

Dalton Knecht vs Mississippi State
3/15/2024
Film

Offensive Skills:

Offensively, Knecht struggled to get into a rhythm throughout the game because he was trapped in the PnR and forced to be a distributor, denied from everywhere on the floor, and saw multiple bodies on drives when he attacked downhill. Mississippi State had bigger more athletic bodies to pressure Dalton on the catch and disrupt his flow and rhythm whenever he tried to set up his moves. They also did a solid job of contesting his shot attempts, whether at the rim, mid-range or beyond the arc. Knecht struggled to beat the double team early off the dribble too. When gathering into his pull-up jumper going left, his timing seemed to be slower than usual as well. For example, at the 16:46 mark of the first half, he came off a pindown to the left wing, rejected the ball screen, and dribbled twice going left toward the baseline, but gathered slowly because he shorted his steps which allowed the defense to recover and contest the shot, resulting in a miss. On a similar play in the second half, he drove left from the top of the key and although the defense was attached to him on the hip the entire play, he threw up a prayer and made it off the backboard.

Defensive Skills:

Knecht's will to rebound and defend at a high level even when his shot was not falling was not on full display today. He does not consistently communicate well with his teammates defensively causing defensive breakdowns. When defending on the ball, he continues to give up ground off the dribble and provides little to no resistance unless a help defender is near him. In an isolation at the top of the key early in the first half, Knecht was backed off his man, then as his man began to walk him down and set him up for a move, he continued to retreat, bit on the crossover, and was hit with a floater for two. On another play at the 10:50 mark of the first half, Knecht was alone in help defending his man on the weak side while the strong side was loaded. For some reason, he decided to double the post from the low side, knowing he had no help to rotate over to help him, which resulted in his man getting a dunk off a cut.

Final Thoughts:

Knecht struggled to create for himself and get into a rhythm and also caused multiple defensive breakdowns throughout the game. A couple of areas of improvement for him are not taking off so early when attempting to finish at the rim and coming off of screens better. He needs to do a better job of setting his man up, changing pace, and coming off on better angles.