

Nikola Topić- KK Crvena Zvezda- 6 feet 6 inches-200 pounds- 18 years old- Professional

Draft Intel Report- Conducted May 29, 2024

Source: Djordje Lazarevic- Assistant Coach KK Crvena Zvezda

For sure this kid is something special. What the source means when he says this is that Nikola Topić is a true leader. This was very obvious from the first minute of their practice so from the moment he joined them he came from Mega playing on a lower level and he immediately became their leader. This was very natural. Everybody accept him as a leader. All more experienced strong name players accepted him immediately not as part of the team but as the most important guy on the team. Unfortunately with this injury he didn't show his leadership completely but the source is telling us from day 1 Topić was their general on the floor. This is his characteristic. Wherever he played he was the main guy. Wherever he played he was the main guy. This is very important for him to know.

In terms of his aggressiveness he is aggressive and the source thinks on the NBA level Topić can be more aggressive where he would have more space to attack the rim, where he has better shooters, the court is bigger, and the rules are suitable for him with defensive 3 seconds in the paint. All these rules are suitable for his style of play. He is very dominant in an open court and he is greater with the ball in his hands mostly with some early pick and roll. The source thinks NBA style of play if Topić gets in the right team for him and in the case somebody works on his body he has a lot of space for progress there. On a European level his body is very good so he is quick, he accelerates very good, his starting speed is very good when he has the ball in his hands. What is important for him is his finishing is very good with contact under pressure so he knows how to use the body, how to protect the ball, how to put the shoulder in the right place, and how to put himself in a right position to receive the contact and to finish with the contact. This is one of his important skills. Also he is a very good passer. He care a lot about teammates. He knows in every moment when somebody is ready to shoot and when somebody is not ready when he needs to feed somebody where he needs to gain somebody's self confidence. He is like a computer. His brain is working in advance 2 to 3 steps even more than their coaches are. This is something unbelievable. This is maybe his best characteristic.

His most transferable skillset would be his driving to the rim, processing speed like making passes, and his pick and roll game for himself and for the others. He can make every pass you need. He is tall, he has size, he sees over the screen over the defenders so his passes are his big quality. His change of speed, direction, and pace is good but he is the best in the open court so there he is dominant. If he has good shooters around him and maybe one good roll guy who is playing above the rim he can be very good. For example he can be a good fit for San Antonio Spurs or somebody like this. It will be somebody who will know how to use all his qualities.

He is a natural leader. On their team this year they had many EuroLeague stars but everybody accept him as a leader. This is some guy who is 18 years old was accepted by EuroLeague champions and guys who made millions and are important names in EuroLeague basketball so they needed to accept him because it is something natural. Without any force he is a leader. It is vocal leadership. He is vocal but with a normal vocal. It is something that he is talking all the time. He is talking but it was also with example. Whenever they finish the practice they stay with him 1 hour to shoot so he is shooting like crazy and working like crazy. His work ethic is great but with example in a game. The source is telling us that wherever Topić plays he was the main guy. He was the guy who other players trust and who other players let to lead. This is a very important characteristic.

The source thinks that Topić being a franchise player and a superstar depends a lot on a team who will take him so this depends a lot. If Topić goes to some team where he will not play the source is not sure but if he goes to the team who will have an idea with him and who will have a precise plan of what they will do with him this can be good feat for everybody. It depends a lot on who is going to draft him. He has the characteristics to reach this level if he lands in the right situation. He is a very trustable person so he is completely aware that he is going to be a high pick. He is completely aware that his life is going to change but everything he accepts it. He is a very normal guy. He is focused only on basketball and thinks all about basketball. He doesn't have some dreams about money or girls. It is all basketball. This is his only goal at the moment and then this dream is super natural without any crazy thinking. He thinks about next step and he is on the floor. He is not flying. He is on the ground. This absolutely impresses the source and surprises him with a young player. He is a very mature person. He is 18 but he is thinking like he is 35.

The source doesn't worry about Topić being injury prone. This injury he had was the only one. The second one wasn't even an injury. He was just a little bit afraid to do everything. Now he is healthy, he is practicing, and he is ready.

He is absolutely coachable. You are never going to find a more coachable player than him. NBA scouts have said that Topić is the only kid that they never heard one not even bad word about him not even negative. Everything is just positive. This is why the source said at the beginning of our conversation that this kid is special. Topić ego is really normal. It is even lower then it should be. The source wouldn't like to see Topić have more ego as a player and he wouldn't benefit from it. The source thinks it should be like this in this moment because Topić didn't achieve anything special until now. To be realistic he is not even drafted and he didn't play 1 second in the NBA so the source thinks Topić understands this very realistically. Maybe this is going to change but at the moment he is on the ground. He accepts reality. He knows that he will be a lottery pick and thinks like this. He is thinking normal. The source told us without any huge dreams Topić is still like a kid he was 5 years ago.

