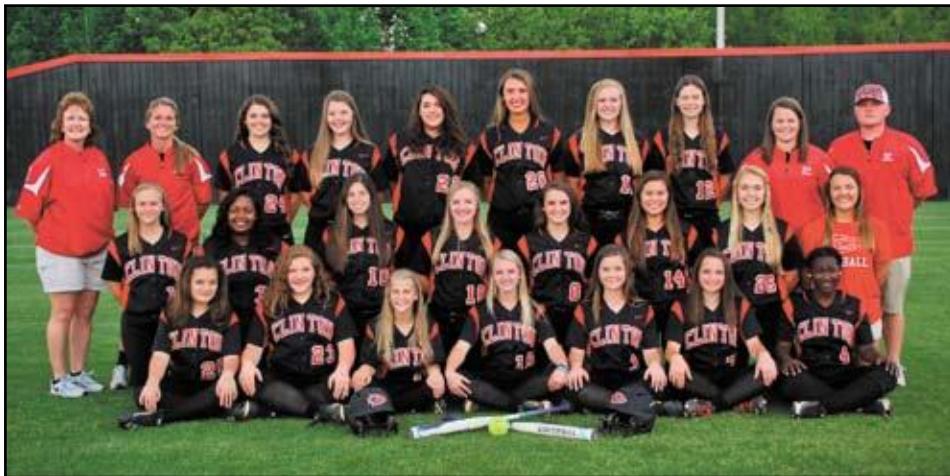


Lady Arrows fastpitch ends successful season



Special to The Clinton Courier

By Danny C. Davis

Second-year Lady Arrows head fastpitch softball coach Karla Beth White feels her team made a lot of progress this season, advancing to the second round of the MHSAAA Class 6A playoffs before falling to Tupelo.

CHS finished the season 19-6 overall and 6-0 in district play. The Lady Arrows fell to Tupelo in the best of three series. Tupelo, after defeating Clinton, will play Harrison Central for the overall Class 6A State title.

"We came real close to beating Tupelo in the second game," said White, of Clinton's 1-0 loss to the Lady Golden Wave on May 1. A day earlier, CHS took care of Tupelo 5-3 in the opening round. But in the third and deciding game, Tupelo prevailed 9-1.

"We had the tying run on second base," said White of game two. "If we had won that game, we would have advanced to the state championship."

The second round loss does not diminish the fact that the Lady Arrows had a stellar season in 2017 against a tougher schedule. At the end of the regular season, CHS defeated Northwest Rankin 5-4 and then fell to Brandon by one run, 7-6.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Lady Arrows defeated South Panola 2-1 and 4-3.

"We lost a lot of games this year by just one run against very good teams," said White. In the end, it paid off playing a

tougher schedule this year. It definitely helped us at the end of the season."

White is optimistic about the future of her team, especially since she fielded only one senior this year, Morgan Dubose.

"Morgan did a great job of leading the younger players this year and will be missed," said White. "She will play at Copiah-Lincoln Community College next year, and we wish her well. But everybody else is coming back next year."

Returners include a big rising junior class of nine players, most of whom were starters, and a big rising seventh grade class of eight or nine coming back. Three pitchers - Kaylei Peterson, rising sophomore; Kamerine Smith, a rising junior; and Madeline Manuel, a rising seventh grader - return.

A busy summer awaits most of the girls.

"Just about all the girls will play tournament ball this summer, and then the entire team will compete in the Co-Lin Team Camp on June 20-21," said White. "It will be good for the girls. We will play six or seven games in two days."

The Lady Arrows will have two tryouts to select the 2018 team. The first will be held May 18-19, and then there will be a fall tryout in October.

"I am proud that the girls worked so hard and won more games this year and advanced further in the playoffs. Hopefully, we will continue to improve every year. I think we will get better every year."

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