

Enrique Freeman- Akron Zips - 6 feet 7 inches-206 pounds- 23 years old- Senior Draft Intel Report- Conducted June 17, 2024

Source: Isaiah Brooks Sena- Former Graduate Assistant Akron Zips

The source was asked what is the most transferable skillset for Enrique Freeman? The source responded that the most transferable skillset for Freeman are going to be his ability to score in the paint. He always did. If you watch his tape from the time he got there until now this has been his niche is just being able to score on the block. His speed and athleticism are two things that are easily transferable that will show. The source thinks now Freeman has added another asset to his game in being able to shoot. He is kind of a hybrid in terms of a big. He doesn't really have a position but now he has been able to add to his game. The source thinks these things will transfer pretty well. When the source was there in 2021 Freeman wasn't able to shoot. It is a newly added skill. The source would say that Freeman was beginning to develop this skillset. When the source had left that year that was something they were working on when the source was there with Freeman. Obviously all the assistants were all trying get Freeman to shoot a little bit more and then he developed his confidence. Now this year he shot it pretty well but the source thinks if you watch Freeman's workouts and watch his shot form it has only gotten better. Freeman can only keep getting better the source would guess. The source being impressed by this is a yes and no answer. It is a yes because obviously it takes a lot of time but no because it is just kind of the kid and player he is. He works tirelessly at his game and it is the reason why he went from being a walk-on essentially to the MAC Player of the Year. The source would say that he probably saw Freeman right after the walk-on stage because he had been there a year or two before the source got there. The source saw Freeman probably at the beginning of his real explosion on to the scene. He had won the Defensive Player of the Year and the MAC of the Year when the source was there and he was first-team or second-team. The source views Freeman's rebounding and putbacks as a transferable skillset because like the source said earlier Freeman is just so tireless and is such a tireless worker. His condition is unbelievable. If you go look at his minutes the source doesn't think Freeman played any less than 28 minutes. To be able to rebound at that rate and score around the rim the year the source was there Freeman was number 1 in the entire NCAA in field goal percentage so it has always been his niche. He goes hard, is athletic, is super long, and he has amazing touch around the rim. It is probably one of the best players the source has been around in terms of touch.

The source was asked how Freeman was being defended at the college level compared to how he will be defended on the NBA level? The source responded that at the college level towards the end of this year there was times Freeman was getting the ball and double teamed. It was in the opponent's best interest to kind of double team him. Now if you watch any of the Combine he is playing one on one. To the source you just can't stop Freeman because he has got a really quick twitch on the block. If you are trying to guard him he quick spins which is his favorite move or maybe he just bully balls

the smaller kind of guard. Freeman has probably put on 15 to 20 pounds since the source left. It will be interesting to see how they defend him. Now he could shoot so he add to him. He is super athletic so he gets by you and will be on that rim. When the source was there Freeman wasn't being defended as the best player on the team in terms of crowding the paint and sending double teams and triple teams. When the source was there they had another player Ali Ali who was kind of more of the primary focus and Xavier Castaneda who was their point guard at the time. These two the source would say probably took the bulk of the defensive attention but as time has grown on you could watch all the tape from this year in terms of Freeman having two or three dudes around him so he has been able to develop and again still produce at a very high level even though that was happening.

The source was asked about his thoughts about Freeman's aggressiveness during games? The source responded that Freeman has grown in this regard. When the source was there he doesn't think Freeman was primarily trying to score the ball. He is a phenomenal teammate and he did everything coach Groce and they asked of him. If they told him they really need him on the boards that is what he was going to do. As time grew on the source thinks Freeman has become more aggressive and now he has extreme confidence in his skillset to be able to score at will because he wants to. When Freeman is at his most aggressive version he looks like the best player on the floor. He is unbelievable. When he plays he just plays so hard. The source can't express it enough. He plays so hard and he is an every day guy so when he is scoring he just looks like he belongs and he does. He has talent, willingness to work, be such a sponge, and he is such a good teammate. The source has not met a kid like Freeman in his time doing this stuff. Freeman is one of the best kids the source has worked with if not the best. The source means this sincerely to all the people he worked with. Freeman is such a personable kid, he is always smiling, making jokes, helping others out, and just trying his hardest. There was never a time when they were having a practice and Freeman was off. You knew every day going into that gym that he is going to show up and he is going to try his hardest. They had a little inner team deal that they did at Akron called the Akron Guide and basically they measured the stats, they measured effort, and all that stuff. Freeman probably won it about 75 percent to 80 percent of the time throughout the course of the season. He is just that much of an unbelievable kid. When the source was there Freeman was probably under aggressive. Now he is probably not over aggressive but he knows when. It is just where it needs to be. Now this year he kind of realized that he has got to help his team out scoring wise and this is what he did. He scored for them when they needed buckets and he was the guy late down the stretch. Even for them the source can vividly remember playing Kent at Akron where they kind of called on him to score in the second half. He started off with 2 points and ended up with 24 points in that game so whatever you need him to be he will be.

