Cam Thomas (LSU) 6’4 209 PG/SG (Live 12-14-2020 vs Sam Houston)

Cam Thomas is a pure, skilled go-to scorer for LSU. He can get a bucket from almost anywhere on the court. Even as a freshman, you can tell that he is a prominent piece to LSU’s offense. He is a quick, versatile guard. He can use that quick first step to get past his defender and drive hard to the paint, or he can take a heavily contested jumper and drain it in your face. Cam is a pretty good shot creator. When you watch him play, you can tell that he knows how to read the defense and make the necessary moves based off what they give him. He is a fearless driver, and the contact and physicality have no effect on him. He is going to drive hard and embrace the contact. Sometimes, he does force the contested shot, but in this game, it worked in the 1st half because he got the foul calls. Within the first 5 minutes of the game, he drove left to the paint and shot a heavily contested jumper, but he got the foul call. This game, he took a lot of contested mid-range shots. He excels on shooting off the dribble. One of his favorite go to moves seems to be the step back jumper. It seems to be pretty efficient because it always creates enough space for him to knock it down or get the foul call off the late reaction from the defender. He is not afraid to pull from behind the arc, but you can tell that he favors the pull up jumper. He went 2/8 from the 3pt line, so he had a little struggle from deep this game, but he shot each one so confidently. The two 3-point shots that he did hit were back-to-back from the right wing. He got to the foul line a few times and hit 7/8 from the line.

Defensively, he had a lot of lapses. There were several plays where he was ball watching. There was no box out on some plays, or just standing around, which resulted in a few offensive rebounds for the opponent. He moves pretty slow when rotating to spots in help defense. It seemed as if he was just a half step too late and didn’t care to move with any urgency. There were some possessions where he was almost walking to the spot when the ball was on the other side of the court. He is a pretty decent rebounder. He will pull some down, and then push in transition to get a quick basket. In this game, none of his rebounds came off any box outs or physicality. The ball was just favoring his direction. However, his on-ball defense is pretty decent. He will contest the shot well and he will beat the defender to the spot.

One thing that I would want to see more from Cam Thomas is improving his playmaking ability and his shots from deep. I want to see his teammates more involved. He only had 2 assists this game, which both resulted in spot up threes for his teammates. So far into the season, he is only averaging 1.6 assists per game. In the 8 games played so far, he is only getting 2 assists max, so it would be nice to see him get teammates involved a little more. He has plenty of time though, and for a freshman, I can see him evolving into a great role player in the NBA setting.