

Mitchell Robinson - USA - 1998

Position: Center

Physical attributes

By: Grant Aqui

- **Frame:** 7'1" with a 7'4 wingspan. Weighs in at 235 pounds. Good size for a center, length is optimal. Broad shoulders indicating he has plenty of room to fill out his frame. Long in the limbs, long legs, length will be pivotal. A bit hunch backed. Limbs are not filled out enough. Deceptively strong for his weight has plenty of lean muscle to build upon. Needs to improve his strength in his lower body if he is going to play an energizer role. Excellent length allows him to block shots after getting beat, allows him to finish lobs high. Needs to work on his conditioning to an NBA level, year out of college won't give insight to how prepared he is to how prepared he is to play extended minutes.
- **Movement:** Strideful athlete, long legs allows him to cover large amounts of ground in fewer strides. Runs the floor well, very comfortable in his body, definitely the most fluid center in this class bar none, even better than Ayton. Horizontally quick enough to switch and guard in space. Vertically can get up, will be able to finish lobs 12 feet in the air. Jumps on a spring, needs next to no loading time. Has good initial burst on acceleration, doesn't slow down very well for change of direction. Quick twitch athlete for a big. Foot work needs improvement, feet the only awkward thing about him, a bit duck footed. Runs with his arms by his side, needs to learn proper form.
- **Comparison:** Overall profile similar to a longer DeAndre Jordan. Long and extremely fluid, times where they can be a little stiff but overall athleticism is second to none for a second footer. Not as quick twitch as DeAndre but loading time and verticality are nearly the same.

Offensive Skillset

- **3PT Shooting:** Yet to display NBA 3pt range. Shot 28% from 3 in his senior year of high school. Right foot is far in front of his body. Right knee bends in at an awkward angle, base needs work. Jerky type of motion. Release point is a bit low but his rotation on his shot is phenomenal. Has the touch to build upon for the future.
- **Post Game:** Has no moves to go to currently. Has the length to put shots up over anyone. Post fade might come in time, touch is there. Footwork is holding him back from being a consistent back to the basket threat. Advanced ball handling and foot speed for a big gives him a chance to have a face up game down the road. Has said in an interview that he is looking to add more hooks to his game. Doesn't play with his back to the basket enough to get a good idea of how well he feels defenders and double teams.
- **P&R:** Ideal screen man. Has the energy to screen 4-6 times in a set. Moves extremely well. Rolls hard to the basket, constant threat for lobs. Will make a lot of his money from being a solid P&R target. Has EXCELLENT HANDS, will catch anything in his radius. Excellent at adjusting his body in mid air to finish the ball. Likely won't be a pick and pop threat at the NBA level. Needs to keep his hands up and ready to catch the ball, will drop some passes because he's not prepared to receive the ball.
- **Finishing at the Rim:** Ferocious power dunker. Looks to finish above the rim every chance he gets. Has ELITE EXTENSION at the rim given his immense physical tools and above average to elite bounce. Needs to keep the ball high when he is at the rim, will get the ball stripped from him more than the average player. Will thrive as a guy who cleans up broken plays. Excels at taking a loose ball and getting it right back up.
- **Free Throws:** Shot 53% for his career in high school, not a plus free throw shooter even for his size.
- **Mid Range Scoring:** Has the type of wiry energy to be a face up mid range scorer. Ball handling and long arms should allow him to get his shot off at the NBA level. Has no footwork or creativity to speak of.

Offensive Skillset Continued

- **Transition:** Elite runner in transition. Works hard to change ends and run with his smaller players. Rim runs with a purpose and is often rewarded. Strong finisher as detailed. Collects a lot of boards following up misses in transition. Elite movement and fluidity stick out even at an NBA level. Again, needs to keep his hands more ready.
- **Playmaking:** Solid ball handling skills. Doesn't have many dribble moves but he has excellent control and coordination with the ball in his hands. Surprisingly high IQ for a passer given his lack of feel and overall rawness as a player. Makes smart passes but not anything flashy, more comfortable as a passer than he will be given credit for.
- **Player Comparison:** Offensively again is similar to DeAndre Jordan in what he brings. High energy screener and has double digit scoring potential without needing a play called for him. Both are premier lob targets. Robinson has a much better feel for the game than Jordan did at this stage and his shooting touch gives an extra dimension that Jordan will never have, even if Robinson never develops into a consistent outside threat, should still be able to get it done from 10-12 feet which Jordan can't.

Defensive Skillset and Rebounding

- **Perimeter Defense:** Has the tools to guard in space consistently. Lateral burst and overall speed helps him from getting beat, elite length allows him to recover when he is beat to the rim. Length is troublesome for outside shooters but he needs to work to contest more, doesn't always jump to contest and optimize his length, seems to be saving energy at times for rebounding and running. Will be able to guard all 5 positions on the floor for brief periods of time.
- **Rim Protection:** Elite upside as a rim protector. Instincts and timing is there. Enjoys being a rim protector and takes pride in getting blocks, clearly one of the favorite parts of his game. Length affects the game in a major way, when he's not blocking shots he alters the types of shots that opposing players will take against him. Has a good understanding of verticality. Shy personality, needs to take over more as a vocal guy at the back. Needs to work on IQ at times, doesn't always provide hard cover on weak side rotations, will be content to not jump with a driving opponent in attempts to save his jump for a rebound. Needs to get his hands up more, for as often as he blocks shots he will also just stand there and hope someone else handles the job of getting a block.
- **Post Defense:** Smart post defender, doesn't get beat off of advanced moves very often. Holds ground surprisingly well for having such a slight frame but he will struggle against grown men. As his body develops he will be a plus defender and will be able to guard the best big men in the league. Doesn't particularly enjoy banging down low but shows a willingness to gut it out. Length again is key and he will rely upon it early on.
- **Rebounding:** Arguably his best attribute. Excellent leaping ability allows him to get elite extension over other players. Capable of rebounding out of his area which he does often. Saves a lot of his energy for rebounding, seems to be the area he puts the most emphasis on. Excellent hands, catches the ball with one hand with ease, smart at using his long arms to tip the ball to himself. Good at securing the ball, doesn't let it drop.
- **Comparison:** Robinson contributes defensively similarly to Larry Sanders. Neither have the ideal frame for an NBA 5 but their length and willingness to guard in the post are extremely similar. They are also both highly skilled at cleaning the glass.

Intangibles

- **Western Kentucky Concern:** Left WKU for undisclosed reasons which should be a red flag, missing a year of organized basketball will hurt.
- **Toughness:** Hard competitor, wants to play against the best, doesn't back down.
- **Motor:** Motor needs to run a bit hotter in general, defensively needs to be more willing to close out and contest because he's phenomenal when he does. Offensively needs to keep his hands up and be more aware. Rebounding his motor is always on and to the max
- **Development:** Very raw at this point in his career, his skill level runs far behind his physical development, but yet he is still extremely productive without even scratching the surface. He has lots of room to grow in both his body and in his skill level, footwork should be priority number 1. A lot of his issues are easily fixed and taught.
- **Care Factor:** Doesn't always show the utmost care in the way he plays, he clearly enjoys playing more than some bigs but his passion for the game is not Hall of Fame level, if it were then he should be a top 10 pick regardless of his situation.
- **Anticipation:** has poor anticipation, doesn't think about the next step that the offense will take when he's defending. Doesn't always know when the ball is coming his way, needs to be more ready.
- **Who Wants Him?:** A team in the mid to late first round who is looking for instant rim protection and energy in their pick and roll sets. He offers a lot of long term upside, his stock will be dependent on workouts and interviews but has top 10 level upside.