

## **Nikola Durisic vs MZT Skopje November 27, 2022**

Nikola Durisic played at his own tempo and his 'herky-jerky' skillset was best displayed as a pick and roll ball handler or in space, however his cold shooting night and lack of strength held him back in this outing.

What immediately stood out in this game was Durisic's ability to be a crafty pick and roll ball handler. He was able to use an array of moves such as up-and-unders and eurosteps to avoid contact when scoring in the paint. This deception and 'herky-jerky' movement allowed him to draw many reach in fouls against defenders. He is a good ball handler as well; 7:51 of the first quarter is a great example of how he was able to deceive defenders into thinking he was going to pass in the pick and roll, but instead drove to the rim for an open layup. As a passer he was solid, especially in the pick and roll since he had more space to operate allowing him to make the correct reads quickly. Generally speaking his game popped a lot more on the fast break and opportunities where he had space, however his struggles in creating space held him back. His lack of strength was seen on some of his drives as he struggled to finish through contact, got walled off on a play leading to a turnover, and got stripped on a drive. While his craftiness and ability to draw fouls at the rim negated some of this, it is still an area he needs to improve in.

His jump shot looks nice and has a good high release point but was not able to make any of his looks in this game. Out of the 7 midrange and 3-point shot attempts he took, Durisic was only able to make 1. Good movement off-ball to get himself some open looks by using screens his teammates set for him where he was able to draw multiple shooting fouls through this which helped make up for his lack of success in shooting this game. When he goes into shots off the dribble, Durisic does not do a good job of creating space and took many heavily contested jump shots.

Defensively, Durisic played a very active roll off the ball which had a mixed bag of results. On some plays he was able to leave his man to help in the post which led to a turnover thanks to his activity. However, when his opponents adjusted to this his team gave up many open shots and Durisic was blown by on multiple plays. He did a good job of trying to be physical but his lack of lateral quickness and strength made him struggle on that end. Overall, it was a solid effort by him but still has a lot of area to improve upon.