

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

**Draft Intel Report- Conducted March 20, 2024**

**Source: Simon Edwards - General Manager New Zealand Breakers**

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**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 he is very aggressive. He is a sure build shooter and scorer. From his experience with them what he did very well was keep aggressive and push. His biggest attributes on the court would be as a scorer on the offensive end and then being long on the defensive end. The one thing the source likes is Rubštavičius as a person which then obviously translates to his game. He is always kind of pushing and looking to improve. He is always wanting to improve so this year with their coaches he would kind of spend a ridiculous amount of time trying to get better and then also making sure that he is reading the plays and making sure that his film sessions are done well so he can come back. He is very open to taking instruction and going back. He is determined to obviously make basketball his life.

**The source was asked about his thoughts about Rubštavičius's aggressiveness during games?** The source responded that Rubštavičius being kind of hungry and being able to attack the rim and be aggressive is a very positive thing. This is something that not necessarily is accustomed. For the source looking at how Rubštavičius was on the team the source kind of forgot a lot of times that Rubštavičius was only 21 and that he wasn't one of the veteran guys in terms of just how he took to his craft. From the source's perspective the biggest way Rubštavičius shows his aggressiveness on the court is attacking the rim. As a person he was fantastic to deal with. He was always on time and always willing to kind of do extras for the community work, for sponsors, and things like that. The had no issues with how Rubštavičius looked after the accommodation or car or anything like that. Everything was like clockwork with the off-court stuff which was amazing and isn't always the case.

**The source was asked how he feels about Rubštavičius's ability to perform under pressure and in big moments?** The source responded that this was something that Rubštavičius worked on throughout the season. There were a couple of times where at the beginning of the season injury and he had to come back and had a little bit of a set back from that. The source thinks also there were a couple of times where with their head coach he sometimes puts a guy in and then he doesn't perform and pull him out so the source thinks a lot of that learning helped Rubštavičius towards the end. At their second last game which was a must win game he played really big minutes and kind of really stood up. Being perceived as a 21 year old rookie in their league he really held his own. When you come into anyone's system the NBL the source would say is probably a more physical league than what Rubštavičius has been used to so the source thinks this was probably one where there was maybe some getting used to. He had a bit of a

stalled start of the season. He kind of had some more injury and he got back and had an injury so he started the season on the back foot. One of the big things for him was he was very good at identifying what he needed to work on and put the time and effort to work on those specifics that was identified and then he went forward from there. He had a left little calf strain but as injuries came it wasn't short. It was a bit longer than what they expected which is obviously frustrating when you are playing very well or you want compete yourself in the season. This was a mental one for him to be open to the process and the likes to kind of get back. Obviously he wasn't at the beginning of the season and he went throughout the season with little to no injury. It was 100 percent frustrating for him but trusting the process and trusting in their medical staff would prepare him for that. He came out the other side and started a number of their games following that. He showed his frustration when he was injured by being the type of personality he is. He is not the type of guy to throw cheers or be the one who would be like the loudest in the room. He internally kind of processes but he is very open about the processes. If the source wasn't talking about Rubštavičius being drafted it wouldn't be a story. It wouldn't be something that the source would have talked about. He was very good at how he went about his rehab to then comeback which was a positive. The source 100 percent views this as a positive and kind of shows Rubštavičius maturity more than anything. Some players would just go preseason doesn't matter who cares but you could see Rubštavičius will and determination to actually be part of the team and really get back so that is really positive.

**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 showed this toward the end of the season. He became more physical and as the source said their league is a physical league. Like anybody who gets drafted there is obviously going to be a period of adjustment but the source thinks the NBL has put Rubštavičius in a good state to take that next jump. As they see with players who go from their league to the NBA the NBA has far more resources in this space. The source is sure there will be some things that Rubštavičius can work on but for them he was very physical and didn't get pushed around in their league.

**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 it is not monetary. His motive is to be the best that he can. Obviously he has got a dream to play in the NBA and be professional basketball player. You can see that he is all in on that. One thing that they saw a lot and what is really good to see is that Rubštavičius is not the type of guy who is going to be jump into the high pole. He was there for the right reasons. The source thinks going to the NBA Rubštavičius is there for the right reasons as well. The right reasons would be wanting to do it for yourself, wanting to prove yourself, wanting to get to the next level, seeing what you can do at that level, and be the best version of yourself that you can be to make your home city, home country, and your family and friends proud.

