

Sports

F1 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE SILIVE.COM SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

NFL DRAFT

Ravens pick Wagner's Senat



Greg Senat came to Wagner to play basketball and ended up an NFL draft choice. The Baltimore Ravens selected him during the sixth round yesterday. *Advance photo*

Tottenville HS products Edwards (Ravens) and Coyle (Texans) get free-agent offers

Staten Island Advance

Greg Senat's path to becoming an NFL draft choice was uncommon to say the least.

But Senat yesterday became the first Wagner College player drafted in 53 years when the Baltimore Ravens used a sixth-round compensatory pick, the 212th overall selection, to get the 6-foot-6, 310-pounder.

"(Baltimore GM) Ozzie Newsome called

me to tell me the Ravens had just submitted my name," said Senat, who watched the draft with family, friends and coaches yesterday at a Manhattan restaurant. "It was great. I can't even really explain the feeling. I had a chance to speak with (head coach) John Harbaugh and their offensive line coach (Joe D'Alessandris) I thought I might get picked sooner than I did, but when I got that call, it was a lot of relief and excitement.

"And to be picked by one of the NFL's staple teams in the Ravens, with all of their history, is special. I just can't wait to get down there and start showing them what I can do."

SEE SENAT, F4

SENAT

FROM F1

Two other players with Staten Island ties received free-agent offers once yesterday's draft was over. Rutgers fifth-year senior running back Gus Edwards was signed by the Ravens. Fellow Tottenville product Anthony Coyle, a Fordham offensive lineman, signed with the Houston Texans.

Senat's journey has been unique. A four-year member of the Seahawk men's basketball team, Senat went on football scholarship prior to the 2016 season and became a fixture on the Seahawk offensive line, starting all 22 games

he played in during his two-year gridiron career. In 2016-17, Senat helped the Wagner hoops team to a 16-14 season as a senior before competing solely in football during the 2017 season as a fifth-year senior.

"It was awesome, just awesome," said Wagner head coach Jason Houghtaling, who was joined at the draft party by Wagner offensive line coach Stephon Wheeler and several of Senat's Seahawk teammates. "It's two years of grinding, two years of hard work coming down to one day. I'm just so proud of Greg and all that he has done to get to this point."

Senat is the second Seahawk ever selected in the NFL draft, joining Rich

Kotite, who was selected in the 18th round of the 1965 NFL Draft by the Minnesota Vikings and played five years in the league before serving as head coach of the Eagles and Jets.

Edwards came to Rutgers from Miami as a fifth-year graduate transfer and led RU with 713 rushing yards and six TDs on 164 carries.

Coyle, a 6-foot-5, 306-pound offensive tackle, could end up at guard or center in Houston. Coyle, an All-Patriot league performer in his final two seasons at Fordham, also worked out for the 49ers, Falcons and Giants. As a HS senior, Coyle won the 2013 Sal Somma Award, given to Staten Island's top lineman.