

Brown's one-and-done left mark on U of L

BY RUSS BROWN
AND KEITH TAYLOR
KENTUCKY TODAY

LOUISVILLE – Mikel Brown Jr. made history in several ways during his short residence as a member of the University of Louisville basketball team and immediately afterward.

On New Year's Day 2025, the five-star point guard became the program's highest-rated signee since Samardo Samuels in 2008 when he appeared in the KFC Yum! Center at center court during halftime of an 83-75 win over North Carolina to a roar from the crowd and yelled that he was "all in" as a Cardinal.

About one year later, he scored 45 points against North Carolina State to tie Wes Unseld's single-game scoring record and break the ACC freshman scoring mark.

And during Tuesday night's NBA Draft, he was taken as the sixth pick by the Brooklyn Nets, becoming the Cards' first one-and-done player, their first top-10 pick in 30 years – since Samaki Walker was taken No. 9 by the Dallas Mavericks in 1996 – and their highest pick since Felton Spencer was also selected sixth by the Minnesota Timberwolves in 1990.

Pervis Ellison is the highest U of L player ever drafted, taken No. 1 in 1989 by the Sacramento Kings.

Brown's brief U of L career ended with nine 20-point games and averages of 18.2 points, a team-high 4.7 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 1.2 steals. But the memories he leaves behind aren't as simple as those impressive statistics because he leaves behind a complicated and uncertain legacy.

He played in slightly over half of the Cards' 35 games, missing 14 with a mysterious back injury that included little transparency, and U of L never reached the level of success his arrival promised.

A preseason choice to challenge Duke for the ACC regular season title, the Cards finished a distant sixth and won only one game in the NCAA Tournament as Brown sat out the last two regular season games and the entire postseason. The back problem, which never was specifically identified, first surfaced in mid-December and lasted until mid-January when he missed eight consecutive games, including the first six ACC contests.

His absence prompted a significant segment of Card Nation to criticize Brown and his father, Chris Brown, suggesting the player's family was either holding out for more NIL money or he was saving himself for the NBA.

"There were rumors going around, 'Oh, he's going to shut it down,' stuff you hear when those kind of things happen, at least in today's game," ESPN analyst Jay Bilas said on a pre-NBA Draft Zoom media conference. "And I never bought any of that."

Brown's only attempt at a partial explanation came in a locker room interview after taking part in a shootaround prior to U of L's second-round loss to Michigan State when he said, "I feel like I really can't play to our standard. I've never trained to go half speed at anything. That's the only speed I can go right now."

By the time the NBA Combine arrived in mid-May, Brown told reporters in Chicago that his back felt "amazing."

"Those two months, taking off definitely helped me prioritize my rehab," he said. "Definitely, the medical stuff is going to come up, but I feel great right now."

U of L coach Pat Kelsey appeared to have no bad feelings toward Brown when he spoke about him on the eve of the draft.

"Although he was only here for one year, that young man is going to be celebrated and remembered and revered around here for a long, long time," Kelsey said Monday. "That freshman scoring record he broke, that's magic and that's what that kid has. He's got that type of vibe, bounce in his step, charm and twinkle in his eye. So I'm well aware of how special a player I coached. I'm more proud of the caliber of special human being that Mikel is. It's going to be a huge night for Louisville, and we're excited about it."

Interviewed on the NBA

stage by ESPN's Lisa Salters after being picked in a slot that will guarantee him a four-year contract worth nearly \$40 million, Brown said he was "so full of excitement, I can't even put it into words."

"I think that time off, not touching a basketball and really focusing on my body really, really helped me," he added. "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."

Brown's comments both before and after the draft will do little, if anything, to assuage the disappointment and displeasure many in Card Nation feel about Brown's tenure in Louisville. Sometime in the future we'll see whether those fans will forgive and forget and celebrate him as they do many other former stars - as Kelsey said they will -

or hold onto lingering bitterness.

CONWELL HEADED TO HEAT

Louisville guard Ryan Conwell was selected in the second round by the Oklahoma City Thunder with the 37th pick. His draft rights then immediately were traded to the Miami Heat.

This becomes the first time Louisville has had multiple players selected in the same draft since

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ADAM HUNGER/Associated Press
Mikel Brown Jr. arrives Tuesday for the first round of the NBA Draft in New York City. He went sixth to the Brooklyn Nets.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Nelson County Fiscal Court, at the meeting held on June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Bernard E. Ice Meeting Room, 1 Court Square, Bardstown, Kentucky, called for a second reading and thereafter presented for adoption the proposed Ordinance relating to the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

BUDGET SUMMARY

WHEREAS, the proposed budget was approved by the fiscal court on May 18, 2026, and was approved as to form and classification by the State Local Finance Officer on June 1, 2026;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Fiscal Court of Nelson County, Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION ONE. The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.

