

**Mantas Rubštavičius- New Zealand Breakers - 6 feet 6 inches-184 pounds- 21 years old- Professional**

**Draft Intel Report- Conducted April 18, 2024**

**Source: Mate Jakab - Assistant Coach New Zealand Breakers**

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**The source was asked what is the most transferable skillset for Mantas Rubštavičius?**

The source responded that the most transferable skillset for Rubštavičius is that he is really aggressive with the ball. If the source needs to describe Rubštavičius this is him like when he receives the ball he always wants to contribute an action. He is really good on the outside so he is a living outside shooter as well but he can drive to the rim. Summing up he is a consistent threat when he receive the ball. Last season he played with a Lithuanian team part of the EuroCup system which is the second strongest European competition in Europe. He was a role player and his three-point percentage was 32 percent. He had less than 1 made three-point shot last season so this is how they started. Now he finished the season with 42 percent from behind the arc. He was able to make more than 1 three-point shot. He became a really consistent shooter especially the catch and shoot situation. All these catch and shoot three-point shots was very consistent and very stable. He took all those catch and shoot threes in certain situations such as kick out pass, relocate threes, and transition threes. He is a really good movement shooter. The source thinks Rubštavičius is really active to relocate behind the ball-screen to generate himself like a wide open shot. First of all it was a lot of reps and a lot of extra practice hours. The source was responsible for Rubštavičius's individual program and individual development so they spent a lot of time together. After each and every practice they had a shooting session at least 20 minutes. They practiced only the catch and shoot threes. Sometimes they had some drills when the source gave Rubštavičius a task to shoot threes off the dribble so dribble threes but the source would say 70 percent of the shooting session was more like catch and shoot three situations. Rubštavičius is a very smart boy and really coachable so if you tell him something in terms of the mechanics he really tried to implement it to his movement. For example sometimes he had the problem to release the ball in the peak. Sometimes he released the ball when he was falling back. The source does coaching like each and every session and correct Rubštavičius. The source keeps correcting Rubštavičius but he is a really smart boy and he can listen to the information and he can react immediately. Their main vision and their main goal was to have the same shot every time to have a distinguished shooting pattern. They emphasized to have all the time the same shot. They wanted to repeat the same movement. They wanted to keep repeating. It doesn't matter if Rubštavičius missed they wanted to repeat the same movement. He was good on that. Sure there was some small adjustments but it is more like the confidence and a lot of reps. He kept the same movement every time and he got it consistently to be the same movement when he was shooting. This is something he definitely improved on. He is really coachable and a really smart boy so he listened to

the information. When he misses a shot he knows immediately what was his mistake, what was his issue, and what he needs to correct.

**The source was asked how Rubštavičius was being defended at the international level compared to how he will be defended on the NBA level?** The source responded that he doesn't have an answer for this. He doesn't know how Rubštavičius will be defended at the NBA level. At the international level there wasn't any specific scheme for him. There wasn't any specific tactic against him. He is not a primary ball-handler. He is like a secondary ball-handler. He played like a ball-screen situation but most likely the second side so there wasn't any specific scheme for him. There wasn't any specific tactic against him. They couldn't go under. The defense on his matchup and his defender couldn't go under the screen because as the source said Rubštavičius was really confident to make the shots. If he really utilizes all the situations that the defender went under the screen so if you talk about like a ball-screen situation the second side ball-screen situation the defenders cut through the screen. On the closeout situation it was like in between. For example they had the terminology like force dribble guy, contest, or short. The source would consider Rubštavičius as a contest guy because if you go too close it is one of his best skills to get to the rim but if you chose a short one he can make the shots so for the source Rubštavičius is a contest guy. Putting the ball on the floor, attacking closeouts, and getting to the rim is his best skill. For the source this is the best skill to drive the ball to the basket, get to the paint, and turn the corner. This is his best skill. When he receives the ball he was a constant threat. He chose to drive in a very frequent way. He is much better to drive left definitely. He is a left-handed player. He had an absolutely crystal like finishing package around the rim such as using the running hook or using his floater. When he turned the corner and broke the paint usually he utilized this finishing package a lot. These situations appeared when he drove to the closeout or when he rejected the screen on the second side. Both situations considered as a drive such as driving the closeout and rejecting the ball-screen. Both situations are considered as a drive and this was Rubštavičius main play type the source would say. They absolutely limited his finishing package. They didn't emphasize 10,000 finishes. They really wanted to have like 2 really good finishes around the rim which this is the floater and this is the running hook. That is it. If you check his clips and his capabilities of finishes around the rim he is really confident to take these floaters off 1 leg and 2 legs as well but as the source said they didn't emphasize 10,000 finishes. They concentrated only on these 2 and developed this to a high level. He had good footwork on these finishes. He was the only one player in the NBL not among the Next Stars but the whole NBL who finished the season 60/40/80. It means 60 percent from twos, 40 percent from threes, and 80 percent from free-throws. There wasn't any other player in the whole NBL who approached this shooting percentage. 60 percent on twos shows that he was quite efficient around the rim. Definitely the source thinks that Rubštavičius could have a little bit more aggressively like searching some more contact. It is all those misses might have occurred because his body type that he is still a little bit skinny. His change of speed and direction is decent and good. He can definitely accelerate. You can see his speed especially in transition. He can run ahead of the ball. Last year they had one of the

quickest point guards in the league Parker Jackson-Cartwright who is the small and tiny one but he was speedy and Rubštavičius was the only one who was able to run with him. He was able to run constantly ahead of the ball.

