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(Neb.)-Gilkey excited about NFL Draft

By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 04/26/2013 11:04 AM

CHADRON – Size is always at a premium in the NFL. That was certainly the case during Thursday's first round of the 2013 NFL Draft as nine offensive linemen were selected and many more are expected to be chosen in the second through seventh rounds Friday and Saturday at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

One of those offensive linemen waiting for a call from his future employer is former Chadron State left tackle Garrett Gilkey.

"It's nerve-wracking," said Gilkey, while he was relaxing Thursday afternoon at his parent's home in Sandwich, Ill. "I've talked to every team in the NFL throughout this process but you never know until you get that call from the one who picks you. It's really hard to be patient because I'm so excited."

Gilkey, an All-American lineman for the Eagles, has been projected anywhere from a third to seventh round selection. He said he's planning on watching the NFL Draft unfold at his home with family and friends.

"I can't control where I go and I'm not worried about it," he said. "I just want the opportunity to continue playing football and I'm going to contribute to the team that selects me."

Gilkey began his preparation for the NFL Draft by training at the prestigious IMG Academy in early 2013. He also played in the Senior Bowl and participated in the NFL Combine in February.

Gilkey said the past few months have been a whirlwind. He has been flown to team facilities and one team even put him through a workout at his former high school.

That doesn't even include the barrage of questions he receives from NFL brass.

"I had to get a new cell phone to use just for NFL stuff," he said. "I also had to recently give all the teams my contact information, including all the phone numbers to reach me, my e-mail address and my home address. They want to know everything about you."