



Sports

Anderson, Koepnick both great in their own way

It's hardly a surprise to anyone that Luke Anderson is now the leading scorer in Minnesota State men's basketball history. He needed just 62 points this season to surpass the 1,759 points that Brian Koepnick scored from 1986-90.

But when such an accomplishment happens as it did Tuesday, there's an opportunity to reflect on the past, compare it to the present or project it to the future.

Though both Anderson and Koepnick could score prolifically, they're certainly not the same player.

Koepnick was a pure guard, one who could play at the point or slide to the wing. His stroke was quick, his shot was accurate. He moved around the court at a tireless pace, cutting off screens, needing just a split-second to bury a jumper in the defender's face.

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COURRIER: MSU lucky to have both players

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Anderson, who is four or five inches taller than Koepnick, is more of a wing shooter, with an athletic, graceful stroke that looks like it could launch a basketball for forever. Anderson hasn't been as accurate, nor has he been as selective.

Though he doesn't look tough, Anderson has grabbed about six rebounds per game the last two seasons. And he's taking the ball hard to the basket, using his athleticism when he knows he'll likely get clobbered.

Koepnick averaged 79.5 assists and 39.5 steals per season, while Anderson averaged 57.3 assists and 25 steals in his three full seasons.

Koepnick got his shots from the offense, while Anderson can create his shot at almost any time, sometimes for better, sometimes for worse.

In 112 career games, Koepnick shot 50.3 percent from the field, making 667 of 1,327 shots, some of which came from the perimeter, but more likely from midrange. Koepnick didn't have a 3-point line as a freshman, and given that he averaged more than 40 3-pointers in the each of his final three seasons, he likely would have added another

40 or so points to his career total.

Anderson is shooting 44.5 percent for his career, never above 48 percent for a season, but he's made a school-record 246 3-pointers. Koepnick took 1,327 shots in his four-year career, while Anderson has taken 1,391 shots over parts of five seasons.

At 20 points per game, and barring injury, Anderson will finish somewhere around 2,200 points by the end of the regular season, more if the Mavericks get any postseason action. There are no players on the current roster that will threaten that record, and it's hard to imagine anyone getting to that numbers in the future, given that Anderson will likely have played in about 130 games.

Koepnick and Anderson will remain as the top scorers in the program's history for a long time. While they're not the same player, that's OK. It was a joy to watch Koepnick, and Anderson usually does something during a game that's memorable.

Minnesota State is lucky to have had both play here.

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