**The source was asked about his thoughts about Rubštavičius's aggressiveness during games?** The source responded that this is how Rubštavičius started. When he receives the ball he is always a threat. He is really aggressive with the ball. When he receive the ball he always wants to contribute to some action. When he is at his most aggressive self he uses the possession well. It is when he uses the possession. This is the best version. If you want to see his best version offensively take a look at their Melbourne game which is their second Melbourne game home court game the first quarter of Rubštavičius. He scored their 10 to 12 first consecutive points. Watch the second Melbourne United game with the home court of the New Zealand Breakers if you want to see his best version offensively. This is in the first quarter. What the source liked about that first quarter is that Rubštavičius was really aggressive in every possession. What the source liked about that first quarter and what impressed the source the most are that Rubštavičius attacked the second side, he broke the paint, he chose the good finishes, he had some nice passes, he used his open shots, he made all those open shots, he was aggressive on the boards, and he was very active on both ends. He made a couple of defensive mistakes but he had a really hard assignment in this game. He was really aggressive. He looked like their main player. In general the source would Rubštavičius is really aggressive. He is really aggressive. He uses every possession. When he receives the ball he wants to do something with the ball. He is not the one who just passes back.

**The source was asked how he feels about Rubštavičius's ability to perform under pressure and in big moments?** The source responded that Rubštavičius wasn't there main player. Since December he was part of their starting lineup but definitely he wasn't their main player. He was a Next Star and sometimes he came off the bench. They had like primary and secondary options in offense so he wasn't their main guy. For example at that point in crunch time situations he wasn't the one who receive the ball. He is really consistent at free-throws. There was a couple of games when he made very important free-throws at the crunch time so the source thinks Rubštavičius is very reliable in the crunch time. The source doesn't have a straight answer because it is like Rubštavičius wasn't their main guy. It was just normal in terms of him taking the ball and using possessions in crunch time. They really emphasize to play aggressive on the second side and he was one of the most aggressive players on the second side for example.

**The source was asked how he feels about Rubštavičius's physicality and if he's ready to play at the next level?** The source responded that definitely Rubštavičius needs to improve. He needs to improve his body. He needs to gain some muscle. He needs to work on his body a little bit to gain some muscle. He needs to stay healthy and keep stretching. He needs to really focus on the mobility. The source thinks in this part Rubštavičius should improve. This is his body type and this is his DNA probably. Right now he has a pretty long off-season and the source is that Rubštavičius is going to work on his body. The source is not a strength and condition coach. The source has no

absolute overview of the physical condition program. This is not the source's assignment. From the source's perspective Rubštavičius was really dedicated. He struggled at the beginning of the season with some groin injury. This was a back to back groin injury which was a problem but from that point he was really dedicated to the stretching exercises. He was doing everyday some stretching with the strength and condition coach. He requested some support, some certain stretching exercises, and mobility exercises. He was really dedicated and he did it everyday. This is what the source has seen. The source also kept telling Rubštavičius to keep focused for this part because it is truly needed for him. From this point he could stay healthy but the source doesn't know what Rubštavičius did in the weight room. The source doesn't know if Rubštavičius gained muscle or not. The source thinks that Rubštavičius should in this off-season focus to gain some muscle, be stronger, have a bigger upper body, and have a bigger lower body.

**The source was asked what are Rubštavičius's motives to play the game at the next level?** The source responded that Rubštavičius's motives to play at the next level is that he is a professional basketball player that came from Lithuania where basketball is absolutely a religion. Everybody wants to be a basketball player. He is like Lithuania's solider. If you tell him something he doesn't question you and he doesn't question the coach. He just takes the cues. He is really dedicated and a hard worker without any question and without any concern. This for sure shows the source that Rubštavičius loves the game. He follows a lot of competition. They always discuss about the European leagues such as EuroLeague and EuroCup and he follows the Lithuania league. Definitely his basketball is the number 1. This is where his life gravitates.

