

Nikola Đurišić- KK Mega Soccerbet- 6 feet 8 inches-214 pounds- 20 years old- Professional

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Source: Branilav Bozovic - Assistant Coach KK Mega Bemax

The source was asked what is the most transferable skillset for Nikola Đurišić?

The source responded that the most transferable skillset for Đurišić is that he is also a great driver. Yesterday they just had a game where he showed some really incredible defense which is in general one of his best qualities but that is also becoming a quality now. He is a great driver. He is also great in transition and good at off the ball play. He is great with the off-ball movement. He really is also a great teammate. He is slightly more tempered than Nikola Topić. He is definitely a guy who is really competitive. He looks to win it and maybe even more than Topić in that case because he really gives his all on each exercise in practice. You can see him after five on five you can see him lying on the floor catching a breath because he wants to win it and is ready to die for that in practice.

The source was asked how Đurišić was being defended at the international level compared to how he will be defended on the NBA level?

The source responded that the way Đurišić is defended changed a lot during the season because at the beginning of the season he didn't have so great percentages for three-point shooting. Now he improved a lot on that. We will see now because the playoffs start there so we will see but the source thinks that definitely Đurišić shooting is something that everybody will pay attention more now. He is a great off the dribble shooter. He has a great pull-up game. The source thinks this is something that NBA doesn't have and Đurišić is incredibly dangerous at that segment because in the NBA somebody rarely takes a pull-up two game. This is one of his greatest qualities. Beside that he is also great at shooting three-pointers now. The difference with defense maybe besides Topić for example is that Đurišić has a bigger size and he is even stronger on the driver. Most of the opponents defend it by trying to fall back a few steps in order to stop his drive and they rely on his shooting. Đurišić is a really experienced player now. He is playing for 3 years now in Mega and playing the international level even though he is also a young guy. He finds a way to drive it. He is also somebody who scores a lot with the off-ball game. In closeout situations after the kickout pass he is a great closeout player. A lot of situations happen beside from Topić he is definitely one guy that can dunk from the free-throw line. He is much more dangerous in that segment. He is also great in catch and shoot situations. The three-point shoot is something that is maybe hard to talk about it now because at the beginning of the season he got some great percentages and also the last season percentages were not so great but he improved a lot on that level because at the beginning of the season he was maybe not so much focused but the way that he is playing now is really incredible. He really focused completely on basketball, on his weak points, and the source doesn't know what weak points Đurišić has at the moment because the last 3 games he really scored for 20 or 30 points and

also by playing the defense on the other side. It is really great. He also changed something because of the team that he was playing on. He had better teammates maybe at some positions this year. It is easier in that case to play when you get the kickout passes and the closeout situations that are easier to read because the defense and the guy who is defending you needs to react on the other side so when you are on the weak side you have more space to find your solution to go for a three-point shot or for closeout. Maybe there is some changes he needs to make to his three-point shooting release and mechanics. They work on that also but this is something that is arguable because if he has good percentages and he has a good shooting it is always a question should they change it or not. This is because at the beginning he had the same mechanics and he wasn't good so they said they should change his shooting mechanics, this could be a problem, and he is not a great shooter. They worked on that and he also worked enormously on his shooting abilities also. He and Topić are one of those guys who stay after each practice. They stay after each practice and work on their shooting. Now maybe his mechanics are not great and maybe it doesn't look so great but numbers say that it is ok. The source doesn't think that quicker release is needed for Đurišić because he has a very high jump shot. He literally jumps half a meter up before releasing the ball. This release is not so slow but it is very dominant that he shoots off a greater height than most of the players.

