

**Eric Gaines- University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers - 6 feet 2 inches-165 pounds- 23 years old- Junior**

**Draft Intel Report- Conducted April 8, 2024**

**Source: Philip Pearson- Assistant Coach University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers**

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**The source was asked what is the most transferable skillset for Eric Gaines?** The source responded that the most transferable skillset for Gaines is that he is a great athlete. His athleticism and his speed would be probably the best two things. He has speed and quickness that he brings to the table. What the source likes about Gaines speed and quickness is that he is just able to get up and down the floor quickly. He does a good job in transition pushing the ball ahead and those kinds of things. The source would say that Gaines changes speed and direction just ok. He can be a little erratic at times as far as making a second move or handling the basketball but just as far as going straight ahead he is a great athlete. The ways that he uses his athleticism on the court are just that he has proven to be best in the open floor. His speed and quickness allows him to push the ball up the floor and attack. He is able to get by defenders a lot of times and make some plays around the basket.

**The source was asked how Gaines was being defended at the college level compared to how he will be defended on the NBA level?** The source responded that Gaines is a streaky shooter at the three-point line especially. He shot about 26 or 27 percent for their team this year. He is very streaky. He can make a couple in a row and he can miss 6 straight in a row. Different teams have guarded him different ways. A lot of these teams will try to force him into mid-range pull-up shots a lot of times and sometimes he makes them and sometimes he doesn't. The source has confidence in Gaines shot. It can be developed. With the proper work he can become a better shooter. If you see him shoot on a day he is making some shots you feel good about it. On maybe another day he doesn't make shots you wouldn't feel quite as good about it. Just the technique and his stroke in general the source doesn't think you would identify it and say that is a poor shot. He can make some shots but he is just very streaky probably due to just the way he approaches it. Full speed and game speed is a little bit different than in practice. Sometimes teams can sag off him and crowd the paint because they rather him shoot than get into the paint. A lot of these teams try to force him into making mid-range pull-up jump shots. Gaines is a pretty unselfish player the source would say but his decision making at times is probably not as good as you would like it to be. The source doesn't think it is because of Gaines being a selfish player. He is willing to share the ball and he is willing to pass the ball but from time to time he doesn't make the best decision with the ball in his hands. He can be a better decision maker with the ball in his hands by making decisions, making a better decision, having his head up, being solid with the ball, seeing the floor, and understanding where the help is coming from with the defensive side of things. The source thinks Gaines will be defended the same way at the NBA level. Obviously his speed, his athleticism, and his

ability to get by you on the dribble is the first thing you have got to defend. A lot of these teams play the drop coverage defensively on the ball-screen so the source can certainly see that continuing at the next level for Gaines. He has got some growth to go on the offensive end of things. There is no doubt about it but he is a big time athlete.

**The source was asked about his thoughts about Gaines's aggressiveness during games?** The source responded that Gaines is aggressive but sometimes he might be even too aggressive. He can get a little bit out of control at times. The source feels the need for Gaines to slow down the pace sometimes and see the floor better. There is no doubt about that. At times he gets going a little too fast. He needs a tighter handle when he goes fast. He has a lackadaisical handle that is loose. He can be a little loose with that ball from time to time. He has got a pretty impressive assist to turnover ratio but he does make some turnovers at times that are probably not forced. It is poor decisions on his end. The ways he shows his aggressive on the court when he is really aggressive are that he is just very fast and willing to play at a speed and a tempo. This is how he would prefer to play especially in the open floor. Sometimes they try to manage his aggressive and tell him to tone it down a bit. The way he responds to this is that he has got opinions. Sometimes it is good and sometimes it is not as good. This is an area of improvement that he needs to get better in no doubt about it. The source would say that Gaines can get playing too fast and a little bit over zealous at times which impacts his decision making.

