

DJ Stewart Jr. (Film vs. Missouri 01/05/2021)

He had a pretty good overall scoring night with 24 points, especially in the second half where he completely dominated and took over for Mississippi State. He has shown that he can make it from almost anywhere on the court. There are a few plays that stood out during this game, and one thing that was impressive about his second half scoring performance was that he fought through the fatigue and stepped up for his team. He came off the screen and caught the ball for a one dribble pull up. You can tell that he is so comfortable from mid-range, and he does it effortlessly. He had a sneaky cut backdoor for a high rising alley-oop dunk in the first minute of the game. There was one point in the second half where he was on a hot streak and scored on multiple possessions in a row. He had a beautiful step back jumper, then he came back down and hit another jumper off the dribble, then a layup off the cut to the basket, followed by a left step back contested mid-range jumper, where he got the foul call and the basket. Sometimes, he settles for the jumper too often. In the first half, he drove left, picked his dribble up, shot faked, and forced a contested jumper. Four minutes into the second half, he came off a screen, and you can already tell that he is setting up to hit a jumper instead of driving to the basket. He continued to shoot the ball with 3 people in his face, but then decided to pass it mid-air to the wing, which did result in a 3. He had 4 assists this game, and throughout the game, you can see his constant communication on offense. In the first two minutes of the game, he threw a strong overhead pass to the corner for 3 in transition.

He did finish with 4 turnovers, and all of them were very careless decision making. He tried to throw a flashy behind the back pass in traffic, which resulted in a turnover. He threw an anticipated pass that he stared at for a few seconds, which resulted in a layup for Missouri. He also threw a soft, lousy pass after the PnR that didn't get picked, but should've. He forced an entry bounce pass into the post while they were 2 feet apart and while he was still gaining control of the post up. He had some sloppy ball handling possessions as well. With 5:56 left in the 1st, he got the ball stolen while driving into 3 defenders. One thing I think that Stewart needs to work on is spacing.

Defensively, he did a good job of finding a body and boxing out along with a good shot contest. He finished with 3 rebounds. He did have a few defensive lapses where he was slow on help rotation. There was a play where the ball was on the wing, and he was defending the opposite corner. He didn't rotate all the way over which left the paint wide open. Sometimes, he didn't run to beat his opponent to a spot. Even when he got beat on a couple of possessions and they drove past him, he was still sliding.

Stewart is always looking for a chance to steal the ball, and he came away with 3 this game. He had active hands-on defense, and he got a piece of the ball on a drive to the basket. There was one particular play that I remember where he got around the double screen, recovered to the guard, and swatted the ball out of his hand for a fast break layup.