(01) GENERAL FUND	
General Government	\$ 2,752,900
Protection to Persons & Property	314,900
General Health & Sanitation	1,992,500
Social Services	72,800
Recreation	1,214,700
Roads	85,000
Transportation	240,000
Administration	2,022,700
Reserve	3,300,000
TOTAL	\$ 11,995,500
(85) SHERIFF FEE POOL FUND	
Protection to Persons and Property	\$ 3,702,300
Administration	1,387,400
TOTAL	\$ 5,089,700
(02) ROAD FUND	
Roads	\$ 3,296,000
Administration	606,000
Reserve	172,000
TOTAL	\$ 4,074,000
(03) JAIL FUND	
Protection to Persons & Property	\$ 2,835,000
Administration	677,400
TOTAL	\$ 3,512,400
(04) LGEA FUND	
Roads	\$ 160,000
Reserve	138,000
TOTAL	\$ 298,000
(07) FEDERAL GRANTS FUND	
Protection to Persons & Property	\$ 25,000
Reserve	50,000
TOTAL	\$ 75,000
(09) EMS FUND	
Protection to Persons & Property	\$ 3,887,300
Administration	1,327,900
TOTAL	\$ 5,215,200
(13) SOLID WASTE FUND	
General Health & Sanitation	\$ 3,330,300
Administration	621,700
Reserve	1,250,000
TOTAL	\$ 5,202,000
(15) LANDFILL	
General Health & Sanitation	\$ 4,061,000
Capital	1,000,000
Administration	729,000
Reserve	4,545,000
TOTAL	\$ 10,335,000
(23) OCC LICENSE TAX FUND	
General Government	\$ 191,100
Airports	22,000
Administration	42,900
Reserve	66,000
TOTAL	\$ 322,000
(74) OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS	
Protection to Persons and Property	\$ 65,100
Social Services	25,000
Administration	68,900
Reserve	41,000
TOTAL	\$ 220,000
(80) CO CLERK STORAGE FEES	
General Government	\$ 30,000
Reserve	130,000
TOTAL	\$ 160,000
(82) E911 CENTRAL DISPATCH	
Protection to Persons and Property	\$ 1,429,700
Administration	463,300
Reserve	44,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,937,000
(84) AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS	
Capital	\$ 248,882
TOTAL	\$ 248,882

SECTION TWO. This Ordinance shall be published in the Kentucky Standard by title and summary within thirty (30) days following adoption.

SECTION THREE. This Ordinance becomes effective upon passage and publication.

(Signed) Tim Hutchins, County Judge Executive

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

All interested persons and organizations in Nelson County are hereby notified that a copy of the County's proposed budget is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive, One Court Square, during normal business hours.

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 538
SERIES 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, NEW HAVEN KENTUCKY, AMENDING SEWER RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE SERVICE AND FACILITIES FURNISHED BY THE WASTEWATER SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, to allow for inflation, and rising expenses in order to meet the operating and maintenance expenses of the wastewater system;

WHEREAS, it is deemed advisable by the New Haven Board of Commissioners of the City of New Haven, Nelson County, KY to amend Ordinance No. 529 Series 2025, to increase monthly sewer rates as follows:

SEWER		IN CITY RATES	
Active Meter but no usage	\$20.40		\$21.42
First 2000 gallons	\$31.32 (minimum)		\$32.89 (minimum)
Next 3000 gallons (per thousand)	\$6.28		\$8.69
Next 5000 gallons (per thousand)	\$7.26		\$7.62
All over 10,000 gal. (per thousand)	\$6.81		\$7.15
		OUT OF CITY RATES	
Active Meter but no usage	\$20.40		\$21.42
First 2000 gallons	\$33.07 (minimum)		\$34.72 (minimum)
Next 3000 gallons (per thousand)	\$9.15		\$9.61
Next 5000 gallons (per thousand)	\$6.63		\$9.06
All over 10,000 gal. (per thousand)	\$6.46		\$8.88

Be it ordained by the City of New Haven that this ordinance shall be in full force and effective July 1, 2026 following publication as required by law. Any ordinance or parts of ordinance in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

First Reading May 21, 2026 / Second Reading June 18, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 539
SERIES 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AMENDING THE SEWER RATES AND CUSTOMER CHARGES FOR THE ABBEY OF GETHSEMANI AND LOG STILL DISTILLERY.

