Steph Curry Pre-Draft Scouting Report:

NBA Comparison: Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf

Strengths: Made transition from SG to PG this year, but he is more of a combo guard that makes good decisions than a true PG … Best scorer in the NCAA so far at 31.9 PPG … Puts a lot of pressure on defense with his scoring ability and quickness … Looks fearless on the floor and plays under control … Can get any shot he wants and has great shot efficiency … Teams are completely focusing on him defensively, rotating different players at him, so he's under pressure at all times and still finds a way to hit difficult shots every game … Very confident shooter, especially when the game is on the line (vs. WV struggled the whole game and was not afraid to take over at the end) … Curry can put the ball on the floor and create his own shot from anywhere on the floor and he doesn't need much space to get his shot off (he will cross-over, trough the legs dribble, behind the back…) … Gets defenders off balance using pump fakes and uses defenders overeagerness to his advantage … Very difficult to guard because he possesses a quick and consistent release on his shot (on the move or under pressure as well) and has NBA range … Moves well without the ball. Great footwork when coming off screens, always ready to shoot … Curry is good at changing speed and direction and handles the ball well … In the open court he can stop on a dime at full speed, with his feet in perfect position (under control) and separate from his defender for open jump-shot … Great vision while driving to the basket and control with the ball … Defensively Curry is crafty and a smart defender with good hands 2.9 STL (not a lockout defender); moves his feet well on defense and stays in front of his defender without gambling much … Solid lateral quickness. Possesses a great will to win. Excellent free-throw shooter .874 … Doesn't show too much emotion, even keeled. Has been around the game his entire life which gives him an edge knowing what it takes …

Weaknesses: Far below NBA standard in regard to explosivenes and athleticism … At 6-2, he's extremely small for the NBA shooting guard position, and it will likely keep him from being much of a defender at the next level … Although he's playing point guard this year, he's not a natural point guard that an NBA team can rely on to run a team … Struggles defensively getting around screens … Can overshoot and rush into shots from time to time (vs. WV) … Hasn't had to deal with getting benched due to poor performance (shooting) which has allowed him to shoot through any slumps. Will have to adjust to not being a volume shooter which could have an effect on his effectiveness … Doesn't like when defenses are too physical with him … Not a great finisher around the basket due to his size and physical attributes … Makes some silly mistakes at the PG position. Needs to add some muscles to his upper body, but appears as though he'll always be skinny …

Strengths: Heady, precocious player with a solid feel for the game His greatest asset is his outside shooting ability … Bigtime scorer (21 ppg as a freshman) with the ability to score from all over the court Shows an excellent shooting form with a quick release and the ability to spot up and shoot or hit shots off the dribble … Solid decision maker, shows the understanding of the game that you would expect from an NBA players son Has excellent quickness … A solid defender with good instincts especially with his anticipation for steals

Weaknesses: More of a 2-guard than a point Must develop as a point guard A decent passer and ball handler, but still must improve considerably in both areas and learn to play the PG

position in order to make it in the league … At 6-1, hes far too small to play solely at the 2G position … Had a solid 1-1 A/TO ratio (for a freshman who plays mostly off the ball), but can improve upon that Lacks great athletic ability, although he shows good quickness … Body is on the small side, short arms and lack of great natural body strength … Lacks great visibility and competition level at mid-major Davidson…

Notes: Son of long time NBA sharpshooter Dell Curry (16 year career) Helped the U19 USA Team to a 2nd place finish in Novi Sad, Serbia during the summer Averaged 21 ppg as a freshman at Davidson with a big 30 point performance in the NCAA tournament against Maryland …

Stats: 28.6 ppg, 5.6 apg, 2.5 spg, 3.7 t/o's, 45.4 percent FG, 38.7 percent 3PT, and 87.6 percent FT

Listed Size: 6'3" and 185 lbs., 3/14/88 (21 years old)

About Him: As a sophomore, Stephen Curry exploded onto the national scene with what may go down as the single greatest NCAA Tournament performance of this generation, carrying tiny Davidson to within a 25 footer of the Final Four.

But as a junior, Curry's role vastly changed with the graduation of point guard Jason Richards. Already a proven shooter, this allowed Curry to show off what he could do as a point guard, and for the most part, the season was a (personal) success.

The most interesting aspect of Curry, as an NBA prospect, is how different his role will be in the league. At Davidson this past season, everything about the Wildcats' offense was centered around Curry and his ability to create—both for himself and for his teammates.

His usage rate was 31.6 possessions per game, the most of any NBA prospect and 50 percent more than anyone not named Lester Hudson. In the NBA, Curry is going to play a much more marginal role.

I know that this is stating the obvious, but Curry's game centers around his shot—which is as pure a stroke as I have ever seen. If you allow Curry to catch-and-shoot with his feet set and his shoulders square, he is automatic out to about 30 feet (literally).

He also has an incredibly quick trigger, which allows him to get his shot off even when he is defended well. Curry has a great basketball IQ and truly understands how to run off screens and create space off the ball.

But Curry's physical limitations probably mean he is going to end up as more of a point/combo guard than a pure two. He doesn't have the size, the strength, or the lateral quickness/athleticism to defend shooting guards in the league (he does, however, have a knack for disrupting the passing lanes as he averaged almost three thefts per).

He is also going to run into some issues at the point as well. His first step leaves much to be desired, and it more than likely will mean that Curry will have problems beating NBA points off the dribble.

Curry did, however, prove himself to be an excellent ball handler in his one season running the show for Davidson.

He can handle the ball with either hand and has a variety of fakes and hesitation moves that he can use to keep defenders off balance and help him create space and get a look off the dribble.

Perhaps his most telling stat was his assist: turnover ratio—even with the ball in his hands nearly every possession (as a playmaker and not just a scorer), Curry doubled his assist numbers while only slightly increasing his turnovers.

Shooting off the dribble is something Curry was forced to do quite a bit this past season, and he proved to be pretty good. He can pull-up going in either direction, and he has a lightening quick and absolutely deadly step-back in his repertoire when going left.

The biggest concern any GM will have with Curry's shooting is how far his numbers dipped this year. Most of that, however, can be explained by his team's dependence on him—he forced a lot of bad shots simply because Davidson needed it.

Comparisons: Best Case: I've seen a lot of people saying Mike Bibby, so I'll go with that; Worst Case: Jannero Pargo, Steve Kerr, and JJ Redick.

Bottom Line: Curry is an incredibly smart player. Not only does he understand the game, he understands his limitations.

He probably is never going to end up being a star in the league because of a lack of explosiveness (meaning he will be a huge defensive liability). He should be able to hang around the league because of the all-around offensive package he brings to the table.