The source was asked how he feels about Freeman's ability to perform under pressure and in big moments? The source responded that Freeman doesn't shy away from it. He has been a very successful college player and he has been in big games. To win 2 MAC titles he has been in the spotlight before to kind of not shy away

in terms of this kid went from being a walk-on to the face of a program and really one of the best bigs in the NCAA for his time. He led the nation in field goal percentage 1 year. This year he was probably a top 3 rebounder. He is somebody that when the lights are on he is going to show out. When the source was working with Freeman the source expecting Freeman to be as good as he is now is a yes and no answer. You can probably not project someone being this good but it doesn't surprise the source because he knows who Freeman is. Being somebody that works so hard is why he has been able to kind of be who he is and then you just add the person who he is on top of that. He makes for the perfect kid. It goes without saying anybody you meet will tell you great stories about him. Freeman's role late in games when the source was there is to just be the best player you can be. If they needed him to score they would call a play for him to score and he would do it. If they needed him to come up with a big rebound and there is a big rebound coming off the rim they felt pretty good that Freeman was on the floor. The source would say that if they didn't have Freeman on the floor then they might have been in trouble. His game didn't change from when the source was there other than shooting. It is a little bit of confidence. Everybody needs that being able to show yourself that you can do it is the first step and they all believed he could. He has put in the work and he has done it in games now so now he knows he can. It just kind of builds up over time. This is why he is where he is now. You watch these Combine games and then it is unbelievable to see he is still dominating and this is against the best in the country.

The source was asked how he feels about Freeman's physicality and if he's ready to play at the next level? The source responded that like anybody in the draft Freeman is going to have to put on a little bit of weight. He is going to be playing with some grown men. The source doesn't worry about it because throughout Freeman's entire career he has kind of been looked at as on the thinner side than he is. Since the last time the source was down there in 2022 Freeman has probably put on 15 to 20 pounds of weight. It is really good weight. This is credit to the strength coach there Jovon Shaw but also credit to him. He worked at it. The kid eats. The source doesn't worry about Freeman's physicality. He has banged in the post all the time. He could be bone bruised and the dude will show up the next day and just go even harder. He is just that type of a kid. The adjustments that the source would like to see Freeman make to his body is that he needs to put on a little bit more weight but that is everybody. When you try to make the jump to the next level in any regard you are going to have to match the physicality of them. Beyond that the source doesn't really think Freeman will have to do much more from what he is already doing. He is going to work on his game, he is going to be a great human, and these two things put together usually lead for pretty good success.

The source was asked what are Freeman's motives to play the game at the next level? The source responded that Freeman's motives to play at the next level is that it has always been a dream of his to play in the NBA. You don't take an extra year of college to sort of not do that. Obviously he had an opportunity to take another year and kind of develop himself even more but since the source has known Freeman he has

always talked about playing overseas or playing in the NBA when he was done. Even now that could happen. He is a hometown Cleveland kid and it will be awesome to see.

The source was asked what kind of teammate Freeman is? The source responded that Freeman is an unbelievable teammate. The dude is so selfless that it is unbelievable. If he was the one scoring the points cool but if he wasn't this dude is up and cheering and bringing dudes up. You could put him with the 4 walk-ons and he would make them look like the starters not only because he is that good of a player but also he is that good of a teammate. He makes you believe and he is just inspiring himself. He wants to see everybody win and he really doesn't have a selfish bone in his body. He is just an awesome kid. The interactions with his teammates is that Freeman is almost the life of the party in a good way. He is not going to go out and kind of be in your face or anything like that. He is just going to walk in, sit down, and people want to go where he is. If there was 6 spots at the lunch table and he took up one of them you would want to be the other 5 because he is just that enjoyable to be around. It is not all about basketball. It can be about life, it can be about books, and it can be about your girlfriend. He is just an unbelievable kid. The source can't stress this enough. Freeman is a leader. He is both a leader by example and a vocal leader. He is not one to really say too much but he leads by example in the way he plays and the way he conducts himself off the court. The kid went to Akron on an academic scholarship so the source thinks that speaks for itself in terms of just being a leader but he was always a leader within their locker room. The source knows that Freeman has always been a captain since the source has known him so he is able to lead by example because he is willing to work but then also vocally he isn't afraid to say something that needs to be said.

