

## No Deal- Turk to Toronto?

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As everyone in the Northern Hemisphere is now reporting, Hedo Turkoglu has ended negotiations with the Trail Blazers, and reportedly will now look to the Toronto Raptors. The Toronto news is coming from several sources and can't be totally confirmed, but for days we've known the Raptors were Portland's main competition for Turkoglu's services. It is pretty clear now, Portland's part in this is over.

This follows a strange day that began with an ESPN report claiming the Blazers and Turkoglu had reached an agreement in principle. Of course, free agents can't sign with teams until July 8th.

The Raptors are in a position to be able to reportedly offer Turkoglu a 5-year deal, worth over \$56 million, ESPN is reporting. They go on to say, the Raptors last-minute bid will give Turkoglu all of the salary-cap space they will get by renouncing their rights to Shawn Marion, Anthony Parker, and Carlos Delfino. The Raptors expect to have about \$10.1 million in cap space to give to Turkoglu for his first-year salary; he would get an eight percent annual raise over the next four seasons of the deal.


The Blazers probably could get in a position to get close to that, but it would likely involve handing away key components to the team. In short, it wouldn't be easy. As I'm sure you know, it's been widely reported the Blazers were offering Turkoglu 5-years, at around \$50 mill.

Sometimes it's simply about money, and it appears this is one of those cases. That's not being critical of Turkoglu at all, that's just the way it is. He said as much at PDX Thursday afternoon upon arriving.

Turkoglu was one of the most popular players on an Orlando team that just played in the NBA Finals. Despite pleas from his teammates, he decided to opt out of his contract. He got an offer from Portland, and then got a better from Toronto. That's probably just about as simple as this is. I realize people will jump to make more of this than that, but I don't see a case for that here.

As others have reported, including ESPN's Ric Bucher, Turkoglu's wife apparently strongly favored Toronto over Portland, because of its international population and culture. Of course, we can't confirm at this point if that was truly a factor. I can confirm that she wasn't with him on this trip to Portland, so I'm not sure what she had to compare it to. Either way, it doesn't matter now.

18 Comments:

 [Jacob](#) said...

I was starting to warm to the idea of Turk somewhat, but I still think this is for the best. He's 30, his PER is below average, his shooting percentages stink, he needs the ball in

Mike Barrett

Television play-by-play voice of the Trail Blazers on KGW-TV 8 and Comcast SportsNet.

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