

Dalton Knecht vs Norfolk State
1/2/2024
Film

Offensive Skills:

Although Knecht had an off-shooting night from the field, many of his looks were fine, and he still made the right plays, not forcing anything when he knew he did not have it going. He gave up what would be decent shots for him and traded them for better looks for his teammates by making the extra pass. For example, on the last possession of the first half against the zone, he split a gap and kicked it out to an open teammate in the corner who connected on the three. Knecht did a solid job of recognizing when his three ball was not falling and got more looks up in the paint instead, drawing multiple fouls while doing so. His off-ball movement in the half-court and in transition helped him stay involved in the offense and get easy looks. On another play towards the end of the first half, the defense doubled the low post hard, so Knecht recognized it quickly and cut from the weak side corner and got a layup out of it.

Defensive Skills:

Defensively, Knecht looks to have the tools and skillset to play better defense, but his attentiveness is causing him to not play at a higher level on that end. He did not communicate effectively with teammates on switches, took himself out of plays on shot contests, and did not rebound well for his size. His effort is there, but simple things such as his stance defensively by standing straight up is something that holds him back. For example, at the 3:06 mark, he was standing straight up and tagged on a roller, but was hit with a screen and he was slow to get through the screen, giving up an open three but a miss. While defending out on the perimeter, due to his length he was able to contain the ball in front of him on most active possessions.

Final Thoughts:

Knecht struggled from beyond the arc, but he was still able to find scoring opportunities closer to the rim. His size and length at the guard position defensively causes an advantage for him to contain his opponents on dribble drives. One area of improvement for him is to get in a better defensive stance so he can be ready to defend actions. Another area of improvement is to communicate better with teammates on switches so they do not give up uncontested looks or run into each other while defending.