The source was asked about his thoughts about Đurišić's aggressiveness during games? The source responded that offensively Đurišić is very talented. There is something in Serbia that they like to say that his talent is solved by him reading the game because he reads so well the situations. He reads that the defense is too aggressive on him which is often in the last 2 games because they know that he is their primary scorer. He is great at off-ball movement because if they play strong deny on him he will make a cut. If they try to defend the cut he will go for an off-screen and go for an open shot. If they help too much from him he will do a pull action or drift action and he will always be open. He is definitely great at reading those play types and he is extremely dangerous when he receives the ball in those situations in closeout situation or cuts. He is extremely dangerous and he is very good at penetration. He is very physical and as the source said Đurišić is the guy who can dunk it from the free-throw line, he is the guy who can catch an alley-oop from half-court, and he is the guy who can really do a lot of things off the ball and on the ball also. In defense he showed great character yesterday in their game that they played defending the best shooter of the opponent. He is definitely one of those guys you can rely on if he needs to guard your best offensive player. The source would say that Đurišić being under aggressive, medium aggressive, or over aggressive is the same thing as Topić because he is also one of those guys who has big minutes. He is 30 plus minutes on the court and in general their playstyle is that they play with a lot of transition and that is really exhausting in some moments so the source would say that Đurišić would be mid aggressive. In key moments he is definitely the high aggressive guy because if he sees that it is a clutch moment definitely he will dive his head on the floor if needed and he will throw himself for the ball and play hard. Of course if he feels that the pace of the game is slightly slowed and he is tired he will try to rest for a bit and try to catch up if he

feels that way. When he is at his most aggressive version he is a guy who can score big points in a short amount of time. When he is the most aggressive you can see him scoring for like 15 points in a row and all those points are from different places. It is not that he goes for a fast break but he scores for fast break, after that he plays great defense, he takes the ball and goes coast to coast, after that he is good on offensive rebounds, and after pick and roll he will show up for a pull-action and take a three point shot and score from it. Also which mostly happens with his type of playing is that everybody shrinks inside the three-point line and you don't have much of motion in your offense and he is in a lot of isolation situations. In these situations he is also one of those guys you can rely on because he has a great pull-up game which he uses mostly when his defender jumps off a few steps away in order to defend his drive he is ready to take those pull-ups. The source thinks that Đurišić is great at that but besides that he has also good qualities at driving and in three-point shooting. The best three-point shooting qualities is his catch and shoot.

The source was asked how he feels about Đurišić's ability to perform under pressure and in big moments? The source responded that Đurišić is good performing under pressure and in big moment but not as well as Topić. Topić is really cold hearted. Đurišić is really good. He is somebody you can rely on but the nature of his position is not that you put the ball in his hands at that moment because mostly the point-guard has the ball in those moments and in their system at Mega they play really disciplined so there is not much of broken plays and one guy takes the ball and plays two on two or plays one on one so easily unless their coach asks for it where he sees some advantage. Definitely he is a guy you can rely on in some of the moments. In the beginning of this season this wasn't so great. He wasn't so great but now at this moment he really is one of those guys. They have 7 wins in a row and he is the main craftsman of those wins. What wasn't great about him late in games at the start of the season are that he was struggling a lot with his shooting, he had problems with free-throws, he had problems with three-point shooting, he wanted to take some shots which maybe are not so natural for him to take the pull-up threes which the source personally thinks is a very tough shot to take, he was really struggling with the percentages, and he was struggling with creating distance for the shots. This depressed him a lot but during the season. During the season with hard work he improved on that and now he has much more confidence in those shots. He decided that it is much better for him to go for catch and shoot situations on three-point shooting where he is much better. He is much better on catch and shoot situations and this something he prospers from. This is something that he prospered and this increased his confidence so everything is just a build up now on that. The type of moments he thrives in late in games are with some surprise plays. The source wouldn't say broken play because also as they always tell them they are not the only ones who are doing the scouting report the other team does it also. He is great at reading the other team's scouting report because sometimes they look for the handoff for him and pick and roll for zoom action and he knows that the player who is guarding him is going to try and deny the pass or a handoff because they know he is dangerous in that situation. In the moments where the game is breaking he

just makes some surprising cut and score an easy 2 points in the moment where everybody are sitting and waiting for what will happen.

