

Markus Howard

Cazoo Baskonia Vitoria-Gasteiz

*Statistics as of
1/9/2023

Markus Howard has turned heads in his Euroleague debut with accurate, efficient shot selection, and the ability to score regardless of opposing defensive schemes.

The 5'11 PG from Morristown, New Jersey, has quickly adapted to playing in the best league in Europe, helping pace a surprising Baskonia squad to a 1st place tie in the Euroleague (5 Teams are currently 11-6).

So, how did Howard's ascendance happen so fast? Let's start with his college days.

No stranger to big performances during his 4YR career at Marquette, Howard's highlights include:

- 128 GP (121 starts); 21.6 PTs, 3.1 ASTs, 3.2 REBs per game
- Ranked 22nd all-time in points with 2,761; right behind J.J. Redick (2,769)
- Put up 50 PTs on three different occasions, and >40 points another four times
- Big East Player of the Year, 2018-19

Although he went undrafted, Howard played in 68 regular season games for the Denver Nuggets, averaging 3.4 PTs/5.6 MPG before signing with Baskonia in 2022.

During his time in the NBA, he showed great potential:

- In each of his seven games when he had 10+ FGAs, he scored in double digits, including four 20 PT performances

What we've seen this season

- **More of the same** – great shooting and scoring
 - A tremendous off-the-dribble shooter who is also very good coming off screens, hand-offs, or in spot-up situations
- **Impressive ball handling** – allowing him to get his shot against anyone, in almost any situation
 - With his strong base, he can pull up in pick and rolls, off the dribble, and in transition (with deep range)
- **Elite shooting mechanics** – he possesses a quick release, even when slightly off balance
 - He has shown the ability to rise for 3-pointers (without hesitation) if given too much room
- **Outstanding quickness** – a constant threat, with the ability to drive into the heart of the defense at any point
 - Very difficult to contest his shots, and will drive by defenders that are too close



What do the numbers say?

- Howard leads the Euroleague in 3PT makes per game (3.2) while playing the 2nd lowest amount of minutes for any player in the top 10 in 3PM of (other than A. Obst – 19.1 minutes; 2.5 makes from 3pt range)
 - Howard separates himself with the best percentage of the top 10 at 46.6%

- He is 2nd in attempts (6.9) behind V. Micic (7.4), but once again shoots the best percentage of the top 10 by a wide margin
 - Followed by – W. Clyburn: 40.7% on 6.4 attempts per game
- In terms of overall scoring, Howard's 15.6 PPG ranks 8th in the Euroleague
 - Again, he plays the least number of minutes of the top 10 scorers, with 20.1 MPG

Compared to his days at Marquette, Howard has become much more of a specialist:

- In the final 2 years of his NCAA career, he took 1,161 shots, and 592 of them were 3s (50.9% of all shots)
- This season in the Euroleague, he has attempted 187 shots, and 118 of them were 3s (63.1% of shots)

The Heat Check

- Howard's fast-paced game and shooting ability have allowed him to adapt very quickly to Europe
 - A *smaller* court with less space is no problem for a scorer of his caliber
- His deep range and 1-1 scoring skills make him one of the toughest defensive matchups in the Euroleague
 - Despite only starting 8/17 games, coming off the bench allows Baskonia to run everything through him
- He has become the premier 6th man, with scoring responsibilities and plays called for him
 - Think of Howard as a Euroleague version of Manu Ginobili, Jamal Crawford, or Lou Williams