



## **Zion Russell**

Class of 2021 / PG

Georgetown Prep High School

Team Durant – Nike EYBL

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 175 lbs.

Right-handed

**Level: Mid-Major D1**

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### **Summary**

- Talented scorer and gifted playmaker capable of creating high percentage shots for himself and his teammates. Finishes through contact and displays excellent body control.
- Puts great pressure on the defense. Understands when to attack and when to get his teammates involved. Locates perimeter shooters and teammates for drop-offs on the block with ease.
- An impressive athlete who has controlled explosiveness with strong fundamentals. Allows the game to come to him, but maintains the right level of aggression. Needs to continue to develop a consistent jump shot.
- Stays low with the ball and executes dribble moves with purpose and effectiveness, creating good space for himself. Plays with a high IQ and shows he is able to make good decisions with the ball, even under pressure.
- Strong finisher at the basket. Uses excellent angles to get into the paint. Draws the foul and shoots a high percentage from the line. Deliberate and patient, but wastes no time in getting to where he is going.

### **Physical/Athleticism**

- Very good athlete – contains explosive qualities
  - Good speed and acceleration
  - Has bounce – two-legged jumper
    - Ex. Rose up twice for blocks in the open court where the taller, longer offensive player tried to create contact. He stayed vertical, and blocked the shots with two hands.
  - Great body control
  - Good hand-eye coordination
- Smooth, strong movements



- Hips allow for smooth, powerful change of directions
- Shows strong endurance
- Displays good strength; has a nice body build for the point guard position
  - Accepts contact off the dribble and while finishing
    - When defensive guards make contact, it is usually them who move from the impact and not Russell as the ballhandler
- Agile; nice footwork

### **Offensive Qualities**

- Talented scorer with a good balance between scoring and distributing
- Playmaker capable of creating high percentage shots for himself and his teammates
- Possesses a refreshing base of fundamentals
- Stays under control on the drive, head up; takes a persistent and patient path to the basket
  - Does not rush or go up to shoot too soon
  - Impressive footwork
  - Uses excellent angles
- Strong finisher around the basket
  - Maintains good concentration on the basket, even amongst traffic
  - Finishes well through contact
  - Uses his body well to draw the contact/foul and still get the ball up on the board for a relatively high percentage shot
    - High conversion rate
- Prefers to drive and finish with his strong hand (right hand)
  - Often when driving left, he ends up finishing to the right
- Naturally moves north-south
- Effectively utilizes change of pace both with and without the ball
- Uses his driving ability to create space by pushing the defender and snapping back with the dribble
  - Periodically uses step backs going in both directions
    - Creates great space with it
- Unselfish player; team first
  - Looks to get his teammates involved
- Places pressure on the defense through:
  - The threat to get in the paint and finish
  - The threat to draw the shooting foul
    - And convert 3-point plays at a high percentage
  - The threat to accumulate one-in-one situations by drawing fouls on the floor
  - The ability to score from midrange
  - The ability to convert difficult shots



- Capable of connecting from 3, but still inconsistent
- Prefers to operate from the top of the key, but is not limited

### **Shooting**

- Improving midrange shooter; developing into a consistent shotmaker off the dribble
  - The farther from the basket, the more inconsistent the shot
- Shoots a high percentage from the free throw line
- Shot selection
  - Smart and patient – searches out the high percentage shot
    - Doesn't force bad shots often
  - Prefers driving to the basket over shooting off of the dribble
    - Bases tendencies on the defensive personnel, highlighting his IQ
- Mechanics
  - His feet tend to be spread farther apart than shoulder width on the catch and shoot
    - It seems to assist him with staying balanced and squared
  - Would benefit from getting his elbow and release point up a little more
  - Keeps the elbow tucked on the shot nicely; body is “intact”
  - Would benefit from making his shot one continuous movement
    - Has a tendency to guide the shot instead of letting it go
  - Finishes with a nice snap of the wrist

### **Dribbling**

- Has a nice handle overall
- Strong with the dribble
- Protects the ball well with his body
- Keeps the ball close to his body
- Direct movements with the ball; doesn't play with it
- Makes dribble moves with strength and effectiveness
  - He intends to create space and is successful
- Dribbles with a lot of purpose, both in the half court and in transition
- Keeps eyes/head up running the offense and in the open court
- Good ball control going right and left
- Stays low with the ball on the drive, and does not pick it up prematurely
- Shifts the dribble to the left, middle, and right of his body to protect the ball
- Handles full court pressure with ease and strength
- Because he keeps his eyes/head up while dribbling, he is able to accept the double/trap and handle it with intelligence against trapping defenses

### **Passing**



- Willing passer – unselfish
- Likes to pass with one hand, right or left, on the perimeter
- Accurate with the right touch on the right occasions
  - Able to pass accurately off the dribble and in the open court
- Locates and delivers to perimeter shooters on the drive and kick with ease
- Adept at getting into the paint and dumping off to teammates for easy baskets

### **Basketball IQ**

- High IQ
  - Excellent understanding of time and space; keeps track of where his teammates are on the floor while the ball is in his hands, and knows where they will be
  - Terrific understanding of when to attack and when to take advantage of what the defense gives him.
    - Recognizes when to be aggressive and when to get teammates involved
  - Shows good decision making ability
    - Decisive
- Does not try to play outside of himself; makes the right play
- Displays good judgment overall

### **Disposition/Presence**

- Does not get flustered under pressure
- Patient/calm demeanor
- Not in a rush, but gets to where he is going
- Commands (not demands) respect on the court