The source was asked how he feels about Đurišić's physicality and if he's ready to play at the next level? The source responded that Đurišić is great at physicality. He is more better than Topić. Also he is a tall guy. He is great physically which allows him to play great defense. He is definitely one of the guys that can play and competes with toughest guys in the NBA. Maybe not right now to play at the NBA level but with practices and everything the source thinks that definitely Đurišić can be one of those guys that can play and compete with the toughest guys in the NBA. The source would say the timeline would be maybe in 1 or 2 season over there with the proper strength programs Đurišić would definitely be one of the guys that could really compete with the strongest guys in the league. He can compete also now. The source doesn't think that Đurišić is weak now but he has the potential that maybe in a year or so to become one of those big guys. There are no adjustments the source would like to see Đurišić make to his body. He should just keep doing what he is doing. He would be a great explosive shooting guard. He is really explosive, a good driver, and a good defender.

The source was asked what are Đurišić's motives to play the game at the next level? The source responded that Đurišić's motives to play at the next level is that he is one of those guys that likes the fame. He likes the fame. He is also humble not as Topić but he enjoys the big moment. He enjoys the big moments. He always wants to be in those big moments and the source thinks that is something that motivates Đurišić mostly. He watched The Last Dance and saw Michael Jordan taking the last shot. This is something that probably motivated him the most so he really enjoys the great moments of the game. This isn't a concern for the source. The source doesn't mean that Đurišić is not interested to play some games that aren't so competitive but it is just he is one of those guys that is really fired up when it is hard on the court. Đurišić is definitely one of the guys that the source would want to see on the court when it is tough, when it is hard, and everybody are playing hard defense and want to win the game. He is definitely one of the guys the source would want on the court.

The source was asked what kind of teammate Đurišić is? The source responded that Đurišić is a good teammate. He communicates with other guys but not as much as Topić. He is also resilient a lot on critics. He has the potential to be a really great teammate. The interactions with his teammates are pretty well. The source doesn't want to say that Đurišić is a great guy that everybody loves. Also there is nobody that hates him but he is the guy who is focused on the game. He is focused on the game and he is focused on the job. The source doesn't mean that Đurišić is not social. He is but he is focused on the job. He is maybe a leader. The source cannot define Đurišić as a leader. He is more of a guy that could be a great player with some leader. If he would have a great leader beside him he would be great. He is not just a follower. He is not a regular guy who would want somebody to lead him. He doesn't need a leader to play well in that case but the source thinks that Đurišić's game is best when he has also somebody in the team that he can rely on also.

The source was asked how is Đurišić's ego and if he is coachable? The source responded that Đurišić is coachable. He has an ego but not big of an ego. He also in the previous seasons had the image of a guy who is not coachable and that he has a big ego. That is something that everybody talked about but this season the source thinks that all of that changed. The source thinks that Đurišić matured a lot. Now at this moment the source can say that Đurišić is completely coachable. Everything that you give him as advice and everything that you make as a correction in his game he can accept. He is also ready to ask some additional questions about something but not too much. He improved also on that level. The source couldn't say if this was a misconception that people have or if Đurišić was actually not coachable and then he became more coachable. The source hasn't been all the past years with Đurišić. Also the source doesn't want to say that everybody else is wrong and that he is right. The source would see the things from a different standpoint because he is Đurišić's coach and he looks at him differently but also he spends with him everyday. He spends with him everyday for 5 or more hours and they talk a lot and the source thinks that Đurišić is really a coachable guy. Maybe he wasn't 2 or 3 years ago but now at this moment the source really thinks that Đurišić matured a lot and that he is definitely coachable. The way Đurišić responds to criticism from the coaching staff is sometimes well and sometimes not so well but they like it when he doesn't respond well because that is something that fires him up from the inside. He wants to prove them wrong in those situations and not the way that he proves them wrong that he starts playing some of his own basketball to prove you wrong to see that he is not so bad at that. If you ask him to do something and he doesn't do it and you give him the critics he is not the guy who wouldn't do it the next time. He will do it but he will do it his way. He does it his own way and he always does it well so there is nothing you can give him a critique after that. Coaches are definitely ok with that.

