

DaRon Holmes vs Troy
12/9/2023
Film

Offensive Skills:

Holmes showcased his entire offensive repertoire against Troy displaying the ability to score beyond the arc, in the mid-range, at the rim in transition, off post-ups and the offensive glass, and initiate an offense and make the right play on drives. He showed poise when being pressured by his defender while handling the ball sometimes even in the backcourt. Holmes also set solid screens that created room for his guards to turn the corner and attack downhill. Dayton has multiple deep ball threats, so that allowed for the floor to be spaced out and driving lanes opened for Holmes. For example, at the 14:47 mark of the first half, he tried to get into DHO action but his teammate's defender overplayed him, so Holmes did a spin move and drove hard down the lane for the dunk. Another play that stood out to me was when he caught the ball on the short corner on the right side and he surveyed the floor and read his defender and kept it simple and connected on a mid-range jumper. At times though, Holmes can over dribble which stalls the Dayton offense, and his decision-making when seeing multiple bodies in the low post needs to be a bit quicker as it led to a turnover late in the second half.

Defensive Skills:

Defensively his activity around the rim and in PnR situations bothered Troy's offense. He played well in drop coverage, shielding off Troy's guards from turning the corner, while recovering to his assignment on rolls and pops too. Holmes moved well laterally for his size and even where it looked like he was beat off the bounce he still was able to recover and alter/block shots at the rim or force a kick out. He dominated the glass defensively closing out possessions forcing Troy to not get many extra opportunities while he was in. His paint presence forced his opponent to sometimes not even attempt to look at the rim. Sometimes though, Holmes looks slightly jumpy on the perimeter and falls for shot fakes which brings him out of position.

Final Thoughts:

Holmes handled ball pressure well while initiating the Dayton offense at times and exhibited the ability to score on all three levels in various ways. His athleticism defensively altered shots at the rim and forced kickouts. One area of improvement for him is to not fall for shot fakes so easily and to continue to work on his free throws.