I did some research on some advanced stats and thought you all might enjoy this statistical breakdown of a few players and the team as a whole. These stats include all but the Oklahoma game. PPP stands for points per possession and aFG stands for adjusted field goal percentage (determines the impact of 3 pointers on FG%).

Solomon Hill

Solomon is accounting for .98 points per possession, which ranks him near the 70th percentile in the nation, which is very good for any player, let alone a freshman. Also, Solomon’s PPP rating is the same as Nic Wise.

I notice everyone has been talking about Solomon’s lack of overall athleticism and explosion so far. Here is a stat that should stand out in favor of what Josh has been telling us about Solomon for 2 years. 30% of Solomon’s offense comes from isolations. Granted he only has 18 possession s in isolation so far, but his PPP rating is an amazing 1.06, putting him in the 81st percentile. In addition he only turns the ball over 5% of the time out of isolation, meaning he does a very good job creating his own shot or drawing a foul.

Another stat that stands out right now is that Solomon hasn’t been involved in any pick and roll opportunities. This should tell you how Sean Miller feels about his ability to create his own shot and get to the rim; he doesn’t need a screen.

However, if there is one problem with Solomon’s game so far it is the fact that he hasn’t been able to finish consistently around the rim. He was 11/23 going into the Oklahoma game on field goals around the basket. While that may not sound bad, when you see the shots he has been missing he clearly should be shooting closer to 65% near the hoop. With his ability to get to the rim using either hand off the dribble (10 drives right and 8 left), he also utilizes a nice spin move to get around defenders instead of going up over them. In my opinion, as the year progresses you will see him calm down when he gets to the basket and be able to finish better.

Nic Wise

As I mentioned above Wise has nearly the same PPP rating as Solomon Hill, .95 good for the 68th percentile. Wise is great in transition, as we all know posting a 1.36 PPP rating, but has only been able to get out in transition on 14 possessions so far.

Wise is excelling in isolations, transitions, and spot ups, as usual. The problem is coming off the pick and roll, where Wise is only shooting 26% and is only posting a 38 %score (calculates the percent a player scores at least 1 point), where as he is above 45 %score on isolations, spot ups, and in transition.

Wise is also struggling at finishing near the basket (8/18), mainly due to nobody else being able to attack on offense besides Solomon Hill or hit an outside shot.

On defense Wise has been surprisingly good, giving up only .66 PPP and forcing 71% of the shots taken from his man to be jumpers. Obviously, that is the role of Miller’s system, to eliminate penetration and close out on shooters, but Wise is doing a good job on this side of the ball.

Derrick Williams

The trend of this study has revolved around points per possession and Derrick Williams is showing everyone how valuable he is as a freshman with a 1.06 PPP rating (81st percentile) despite only playing 24 minutes per game.

Williams has been very good in the post this year and his stats back that up. 52% of his offense comes from posting up (8/15) or off cuts to the basket (8/11). However, Williams has had problems finishing off of offensive rebounds (1/9) and on contact near the basket.

The thing that stands out about Williams and Hill, is that they understand their role in the system and stick to that role. Williams isn’t trying to show off his range and neither is Hill. Williams knows he needs to score from the post and is doing an amazing job thus far.

Clearly we need to get the ball into the post more to Williams, especially due to the fact that as a team we do not get to the basket very well.

Jamelle Horne

One thing that jumped out when I looked over Jamelle’s stats was that he only has 4 field goals in transition. Ideally we want to see him get going in transition, because over the past 2 years transition baskets seem to energize Jamelle on both ends of the court.

There was a debate going on in the Oklahoma game thread about Jamelle as a shooter. Well his numbers off of spot ups are not good (3/19). Even worse is that he only has 6 attempts off of cuts to the basket. However, to Jamelle’s credit he is doing most of his work off of isolations (.85 PPP), which is somewhat surprising. He also seems to shoot better when he can take a dribble and step up into his shot rather than on catching and shooting.

Staying on the shooting, Jamelle has taken twice as many jumpers (34) as he has shots around the basket (17). You really cant just blame him for that, because he obviously thrives when teammates create off the dribble for him and that just isn’t happening this year.

On defense is where Jamelle has made strides. Players are 8/34 against him and he has recorded 17 blocks through 7 games. Even on the perimeter he is giving people fits, posting a .6 points per jump shot against (4/20).

Arizona as a team

The good

We thrive in transition (1.06 PPP) and posting up (1.15 PPP) on the block, which should be no surprise after watching 7 games.

We shoot well of the dribble (42%)

Thanks to Wise, Horne and Hill we shoot well and get to the foul line off isolations.

As a team we shoot 91% adjusted off drive and kicks

The half court defense has been very good (40% aFG, .76 PPP) despite the Oklahoma game

We defend spot ups very well (31% aFG)

61% of catch and shoots are guarded

The bad

We struggle on offense rebound put backs.

Around the basket we shoot 43%, which has cost us 2 games so far (Wisconsin & UNLV).

On guarded catch and shoot situations we are a miserable (10/45)

Our biggest problem on defense has been covering the screener on pick and rolls (1 PPP, 47% aFG) and defending off cuts (63% aFG) and screens (54% aFG).