

SARALAND

Sky's the limit for Jay Williams

'He's the guy who wants the ball,' says coach Kelly of his senior receiver



Photos by Todd Stacey/Call News

Saraland's Jay Williams is a senior wide receiver who will have to adjust to a new quarterback after being teammates with Jack West all his prep career. "We just have to keep working with Brett (Nezat) on our connection with each other and everything should be smooth."

BY TOMMY HICKS
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When Saraland wide receiver Jay Williams is studying film, it doesn't necessarily mean he's watching video tape of the Spartans' previous game or even that of the Spartans' next opponent. It may mean he is watching — very closely, we might add — the talents of a NFL wide receiver.

Known for his crisp route-running, his sure hands and his solid instincts once he has hauled in a pass, Williams takes his task seriously. Enough so that he will stop what he is doing to watch a NFL game on TV if it features a wide receiver he admires. And if that's the case, he sees nothing else except that player — how they run their routes, the position of their hands when they make a catch, how they shed defenders, how they react after they make the catch.

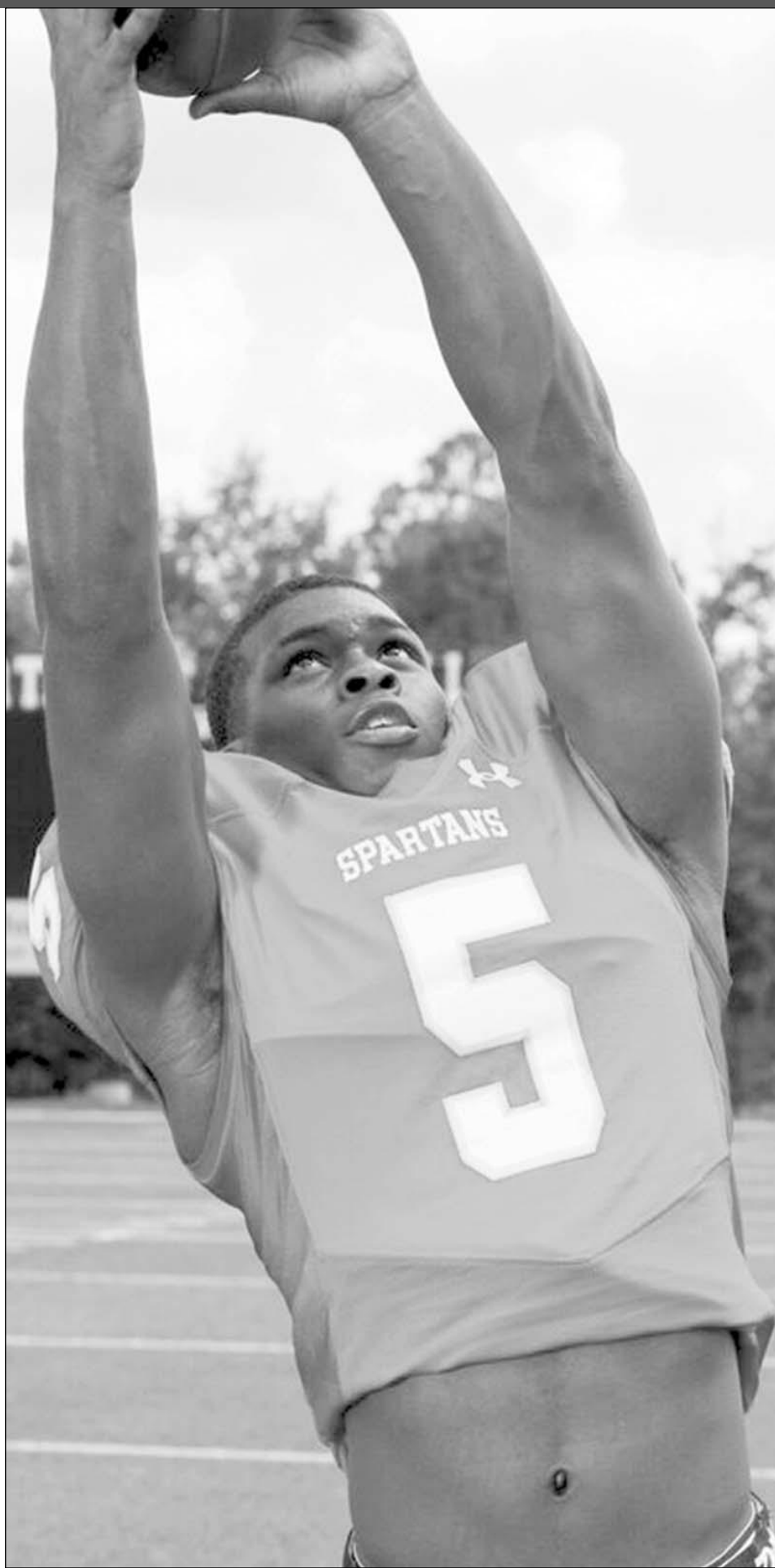
Armed with this knowledge, Williams, a 5-foot-11, 175-pound senior who has given a verbal commitment to sign with Southern Miss, heads to the Spartans' practice sessions with the aim of putting the information to work for him and the Saraland offense.

It has been a successful plan for more than a couple of seasons now, for both Saraland and Williams, who is viewed as one of the top receivers in the state heading into the upcoming season.

"Coming up, I watched Odell Beckham and AB (Antonio Brown) and I just tried to learn what I could from them," Williams said. "I noticed that they took pride in their routes and to realize that you never know when the ball is coming to you so you have to be ready for it. You have to make every route a good route."

"It's really not hard, but you have to concentrate."

See **WILLIAMS**, 50C



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