The source was asked how is Đurišić's work ethics and if he does more than what is required? The source responded that yes Đurišić always does more than what is required. He is always an extra effort guy. He is always ready to do more and to work so hard. He, Topić, and maybe 1 or 2 guys more are definitely the guys that are always fun to coach because they always want some extra work. They want to work on anything that they feel that they are weak at so they do extra.

The source was asked what is Đurišić's level of basketball IQ and if he can carry over the scouting report to the court? The source responded that Đurišić also has a high level of basketball IQ especially you can see that from the things that the source said that he reads the opponent's scouting report and he sees the situation when somebody wants to deny the pass to him, tries to push him out from the shooting perimeter, or tries to throw him in any other way. He finds solution on that. This is also one of the great traits to add to his basketball IQ. When it comes to the scouting report he is one of those guys that asks a lot of questions. He is one of those guys who can handle a lot of information about scouting. They don't give them much but he is one of those guys who asks extra questions like how should we defend that, how should we play that, is this guy a better shooter or driver, and all those questions in between. The

source likes this about Đurišić. The source always has a pleasant talk with Đurišić about this. It is not annoying. The scouting reports at Mega they try to keep it simple. They keep it simple. They don't have very detailed scouting reports because they are young players and they are not so experienced. They all think that it would be too much for them and it would maybe break their focus at some moments to kill them with all the scouting reports so they try to give them basic information and some specifics additionally. They don't try to overwhelm them with the information.

The source was asked how Đurišić responds to in game adjustments? The source responded that Đurišić responds well to in game adjustments. He is not a point guard so he depends a lot also on the other guys but he responds well on the adjustments. If they change the play types during the games for example they go more for off-screen games he is the guy who can perform at that. If you are not directly involved in off-screen game he is also a guy who is ready and patient to go on the weakside and wait for what will happen on the off-screen. He is also ready to react if the defense is not focused on him to make some extra effort or extra play for a flash cut or baseline cut or anything to make some new points. These are the types of adjustments that Đurišić has had to respond to. Maybe sometimes they put him on the ball and force him to play pick and roll where he is also great which is maybe something that is not emphasized enough. The source thinks that Đurišić is a great pick and roll player but the nature of his position in their system didn't give him much and not enough of the pick and roll play. He has a great creation from the pick and roll. He can pass it in different ways. He can look for the roll man for some incredible passes but also on the other side if the defense is shrinking he is also not one of those guys who is looking for that great pass that goes through the whole defense but he can also play the simple pass and keep the ball moving. This is all of his adjustments.

The source was asked what will be one reason Đurišić will be successful and one reason he will not be successful at the next level? The source responded that Đurišić will be successful because he is very competitive. What the source mostly likes is something that is not so much appreciated in the NBA which is Đurišić's pull-up 2 game. It is also a pull-up 3 game maybe in the future. One more thing the source thinks Đurišić will be successful for is his physicality if he works on it. The things that wouldn't allow him to be successful at the next level is it could be the same thing. It could be the same things. If he doesn't improve physically enough or if he doesn't improve his shooting game more for the NBA this would maybe be a limitation. The way you can go about adding a pull-up three to Đurišić's game is something you can do by putting him more on the ball and giving him the pick and roll situations because in the pick and roll there is no drop or hedge you can always take a pull-up three if the guy gets stuck on the screen. You are alone and you have an open shot at some point. If the defense is not on you then you can always take a pull-up three. The second situation where he can take it is the iso. If you have the isolation and the defense is knowing that you are an extreme driver they will probably step back a few steps in order to stop the drive and that is where most of the guys score taking an early three-point shot. Also one more situation where Đurišić can take a pull-up three is off-screen game. In off-screen game if

