while also getting to the charity stripe. One area of improvement for Pember is his lower body strength to defend the post better and his effort defensively. His effort on the glass has room for improvement as well.