

Jericole Hellems:

Jericole was at times the best player on the floor and was a mismatch problem for UMass Lowell. At 6 foot 7 and often playing the four, he showed his ability to stretch the floor shooting. Other power 5 teams may be able to match up with him better but in this game they had no answer for him.

Offensively, He hit 2/3 threes and a couple mid-range shots. He played as a modern day pick-n-pop stretch four. Not only did he make shots but his jumper was clean and smooth as it looked. It is the type of shot that if he has time and room you just believe it is going to fall. Shooting 5/7 from three on the season. Also he made a nice jump hook as he showed off his touch around the rim. He finished the game with 17-5-5 and it seemed as though he could've scored 25 if he wanted. Hellems rarely forced and let a lot of the game come to him. Against the zone he was able to find the soft spots in the zone to get off his shots. He can grab a rebound and push it himself too. Jericole constantly attacked the offensive glass and ran the floor to get easy baskets as well.

Jericole was a problem on defense. He was able to guard almost every guy on the floor with the combination of his size and quickness. He showed the ability to pressure guards on the perimeter. He had a strip on a big that tried putting the ball on the floor. He was often on the ball and made baskets in the press that NC State had on throughout most of the game. I will be intrigued to see him up against other power 5 teams to see if he can guard their bigs as the four.

As a whole, Jericole Hellems and NC State were a mismatch for UMass Lowell. He was guarding 1-5 on defense and offensively he got what he wanted. The junior may have been the best player for NC State this game and will be a large part of what they do on both sides of the ball.