

## Tackle leaves boy, 14, partially paralyzed

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By JONATHAN BETZ / WFAA-TV

DALLAS - In an instant, the life of a young football player changed forever. A freak accident during a high school football game Thursday left 14-year-old Jared Williams largely paralyzed.

Williams' life will likely never be the same, but he is determined to battle the odds with his strong will.

"[I'm] still praying I can get out of the hospital so I can go play football," he said.

The teen was left paralyzed from the chest down after a helmet hit the Pinkston High School safety in the neck during a tackle.

"I just fell," Williams said. "And then when Spike told me, 'Get up,' I told him I couldn't feel nothing ... I couldn't move. I couldn't move my arms, my legs, nothing."

The moment struck fear in his mother, Arlenna Williams.

"He's not moving," she recalled. "It doesn't look good. That's what I was thinking."

Williams can't move his legs, but he's proud to show off how much motion he has regained in his arms. But, even the simplest of gestures, such as scratching an itch on his nose, requires help.

But, his family considers him the comeback kid, and Williams' resolve is clear.

"I want to be able to walk, walk like I normally, walk like I used to," he said. "But, if that's not capable, I just got to keep going for it. I can't give up."



JOHN F. RHODES / DMN  
Medical personnel wheel Pinkston's Jared Williams (24) from the field after he suffered an injury.  
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It's that fighting drive that has given his family hope as well.

"As long as he keeps trying and is in good spirits I know he'll get up and move again," his mother said. "I know he will."

Right now, Williams said he is focusing on getting his hands to move so that if he can't play football again he can work his way towards becoming an architect.

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