

Anthony Edwards vs Westlake High School - 11/24/18 UA Hard in the Paint Classic

As he walked into the gym the first thing you notice is his long arms, big hands, and broad shoulders, he also seems very comfortable in his 6'5 215lb frame. He then begins to shake hands, hand out hugs and even stopped for a few pics with kids as he did a lap around the gym before taking a seat with his team in the bleachers.

As both teams come out for the opening tip you see him bouncing left to right with a big smile on his face, he looks excited to play today. His team wins the tip and he starts off-ball on the left wing and his team runs the GSW elevator play to get him a wide-open 3ptr at the top of the key, he drills it from two feet behind the line. A couple of possessions later he leaks out on a turnover, takes one dribble from the 3pt line and throws down a nasty windmill as he is looking down at the rim.

Offensively, played at his own pace with the ball in his hands. He accepted double teams and made the easy basketball play to the open teammate. He has a nice smooth shooting stroke with very solid mechanics from the mid-range and from 3pt line. He was great in PnR action; making a couple of nice one-handed pocket passes to rolling bigs. He also did a good job of stretching out the defensive big on switches and firing on-point passes across to court into his teammates shooting pockets. He did make a few careless turnovers, as he did not see or overlooked weak side help. Overall, his ability to shoot off the catch & bounce, the ability to create and get to the rim, his above average passing ability and couple that with his size and strength makes him a tough cover.

Defensively, he has the make-up to be an elite defender; he has size, length, strength and lateral quickness. For most of the first half, his team was in a zone so you could not get a good feel for his instincts. In the second half, they went Man to Man, and he matched up with Chase Hunter (Clemson Commit). Side note - walking onto the court for the start of the second half, he yells at his teammate "I got Chase, I don't care what Coach said". So he sat in his stance, used his length to disrupt passing lanes and to contest shot attempts. He caused two turnovers one on ball steal as he picked Chase's pocket clean and another on a fast break, as he hustled back to swiped down on the ball for a layup attempt knocking the ball off their knee. He had a couple silly fouls trying to rip balls away he had no chance to get. I believe he is like most elite athletes; he could be a lockdown defender if he wanted to be.

He played the entire game outside of one minute or so of garbage time, he seemed locked in and focused throughout. Which I believe his team needed to pick up their first win of the season, after dropping their first 3 games to start the season. I look forward to continuing to watch his development.