**The source was asked what kind of teammate Rubštavičius is?** The source responded that Rubštavičius is a quiet guy. He is not an extroverted guy. Definitely he is quiet but everybody loved him and he was definitely part of the team. He was involved for the team program and everybody loved to spend time with him. Definitely he is not a loud guy. He hasn't got such a big voice but this is something normal. He is European. He was pretty good in English but not like native. Everybody loved him and the source thinks Rubštavičius was a pretty good teammate. Him being a quiet guy didn't affect his communication on the court. He communicates so he talks when it is needed. For example if he doesn't understand something during the film session he asks the coach. He is not the one who is shy to ask or to approach somebody if he doesn't understand something. He is not a loud guy. He is not a guy who is going to speak up in the locker room but he didn't have a problem with the communication. He is not a vocal leader. The source thinks that Rubštavičius is a leader by his approach. His working ethic is definitely like always 100 percent and always with maximum so definitely he is leading by example with his approach. Teammates follow his approach when he is leading by example. There was a nice story that they had Anthony Lamb last year who played for the Golden State Warriors and he told the source that he really likes how Rubštavičius plays. He likes how aggressive he is. He didn't really know how fast Rubštavičius runs. Lamb was there best player. He just the told the source that Rubštavičius plays so hard every time. He is so jealous that Rubštavičius is so young and he plays so hard every

time. For example Lamb was their main player and he also noticed how hard Rubštavičius plays.

**The source was asked how is Rubštavičius's ego and if he is coachable?** The source responded that Rubštavičius is absolutely coachable. He never talks back, never questions the coach, and is never talking back. As the source said the best term is that Rubštavičius is a Lithuanian soldier who just goes through the work nobody wants. When getting criticism from the coaching staff Rubštavičius absolutely accepts the critics. They had a lot of like post game sessions when they went through all the clips and just watch it together back and he accepts the critics.

**The source was asked how is Rubštavičius's work ethics and if he does more than what is required?** The source responded that definitely yes Rubštavičius does more than what is required. All the time they met before practice or after practice and they had an extra 20 or 30 minute session almost every day when the load was lower. The skills he is working on is dependant on the load. When they had a hard practice or like a game before practice they had only shooting in terms of a lot of catch and shoot threes but they practiced together. When the load was lower they had constant consultation with the strength and condition coach and she was the one who determined all this load, accept it, and approved these extra session. They had some like pre-tactic situations. This is what the source calls it pre-tactic situations. For example Rubštavičius would practice a lot for example the ghost screens because he was a really good ghost screener. This contact and no contact provided him a lot of room for shooting and driving. They practice a lot in those situations so it was more like pre-tactics finishing. This is basically the one they practiced together. He was all the time with 100 percent. When you take a look at him in December they put him in the starting lineup when he started the game after 5 minutes he was completely exhausted because he is not able to do something with medium level intensity. He always pushes 100 percent. This is the reason why he requested like a sub after 4 or 5 minutes because he push so hard every time. It didn't bother anyone that Rubštavičius asked for a sub.

**The source was asked what is Rubštavičius's level of basketball IQ and if he can carry over the scouting report to the court?** The source responded that Rubštavičius basketball IQ is really high. As the source said Rubštavičius came from Lithuania and it is like basketball is a religion so they know the game very detailed and they know the game very deeply. He absolutely understood the scouting report and tried to execute it. Sometimes he had a hard time because when they put him in the starting lineup in December sometimes he needed to guard like scoring guards or target offensive players so this was not easy for him but he studied the game and he requested some extra clips about all those players. Many times he solved the problems. The scouting reports of the New Zealand Breakers is too much. The report itself is really simple. It is like 1 page but what they transcribe to the players is like a lot of information. It was too much. That was their feedback at the end of the season to the head coach.

**The source was asked how Rubštavičius responds to in game adjustments?** The source responded that with in game adjustment it is connected to the basketball IQ. All those players who have good basketball IQ they can react very quickly and they can react to any adjustments. The types of in game adjustments Rubštavičius had to respond to are that they changed the ball-screen cover. They changed a lot their ball screen cover which required definitely some alertness. They had at least 3 types of ball-screen coverage in games. This is definitely a major adjustment and what Rubštavičius needed to execute.

**The source was asked what will be one reason Rubštavičius will be successful and one reason he will not be successful at the next level?** The source responded that he sees Rubštavičius as an NBA player. The sees Rubštavičius as a role player who can come off the bench and change the game because he can be useful on both ends of the court like defensively and offensively as well. He can be a really efficient role player in the NBA who can come off the bench, make some threes, help with defensive stops, and have some nice drives on offense. The source can imagine Rubštavičius in this character or in this role to be a really efficient supportive cast or supportive player. This is how the source can imagine Rubštavičius in the NBA. If it turns to Europe and if he is planning to come back to Europe the source thinks Rubštavičius can be a EuroLeague player. Something that can distract from his career is the injuries. He needs to stay healthy. Definitely he needs to improve his body. The source would say that using Rubštavičius in the right position is very important. A team using him in the right position is important.

**The source was asked if Rubštavičius ever failed a drug test?** The source responded that Rubštavičius has never failed a drug test.

**The source was asked if there are any personal and social red flags for Rubštavičius?** The source responded that there are no personal and social red flags for Rubštavičius.

**The source was asked how is Rubštavičius's competitive level in practice and does he push others?** The source responded that yes Rubštavičius's competitive level was very high and he pushed. The ways he shows his competitiveness in practice is normal. It is not extreme. It is normal competitiveness. He is absolutely competitive. He was very competitive in the games. He took personally some matchups. Some matchups he took personally so yes he is a good competitor.