

Mantas Rubštavičius- New Zealand Breakers - 6 feet 6 inches-184 pounds- 21 years old- Professional

Draft Intel Report- Conducted April 9, 2024

Source: David Pavlakovich- Assistant Coach New Zealand Breakers

The source was asked what is the most transferable skillset for Mantas Rubštavičius?

The source responded that the most transferable skillset for Rubštavičius is that the biggest thing for him that is transferable is the ability to play within a system. This encompasses a lot of different things. It is true in that because of his shooting, because of his ability to drive closeouts, and because of his ability to make quick decisions he can really play within any system or where ever you could put a wing. This translates predominantly to like a EuroLeague setting but it definitely does help. It definitely does also translate a little bit into an NBA setting. On that same note the shooting for sure. The way he improved with them with the Breakers is definitely something that he can transfer to a professional setting in terms of driving closeouts and 0.5 decisions. His perimeter defense is good. There are moments where the source would say Rubštavičius is a capable defender at multiple levels and there are moments where the source would say Rubštavičius can't guard anybody. What the source likes about Rubštavičius shooting is that his mechanics are awesome. There is nothing that needs to be tinkered with there. It is pretty much picture perfect. His release is fine. It is not like he gets it off with lightning speed but he is long and he is every inch of 6 feet 7 inches so he is able to get it off with ease. The fact that he is left handed it is just harder to block like guys don't think as much so you see it multiple times where guys are flying out and then they are not able to block his shot. When he looks like a capable defender versus when he is not has to do with who he is guarding. Rubštavičius can really guard wings well but when you put him on quicker guards he has got a really big problem with getting rejected. You see it a lot with young players like he kind of jumps around a little bit. He gets too excited on defense and he gets happy feet. A lot of this is when he is guarding quicker guards and he knows that he has to be on his game. If you put him on a shooting wing like a drive and closeout he is fine but if you put him on a 2 guard that has got some shift to him off the bounce he struggles at times. Obviously there are some very good guards and some NBA level guards in New Zealand so it is hard to say depending on where he goes and who he will be guarding. This is not because he struggles getting into a defensive stance and lacks defensive lateral quickness. He is good at getting into a stance. The source doesn't think Rubštavičius has a problem with lateral quickness. The source doesn't think that it is a lack of ability because there has been times where even with more athletic and faster players Rubštavičius has done fine at times so to the source it is more of a mental thing and just maybe a little bit of lateral quickness can be improved but in this area it is more of a mental thing with him. Everything he does he does with amazing pace and that is what is so beautiful about him. When you talk about in modern basketball the importance of 0.5 decisions and this kid just like gets it. He catches the ball and with them it was shot, drive, and pass. He

goes through that progression very quickly and he makes the decision. Obviously with a young player there is some improvement to be made when he gets into the paint and needs to kick out but he does everything so quickly. His brain works fast. It is one of the best parts of his game. It is fantastic. His handle when driving a closeout and getting into the paint is good. He keeps the ball tight. When he is going into a straight-line his handle is great. The source wouldn't throw Rubštavičius's change of direction in there as a strength. He can beat guys in 1 dribble go or crossover but as far as breaking somebody down and beating them off the bounce that is not what he does. When he drives a closeouts and gets into the paint his handle is good. He stays low, aggressive, and keeps his head up.

The source was asked how Rubštavičius was being defended at the international level compared to how he will be defended on the NBA level? The source responded that it is hard to say. The reality is that the source thinks Rubštavičius very similarly there than he would be in the NBA. This is because he wasn't a focal point of their offense by any stretch of the imagination but because he makes good decisions he became a part of their focal point of their offense just within the flow of it and not running sets for them. He would fill a similar role in the NBA. The ways teams would guard him is make him put the ball on the floor, don't let him get anything up on the three-point line, contain him as best as you can on the closeouts, and force him to get into the paint and make decisions. In terms of how you scout him more or less stays the same. The source doesn't think it would change. This was how he was being defended at their level. It varied from team to team. As far as the way Rubštavičius was guarded that is pretty standard. Some teams forced him off the three-point line and some teams didn't. He did a good job with both of those. If you make him shoot he made it. Early in the season it was something that had to progress throughout the game because he was not a good shooter at Lietkabelis. The scouting report on him definitely changed throughout the season. By the time they were in the playoffs everyone was trying to get Rubštavičius off the line and no shots for him. This was from the start of the game. There is a lot of very high level shot blocking in this league and he has got a very good floater so he can shoot over bigs sometimes. Something that maybe to pay attention to is teams that are going to provoke him into shot blockers and make him shoot floaters. The improvement that probably needs to be made from a decision making standpoint is when to shoot a floater, when to kick out, and when to dump off.

