

Reece Beekman vs Colorado State 3/19/2024 - Film

Although Beekman was the only player on Virginia to break double digits, he struggled to score and had an inefficient night shooting from the field going 4-16 and 0-3 from beyond the arc. He missed several layups at the rim, and because of his inability to hit jump shots from all areas of the floor, compounded by CSU's physical defense, made it even tougher for him. Early in the game, he wanted to establish a presence in the paint, but each miss at the basket dug Virginia into a deeper hole because when he is not getting others involved in the offense, nobody else is able to develop a rhythm. For example, at the 7:01 mark of the first half, he rejected a ball screen at the top of the key and got a step on his defender, but the CSU defense immediately collapsed on him once he reached the rim. He then forced a contested layup against the outstretched arms of two bigger defenders, resulting in a miss. On this play, he missed Dunn cutting from the weakside corner, and he could have also kept his dribble alive and probed to kick it out to his best shooter on the team. Beekman is also Virginia's main and only ballhandler in the rotation and primary facilitator, so whenever the ball was not in his hands, the offense struggled.

Overall, Beekman played solid on ball defense and was able to navigate through screens and still get out to his man. He played a part in neutralizing Stevens who was CSU's primary ball handler and also had primary responsibilities initiating their offense. He made catches tough for him because of his ability to get through pin-downs and flares. Beekman's size also played a factor in bothering Stevens. One possession that stood out to me was at the 4:03 mark of the first half when he was defending the inbounds man on a BLOB set, fought through a staggered screen preventing his man from getting a clean look for an open three. He then got a deflection when his man attempted to pass to a nearby teammate. CSU later in the possession began to run a set play and as the shot clock began to run out, Beekman defended well in isolation on the left wing, pressuring the ball handler, and not allowing him to turn the corner forcing him to shoot a heavily contested fadeaway long two-pointer.

Beekman struggled to make shots and get his teammates easy looks within the flow of the offense. Defensively, he competed hard making catches tough and neutralizing CSU's primary initiator. One area of improvement for Beekman is to improve his jumper overall from all areas of the floor to expand his game and not be limited to just drives to the rim.