

Xavier Johnson (Pittsburgh) 6'3" 200 CG (Film 1/16/21 vs. Syracuse)

Xavier showed a level of athleticism I did not realize he had in this one. He is extremely fast, especially in the open court. He also showed off his jumping ability that I had not seen yet. In transition he took off and threw down a powerful dunk that was very impressive.

He scored 23 points but the most impressive thing he did in this game was create for others. Johnson constantly got into the lane and attacked the gaps of the Syracuse zone. He was able to find open players throughout the whole game. He finished with 7 assists to just 2 turnovers. He got to the line at will and made 13 of 13 free throws. It did seem as if the zone intended to force him to shoot from the perimeter as he only shot 2/8 from 3 and a lot of them were open shots.

Defensively, Xavier Johnson is excellent at moving his feet while pressuring the ball. The guards for Syracuse are not specifically known for beating guys off the dribble but he was able to contain them well.

Shooting 32% from 3 on the season is a slight concern and I have seen him only shoot 2/11. I do not currently believe in his shot but the 80% from the free throw line is a positive. He had a great game for himself while boasting a stat line of 23-7-6 with only two turnovers.