

Dalton Knecht vs UGA

1/13/2024

Film

Offensive Skills:

Offensively, Knecht was dominant all game scoring 36 points and leading Tennessee to a comeback victory on the road against UGA. He scored in various ways making threes off the catch and the dribble, pull-up mid-range jumpers, post-ups, and in transition. When he is able to knock in three-pointers early, that expands his game and essentially opens the floor up for him to get to his spots. Getting easy buckets from sprinting hard in transition helped as well. The final ten minutes of the game was when Tennessee caught themselves down by as many as eleven points and Knecht's shot-making helped chip away the deficit leading to the final minute. One play that stood out to me during this period was at the 8:11 mark of the second half, he rejected a high ball screen near half court, got downhill going to his right hand, and leaped through multiple defenders to finish the layup. Down the stretch, Knecht displayed poise handling the ball pressure well and taking care of it. He made nice reads to his teammates late in the game as well. For example, at the 3:29 mark of the second half, he received another high ball screen and was immediately trapped, so he dragged it as far as he could and hit the open roller underneath the rim to cut the UGA lead to two.

Defensive Skills:

Defensively, he continues to struggle on that end for some periods mainly due to his lack of ball pressure and positioning away from the ball too. While away from the ball, he allows face cuts and is not physical with his man on cuts enough. Defensive rebounding is another struggle that he can improve on. For example, at the 14:44 mark of the first half, his man drove from the left corner, and initially, Knecht did a solid job preventing a straight line drive to the rim, forcing him to round out his attack, but once he got a shot up, he did not get a body on him leading to his man snagging an offensive rebound and converting on the extra attempt. Late in the game his attention to detail and ball pressure improved which led to forced turnovers for Tennessee. A play that stood out to me at the 2:35 mark of the second half, Knecht was in denial on the left wing and forced a tough catch near his teammate in help and the sideline, leading to a turnover.

Conclusion:

Knecht showcased nice shotmaking skills, but his lack of ball pressure and attention to detail on defense has continued. One area of improvement for him would be his defensive rebounding, and on-ball pressure while in isolation and ball screen situations.