

## **Tristen Newton vs Illinois 3/30/2024 - Film**

### **Offensive Skills:**

Although Newton did not connect on a single field goal against Illinois he still made an impact in the game displaying the ability to draw fouls, put pressure on the rim, and create for himself and others off the dribble. He was mainly seeking to get downhill and initiate contact against the defense. On multiple layup attempts, he did a solid job breaking his man down and getting by his initial defender and even the anchor, but he could not finish the play and convert at the basket. He also shot 3 three-pointers off the dribble and C&S, but could not convert on those as well. His distribution to his teammates stood out though. For multiple possessions, he came off of pindowns and handoffs/DHOs, which put his primary defender trailing the play and allowed for him to create in open space, leaving the defense at a 2 v 1 disadvantage. For example, at the 16:24 mark of the first half, he came off of a wide pindown screen leaving his defender behind the play. He then received a DHO from his big near the top of the key, took one dribble, attacked hard at the rim, and threw a perfect lob for his teammate to catch and finish the play.

### **Defensive Skills:**

Defensively, he played very physical defense on the ball even pressuring the ball in the backcourt, which helped wear down his opponent. He was able to hand-check his man at times and the refs allowed contact throughout the game for both teams. He navigated ball screens well due to his on-ball pressure. He made multiple efforts on plays which helped prevent easy Illinois buckets. For example, at the 4:15 mark of the first half, UConn doubled Hawkins from the top side, allowing an Illinois player to cut straight to the rim from the weakside slot. Newton rotated in time to be there on the catch and prevent a look at the rim, forcing the player to kick it out to his primary assignment. He ran out and was able to contest the three-pointer forcing a miss. At times, he can be a bit too aggressive on defense and come away with cheap fouls like swiping at the ball while in the gap and getting his opponent on the arm.

### **Final Thoughts:**

Newton showcased the ability to get downhill and put pressure on the defense off the dribble by drawing fouls and creating for teammates. His on-ball pressure defensively, bothered his opponent leaving them flustered at times making bad decisions. A couple of areas of improvement for him is to work on finishing at the basket and improving his three-point shot getting it more consistent.