

## SPORTS

## Hockey Draft Shatters Color Barrier

Portland's Seth Jones part of changing face of sport

Portland Winterhawks defenseman and Aloha High School graduate Seth Jones received the highest draft pick ever for African Americans in pro hockey on Sunday.

Jones, 18, was selected No. 4 by the Nashville Predators of the National Hockey League. Leading up to the draft there was speculation that Jones would be the No. 1 pick. While he did slip, he still made history as being the first African-American as a top-five choice.

Darnell Nurse, another black player, went No. 7 to the Edmonton Oilers. Jones and Nurse will be part of the changing face of pro hockey where 94 percent of the players are white.

The son of former NBA player Popeye Jones seemed happy in his bright yellow Nashville jersey, and



Seth Jones, a defenseman for the Portland Winterhawks and an 18-year-old from Aloha High School, pulls on a Nashville Predators sweater after being chosen 4th overall in the first round of the NHL hockey draft, Sunday, June 30, 2013, in Newark, N.J. (AP photo)

will be able to learn about playing NHL defense from new teammate Shea Weber.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't

thinking about going to those teams, but at the same time I'm excited to be a Predator, and obviously Shea Weber is there," Seth

Jones said Sunday about slipping a few spots.

Popeye Jones is friends with one of the Predators scouts, and he said

he was told that his son wouldn't fall past Nashville at No. 4.

Now Seth Jones has something else to prove, beyond the usual drive draft picks have to show that they belong in the NHL.

"I think professional athletes or athletes in general are always looking for something to motivate them because there is always going to be dog days where you may not want to lift or do extra crunches," Popeye Jones said. "But you will look at this and say, 'I got drafted fourth. Maybe I need to get to the weight room again and try to prove guys wrong that I should've went first.'"

"You are also looking for that extra motivation."

Popeye Jones, drafted by the NBA's Houston Rockets in 1992 and traded to Dallas, knows what NHL team he will be throwing his support to.

"There is no disappointment in going to Nashville. It is such a great franchise," he said. "It is my home state. I've got to get my Preds hat."

--The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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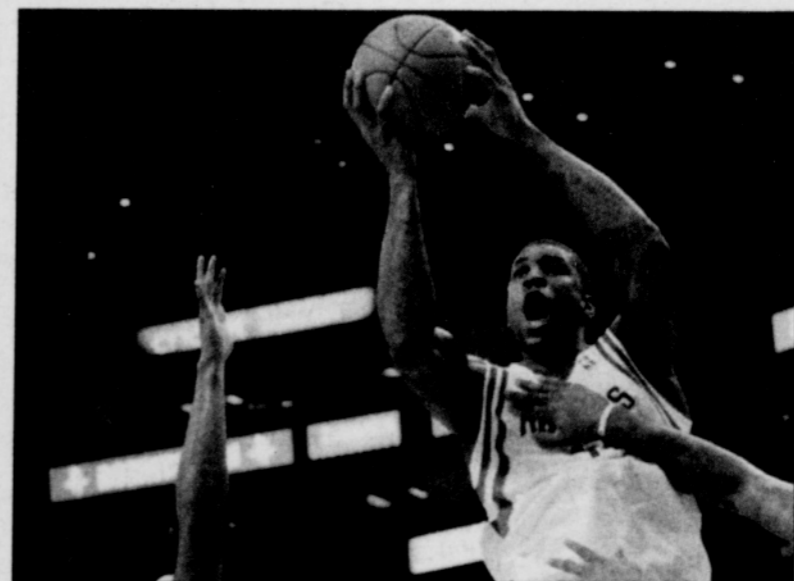
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## Blazers Build for Future with Picks



Houston Rockets forward Thomas Robinson, the No. 5 pick in the 2012 NBA draft, has been traded to the Portland Trail Blazers.

### Team deals for Robinson; chooses McCollum in draft

The Portland Trail Blazers traded for 6-foot-10 forward Thomas Robinson just a few days after attempting to solidify their backcourt when they selected 6-foot-4 guard C.J. McCollum of Lehigh with the 10th pick in the NBA draft.

Houston traded Robinson to Portland Monday for two future second round picks and the draft rights to 6-9 Greek forward Kostas Papanikolaou and 6-10 Montenegro forward Marko Todorovic. The Rockets are trying to clear salary



C. J. McCollum

cap space in an effort to sign Dwight Howard of the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Blazers were clearly thrilled that McCollum was available at No. 10.

--The Associated Press contributed to this report.