

Kel'el Ware vs Wisconsin 2/27/2024 - Film

Offensive Skills:

Ware showcased a dominant performance against Wisconsin displaying the ability to play with his back to the basket, show soft touch around the rim, make plays in the short roll, and also face up and shoot jumpers. His versatility on offense gave his guards more options to choose from to get him the ball and caused defensive breakdowns throughout the game as well. Ware was able to secure catches on the move both over the top and down low and finish shots through contact. He also showed he has the ability to square up and take the defense off the dribble. For example, towards the end of the first half, he drove left from the top of the key, was bumped, shot an off-balance runner, and was able to maintain his poise and knock it down. On another play at the 13:40 mark of the first half, he drove hard going right, was cut off, and then showed excellent footwork using a euro step to gain ground on his man and connect on a floater over the top of his defender.

Defensive Skills:

Ware was effective both on the ball while defending the post and as a helpside defender altering shots and forcing guards to adjust mid-air while coming away with several blocks. His agility and length bothered his matchup throughout the game. He also was able to help clean the glass and limit Wisconsin to one shot possessions. He made quick adjustments in the game whenever he made a mistake which showed his attention to detail. For example, early in the first half, he was beat baseline on a post up which resulted in a made layup. A couple of plays later, he forced his man middle, contested the hook shot well, and forced a miss. On another play, this time away from the ball, he was down low protecting the paint, and a guard was able to penetrate into the paint, but Ware quickly shifted over and contested the floater, which resulted in an airball nowhere close to the rim.

Final Thoughts:

Ware exhibited the ability to make shots in a variety of ways whether it was in the PnR, post, or in isolation facing up. His rim protecting ability resulted in a game high five blocks, and plenty of buckets saved as the help side defender. One area of improvement for him is to improve his passing and ways to stay effective offensively in the halfcourt when the ball is not in his hands.