

NBA Draft

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Brooklyn, New York, USA

Mikel Brown Jr.



Q. There was a big debate if it would be you or Darius Acuff. Why were you the right pick in your mind for the Nets?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: Man, first of all, I want to give glory to God. Without Him, I wouldn't be here.

I just felt like I was the right pick. I think I fit into the system really well and what Coach Jordi [Fernandez] has building with them. I got to see the team. The team was there when I came to work out. You could see the bond and the maturity and the camaraderie that they had. I feel like I fit right in, as well as the whole staff.

Q. So you're joining a Nets team now obviously with Julius Randle now after the trade last night and also having Michael Porter Jr. how do you feel about joining two veterans like that and what do you expect to bring playing with them?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: I think it's great. Obviously you want to soak up as much knowledge as possible as a young player coming into this league. To be able to ask them and pick their brain on a lot of things and to be able to play alongside them, it's going to mean the world to me. We are going to try to bring a chip.

Q. How do you feel here? This is your new home floor. Have you gotten to check out Brooklyn while you've been around for the draft?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: A little bit. A little bit. What's kind of crazy is a year and a half ago I was here playing in the McDonald's All-American Game. To be able to say this is my home floor now, this is surreal to me.

Q. What excites you the most about living in Brooklyn?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: I think just the past legends that's come from this city. They take pride -- people when you hear somebody say they are from Brooklyn, they take pride in it.

To be able to represent that and you come in and have the same mentality of you representing it, it's not just about

you, it means the world.

Q. You said that you've had constant communication with Sean Marks and Jordi Fernandez throughout this pre-draft process. Getting to know them and having them outline their vision for you in Brooklyn, what stood out about them and the vision that they spoke about, and how do you feel about the relationship you've built with them thus far?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: It's great. Just talking to them, getting to know me and also me getting to know them as well, I kind of thought there was something going on there, and you can feel the energy and the vibe around the room. All smiles, man. Just being a great person stood out from both ends. It's going to go a long way. I'm ride or dying for them.

Q. Is it MY-kel or Mikel?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: MY-kel.

Q. Good to know. And secondly what from a basketball point of view can you do on the floor do you think you'll be able to do well with the system and the principles that you've spoken about with Jordi Fernandez?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: Yeah, just come in and just be an impact guy right away and do what I do best. That's creating for others and also creating for myself to score. Obviously being around veterans like Michael Porter Jr. that's proven in this league, and Julius Randle that's proven in this league, is also going to help as well because I get to learn from them as well.

I kind of feel like I plug in well because they are young. We are going to go through some hardships together and we are going to go through some good times together. So I can't wait.

Q. What part of your game do you think will translate fastest at this level of play?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: I think me just creating advantages. Creating for not just only myself but also for others. You know, putting them in the right position to be successful on

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the court. And also just being a great guy in the locker room as well. I think that goes a long way.

Get to talk to them off the court and see what they do off the court and just kind of adapt to them as well, because I think that translates on the court as well.

Q. You've talked about it a little bit, but how much does your Puerto Rican heritage mean to you in this moment? And also coming to a place that has just about every culture you can think of, and I'm sure there's going to be plenty of Puerto Ricans here, too.

MIKEL BROWN JR.: It means the world to me to come from a Puerto Rican tradition. That side of the family, they are hardworking. My grandfather worked for 22 years in the Army. Very disciplined about his stuff. He does everything with a purpose. I tried to take that away from him and try to represent it to the best of my abilities.

Q. You talked about the relationship that you built. How many times did you meet with Brooklyn? Seems like, by my count, must be at least three.

MIKEL BROWN JR.: Twice. Just twice.

Q. So down there and once --

MIKEL BROWN JR.: Yeah, and if you want to count Chicago, you could count Chicago as well.

I got to talk to them quite a bit. They got to meet the family and talked to my mom and dad. Like I said before, you could feel they were great people to talk to, and pick their brain on stuff and see how I fit in to assist them. Obviously Mr. Marks said that relationship with Jordi means a lot when you come in, and that relationship is going to be strong. I can't wait to play for him.

Q. In picking their brain, I'm just curious, you talked about the thing that you think will adjust quickest, translate the fastest. What have they told you, hey, we need to see you work on or improve on or clean up to become the player that we hope you can be?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: Yeah, I mean, we all talked about it. You know, just me overall just being a better basketball player in general. But obviously that tenacity, bringing that tenacity on the defensive end every single possession has been big. They showed me moments where you can be a really, really good defender if you really do take it serious every single possession. That's something they definitely told me.

But other than that, man, they just told me to come in and

be myself.

Q. What type of player do you think on and off the court Brooklyn Nets fans can expect of you? What are you going to bring to the table on the playing side of the things and culture?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: On the court, just being a winning mentality. I think that's what we are going to try to bring back to Brooklyn as well with the squad we've got.

Off the court, I'm a great guy to be around. I'm always for the people. I'm for the people.

So on the court, yeah, I'm just a creator. A guy that's going to be a connector and a guy that can go get you one as well and be that guy. Along with my teammates, like I said, it's just to put them in a position to be successful as well and feed off of them and eat off them as well.

Q. Given the recent moves the Nets have made, Julius Randle in the fold, seems like the Nets are making moves toward winning as soon as next season. How ready do you feel to contribute to that mission?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: I feel like I'm ready. I've prepared for this moment ever since I was a kid. I know what I'm capable of. As I told them, I am coming in and wanting to be an impact player right away.

I know what I can bring to the table every single night, and I know what I'm capable of. Like I said, I know the type of guy I am as well. That goes a long way with connecting with your teammates on a deeper level.

Q. When we talked to you in Chicago, you talked about how big this process was to show that the back injury wasn't lingering. Now that you have been taken as highly as you have been tonight, do you feel like that work you put in really showed the teams that the back injury is no longer a factor?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: Yeah, absolutely. Just coming into the process, I kind of expected that. I kept telling teams, I feel amazing. I think that time off, not touching a basketball and really focusing on my body really, really helped me and made me tap into a different mindset of taking care of my body and making sure I stay healthy, instead of trying to play through something that you really can't play through. I learned that a lot at Louisville.

Like I said, now, man, just trying to re-prove myself again. Like I said, I already know what I'm capable of and I know what I can bring to a team. So you know, they saw that right way.

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Q. You told me yesterday how good you know Drake Powell. Obviously you're joining a super young team. What do you know about the other four -- not rookies anymore, that the Nets selected from the last draft?

MIKEL BROWN JR.: Obviously you got Egor [Demin], Nolan [Traore], Danny [Wolf], Ben [Saraf] and, like you said, Drake. I'm pretty familiar with them. I got to watch them work out together and watch them on the court a little bit. You can see the bond that they have off the court as well. All the young guys in there are very connected. Egor was waiting for me to finish my first interview. He's been there already.

I can't wait to see the guys, man, and chop it up with them and get to know them better.

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