

# SARALAND



The 2018 Saraland High School Spartans

Saraland photos by Todd Stacey/Call News

## Spartans know how to win

*Coach Jeff Kelly is excited about season after a ‘tremendous summer’*

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Looking around, one sees the perils that await a team located in AHSAA Class 6A, Region 1. There’s Spanish Fort and Blount and Daphne and Baldwin County and this year St. Paul’s has moved into the neighborhood with its three Class 5A state championships over the past four years.

And there’s also improved Le-Flore and Baldwin County teams, as well as B.C. Rain, Robertsdale and Gulf Shores.

And there’s Saraland, which knows how to win and knows what it takes to play in big games.

Jeff Kelly, the Spartans’ head coach, knows the treacherous road his team will have to travel to try and earn one of the four playoff spots from Region 1 and with it the

opportunity to play for the state crown. But he also knows what he sees right in front of him — his 2018 team — and that view has him excited, while also a bit cautious, heading into region play.

“It’s been a tremendous summer,” Kelly said of the preseason and early fall workouts by the Spartans. “From the work that we have gotten done this summer in the weight room and with the strength (and conditioning) numbers and on the practice field and those things, this has probably been our best summer yet.”

Saraland is coming off an 8-4 overall record last season. The Spartans advanced to the second round of the Class 6A state playoffs before being eliminated from

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Saraland head coach Jeff Kelly talks to his players about his expectations for the coming season.



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