

Drew Pember vs Kennesaw State - 12/5/2023 – In-Person

Pember is listed at 6'11 but appeared closer to 6'9" based on my observation from about 5 feet away during pregame warm-ups. He also looked somewhat queasy, and upon inquiry, an assistant coach informed me that he had been dealing with flulike symptoms and would not be starting the game.

Offensively, he primarily operated out of horns actions and working from the low block, utilizing cross screens effectively in both areas to get free. While he didn't demonstrate much burst off the dribble, he used his size well to back down defenders from the perimeter, creating space for short midrange jumpers, particularly on the left side of the court, where he connected on several shots. Pember also showcased his three-point shooting ability, going 3 for 6, with two of those makes coming from the top of the key in transition. Additionally, he was active on the offensive glass, pulling down four, and converting two into putback layups. However, a concern is his lack of lift on the offensive end, as he was blocked six times. However, he did demonstrated good passing ability out of double teams, recording three assists and consistently delivering on-time, on-target passes for open shot attempts.

Defensively, he showcased his impressive timing as a shot blocker, particularly from the weak side getting off his feet quickly. He also demonstrated a burst of recovery speed, blocking a shot off the glass after initially getting beaten off the dribble. He was active on the defensive glass, pulling down 10 rebounds primarily due to his positioning, which allowed him to carve out space effectively. He also used his length to secure a few rebounds outside of his immediate area. However, his foot speed was a bit of a concern, as he was blown by a couple of times when switched out in pick-and-roll coverage, indicating a need for improvement in his lateral quickness.

Overall, Pember's offensive skills, rebounding, and shot-blocking make him a valuable prospect with a need to enhance his defensive foot speed. I would like to see him again when he's not under the weather to be sure that his lack of foot speed and burst didn't have anything to do with his illness.