Evaluation: JP Estrella Date: 7/26/2015

Location: Cesar Chavez Community Center - San Diego, CA

Class: 2015 - Eastlake High School

Strengths:

-strength, takes contact well

-nose for the ball, offensive rebounding

-help defense

-plays within his means (except for some wild contested jumpers)

Weaknesses:

-motor (conditioning?)

-athleticism

-shooting while contested (erratic shots)

-court awareness

Evaluations (1-5):

Hands – 3 Caught most of the passes thrown his way inside, despite poor guard-play around him. He also dropped a few passes.

Feet- 4 Good footwork in the post. Gets into position well.

Athleticism -2 Didn’t seem to be very dynamic physically, especially with a lot of ‘smalls’ out on the floor.

Verticle – 2 Not much lift, especially off of one foot.

Handle – 3 Didn’t show much handle at the high post, but did show a nice escape dribble on perimeter.

Jumper – 2 Not fluid. Steps into it (a la Kevin Garnett). Shoots it like PF and can’t get it off vs contest. Catch n shoot game is poor. His shot was erratic all game, especially when contested.

Awareness – 4 Good escape dribble when defender closed out, but then forced a shot over the 2nd defender, missing everything. At high post, understands seems well (vs zone).

Shot creation – 2 Didn’t see much of this today, as he basically floated around the high post on offense.

Anticipation – 3 Interior defense is ok. Did not get to see much perimeter defense of on this day. Poor reaction time to ball on offense (swing passes).

Passing – 4 Appeared to have a good feel for which passes to make from the high post. Timely swing passes, as well.

Strength – 4 While he possesses good strength to absorb contact, he may be too focused on getting contact. Late in the game, his defender backed away from him near basket, and it threw him completely off – missed lay-up.

IQ – 3 This may be a 4, but his motor and overall floating out on the court made it seem unimpressive.

Rebounding – 4 Has very good nose for the ball as well as active hands and arms.

Summary:

In this game, Estrella was one of the bigger players on the court (low-level competition). As a result, he spent most of the game floating between high post and top of the key (his comfort level there made me think he played that position all through high school). He also did too much floating up and down the court. He was often the last player down, making me question his motor (appeared to be in good shape). Unless JP grows a few more inches in the coming years, I cannot see him as a professional PF overseas. He has the ideal body for a swingman but unfortunately his game is that of a post player. His feel for the game is good but his size for position is not. If I was his coach, I would lock him in a gym and just work on guard skills all summer. There may be hope for him on the wing. As is, I see a fringe JUCO player.