

NBA Draft

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Brooklyn, New York, USA

Nique Clifford



Q. Just wondering if just this moment is sort of how you expected it to feel. I know it's hard to fully process it, it just happened, but how has the night been for you overall?

NIQUE CLIFFORD: Yeah, it's definitely a stressful time, and I'm not somebody that stresses. I try to control what I can control and allow God to handle it all. But it definitely was a long wait and long night.

But I knew it was going to work out how it was supposed to and I would end up where I was supposed to be. I'm super grateful to just be here, be here at the draft. There's not many people that get to do that. I don't take that for granted. I'm super blessed and honored to be a part of my organization.

Q. Do you want to talk about who you're excited to play with most?

NIQUE CLIFFORD: All of my teammates, honestly. I'm super excited to play with all of them. Great players. Sabonis, Zach LaVine, DeMar DeRozan. You get to learn from so many great dudes. I'm just going to pick their brain and learn from our vets, as they all say.

Q. Expounding on that, yesterday we were talking about playing on and off the ball and how that is the modern NBA, and now you're going to go presumably play off Sabonis who hits cutters off the ball, hand-offs, all that stuff. How much do you feel specifically Sacramento will be a great place for your talents?

NIQUE CLIFFORD: I feel like I would have fit in with any team, just my versatility and ability to impact the game in multiple ways. But playing with such a high-level player like that, he makes the game easier for the guys around him. Just finding ways to be unselfish, being a cutter, making the game easier for them and being a defender and a rebounder, that's ultimately what's going to help me out and get me on the court to help my team win. And then just the ability to knock down shots, make the right play and use my IQ and my maturity and my experience.

Q. How did you know that the Kings were going to

draft you when you put on that suit?

NIQUE CLIFFORD: I know, it's crazy. It's God's plan, man. I said my favorite player was Kobe Bryant growing up. I was drafted No. 24. Sure enough, I wore a purple suit and ended up going to a purple team. It was just meant to be. It was crazy, though, that it played out like that.

Q. I asked you yesterday your first NBA jersey you ever rocked growing up. Tell everyone what you rocked.

NIQUE CLIFFORD: I wore that Kobe 8 jersey when I was a baby. That was my idol.

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