**The source was asked how he feels about Gaines's ability to perform under pressure and in big moments?** The source responded that Gaines is not afraid of the moment. He has come up big at times and there has been other time or two he has missed a foul shot or two that the source can remember the last couple of years but he is not afraid of the moment. He has probably gotten some better but the source thinks there is room for growth here to just manage the game better as a point guard. The type of late game moments that he is most successful in are that he is best in the open floor in the broken court getting to the basket. This is where he is best but he is not afraid to take a shot whether it is a mid-range shot or three-point shot. It is this sort of thing.

**The source was asked how he feels about Gaines's physicality and if he's ready to play at the next level?** The source responded that Gaines is still a little thin. He is a little thin so he needs to work on his body. He is very fast. He is a slender wiry build. He probably weighs 165 pounds so he is very wiry, thin, and skinny but very fast and athletic. He hasn't really gained a lot of weight since the source has known Gaines but this has only been a 2 year period. He needs to get stronger no doubt about it. There are no adjustments that the source would like to see Gaines make to his body other than that. He has just got to get stronger. The source just doesn't know if Gaines's body type will allow it. He is probably like 160 pounds. He needs to gain 15 or 20 pounds.

**The source was asked what are Gaines's motives to play the game at the next level?** The source responded that Gaines's motives to play at the next level is that he has a great desire to continue playing as a professional. He is going to have to put a lot

of work in it to improve his decision making and improve his body so he has got some work to do.

**The source was asked what kind of teammate Gaines is?** The source responded that Gaines is a pretty good teammate. He is a pretty unselfish player. The interactions with his teammates are that some are good and some are not. He can be a little bit emotional at times. The difference between the good interactions with his teammates versus the not so good interactions is just that he is too emotional at times. He is just too emotional. The source would say Gaines is a decent leader. He could be better. It needs to improve. He is pretty vocal. The way teammates respond to this is that some is good and some is bad. When he is the leader the way he shows his leadership is when he plays the point guard position so he tries to direct the team.

**The source was asked how is Gaines's ego and if he is coachable?** The source responded that Gaines is a confident player. He is pretty coachable. Again the source would say this is an area that Gaines needs improvement in. He is not a bad kid but it is just about translating it from the huddle and from the sideline onto the floor could be better. It is just about execution. When Gaines responds to criticism from the coaching staff again it is kind of hit or miss. It is some good and some bad. The source just wants Gaines to be a little more mature. He is a little bit emotional. He needs to be more mature.

**The source was asked how is Gaines's work ethics and if he does more than what is required?** The source responded that he would say Gaines has a good work ethic. The source thinks it needs to be a little bit better for Gaines to have success at the next level. He likes to be in the gym. He has got to mature and get a little bit better in having a consistent plan of attack for getting better day by day. The kind of skills he is working on when he is in the gym are just being a better player so shooting, dribbling, and those kinds of things.

**The source was asked what is Gaines's level of basketball IQ and if he can carry over the scouting report to the court?** The source responded that yes Gaines can do this. He likes to play and he knows the game pretty decent. The scouting reports at University of Alabama at Birmingham are probably medium in terms of being detailed and complex.

**The source was asked how Gaines responds to in game adjustments?** The source responded that Gaines responds ok to in game adjustments. It is decent. The type of in game adjustments that Gaines had to respond to are changing the defenses and those kinds of things. It involved switching ball-screens and those kinds of things. It is different coverages, guarding different people, and man to zone.

**The source was asked what will be one reason Gaines will be successful and one reason he will not be successful at the next level?** The source responded that Gaines will be successful because he is going to be a great athlete. He is going to be way ahead in that category. He might not be successful because he is an emotional player and he needs to gain strength.

**The source was asked if Gaines ever failed a drug test?** The source responded that Gaines has never failed a drug test to his knowledge.

**The source was asked if there are any personal and social red flags for Gaines?** The source responded that there are no personal and social red flags for Gaines to his knowledge.

**The source was asked how is Gaines's competitive level in practice and does he push others?** The source responded that yes Gaines is a pretty competitive player. The ways that he shows his competitiveness in practice are that he just likes to compete.