The source was asked about his thoughts about Rubštavičius's aggressiveness during games? The source responded that Rubštavičius's aggressiveness is perfect. He completely understands when to be aggressive and understands when not to be aggressive. For a kid that is 21 years old they have the occasional time where maybe he should have driven that one but 98 percent of the time the kid is a freaking all star as far as when to go and when not to go. What he looks like when he is aggressive versus when he is not aggressive is just the way you would expect it to look. When he is aggressive he is driving closeouts, he is making shots, he is taking and making open shots, and he is finding teammates when he needs to. When he is not aggressive which frequently was a rarity he is second guessing himself, he is turning the ball over, and he

is dribbling off his foot. Again it doesn't happen very often but it is exactly how you would expect it to look. The source would say Rubštavičius is the perfect amount of aggressive. It depends on what the coach wants. If he wants the kid to be medium aggressive then that is what he was for them. If anything like if a coach was going to take him as a fresh product and don't know anything about him they would probably say he is overly aggressive given what his role was. They didn't want a guy that was going to be passive like they want everybody to stay aggressive all the time.

The source was asked how he feels about Rubštavičius's ability to perform under pressure and in big moments? The source responded that Rubštavičius's ability to perform under pressure and in big moments is good. He gets hard on himself in like practice and before games when he is learning stuff because there might be a little bit of an obstacle there but in game he is good not great. It is not like they had the ball in his hands for a last second shot or he was in a pivotal moment. Sometimes he was guarding guys at the end of games and it was solid. It is not like the source wants Rubštavičius off the floor in those moments but it is not like they have to make sure that he is on the floor.

The source was asked how he feels about Rubštavičius's physicality and if he's ready to play at the next level? The source responded that Rubštavičius's physicality is great. He plays with the right amount of physicality and the right amount of toughness even given his frame. He is a little thin and a little wiry but he put on some muscle when he was there. In terms of readiness at the next level the source thinks Rubštavičius is 100 percent ready whether it is EuroLeague or NBA. The kid is 6 feet 7 inches, he makes shots, and he does everything you ask him to. He is an awesome kid. He is never going to give you a problem in the locker room. He works his balls off. He is continuing to improve. The source doesn't see any reason why this kid is not a very high level professional player within the next 3 years. The adjustments the source would like to see Rubštavičius make to his body is that it would be good for him to get a little bit stronger. He is not blazing fast so the source thinks Rubštavičius has to improve his strength a little bit. He plays with physicality and he plays with strength so it is not like it needs to happen overnight but the source thinks it would be something that will help Rubštavičius. The source doesn't think for Rubštavičius it is a weight thing. For him adding 10 to 15 pounds of muscle is great but for him it is more about functionality in terms of can he take off a little bit of the general skinniness and add some muscle. This will allow him to be more of a 3. Bigger body 3s particularly in the NBA can probably post him up right now. He occasionally just his center of gravity he occasional gets knocked off his block and has trouble with body control. Being able to guard the post in situations where you can also switch him from 3 to 5 would be awesome. It is a little bit of better body control. It is really just those two things. There isn't enough post targets at the 3 in their league and they didn't switch anything with him 3 to 5 here. Not a lot of 3s play ball-screen either so it wasn't something they went to. The body control was definitely an issue. There were times where he gets pushed a little bit and has trouble finishing through contact. Again this is not something that the source is thinking that this kids has to add 10 to 15 pounds of muscle. It would be nice to have and see if he has a

little bit lower center of gravity. The source thinks Rubštavičius has the frame to add more strength but it is hard to tell with those guys that are a little wiry. He is not like Kevin Durant in the Combine skinny. The source thinks Rubštavičius has the capability but the source doesn't know. Their strength coach was very good there and Rubštavičius only put on a little bit of muscle so the source doesn't know.

The source was asked what are Rubštavičius's motives to play the game at the next level? The source responded that Rubštavičius's motives to play at the next level is that a large part is that he loves it for sure. He just really loves the game, being around it, and being a part of it. The source is sure there is some financial motivation but the source would say that takes a back seat to how much Rubštavičius loves the game and wants to play it. The way that the source can tell Rubštavičius loves the game are conversations with him, how much he wants to learn, and how much he wants to get better both on and off the floor. The way that he plays the game can sometimes be indicative of how much he appreciates and loves it. He fits in this category for sure.