The source was asked how is Freeman's ego and if he is coachable? The source responded that Freeman has no ego. It is zero ego for him. He would listen to the wall if it had something to tell you. Again the source has never met a person like this for someone to be so good and to be where he is at and still listen to everybody and still take criticism and kind of see where they are coming from and just be coachable. The kid is a sponge. He has made a name for himself because of this. He has zero ego. Freeman would give the shirt off his back to one of those 2 managers if they asked for it. He has no ego. He is always helping out and is always going to help out. He is just an awesome kid. The way he responds to criticism from the coaching staff is just like anybody else. He will listen and then he will try to correct it. For them and when the source was there at least coach Ford would always get on Freeman about positioning in the post and stuff. He would always want to watch film and practice it. When they would do workouts and stuff he would always ask to kind of work on post moves and stuff like that so he is willing to listen, he is willing to learn, and he doesn't take it to heart. He knows that everybody that is within the circle he needs to trust like the coaches and the people around him. They only mean well for him so he doesn't take it to heart.

The source was asked how is Freeman's work ethics and if he does more than what is required? The source responded that Freeman does more than what is required. If you go from a walk-on to the MAC Player of the Year and a 3 time First Team MAC selection speaks for itself. The source would be surprised if Freeman didn't

finish school with a 3.8 GPA. He just works. He is the definition of work. He could go to practice, after practice maybe shoot 100 free-throws, and then move into this thing called invest which is just basically getting in with the graduate assistants. The source knew he could always count on Freeman to hit his phoneline. His work ethic is tireless. You just know every day he is going to show up and he is going to go hard. This is what has made him so good. The skills that Freeman was working on when he would get this extra work in when the source was there are they would do shooting. They would do a lot of shooting and then at the time his free-throws. His free-throw percentage was probably 58 percent or something like that at one point of the season so they started making 100 free-throws a day and this increased. They did a lot of post work stuff. This was probably about the bulk of what they would do. They would do a little bit of ball-handling. It is an everyday workout but more tailored toward what he needed and what they had envisioned for him. The source would say Freeman is high intensity in these workouts. Once he turns it on it is time to go. The source never had to worry about trying to get Freeman going. He was really good with the source when they had their summer workouts and then during practice. He goes so hard and that is what has made him so good.

The source was asked what is Freeman's level of basketball IQ and if he can carry over the scouting report to the court? The source responded that Freeman knew where everybody was going to be and knew who people were and how to close that to him. He is a very high level IQ guy. He always locked in on the scouting report. He could tell you about any player on that scouting report. He is a pros pro as coach Groce would say. The dude was a professional the way he carried himself and he did it so effortlessly. It was amazing to watch. He was an extension of the coaching staff and was like a coach on the floor telling guys where to be, what to do, and helping translate the scouting report to teammates. You would see it. He would just be pointing here and here on offense. He was kind of a focal point for them so everybody kind of looked at him if they had any questions or anything but he was special leader. They would break the huddle and he would bring them back up together and just be like this is what needs to happen. They were lucky to have him. It was like having 6 coaches at the time. The ways that Freeman shows his basketball IQ on the court are just the way he plays. If people are playing him a certain way he knows what to do with the ball. When the double team came he kind of already knew rotations and stuff like that. Anytime he caught it on the block he put himself in a scoring position. It is stuff like that. In terms of scouting report stuff he knew the actions, he knew what was going to happen, and it led to them being better because of it. You could see it in the way he plays. When a guy is overplaying him he is going to backdoor, set screens, and get his teammates open. Every day IQ things he was really good at noticing. The scouting reports at Akron are detailed but simple. They didn't try to overload the guys. You have got to think that these are college kids that have school, life, and basketball. They didn't ever try to do too much. If a guy was a heavy right-hand driver, when he went right he was pulling up, or when he drove left he was taking it to the rim. They had things like that in them so they had tendencies and stuff like that. Of course they had their own verbiage of how to

closeout to guys and stuff like that so they were very detailed but they tried to simplify them for the sake of just so everybody can understand them.

