

# SARALAND

*“We have a ton of options. We can hit you in the air or we can hit you on the ground.”* — Brett Nezat

## NEZAT: Quarterback really came into his own during Spartans’ playoff run

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a lot on him. He’s able to make decisions before the play, so I’m proud of his development and I look forward to him having a big year.”

Last season, Nezat threw for 2,135 yards and 17 touchdowns, while being intercepted seven times. Many of his best games came in the playoffs and his best throws as well. He also demonstrated the ability to run with the football, which wasn’t a well-known factor prior to the start of the season.

Still, his decision-making, which improved a great deal from the first to last game a year ago, may have been his best asset.

“We have a ton of options,” Nezat said of the Spartans’ offense. “We can hit you in the air or we can hit you on the ground. That’s what I really like about this offense, we can hit you from wherever.”

“Especially having worked so hard over the summer, all of our guys, we know what we’re doing, where we’re going and where to line up. I feel like we’re going to be good with it.”

And if pressure situations arise, he said he believes he’ll be able to handle himself and the offense well in those moments.

“I kind of feel like I rise to the pressure a little bit, which I’m thankful for,” Nezat said. “I really always try to play like that. It’s definitely a plus because our games can get a little intense with everybody showing up. I love it and I’m



Brett Nezat threw for 2,135 yards last year.

thankful for it.

“The most I probably learned last year is just all the different defenses that

you can face and recognizing the spots that take place in my pre-snap reads that make such a difference. And

definitely with my throws, it seems the longer the game goes the sharper I get and the farther I can throw it.”

Again, all things Kelly saw from his quarterback last season.

“When the game is on the line he’s better than he normally is,” Kelly said. “He can make all the throws, but he just has that ability to slow down the game in a big moment when

everybody else is tight and nervous. He just says, ‘Let’s go play,’ and that’s something that as a quarterback is invaluable.”

When the Saraland offense takes the field this season, Nezat and his teammates will be ready. They may even have a bit of a chip on their shoulder. After all, they have one main goal for the season — get back to the title game, but produce a different outcome.

“Teamwise we all want to get back to where we were last year and finish, but for myself I just want to be the best quarterback I can be for Saraland and help my team out as best as I can,” Nezat said. “I’m definitely excited (about what happens after this season), but now that the season has started I’m just concentrating on my team and what we can do to get back (to the title game).”



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