

SARALAND SPARTANS

Spartans are hungry



The 2017 Saraland High School Spartans

Saraland photos by John O'Dell/Call News

Coach Jeff Kelly

Players 'chomping at the bit' to show SHS is still among state's elite teams

BY TOMMY HICKS
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Three seasons ago the Saraland Spartans advanced to the Class 6A state championship game at Auburn University's Jordan-Hare Stadium, losing a heartbreaking 36-31 decision to Clay-Chalkville to finish the 2014 season 13-2. They have aimed to make a return, this time to win the crown, but that has not taken place.

The Spartans finished 8-3 in 2015 and last season slipped to a 6-5 mark. As the 2017 season draws closer, the goal remains intact. Although competing in a tough re-

gion of a competitive classification, Saraland coaches and players remain confident they can attain their goal.

They will start that quest Aug. 26 against Heard County, Ga., in a nationally televised game. No sense in taking it easy while chasing one's dream.

"We're still developing who we are," head coach Jeff Kelly said. "There's an eagerness, there's a sense of wanting to, I don't want to say right a wrong, but wanting to be better. There's a hunger there. Throughout summer workouts and spring there was a real workman attitude and I

really like that about them.

"I think there's some athleticism that we haven't played with at times the last couple of years on both sides of the ball. I think we'll be faster and we're improving in some spots. I think we've got some very talented, athletic guys who are going to be really good football players. We've just got to go do it. We have to get them there in shape and get them there healthy, but we've got to go do it in a game. There's an edge to them, especially defensively, there's an edge to

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FOUR CAMPUSES - ONE GOAL



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