WHEREAS, to allow for inflation, and rising expenses in order to meet the operating and maintenance expenses of the wastewater system;

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary by the New Haven Board of Commissioners of the City of New Haven, Kentucky, Nelson County, to amend Ordinance No. 528 Series 2025, to increase monthly sewer and customer charge rates as follows:

The rate schedule for Log Still is as follows:

Customer Charge \$2791.08 minimum, per month \$2,930.63 minimum, per month

Volumetric Rate \$6.55 per 1,000 gallons \$6.68 per 1,000 gallons

The rate schedule for The Abbey is as follows:

Customer Charge \$96.96 minimum, per month \$ 101.81 minimum, per month

Volumetric Rate \$6.97 per 1,000 gallons \$7.32 per 1,000 gallons

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City of New Haven that this ordinance shall be in full force and effect July 1, 2026 following publication as required by law. Any ordinance or parts of ordinance herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

First Reading – May 21, 2026
Second Reading – June 18, 2026

Mayor Linda Mattingly

Attest : City Clerk/Treasurer Joanie Corbin

LEGAL NOTICE

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. B2026-10 ANNUAL BUDGET AMENDMENTS FY26

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND ADOPTING AS AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. B2025-07 THE CITY OF BARDSTOWN'S BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026.

WHEREAS, an annual budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 was adopted by the City Council of the City of Bardstown on June 24, 2025; and WHEREAS, there have been unanticipated changes in both revenues and expenditures during that period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF BARDSTOWN, KY, THAT: Section 1.

The annual budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026 is hereby amended as follows:

- 1) General Fund: Increase anticipated revenues from \$17,465,500 to \$20,131,000 and increase authorized expenditures from \$44,020,000 to \$48,811,000;
- 2) Combined Utilities Fund: Decrease the anticipated revenues from \$53,007,100 to \$51,220,850 and decrease expenditures from \$67,507,100 to \$58,700,850;
- 3) Create a Capital Projects Fund: Accounting for revenues (from bond proceeds) of \$25,700,000 and expenditures of \$700,000;
- 4) Municipal Aid Fund: Decrease anticipated revenues from \$365,000 to \$290,000 and decrease expenditures from \$340,000 to \$250,000;
- 5) Land Acquisition Fund: Increase anticipated expenditures from \$0 to \$1,300,000;
- 6) Sewer Enhancement Fund: Increase anticipated revenues from \$165,000 to \$287,500;
- 7) Asset Forfeiture Fund: Decrease anticipated revenues from \$25,000 to \$500 and increase expenditures from \$9,000 to \$164,130;
- 8) Cemetery Fund: Decrease anticipated revenues from \$136,300 to \$100,300 and increase expenditures from \$136,300 to \$145,420.

Section II.
The annual budget is hereby amended and attached hereto, reflecting the above referenced amendments to the revenues and expenditures that comprise the FY 2025-2026 budget for the City of Bardstown.

CITY OF BARDSTOWN AMENDED BUDGETS BY FUND – FY26

Fund	Revenues	Expenses	Total Revenue over (under) Expenditures
GENERAL FUND	20,131,000	48,811,000	** (28,680,000)
COMBINED UTILITIES FUND	51,220,850	58,700,850	** (7,480,000)
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	25,700,000	700,000	25,000,000
SELF INSURANCE FUND	2,372,000	2,372,000	-
MUNICIPAL ROAD AID FUND	290,000	250,000	40,000
EQUIPMENT FUND	195,000	-	195,000
LAND ACQUISITION FUND	103,250	1,300,000	** (1,196,750)
DEPRECIATION FUND	20,000	50,000	** (30,000)
LAGOON CLEANING FUND	160,000	-	160,000
SEWER ENHANCEMENT FUND	287,500	1,000,000	** (712,500)
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE RESERVE	179,500	-	179,500
ASSET FORFEITURE	500	164,130	** (163,630)
CEMETERY FUND	100,300	145,420	** (45,120)
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	100,759,900	113,493,400	** (12,733,500)

**denotes use of Unrestricted Reserves

Section III.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict are hereby repealed to the extent of that conflict. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect following publication as required by law.

CITY OF BARDSTOWN: /s/ J. Richard Heaton, Mayor
This summary was certified by Audrey Haydon-Blackmon, City Attorney. A copy of the complete budget is available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 220 N. 5th Street, Bardstown, KY 40004 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.