SF – Edo Muric

*“A poor man’s Batum”*

Martin Knezevic

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BANKABLE NBA SKILL: Athleticism on the wing, both offensively and defensively (w/ IQ to use it)

SIZE FOR POSITION: Height: 6’7” Plays Like: 6’7” Weight: 218 lbs (right-handed)

BEST STYLE/FIT: A team that plays a fast pace (i.e.- Suns/Warriors). He won’t create many shots but he does have a great motor on both ends that will translate well in an uptempo system.

DEFENSIVE LIABILITY? No. Muric is a great defender, exhibiting quick feet and good balance. He could check most of the wings in the NBA, today. Edo may need to adjust to the size and speed of the star players, but it’s an adjustment I think he can make. On the block he may be a little weak to start. He has the potential to be a guy that coach can put on opposing team’s best player. Edo has shown knack for making big defensive plays late in games, on-ball/ help side.

POSITIONING GRADE: (does he put himself in position to do following, regardless of set plays?)

 Scoring – Average (he isn’t a scorer but does find seems well, better slashing off ball; prefers to drive left off dribble)

 Shooting – Good (he has great lift and arch on jump shot, won’t be a liability on offense)

 Passing – Average (he isn’t a playmaker but can run a play adequately)

 Help Defense – Good (he flies to the ball well, though sometimes over-committing)

 On-ball/Post Defense – Mediocre (on-ball he’s great, though his strength down low may be a problem in the NBA)

 Rebounding – Good (will crash offensive glass from the weak side, yet still get back on D)

ATTITUDE: Muric is a competitor who will accept challenges on when the moment arises. His demeanor reminds me of Thabo Sefolosha. He’s also a very good teammate that doesn’t gripe about playing time.

POSITIVES: Edo is as athletic a wing player as you’ll find overseas. He also isn’t a ball-stopper. The ball hits his hands and either gets swung, shot, or drive (a coach’s dream). On defense his footwork and length will be an asset against other team’s perimeter scorers. He’s also shown good footwork and body control on block vs smaller defenders.

INSIDER: Durability may be a problem for Muric. While he doesn’t have a history of serious injuries, there have been nagging ones. He may need an offseason w/ NBA strength & conditioning personnel to prepare for an 82-game season. However, the frame is there.

CONCERNS: Muric prefers to drive left, somewhat unique for a right-hander. However, he often drives in an effort to probe instead of directly attacking basket, which can be a problem against better defenses. He also has shown that he’s easy to knock off balance while on his way to the basket, leading to turnovers. His shooting (3pts & FTs) can be erratic. This must improve for consistent NBA minutes. Edo can also be one-dimensional on offense. If defenders guard against his slashing/backdoor cuts, he could be very limited.

FORECAST: Edo is a shorter Andrei Kirilenko, with a better jump shot. His athleticism and length will translate well to the NBA game. He went undrafted in 2013, which I think was a mistake. He is worth a look later this summer as teams try and mold their rosters heading into training camp. He could really spark an NBA team coming off the bench. At worst, he would be a great 4th/5th wing player filling-in admirably for injured vets. He doesn’t need a lot of playing time to find rhythm, just insert him and let him go.

SIMILAR PRO PLAYERS:

* **Nicholas Batum** –poor man’s version.
* **Andrei Kirilenko** – shorter version w/ better jump shot.
* **Tony Allen** – w/ better jumper.
* **Thabo Sefolosha** – w/ less length.

VIDEO CLIPS:

Gets back to block fastbreak dunk at the summit, showing athleticism and effort:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tV9i01ppMWY

Offensive Athleticism: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOVbhdWxMks>

 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzOGWfR2B5w>

Defense-to-Offense: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMUVUZCJccw>

http://www.abaliga.com/a6958/League\_Video/Round\_15\_Krka\_Cedevita\_full\_match\_video\_.html

- (59:52 mark) draws offensive foul on former NBA center Goran Suton (Jazz), showing great feet and anticipation.