The source was asked how Freeman responds to in game adjustments? The source responded that 95 percent of the time Freeman was awesome. With him you didn't really have to adjust too much. It was almost like teams had to adjust to him because of how impactful he could be in so many ways. Defensively he would clean stuff up, he could guard out of his position, and then offensively he was just such a juggernaut. He was on offensive rebounds, he was making the passes, and he was scoring. Teams would look over the other side and would be like damn I wish Freeman wasn't over there. For the most part it was other teams adjusting to him. If the source had to guess people had to adjust for how impactful Freeman was. It was no secret that if Freeman was in the game Akron always had a chance. You could go watch any of those games that they played anytime he was in the game they were probably doing well and anytime he was out it probably wasn't too hot. It is no disrespect to anybody else but it is just the player he is. The type of in game adjustments that Freeman had to respond to are they would make adjustments if somebody was kind of catching fire and stuff like that, maybe they would change the closeout, or maybe they start throwing a double team at somebody. It was stuff like that. It is simple adjustments and simple stuff. He was guarding the 5 most of the time so he was the best big in their league. It was never really an issue for him. It was more tailored on the guard side which the MAC is known for.

The source was asked what will be one reason Freeman will be successful and one reason he will not be successful at the next level? The source responded that one reason Freeman would be successful at the next level is his willingness to work. You just don't find people like this kid is. He is so hardworking and he is so gifted genetically that it is almost like it has to work for him. One reason he may not be successful and the only thing that will hold him back is probably his jump shot. It is about can he find the consistency that he needs to be at to be in the NBA. We are talking about guys that just don't ever miss. It is about can he develop his shot to be this. If he can then sure but if not then maybe not. The source has the confidence in Freeman to develop his shot. The source says this because you can go and watch Freeman's stuff now. It just looks so smooth from when the source has seen it. He shoots it with such confidence now that it is like he is not second guessing himself and he knows he can make it. To the source it doesn't seem like Freeman will have any issues doing this. He just needs to continue to work on it.

The source was asked if Freeman ever failed a drug test? The source responded that when he was there Freeman has never failed a drug test. Freeman is an A plus human being. He is the type of person you would think would run for president. This is how he kind of operates himself. He doesn't do drugs and doesn't drink. They never had an issue with him. He was awesome.

The source was asked if there are any personal and social red flags for Freeman? The source responded that there are no personal and social red flags for Freeman.

There are none at all. He is just an awesome kid. The source doesn't know how else to say it. The source would say it like this if you had 12 Freemans you would win a national championship. This is just how highly the source thinks of Freeman and it speaks to his character. There are no off the court issues, they never once got a phone call from a teacher, and they never once got a phone call from home. His mom is a Cleveland police officer so if there was anything she would know. This kind of keeps him straight. There is nothing wrong there.

The source was asked how is Freeman's competitive level in practice and does he push others? The source responded that Freeman is number 1. He is a high level competitor. He wants to win everything he is a part of and because of this he makes his teammates around him better. When you have a team where the best player is going the hardest normally that is going to be a pretty good team because everybody else will be like well he is doing it so now I need to do it. Because of this he made everybody around him better. You could put him on a team with 4 walk-ons and the way he could inspire people and bring them together because he plays hard and because he makes plays for others he would turn them into what you would think of as starters. This is how he pushes his teammates. He inspires and he brings people together like no other. You want to be around him. He is that kind of person. Teammates respond well to this. They responded well to this because they knew he meant well and they knew they were looking at the best player. Your best player is leading by example so it is hard not to do what he is asking. This raised the level of competition in practice. It always did. If they ever need a boost maybe they just flip his teams and now the other team would start winning. He is unbelievable in this regard. Normally during the season you probably have 100 practices if you make the NCAA tournament and for 100 practices Freeman was A plus. The ways that Freeman shows his competitiveness in practice are just by the way he goes so hard. When his team is losing he would go even harder. It is just his effort. This kid is diving on the floor in practice, he is rotating over to block every shot 2 or 3 shots at a time, and he is getting 5 different offensive rebounds within the same possession. It is things that come down to heart and will. He was just so much better at than everybody else because he wanted to be. When you have that kind of athleticism and that kind of mindset to just do whatever it takes to win it just sets you apart.

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