

Kel'el Ware (7'0", Fresh, C) vs UConn Huskies November 24th, 2022 (Phil Knight Invitational Quarter Final Game)

18 points // 6-8 fg // 2-3 3pt // 4-6 ft // 9 reb // 1 ast // 0 stl // 1 blk // 2 to // 2 pf // 26 min

In a bounce back game from his 2 point performance in his previous outing, Kel'el Ware made an emphasis to make his presence felt inside the arc displaying his athleticism, shooting ability, and fluidity in this performance.

Kel'el Ware's athleticism immediately stands out on the basketball court, especially at his size. On one of his team's first plays, Ware used his leaping ability to grab an offensive rebound off of his own missed hookshot and immediately sprung up to dunk the ball (11:40 first half). This showcased his current offensive skill set as while his overall post game needs a lot of work, his fluidity and athleticism presents him with a lot of room to improve. His ability to finish at the rim is impressive as he is able to go above the rim with ease, he had multiple and one opportunities this game by simply being lengthier than defenders. His frame has a lot of room to grow so if he is able to add weight his ability to play through contact could go to another level. This prevented him from being effective in post up settings, as the fluidity he showed when operating in space did not translate into fundamental post moves. He was also able to score through cutting actions which is impressive at his size.

Ware is a very smooth shooter, does a good job of setting his feet before catching the ball to go into his jump shot. His release point is very high and quick giving him the ability to shoot over defenders with ease. His relocation ability without the ball to get open looks was very impressive. Also interesting to note that in the first half he was more interested in getting shots at the rim, while in the second half there was a clear intention to get more shots from the perimeter for Ware. He is a smooth ball handler and it was very impressive seeing how comfortable he was with the ball in his hands in small spurts, however this did not trickle into his playmaking ability as Ware did not seem interested in creating for his teammates consistently. His only assist was a simple post entry pass on what seemed to be a set play.

His defense is very impressive both on and off ball only issue might be consistent engagement. He had a tendency to be eager to jump at pump fakes which made him lose his defensive positioning on multiple plays. He also has a tendency to reach in when he does not need to like on one play when he reached in for the steal when a guard was driving against him. Plays like these along with his inconsistent effort and attention to detail defensively need to be cleaned up. Especially considering that on plays when he is engaged he displayed a lot of versatility and mobility.