

Matas Buzelis vs Windy City Bulls March 1, 2024

In a homecoming game for Buzelis where he got to play his first professional game against his hometown team he came out aggressively trying to set the tone for his team.

He displayed a lot more comfortability with playing through contact compared to the start of the season, which was good to see despite the mixed results. His assertiveness with getting to his spots, bumping his defenders off balance, and scoring in the paint in a variety of ways was also good to see. One notable play was at 10:29 of the first quarter where Buzelis received a handoff pass at the top of the key and immediately drove to the paint, stopped with a hard behind the back move to create space, did a pump fake to get his defender off balance, and then finished with a contested floater in the paint.

He shot the ball with confidence overall, despite a small hitch in his shot, he looked to take the right shots and was generally comfortable with shooting, but potentially not having enough strength prevented him from being able to consistently make shots from deep. Buzelis looked comfortable when playing in a motion offense and fast break settings which allowed him to display his ability to playmake for teammates and move within space to create opportunities.

Buzelis displayed high IQ on defense in terms of being able to position himself in the most effective way possible and tried his best to be physical despite his below average strength. His ability to move his feet and leverage his length to compensate for his lack of strength against bigger wings, despite not always being successful at it, was impressive to see. A notable defensive play by Buzelis was at 11:49 of the fourth quarter where he rotated weakside from the wing to contest a reverse layup and then blocked the big man from behind when he went for a putback attempt.

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