



VICTOR.....

I'm like most basketball fans. I've seen the incredible video of the young Frenchman, Victor Wembanyama. Having been blown away by what I saw, I had to go see him live in Las Vegas. His French Pro team was brought over to Las Vegas by the NBA, to play 2 games against the GL Ignite, including a couple of practices which were open to NBA personnel. The hype was next level. Every NBA team had 3-4 front office personnel in attendance for games and practices. Victor had every excuse NOT to perform well.....long flight, unbelievable expectations, media scrutiny, Lakers in town for pre-season games so you know they were all watching and would surely be asked about him. Several reasons not to play well.....but he did. His agent was asked if he would consider NOT playing out their season, since he would obviously be the first pick next summer. His reply..."No way. He wants to compete and continue to improve."

Victor is 18 years old.....turns 19 in early January. A legit 7-4, and more like 7-5 in shoes. Sure, he is very thin, BUT, his shoulders are wide and he has the frame to put on upper body strength, (unlike Chet in my opinion). His lower body is also thin, but again, the potential for development is there. Incredible length as you would imagine. What stood out to me was what soft touch he has on his shot, including free throws. His hands are huge, so the touch is impressive.... ever try and shoot a volleyball? Tough, right?

On the Wednesday practice, (between the Tuesday and Thursday games), the team came in and had a walk through. It was probably 30-45 minutes long, run by their head coach. He spoke in a mix of French/English, and honestly it was boring. I watched Victor the entire time. Remember he is 18 years old.....he paid attention the entire time....was engaged and locked in to what was being covered. Impressive for a 10-year vet, much less an 18-year-old. After the walk through, the team did some shooting drills. His range is easily out past 25 feet, and he shoots with fluidity and touch.

I saw the second game live vs. the GL Ignite.....(they play in a great facility in Henderson). 37 minutes, 36 points, 11 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 blocks, 12/16 FTS, 2/7 from 3. He moves well, is more physical than you would think for a guy with his frame, played with confidence, drew fouls, went to the post and called for the ball.....

I'm not much on hyperbole, but when people ask me what I thought, I had to honestly say..."I've never seen anyone like him. Can't compare him to anyone because he's 1 of 1".

History tells us that men that big will have health issues, usually with the feet. Hopefully the injuries will be few and not career threatening for Victor.

He's so much fun to watch.....the race for the bottom has begun.

