

## Ridnour

continued from page 1

his personality," Oregon senior Luke Jackson said. "He's going to be able to help out the community and be a good role model."

Among the company of point guards, T.J. Ford has been listed the highest at the No. 6 pick in ESPN's Mock Draft released Wednesday. Hinrich is listed at the No. 8 spot, going to the Bucks.

ESPN has pegged Ridnour as No. 14, one spot out of the top 13 lottery picks — the same spot where former Oregon's Fred Jones was selected last year. But Ridnour would go to the Seattle Supersonics; fitting as Ridnour would get to stay in the Northwest and play a few hours from of his home town.

The Sonics own the No. 12 and

No. 14 pick and are looking to get a big man and a point guard. With his skills, he could be what the Sonics are looking for, according to Ridnour's representation of Williams & Connolly, LLP law firm.

"He's a great open court player," lawyer Jim Tanner said. "In terms of being a pure point guard, there's no comparison. He's completely in love with playing basketball."

Rumors are also abound that the Sonics could trade Vladimir Radmanovic, Brent Barry and the No. 12 pick to Toronto for Jerome Williams, Michael Bradley and the No. 4 pick in the draft.

Even with a possible trade, the Sonics would maintain the No. 14 pick, where they would look for a point guard after trying to pick up former Georgia Tech forward Chris Bosh at the fourth spot. The Sonics were unavailable for comment regarding individual players.

"It comes down to a team locking down on him and liking him for who he is," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "Anything beyond that is difficult to say until the draft. He would like to go wherever there is a need for him."

Ridnour's stock has gone up recently in predictions of where he will end up, but Ridnour has undergone criticism by ESPN experts who say he is deficient on defense and lacks strength.

"I'd rather have that than skill you need to work on," Ridnour said, regarding his size. "That's something I can work at."

ESPN will broadcast the draft today starting at 4 p.m. Verification should come soon thereafter.

Contact the sports editor at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.



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