

Name: Justin Thomas, G, Pike

Size: 5'11

Team: Indiana Elite 2016

Offers: Western Illinois

Interest: Northern Kentucky, Ball State, Purdue, Butler, DePaul, Cincinnati, Michigan, Ole Miss, San Diego State, Wichita State

Favorite Player: Russell Westbrook

High School Stats: 13.1 ppg, 3.7 apt, 2.9 spg, 56% FG

Scouting Report on himself: Very explosive, play good defense and get to the bucket easy. Get my teammates involved when needed. Need to improve on my jumpshot and my communication skills.

Scouting Report from AAU coach Kristof Kendrick: Justin is a fast, quick guard who has a natural knack and ability to score the ball. He is aggressive and always keep pressure on the defense. He causes havoc on D, and is good for multiple steals a game. Another kid with a high motor who college coaches will love to have.

Justin Thomas Profile, by Justin Albers

Justin Thomas' talent is unmistakable. His game isn't all that flashy — he has more of a hard-nosed, scrappy approach — but walk into any gym where he is playing, and it won't take long to notice him.

Thomas' elite quickness and strength allow him to slide past would-be defenders into the paint rather easily. His jump shot needs work, a fact he more than willingly acknowledges, but even without a reliable perimeter shot, he has the ability to take over any game without warning.

“He gets to the paint at will,” said Kyle Guy, Thomas' AAU teammate and a Virginia commit.

Never was that more evident than in a four-overtime game against No. 1 Southport during the Marion County Tournament last season. Thomas poured in 30 points and dished out six assists in that game, a performance that caught everyone's attention.

“Justin is a fast, quick guard who has a natural knack and ability to score the ball,” said Indiana Elite 2016 coach Kristof Kendrick.

Thomas often comes off the bench for Indiana Elite, but you wouldn't know it by looking at the final box scores. Within minutes, he could have 16 or 18 points on eight or nine layups, something that has happened on multiple occasions this spring.

"It's been fun," Thomas said of playing with IE. "It's weird because every game it's a new lineup and I'm so used to starting and not coming off the bench. But it's fun, and we get along well. We should make a big run in July."

Thomas owns only one offer thus far, but he's drawn significant interest from a number of high-major schools, and that figures to continue. College coaches would be wise to recruit Thomas because his skill set is one that can bring value at every level. He causes havoc defensively with his strength and quickness, and he has the unique ability to effortlessly get into the lane and make plays, either for himself or his teammates.

