

DJ Stewart Jr. (Mississippi St.) 6'6 205 G (Film vs. Liberty 11/26/20)

First thing you notice about DJ Stewart is his length. He is tall for his position, but he is very athletic. He can get to the basket in a matter of a couple of strides. He is a true lefty and loves to do everything on his left side. During the few times that I did see him drive right, he finished with his left hand. This happened twice this game, even though his defender was on his right side for one of those possessions.

He is an excellent shooter and can shoot it from anywhere on the court. However, his bread-and-butter shot is the mid-range jumper. He will pull up off the dribble: contested or not. At the 7:33 mark, he hit a heavily contested pull up jumper. He does have a slower shot release. He can knock down shots long range, especially in catch and shoot situations. Those long arms shoot right over his defender. He has decent handles, which need a little improving, but he can create enough space to get the shot he wants, and he can get by his defender and drive all the way to the basket. In the 2nd half, he did post up a smaller guard, but the ball didn't get inside to him.

Mississippi State does a lot of cuts, ball handoffs, and screens within their plays, and he does a good job of either capitalizing on those quick shot opportunities or moving the ball around patient enough to get an open shot. Throughout most of Mississippi State's offensive possessions, you can see Stewart communicating with his teammates on the floor. He did a decent job of reacting quickly to the PnR switch. He would just split between the small space within the person picking and the new defender for the straight lane to the basket. He finished with 4 assists. He will drive and kick or drive and dish into the post. One thing that Stewart does (well, Mississippi St. in general) well is feed their post and get them heavily involved too.

One thing he does need to work on is his ball security. He had 4 turnovers. 2 of them came from careless ball handling. He was driving left, and he lost the ball. It looked like he may have hit it off his shoe. The second one was an attempted split through the double team that was coming in the first few minutes of the 2nd half. In the last 40 seconds, he tried to force a pass while being double team, which got picked off.

Defensively, he is slow in some instances. Some of the quicker guards definitely blew past him a few times. He got shifted a little in the 1st half when guarding the top of the key, but he recovered. I think he needs to improve on his footwork. He doesn't really fight hard to get around picks, which means it takes him a minute to get back to his man. He has a pretty solid close out. He uses those long arms to throw players off.

In help defense, he moves a second too late on rotation. However, he will box out, and he will find a body and be physical. He had 3 rebounds. One was a mean pull down to push in transition. The second one was on offense and helped to set the offense back up for another shot attempt. The last one was caught over his teammate.