

Prospect | 6'5 Zion Harper

Position | Small Forward

Date: July 31, 2022

Lead Evaluator: Russell 'Coach V' Vanlandingham (20 years experience NCAA D1, D2, D3 & NAIA Levels)
The Evaluation template is the first step in creating a Recruiting Game Plan tailored to Zion

High School/Classification | 2023 Lutheran North HS

Projected Level of Play | NCAA D3+ / NJCAA D2

Potential level of Play | NJCAA D2 / NAIA or NCAA D2 in a HC System

Player Assessment/Evaluation: Zion is an undersized tweener who doesn't have a true position but is a college ready rebounder with good hands and a soft touch in the paint. He uses his body well in the paint to seal and is able to dominate the glass at the HS level by being bigger than his opponents. The key for Zion is playing big regardless of the competition as opposed to being bigger than most at the TAPPS level. At 6'4/6'5 max he must improve his face up game, lateral quickness & conditioning to truly showcase he can be just as effective outside of 12 feet. Zion depends on being a big kid, not playing big which is a big difference when scouts do their research. The 3 areas that could not only improve his recruitment that must improve are pursuing offensive rebounds (6+ a game-Lead TAPPS in this stat-Identity), engaging the defender every time he is in the paint and drawing more fouls, and becoming more of a factor with his off the ball defense showing he can help and recover being undersized. Zion must have a HC system to get his highest potential offer. Right now a NCAA D3+ level prospect that could move onto scholarship level boards by semester by simply focusing on 3 things | Avg. 6+ offensive rebounds, engage opponents every time you step foot in the paint, be the best off ball defender in District (2 bpg, 2 attempted charges, 2 altered shots, etc.) showcasing you can help and recover on ball screen D, help teammates when guards penetrate and close out without getting beat off the bounce, and show consistent effort on the defensive end. That

type of help defense when undersized stands out to recruiters when evaluating film, right now you just stand in one spot on D which exposes you on film. The 2 biggest traits I evaluated as a college recruiter when researching undersized forwards that would move them up my board was **#1:** Are they great help defenders since they will not be shot blockers, and can they guard ball screens and be able to switch or show the versatility to help and recover. You will not be able to guard a 5 at the next level so make it a habit to improve in these areas. **#2:** Are they a tough mismatch where we can isolate smaller defenders down low and are they capable of taking bigger forwards outside. Right now you are limited to being down low so continue to make progress with your face up game.

First 2 films to upload to the UCExposure Player Card: Find 2 games where you have 10+ Rebounds (6 must be Offensive), Get to the FT line 8+ times (Indicates Aggressive Play) and you make some winning plays on D off the ball (2+ charges or 2 blocks/altered shots) This is what we want to showcase as you progress over the 1st semester

What we need to showcase while you progress in areas that must improve:

- **Strength to highlight** | Rebounding, Rebounding and more Rebounding. Also that you have good hands and footwork in the paint and use your body well to score over bigger opponents.
- **Areas that expose Zion** | Let smaller defenders off the hook by not engaging. Rely on being big instead of playing big inside which at your size you must be a warrior and make defenders pay by fighting for position.
- **Specific focus point to increase recruitment** | On and off Ball Defense must be consistently better in all facets by 2nd Semester. Warrior mentality on the glass - Lead TAPPS in Offensive Rebounds. **(Realistic Goal at your size, the level of comp, and your knack for rebounding BE #1 in this stat)**
- **What we want college scouts to notice** | That you bring a weapon to a Roster immediately and by 2nd semester you are a Versatile tweener that can play the 4 and 5 and can guard inside and on the perimeter. Can rely on your size and being big in college, you have to rely on playing BIG!

In this section we will focus on what is the style of play, level of play and fit for Zion to gain interest in the Fall.

Targeting a FIT

- Based on professional insight from a experienced recruiting coordinator or current college coach, we want to promote prospects to college programs that FIT:
 - **Offensive fit** | Half court 3 out 2 in motion with High Low action and ball screen action.
 - **Defensive fit** | Half court man to man D with packline principles with all 4 off ball defenders constantly helping and on ball defenders keep players in front. More of a sagging Man to Man defense where you keep opponents out the paint.

Our Recruiting Game Plan to follow when adding game films to the UC Athlete Player Card as we move into the 2022-2023 High School Basketball Season. The Uncommon Approach provides behind the scenes insight to guide UC Prospects as we aim to 'Gain Interest' this Fall while you progress in areas that must improve to go from interest to an 'Offer'.

What to highlight that will stand out to College Coaches (Creating Zion's Highlight Video for Social Media - 1:30 max 20-25 clips)

#1 Highlight: Find 12-14 Offensive Rebounds where you pursue the ball not clips where you are just big and it comes to you *(Review films and select clips of you chasing down the Board and make sure 3 to 4 end with you finishing the play with a putback)*

#2 Highlight: Select 8 clips Showcasing your ability to catch in traffic, read the D and finish around the Rim *(You have good hands and footwork so mix in after every 3 offensive rebounds a play where you post up, seal and read the D, take your time on the catch and finish in traffic)*

Zion Harper Recruiting Game Plan heading into the Season

Set very specific game goals you are capable of achieving after reviewing this scout. To gain real interest start implementing the following habits in pickup games, preseason practices, open gym, etc. You don't have to wait till November to start growing your mindset. Make note of 3 very specific areas that must become habits that coaches can identify as strengths not weaknesses **1.** Off Ball Defense-Start the next time you go to an open gym at being a much better help defender. Bend your knees, help and recover, and just get that mindset when your man doesn't have the ball of being an impact team defender **2.** Pursue every offensive rebound (No one blocks out so make opponents pay by your pursuit not your size) **3.** Don't take away from your strengths or power game, but when working on your game or playing pick-up get arms length on perimeter D and be efficient in the high post area offensively as a passer or ball screener. You don't have to be a pick and pop 4 but you have to be more effective on both ends when you're on the perimeter.