

# Cavs get to point, take Michigan State's Brown in first round

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CLEVELAND (AP) -- As a high schooler, Shannon Brown lost an All-Star game and dunk contest to LeBron James.

His days of competing with James are over -- they're teammates.

Brown was selected by the Cleveland Cavaliers with the No. 25 overall pick in the NBA draft Wednesday night, giving the club a needed future point guard and someone to help get the ball to James.

The 6-foot-4 Brown, a solid defender and scorer who also played off guard at Michigan State, was among a group of versatile and talented guards taken in the first round of an unpredictable draft.

"He's a great athlete, works hard, a gym rat," Cavs general manager Danny Ferry said. "His athleticism is off the charts. He can make the open shot, he can go to the basket. He can finish with authority."

The Cavaliers were high on Brown even before he further impressed coach Mike Brown during an individual workout last week at Quicken Loans Arena.

Brown had been in the building before, when it was called Gund Arena. In the 2003 McDonald's All-American game in Cleveland, he scored 23 points for the West but lost as James scored 27 to lead the East to a 122-107 win.

Two days earlier, Brown appeared to get the better of James in a dunk contest, but finished second to Cleveland's superstar.

Now, the only battles they'll have will be in practice.

The first of Cleveland's three choices -- they have the No. 44 and No. 55 picks in the second round -- was expected to be a guard after the club's backcourt averaged a league-low 17 points last season.

The opening round couldn't have fallen much better for Ferry, who was hoping that one of the top-rated point guards would slip far enough for the Cavs to grab him. When Cleveland was on the clock, there were still several quality playmakers available, including Jordan Farmar of UCLA, Sergio Rodriguez of Spain and Dee Brown of Illinois.

But the club gladly settled on Shannon Brown, who skipped his final season with the Spartans after averaging 17.2 points last season. He made 39 percent (64-of-164) of his 3-pointers.

