Kobe Brown

Proj. (35-55)
Pre-NBA: Mizzou
Height: 6'7
Wingspan: 7'1
Weight: 252
Age: 23

PPG: 15.8

AST: 2.5

REB: 6.4

3P%: 45.5%

3PA: 3.3

TS%: 65.5% (7th)

REB%: 13.6% (28th)

USG%: 23.9% (49th)

AST%: 16.8% (37th)

PER: 27.8 (7th)

Strengths

- Excellent C&S from 3
- Efficient inside scorer (62.3% rim)
- Strong passing and court vision
- Explosive for his size
- Physical on both sides
- Versatile defender (16th in STL%)

Weaknesses

- Relies heavily on physicality
- Somewhat inbetween wing / big
- Shot <30% from 3 before this yr
- Struggles with lateral quickness

Summary

Brown has tremendous upside for a 2RP. Brown struggled from 3 in prior seasons, but showcased incredible efficiency at volume all season. Brown's wingspan, strength, and physicality give him potential to be a switchable defender in the NBA. If Brown were to transition to the NBA within the ballpark of his prior year's efficiency, he'd be an invaluable modern role player to pair with a star.

Trayce Jackson-Davis

Proj. (30-45)
Pre-NBA: Indiana
Height: 6'8
Wingspan: 7'1
Weight: 240
Age: 23

PPG: 20.9

AST: 4.0

REB: 10.8

BLK: 2.9

TS%: 60.9% (20th)

REB%: 18.5% (4th)

BLK%: 8.9% (7th)

USG%: 29.5% (11th)

AST%: 25.3% (11th)

PER: 35.1 (2nd)

Strengths

- Explosive athleticism
- Transition speed and efficiency
- PnR spacing & speed
- Shot blocking
- Defensive versatility
- Passing / Vision

Weaknesses

- Shooting (went 3/14 on jumpers)
- Undersized for an NBA big
- Lacks physicality in the post
- Lacks scoring versaitility

Summary

TJD's defensive prowess, vision, passing, and athleticism make him a prospect with a high ceiling. He will likely struggle on offense transitioning to the NBA, but if he can develop some scoring versatility and put on some size, he'll bring value to any franchise. Few bigs with TJD's defensive upside can run, pass and score in transition the way he can.

Ben Sheppard

Proj. (25-40)
Pre-NBA: Belmont
Height: 6'5
Wingspan: 6'8
Weight: 194
Age: 21

PPG: 18.8

AST: 2.9

REB: 5.2

3P%: 41.5%

3PA: 6.0

TS%: 58.2% (39th)

USG%: 27.8% (20th)

AST%: 16.8% (36th)

TOV%: 11.9% (26th)

PER: 22.6 (27th)

Strengths

- >40% on jumpers (49.1% unguarded)
- Terrific coming off screens (40.5%)
- Super quick release
- Moves off ball / finds space
- Has good PG skills (played pg in hs)
- 1st team all Defense in MVC

Weaknesses

- Needs to put on weight to guard NBA wings
- Trouble finishing in traffic
- Lacks strength & physicality
- May struggle to create space off the dribble in the NBA

Summary

Sheppard is one of the best shooters in this draft. He is terrific at getting open and knocking down contested shots. His quick release paired with tremendous C&S efficiency will be valuable on any team. He will need to put on weight to avoid becoming a defensive liability, however he does not lack effort on the defensive end.

Brandin Podziemski

Proj. (20-40)
Pre-NBA: Santa Clara
Height: 6'4
Wingspan: 6'6
Weight: 204
Age: 20

PPG: 19.9

AST: 3.7

REB: 8.8

3P%: 43.8%

3PA: 5.8

TS%: 60.2% (25th)

USG%: 25.7% (37th)

AST%: 20.7% (22nd)

TOV%: 12.1% (30th)

PER: 27.2 (10th)

Strengths

- 44% on C&S jumpers (40/91)
- Quick release with range (1.07 PPP off the dribble pull up jumpers)
- Great touch inside (59.5% at rim)
- Scores contested (floaters >45%)
- Effective PnR ball handler

Weaknesses

- Likely to be defensive liability
- Trouble finishing in traffic
- Lacks strength & physicality
- May struggle to create space off the dribble in the NBA

Summary

While Podziemski is certainly not at the level of steph or trae, of all 2023 prospects, he offers the most comparable style. There's no doubt he is incredibly efficient in C&S, pull up jumpers, and floaters. His skills align with league trends and are tough to come by. The major concern is lack of size. He will need time to work on adding strength and speed to avoid becoming a defensive liability.

Taylor Hendricks

Proj. (10-15)
Pre-NBA: UCF
Height: 6'8
Wingspan: 7'1
Weight: 214
Age: 19

PPG: 15.1

BLK: 1.7

REB: 7.0

3P%: 39.4%

3PA: 4.6

BLK%: 6.1% (12th)

REB%: 12.6% (40th)

USG%: 21.4% (22nd)

TOV%: 9.9% (13th)

PER: 23.0 (23rd)

Strengths

- Versatile defender
- Switchable on PnR
- Great Shot blocking ability
- Length & athleticism
- Excellent C&S efficiency from 3
- Shows potential for shot creation

Weaknesses

- Lacks strength to guard NBA bigs
- Trouble finishing (>45% on layups)
- Struggles w/ physicality on glass
- Lacks ability to create space
- Needs to improve handle

Summary

Hendricks showcases athleticism paired with a translatable NBA skillset that makes him one of the most appealing prospects this year. His defensive prowess and high efficiency on the C&S make him a safe selection. Hendricks needs to build strength to become a more physical interior presence. He lacks rebounding ability for his length and athleticism. However, he's young and the positives far outweigh negatives in my opinion.

TAYLOR HENDRICKS

Hendricks is a safe bet to be at the very least a solid role player in the league that'd complement just about any star. He's a terrific 3&D that could be a very good interior presence if he develops strength.

BRANDIN PODZIEMSKI

Podziemski is probably the largest risk of the players here, but his jumpshot/playstyle has such a high upside in a 3-point-dominated league that it may be worth taking him earlier than projected (especially if the team is known for player development).

BEN SHEPPARD

Sheppard would be a terrific floor spacing guard. Needs to put on some weight, but he moves well without the ball and shoots incredibly efficiently with a smooth, quick release.

TRAYCE JACKSON-DAVIS

TJD's shooting efficiency (or lack thereof) would typically scare me off. However, I think his other skills are so appealing that he may not even need to develop a jumpshot outside of a midrange to still provide great value as a role player.

KOBE BROWN

I love Brown for a projected 2RP. Sure his ceiling might not be super high, and there's concern about whether his jump shot will translate because of prior inefficient seasons, but the upside would be tremendous and he is very developed for an incoming rookie.