

# Bremer glad to be back home

## New Cavs guard happy to play with James

BRANSON WRIGHT  
*Plain Dealer Reporter*

J.R. Bremer didn't have the resume of a potential NBA player following his last year of college in 2002.

He received only honorable mention honors as a senior at Cleveland Heights High School. He didn't attend a college basketball hotbed at St. Bonaventure University. Despite leading the Atlantic 10 in scoring, Bremer wasn't drafted, but he was impressive enough during the Chicago pre-draft camp and during a close look by the Boston Celtics that it took the Celtics only a week to sign him to a two-year free agent deal.

After one season with the Celtics



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J.R. Bremer is certainly happy to be back in his hometown as the Cavaliers officially introduced him yesterday.

that included 41 starts, he averaged 8.3 points and 2.6 assists per game. Bremer led all rookies last year in 3-point shooting (35.3 percent). The Cavaliers were so impressed that last week, they traded Jumaine Jones to Boston for Bremer, Bruno Sundov and a future second-round pick.

Not bad for a player once considered an NBA afterthought.

"All of us GMs didn't know what

we were doing," said Cavaliers General Manager Jim Paxson yesterday at the news conference where Bremer was introduced. "He probably fell victim of being a player that scouts saw too much. We tend to be [overly] critical of players of what they can and can't do."

That criticism fueled Bremer into becoming an NBA player.

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### Bremer happy to be home in Cleveland

Those critics provided the incentive for Bremer to put in the off-season work that included hours at the Euclid Speed and Strength Complex.

"I took the long road to the NBA and it was hard," Bremer said. "It was a lot of running and throwing up over the summer, but it got me here and I'm going to continue to work because I want to be here for a long time."

Work isn't anything new to Bremer. His older brothers Chuck and Inari have been his biggest inspirations. They pushed their little brother from the beginning.

"A lot of credit goes to his two brothers," said Bremer's high school coach, Jim Cappelletti. "After he finished his senior year, they got him out for track, they had him lifting weights. He ran and jumped and did everything he could possibly do. His

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*Cavs guard*

two brothers wouldn't let him sit and do nothing."

Bremer will join a Cavs' team that has recently added free-agent guard Kevin Ollie and free-agent forward Ira Newble. Ollie's expected to back up LeBron James at point guard and Newble will provide the team with a defensive presence off the

bench. Bremer's outside shooting touch is an element craved by the Cavs, who were one of the poorest outside shooting teams last season. He also has the ability to run an offense.

"We'll depend on him to put the ball into the hoop," Cavs coach Paul Silas said. "He was relied upon to run the club as a rookie and he handled that situation very well. That's not easy to do, especially because he kept guys like Antoine Walker and Paul Pierce happy."

This trade has brought even more happiness to Bremer and his family.

"It's real exciting to be here and I know the city is excited, especially because of LeBron," Bremer said. "There's going to be packed houses and I'll be playing in front of my family. You can't ask for anything more than that."

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### NBA calendar

Aug. 20-31: Olympic qualifying tournament, San Juan, Puerto Rico.  
Oct. 29: NBA season begins