

## Wizards Grab Young, From USC, at No. 16

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The Washington Wizards selected Nick Young from the University of Southern California with their #1 pick in the 2007 NBA Draft.

Young is already familiar with Wizards all-star guard Gilbert Arenas. As a high schooler in Los Angeles, Young played on a summer league team coached by Gilbert Arenas Sr. and over the years, Young and the Arenas family crossed paths.

Young certainly noticed that Arenas was in the building for his workout at Verizon Center this month.

"Oh yeah, he was in there watching," Young said. "He probably had a word in there on making this happen."

The Wizards selected Young over a handful of other players whom they worked out, including point guard Javaris Crittenton, who was taken by the Los Angeles Lakers at No. 19.

"It was a very easy decision," Ernie Grunfeld, the Wizards' president of basketball operations, said of landing Young. "We don't wait for the last second to make a decision. We discuss the draft and how it will play out for a month and half, if not longer. As the players get picked, we pluck them off our board and when we picked, he was by far the highest-rated player we had left."

Young, whose playing style has been compared to explosive Knicks guard Jamal Crawford, is described as an athletic wing player who can create shots off the dribble and can make jump shots from three-point range.

Young's personal story is riveting. He flunked out of two Los Angeles high schools before finishing at Cleveland High School in Reseda, Calif., and his older brother was shot and killed. His life story is portrayed in a recently released documentary titled "Second Chance Season." Described as "outgoing" with "a great attitude" by Grunfeld, Young has already picked up a fan in Arenas.

"He can play," Arenas said via text message late last night. "He's going to help our bench out a lot."