

SARALAND



The 2019 Saraland High School Spartans

Saraland photos by Todd Stacy/Call News

Spartans want that title

But whatever happens, Kelly says the Saraland program is 'blessed'

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The experience of playing in the 2018 Class 6A state championship game still resonates with the Saraland football team heading into the 2019 season. While there is disappointment in not winning the crown — the Spartans lost to Pinson Valley — there are also many positives, not to mention a bit of motivation that has carried over as well.

“I think last year was a tremendous example of what high school football is all about,” Saraland head coach Jeff Kelly said. “We were blessed. We had good players, we do, but we also have just an outstanding group of guys who love their school and love their town and they went out and fought their tails off every single Friday night.”

“The thing I was probably most proud of was the playoff run that they got on. The

second-round, third-round, fourth-round games were all championship opponents and we had to be ready to play and we just kept fighting off all the challengers. To me that experience for our kids is something they’ll never forget and for a coach, that never gets old.

“I’ve been blessed to have been there (state title game) three times and hopefully one day we’ll get another shot and come out on the good side of it. But those memories are great for everybody — the coaches, the players, the band, the community, the school. It was just really good.”

But now it’s time to look forward to the upcoming season, one in which the Spartans are expected to be a state contender again; they were recently ranked No. 2 in the Alabama Sports Writers Association Class 6A preseason poll.

See **SPARTANS**, 40C



Saraland coach Jeff Kelly, shown running a recent workout, says the memories of football battles are precious to him and the players. “To me that experience for our kids is something they’ll never forget and for a coach, that never gets old,” he said of last year’s playoff run.



2019 VARSITY FOOTBALL SEASON



We are proud of the continued success of the students and athletes of our Saraland City School System.



The Mayor and City Council would like to wish you a great year!

