

DaRon Holmes II vs LSU
11/16/2023
Film

Offensive Skills:

The first two plays of the game where Holmes received a touch, he turned the ball over. He had 3 turnovers in the first half just by making bad decisions and forcing the issue. For example, at the 9:20 mark he made a bad read from the left short corner by trying to throw a cross court pass over his shoulder and then made a drive deep into traffic and tried to make a pass out and was stripped which was a late decision. His shot attempts and clock awareness in the first half were not impressive either. At the 8:07 mark of the first half, he shot a contested 3 with 11 seconds left on the shot clock. He then displayed bad clock awareness by not getting a shot off with 1 second left from BLOB. Although Holmes had a quiet game offensively, he set solid screens for his guards, drew fouls, and showed soft touch around the rim. At the 10:41 mark of the second half, he was able to creep behind the defense in the dunker's spot for a dunk which cut the LSU lead to 10.

Defensive Skills:

Defensively he had a difficult time containing Baker on LSU and adjusting to his personnel while sharing the floor with him. It eventually got to a point later in the second half where Holmes was switched off of him. For example, in the second half, Holmes did not pressure the ball near the right short corner and had a light contest on the shot attempt which LSU connected on. Another play, he was caught way too deep in the paint from Baker and he knocked in a 3 from the top of the key. He also displayed a lack of sense of urgency for rebounding defensively only ending up with 3 defensive rebounds. The last 5 minutes of the second half during Dayton's comeback exhibited better IQ and paint protection. For example, on the Dayton press, Holmes got a deflection which led to a foul and his teammate ended up going ½ from the line. Then he showed quick lateral defense in drop coverage, not allowing the ball handler to turn the corner and recovering back to his assignment.

Conclusion:

Holmes displayed the ability to draw fouls deep in the paint and his screen setting allowed for his teammates to turn the corner and get downhill. When matched up with a non-shooter defensively he exhibited better engagement and played well below the three point line. One area of improvement for Holmes is to take better care of the ball, not making careless decisions. I noticed while posting, he tries to telegraph passes over his shoulder across the court as opposed to squaring up or making the simple kick out back to a guard near him.