

## NetScouts Basketball - Player Report

**DATE:** 11/10/17, 11/14/17, 11/20/17, 1/13/17, 2/3/17

**GAME:** New Orleans, Central Connecticut, Molloy, Villanova, Duke

**SCOUT:** Mike Duffy

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**NAME:** Shamorie Ponds

**#2**

**HT:** 6-1 **WT:** 175

**POS:** G

**CLASS:** Sophomore

**SCHOOL:** St. John's

### **Athleticism/Body:**

Average to slightly below average size for PG. Decent length, but narrow frame and not much muscle mass. Very good athlete, needs to improve strength, but excels everywhere else on athletic spectrum. Quick, explosive, agile, great acceleration.

### **Shooting:**

Lefty. Has ability as a shooter and does not lack confidence, but efficiency has been an issue. Quick release, gets good lift on jumper, but leans back a little too much causing negative momentum. Does not always get feet underneath him and ends up using a lot of arm to get the ball off. Shot 37.5% last season on 200 3PA, but struggled mightily this season, shooting just 25.3% on 186 3PA (6.2 attempts per game). Decline is most likely a product of shot selection and usage. Tends to take a LOT of off the dribble 3s and heat checks. Form seems more controlled and efficient off the catch and shoot. Additionally, Ponds was forced to take over the brunt on the scoring load after losing backcourt mate Marcus LoVett to injury early in the season – Ponds' USG% increased from last season's 24.1% to 31.6% this season. Has a smooth mid range game – able to pull up off the dribble/PnR. Very good FT shooter, 85.7% from the line on 5.8 attempts per game, FT form is much more balanced than jump shot. Creative around the basket and able to finish with a variety of floaters and runners. 3P% is cause for concern, but past percentages along with his FT% suggest that he's a better shooter than his current percentage would indicate. Definitely needs to improve shot selection, but his efficiency should rise on a team where he does not have to handle such a heavy scoring load.

### **Position Offense:**

A score first lead guard, but has some playmaking ability. Great at attacking off the dribble and finishing at the rim. Explosive in transition and off dribble. Tremendous finisher but favors his dominant left hand, tends to use left even when driving right. Protects ball well in air, keeps it extended away from defenders. Good body control in air, able to finish through contact. Able to get skinny and snake past defenders. Solid handles but overdrives at times, can suffer from trying to do too much on offense. Playmaking ability stems from forcing defenses to overcommit to his scoring ability, opening up opportunities for teammates. Looks good in PnR, can draw both defenders and throw lob or make pocket pass. Able to suck defenses in and kick ball out. Ponds' value is derived mainly from his ability to score the ball, and is not necessarily a traditional PG, but he is able to get his teammates involved, averaging 4.7 APG this season. Not afraid of big moments or big games, led St. John's to ranked victories over Duke and Villanova.

**Defense:**

Limited somewhat by size and strength, however Ponds puts forth a good defensive effort more often than not. Good defensive stance, gets low, moves feet well laterally. His explosiveness and athleticism can help make up for size differences. Good hands, pokes lots of balls loose and comes away with steals. 2.3 SPG, tied for 11<sup>th</sup> in NCAA. Can get a little too aggressive though when looking for steals or bringing help off ball, and lose sight of his man a bit when bringing help. Better one on one defender than team defender.

**Miscellaneous:**

Ponds is a highly skilled player, but is slightly undersized and has questions regarding shot selection, efficiency, and ability to be full time PG at next level. Ponds has declared for the 2018 NBA Draft but has yet to sign with an agent, leaving open the possibility to return to St. John's for his junior season. I don't believe Ponds will be drafted unless he is able to greatly impress teams with his shooting in workouts. However, Ponds is skilled enough to make an NBA roster and may do so following a stint in the G League or another season at St. John's.

**Rank:**

7 – NBA Free Agent (12-15 Spot), NBA/G-League swing, EuroLeague roster.

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