The source was asked what kind of teammate Rubštavičius is? The source responded that Rubštavičius is an unbelievable teammate. He will do anything you ask him as a coach. He will do anything his teammates require of him. He is pretty quiet and pretty reserved. It took him a while there especially coming halfway across the entire world. To New Zealand he was particularly reserved. It took him some time but he is just an absolute unbelievable teammate and human being in general. He is not a leader. The source doesn't want to necessarily put Rubštavičius in a bucket like that but if the source had to pick one 100 percent Rubštavičius is more of a follower. He is not a leader. He doesn't have the personality.

The source was asked how is Rubštavičius's ego and if he is coachable? The source responded that Rubštavičius is extremely coachable. He is one of the most coachable kids that the source has ever been around. The source didn't see any ego that Rubštavičius has. The source didn't see any inkling of that even. There is not a lot of ego from this kid. The source doesn't want Rubštavičius to add a little bit more ego because it doesn't seem to affect his aggressiveness and it doesn't seem to affect the way that he plays the game. He understands exactly what is needed of him. You could see it in games this season where they needed him to make more shots or where they needed him to do certain things you saw that. The source doesn't think that Rubštavičius's ego needs to change by any stretch. Rubštavičius is a little bit up and down with responding to criticism from the coaching staff. There were times where he got frustrated with their coach or himself. For the most part he took criticism very well. He is harder on himself more than he is frustrated with coaching. It is more him being frustrated with himself than he is with the coaches because he is not doing what is expected of him. This is very much so the case.

The source was asked how is Rubštavičius's work ethics and if he does more than what is required? The source responded that yes 100 percent Rubštavičius does more than what is required. He shows his work ethic in before and after practice, individual workouts, watching film, and being willing to watch extra film. The skills he is

working on when he is getting that extra work in are that the shooting was a huge part of it when they promised him he was going to shoot and improve his shooting by coming there. They tried to get him to a point where he could play pick and rolls so that ended up being a pretty big chunk of it. It is still a little bit up in the air. The source wouldn't say that Rubštavičius is a ball-screen player yet by any stretch. It was pick and roll as a ball-handler. He set a lot of ghost screens for them in guard to guard situations which he was very good at but that was not a skill they needed.

The source was asked what is Rubštavičius's level of basketball IQ and if he can carry over the scouting report to the court? The source responded that Rubštavičius's basketball IQ is very good and he can carry over the scouting report. Some of the times that he got caught thinking were the times he got beat and it was occasional due to the scouting report. They were very in-depth and very detailed and so that might have played a little bit of a role in his kind of overthinking but for the most part he knew who he was guarding. In general his IQ is very high. There is nothing that the source would say that really needs to be improved or anything along those lines. He could sometimes get caught thinking but for the most part it was very good and very high IQ. The ways he shows his basketball IQ are with the scouting report. Very much they had him guarding very good players. He always did a fantastic job and understood what directions and what their tendencies are. The basketball questions that he asks were always indicative of his level of understanding. This was a huge part of it for sure. The New Zealand Breakers scouting report are very detailed. This is the most complex that the source has ever had a scouting report which has been there in New Zealand.

The source was asked how Rubštavičius responds to in game adjustments? The source responded that Rubštavičius responds good to in game adjustments. It is the same. There are no problems. If you tell him to change he has got it, figures it out, and knows what he is doing. The type of in game adjustments that Rubštavičius had to respond to are really changing the scouting reports is a big one. For the most part it was adjusting their defense entirely whether or not they are going to a show, drop, or changing covers. These are adjustments that happened at any time possession to possession. He was always very good and very understanding. He figured it out for the most part.

The source was asked what will be one reason Rubštavičius will be successful and one reason he will not be successful at the next level? The source responded that Rubštavičius for sure would come from his IQ, decision making, and anything you put under that umbrella. The one reason he wouldn't succeed would be athleticism and quickness. All of this stuff is subpar for an NBA level for sure.

The source was asked if Rubštavičius ever failed a drug test? The source responded that Rubštavičius has never failed a drug test. He is not that kind of kid.

The source was asked if there are any personal and social red flags for Rubštavičius? The source responded that there are no personal and social red flags for Rubštavičius. Absolutely not. He is 100 percent a 10 out of 10 kid.

The source was asked how is Rubštavičius's competitive level in practice and does he push others? The source responded that Rubštavičius's competitiveness level in practice is unbelievable. He is pushing others maybe occasionally but again that is not really his personality. He is not there to get others going. He is very good himself but not with others. The ways that Rubštavičius shows his competitiveness in practice are how hard he plays and the level of which he talks.