you make a small advantage of the off-screen the player mostly chase you and you can not take the three-pointer right away there is always a 1 or 2 dribbles to the side and that is a pull-up three. You are taking it off the dribble. Maybe these are the situations where Đurišić would be mostly if he improves on pull-up threes. They would work with him on the shooting abilities mostly and mostly on that. It really has improved a lot and beside they do a lot of pick and roll popping on the driving on reading the closeouts situations but that is something they do in general in terms of reading the closeout situations and reading the defense in different situations. This is most of it. The source would feel comfortable with Đurišić taking pull-up threes in a game right now. They believe in him completely. You have a guy scoring 30 points per game and in March he had 21.8 points per game which is really extraordinary statistics. He was the best scorer in this league in March. The source thinks that Đurišić can freely take a pull-up three. It needs to be a build up situation because he is also a guy who works on good confidence. When he has confidence and when he feels confident the source would clearly give Đurišić any shot he wants.

The source was asked if Đurišić ever failed a drug test? The source responded that he knows Đurišić has never failed a drug test but the source is not sure that Đurišić did one. They have regular examinations and health checkings but the source is not sure if they test them for drug tests. The source is sure that Đurišić doesn't use any illegal substances.

The source was asked if there are any personal and social red flags for Đurišić? The source responded that there are no personal and social red flags for Đurišić. Maybe he can get furious sometimes when he gets at the moments that he is stuck in the game. This is when he feels powerless this is something that happens from time to time because they overwhelm them sometimes with practices and with matches. They burn out. This is something that happens. They know it happens and they do it on purpose. In those situations they feel powerless and Đurišić gets furious. The source wouldn't say it is a red flag but it is something that they pay attention for. The source thinks this is part of Đurišić's character where he is very competitive. It is manageable. Definitely it is manageable because if it is not manageable he wouldn't be there on the team. It is something that they all work on. He works on that and they work on that to find the common language. During the season a lot of things changed. They had a million discussions during this season to talk with him to find the best solution to help him to find the confidence he needs for his type of play. The source thinks that they managed to do it because Đurišić is really playing now at a top level. It is at a European top level. This is the source's honest opinion. In this case the source really thinks that it is manageable. It is not a big thing but it is something that they paid attention to a lot for. An NBA team wouldn't need to have these conversations with him. In the NBA that he is clear and they talked about it also. It is clear if you goes to the NBA it is a completely different world. In the NBA there is no place for this so he understands that. He completely understands that. Why they tolerate it is because he is a young guy. They are all young guys so some of these things happen and that is not a big deal. They understand all of those things. Đurišić understands that if you go to the NBA there is no

talking about it. You are there to perform and you should deliver each game. He knows that. As the end of the season is coming close he is realizing more and more that and he is really adjusting to that kind of set play. He plays now like he is in the NBA. His personality and his characteristics are like a guy who is playing in the NBA in terms of I am there to deliver and I am there to perform and that is it. This is something they had to explain to him as time moved on. Yes they had to explain this to him in the beginning a few times but he really responded well each time. This is why he is now where he is. This is why he is a great scorer now. Now he is in the race for the MVP of the ABA League. Definitely in the source's honest opinion is that Đurišić improved so well that he can be a player in the NBA one day which is next season.

The source was asked how is Đurišić's competitive level in practice and does he push others? The source responded that yes Đurišić pushes others really well. He is very competitive also. It is not in a bad way but he gets furious when he loses. It is not in the way that he would affect the others but he doesn't like losing. He doesn't like losing and he always wants to win. This is what they mostly like with him which is that he is a born winner. Something the source would compare it to is like Luka Dončić but Dončić also has all the negative comments afterwards and Đurišić doesn't. He always wants to win. He plays to win. The ways he shows his competitiveness during practice are he is pushing others. For example if they are playing five on five and they are practicing and they have a game where they play where they count results if they feel behind Đurišić is definitely the guy that would push the others in defense and in offense mostly vocally but he is defense in the last 2 practice and in the game especially. Especially the source would emphasize the defense.