**The source was asked what kind of teammate Rubštavičius is?** The source responded that Rubštavičius is a little bit of a unique one where with there former Next Stars they probably were very good at enchanting with the development players and the younger players on the team but maybe not have that connection with the older and veterans whereas Rubštavičius had a very good relationship with their captain who just retired. It is quite unique to have a 21 year old come in that can have a relationship or a good relationship with a 36 year old and then also a 19 year old development player. It kind of shows the personality he is that he can connect with everybody which was really good to see from their standpoint. They will see players coming in who are 28 who don't really react with the older players. The source thinks it is just Rubštavičius being a little bit of an old soul. He is one that doesn't really get under people's skin. He is just a genuine good guy. It is quite hard to dislike him. It is not like going in and kind of being vibrant and push your thoughts and ideas out in the world. He just was very respectful and a lot of the older guys appreciated that. His interactions with his teammates are fantastic. He was very popular in the locker room from the captain all the way down to the development players so it is not a concern for the source. The other big thing that he has over the other Next Stars is obviously he has been in the professional environment before playing so this helps him as well. When you are a 21 year old coming into a team you would tend to be a follower. The source thinks Rubštavičius can become a leader and he showed those qualities. The source also thinks it is good when you are a rookie to have follower tendencies because especially if you are especially going to the NBA you are coming in and you are put as a soul leader you are not going to be going to adapt very well to that team environment. The source thinks with everybody it is good to have a little bit of both. Rubštavičius interacting with the older players well and it is not common is the maturity that Rubštavičius has that the source was referring to earlier. They had the accommodation that they arrange for them. The source arranges them and then gives them the choice. One of the places that Rubštavičius wanted to stay is a place in Devonport which is a bit of a nightmare with traffic to get them in and out of so the source said to Rubštavičius if you do chose this place you have to be well prepared. It is not a price where if you are late to practice or whatever that is not going to be an excuse. The land owner is very particular and you can't have parties and all these types of things. The source was very impressed with Rubštavičius maturity with the decision making and the source feels like he is quite a good judge of character so the source made the call to back Rubštavičius going into this place. The real estate agent basically was saying he doesn't think he feels comfortable having a 21 year old enrolled in here. The source said that he could put a 31 year old right now who would not be respectful and break things and have parties whereas this 21 year old has his shoulders screwed on. The owner actually lived in the apartment next door and didn't have any issues the whole year which is very complementary and quite rare when it comes to basketballers and young men. The source was very impressed with Rubštavičius's maturity with the off the court stuff as well. One of the things with Rubštavičius that show leadership traits is that when he talks people listen. This is kind of rare. He is only 21 but it is just how he rallies groups and rallies people around him is impressive.

**The source was asked how is Rubštavičius's ego and if he is coachable?** The source responded that Rubštavičius is 100 percent coachable. It is good to have an ego at this level but he is very coachable and he is not stopping in terms of what the coach wanted from him. Their coach can be hard and demanding at times to challenge. Their coach obviously did what is best for the team in these situations. When getting criticism from the coaching staff Rubštavičius knows it is from a very good place. He know what they are saying comes from a good place and it is something to make him better. He was very good at taking feedback and implementing new ways of looking around things.

**The source was asked how is Rubštavičius's work ethics and if he does more than what is required?** The source responded that Rubštavičius has a fantastic work ethic. It is probably different from some Western cultures in terms of his work ethic of making sure that something is done properly and then also going above and beyond than what is required. He is a born shooter so shooting was a big part of making sure that he did everything that he needed to do and doing extras was always part of that. With the Next Stars program one of the things they kind of need to limit sometimes is how many extras people do. Rayan Rupert was one of those as well. Just because you are doing more doesn't mean that it is the best so making sure that what extras Rubštavičius is doing is impactful. It is one of those things that you have to feel where you at because different coaches of different teams have different expectations so once you understand where that line is and what expectations it kind of goes from there. Once Rubštavičius understood what he can and can't do and the process then it was fantastic. The way he shows his work ethic is just trying to do the extras. He is trying to push and ask if there is anything else he could do. He is trying to push for what he can basically do better. He arrives early and stays late. As the source alluded to before Rubštavičius choice of location of housing meant that he had to plan probably better so he was always there earlier than he needed to be.

**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 has a very high basketball IQ and with the scouting report he did very well on that. From what the source saw Rubštavičius was trying to learn from veterans. He spoke up and was a sponge. He tried to take off what the veterans know. He was not afraid to ask the coach what this means or ask what the scout is. Obviously English isn't his first language but basketball itself is a language so he was quite comfortable in this space. The scouting reports of the New Zealand Breakers are based on film sessions and video sessions the day before the game and the day of the game. They also work on specific plays in terms of what they do in practice. They have individual feedback on games as well. The scouting reports are far advanced to what their coaching did before they had their head coach.

**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 one reason he sees Rubštavičius successful at the next level is his determination. He is always going to push. He is going to soak up like a sponge. He has the physical

characteristics to do so. One of the reason he might not be successful is the team that drafts him doesn't see the potential that he has. The source really believes in the NBL Next Stars program but the source knows that there is a lot of teams that are infatuated or determined to draft people out of the college system. One negative that Rubštavičius might have is obviously because he didn't go down the college route to know enough about him to believe in what he can do. The misconceptions this can cause is that it is obviously the opportunity to see the player play. They have a number of scouts who come in and see but in college you can see a guy play 20 times or whatever the times whereas for them you might see them play 3 times if you are lucky so just the access to player and access to watch is a big thing. The game that he would have played against some other players he might have been on a minutes restriction or whatever the case might have been. Obviously there is a way of seeing a guy in person that is a lot more impactful than seeing him on film.

**The source was asked if Rubštavičius ever failed a drug test?** The source responded that Rubštavičius has never failed a drug test. Not at all.

**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. No there are none at all.

**The source was asked how is Rubštavičius's competitive level in practice and does he push others?** The source responded that Rubštavičius is very competitive in practice. He is very competitive in practice and very competitive just pushing others to be the best in practice which is all that you kind of want. With Rubštavičius the source thinks people forgot that he was under 21. He doesn't really look young. He plays savvy and he plays kind of beyond his year. He was a starter on their team so he did earn that kind of respect as well. It doesn't really matter how old you are if you got a position and you got the minutes then you could be sustained into that. The source doesn't think the players looked at Rubštavičius age. They just saw him as a starting player. The ways Rubštavičius shows his competitiveness in practice are in practice when his team is down by 2 he is willing his team on to win and making sure that him and his teammates are on the same page to get the W. Obviously there is some players in practice that don't really view those little games or whatever to be impactful but he kind of did and this just shows how competitive he is and what he wants at the next level. This elevates the level of practice when he did that. This is one thing with practice. It kind of needs unique competitors in practice and you need people to push each other especially push each other in certain positions on the floor. As the source mentioned previously because Rubštavičius can be aggressive going towards the rim then that elevates the quality of practice.