At the Red Star club where the source coaches and where Topić plays he is under pressure less than 8 years. He was under pressure since he was born because his father was a national team player. His father was an important player so this kid is under pressure all his life and he is performing great under pressure. Being under pressure is his comfort zone. This is what the source believes. Again the source is telling us this kid is special. Topić is one of the best players that the source has coached for sure and he will be the best the source is sure. The qualities that Topić that other players don't have that the source has coached are first of all he has a great body for a point guard. This is something where when you see him you see this. He is an unbelievable mentally strong person. This is the second thing. The third thing is that he is an adult but a kid. He is a leader to everybody but he is still a kid and this is something great. He can improve a lot and he is aware that he can improve because he is working everyday and he is disciplined. He wants to work, he wants to improve, and at the beginning of all he is a great guy. It is only the best possible things. He plays more mature than what his age is. He plays more like a vet than someone who is really young. They played a game in Istanbul and it was 3 days after he joined them. He was playing for Mega and coach called Topić to go back into the game 1:20 minutes before the end of the game. They had plus 8 or plus 9 in that moment so the game was not done and while Topić was waiting for a sub the fitness coach stands up and he starts celebrating like lets go Topić we won. He who joined the team 3 days before that who is playing his first EuroLeague game said to the fitness coach to calm down and the game is still not done. They didn't finish. This was his reaction. This was the reaction of the kid. This kid is unbelievable. The source can tell us that his friend was Topić's coach in the under 18 team and when they play the final tournament of the stage he was playing semifinal and he played nothing. He played 3 quarters and didn't even take a shot. The coach in timeout asked him what are you doing why you don't score and Topić said coach anyway we will win today but he needs to make these players happy for tomorrow. Tomorrow is their finals and he plays for others. He was passing and didn't attack. He wants to make them ready and with the self-confidence for tomorrow so he was thinking about 11 other guys not about himself in a moment where probably 10 scouts were watching him. Topić puts his teammate's performance before his is what the source would say. He is a true point guard.

There are no personal and social red flags with him. He is a perfect kid. It is not very good but it is perfect. He has never failed a drug test. He never even drinks 1 beer in his life. There is no way. He is a perfect kid. He is completely focused on basketball and nothing else.

Topić is absolutely competitive. First of all with himself he is competing everyday with himself and after that with the others. The ways that he shows competitiveness are through everyday he sets some goals for himself. For example when they shoot after the practice he always wants to score more. He always puts some very high goals for himself. He wants something that is difficult to achieve and he is trying and staying until he makes it. Then as the coaches are not telling him anything. He knows everything.

Really small things you can tell him and teach him because he is a computer. The source would say that Topić sometimes absolutely knows more than the coaches. When it comes to coaches letting Topić decide the gameplan sometimes this is very high level so after NBA this is the highest level in the world so on this level he is still young but you can just give him some small tasks. For sure he will make the right conclusion of what is the best for him and for the team but you are just giving him some tasks. It is like instructions or other view.

When the source first watched Topić when he was 12 or 13 from that moment he was super clever. He is good with executing the team's scouting report and gameplan. The scouting reports of KK Crvena Zvezda are very detailed and complicated. They throw a lot of information and they have 3 games per week so it is a lot of information and he is proceeding very well.

The main reason the source views Topić successful at the next level is because of his head and having a brilliant mind. The source doesn't see a main reason of why he wouldn't view Topić successful at the next level. The source doesn't have an answer and there is no answer as to why Topić wouldn't be a success. There is no reason why Topić wouldn't be successful. He will be super effective on every level. The source is sure of this.

Topić is good with in game adjustments and picks up on it fast. He is super experienced. He is young but he had the right way. He was going through second division to first division from first division to Adriatic League from Adriatic League to EuroLeague so his way was perfect. He was going to step by step and it was naturally. Wherever he played he was the leader. The type of in game adjustments that Topić had to respond to are for sure on physicality he needs to respond on an NBA level. We will see how he looks there but knowing how much of an adjustable person and player Topić is the source thinks there will not be any problems at all.

Report Completed by Layth Dahman (Manager of Basketball Intel and Basketball Scout)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/layth-dahman-a3366917b/>