

Evaluating Basketball Talent

Since 2005 I have worked for Peach State Basketball as a basketball talent evaluator. While working PSB tournaments and camps, I have learned there are characteristics to look for in successful players. Some traits are measurable while others are intangible.

Here is a sample of questions that I ask when watching basketball players?

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| Does your skill set match your position on the court? | Are you creative? |
| Does your size match your position on the court? | Can you score against a zone? |
| Do you have a specialty that can impact the game? | Can you dribble with both hands? |
| Can you impact the game in multiple facets? | Can you pass with both hands? |
| Can you play within a system? | How well do you take instruction? |
| Can you make plays outside of a system? | Do you talk to your teammates? |
| Do you try to be something you are not? | Do you listen to your teammates? |
| Do you accept your role on the team? | Do you react to officiating (positively or negatively)? |
| Do you play hard? | Are you engaged into the game when you are on the bench? |
| Do you play hard on both ends of the floor? | Do you have fun playing the game? |
| Are you skilled? Are you fundamental? | Are you a good player on a bad team? |
| Do you have athleticism to compete? | Are you good player on a good team? |
| Can you score in several ways? | Are you a role player on a great team? |
| Can you impact the game even if you do not score? | Are you the best player on the floor at any moment during a game? |
| How well do you handle defensive pressure? | Can you shoot free throws? |
| How well do you handle end of game pressure? | Can you handle a physical game? |
| Do you make good decisions? | Are you foul prone? |
| How do you respond to mistakes? | What does your body language communicate? |
| Can you defend your position? | Do I see progression in your game over time? |
| Can you defend multiple positions on the floor? | Are you young and have a ceiling to develop into? |
| Can you play in a transition game? | |
| Can you play in the half-court? | |
| Do you move without the basketball? | Are you older and have a limited ceiling? |