

CHS football game parking and safety instructions released

Special to The Clinton Courier

Large crowds are anticipated this season as the defending 6A state champion Clinton Arrows hit the gridiron at Arrow Field beginning August 18 at 7 p.m. against South Panola. Fans are encouraged to arrive early and anticipate traffic delays in areas approaching the stadium on game days.

The Clinton Police Department and the Clinton Fire Department have provided public safety and parking instructions for Arrow Field.

Parking will be available around the high school and across the street from the high school in the gravel parking lot.

No parking will be allowed on Arrow Drive in front of the football field. Additional parking will be available in the Northside Elementary and Eastside Elementary school parking lots.

In the case of severe weather, the home side stands will take shelter

in the gymnasium, and the visitor side stands will take shelter in the east hall of the high school (the closest entrance to the school from the football field).



Photo by Danny Davis

After the game, exiting traffic from the east side (near the football field) will be forced to make a left turn towards Cynthia Drive. Traffic exiting from the west side of the high school parking lot (near Indian Trails subdivision) will be required to make a right turn towards Pinehaven Drive.

Cars exiting from the visitor's parking lot across from the high school will make a right turn towards Cynthia Drive.

Arrows defense more experienced

By Danny C. Davis

Last year, the Arrows were able to win their first MHSAA State Championship by outscoring their opponents. But, on defense, Clinton gave up 369 points, or 25 points a game. Seven times, CHS gave up 26 or more points in a game.

From the looks of spring and fall training, look for things to be a lot different for the Arrows defensively in 2017. CHS returns seven defensive starters, including the entire front defensive line.

"What is neat about this group of kids is that, in junior high, we knew they had defensively mentality," said Arrow defensive coordinator Devin Cooper.

"Now, it's their time. They have been overshadowed by some good athletes. They've grown up, but they still have a lot to prove."

"We are strong up front, but we have a lot new faces at linebacker and in the secondary," said Cooper. "We lost team leaders at linebacker, like Jacobi Hearn and Darius Brent, that are hard to replace."

Having good spring and fall workouts and set to start at linebacker are junior Delawrence Butler, senior McKenzie Mackline and junior Javon Paige at outside linebacker.

"Those are three new linebackers who have got to step up for us early and make an impact and toe the line," said Cooper.

Also vying for a start at linebacker is junior Matthieu Welch, and tight end Des Baker will spot play at linebacker.

Senior Kerion Dixon will see a lot of playing time at backside linebacker, making the change from defensive back. Senior Cedric Cornelius will see a lot of playing time, and sophomore Julian Kingston will also be in the mix at linebacker.

Arrows linebacker coach Hamer Morgan feels his unit has a lot of potential.

"We have a lot of speed, but not a lot of experience," said Morgan. "We have a chance to be really good at linebacker. The talent is there."

Delawrence Butler agreed.

"I think we have a chance to be as good on defense as we were on offense last year."

The front defensive line are all veterans, with a lot of experience and a lot of depth.

The experienced defensive line includes seniors Ronnie Thomas at backside defensive end and nose guard Chris Brown. Senior defensive tackle Braxton Bailey had a great spring game at defensive tackle at Pearl, with several sacks and tackles for losses. Senior defensive end Javarious Heard came on strong in the

spring, and senior Calvert

White will rotate in

at nose guard

and defensive

tackle. Se-

nior Haven

Barnes will

play a lot at

defensive end.

Junior Josh Brown is

a another defensive end who

will rotate in.

"We have a lot guys who have played a lot up front," said Heard. "We feel like we can stop the run first, and then get a good pass rush on."

Braxton Bailey agreed.

"We are solid up front this year. Our goal is not to give up any big plays this year. We have a lot of young guys at linebacker, but they are coming around and are going to be very good."

In the defensive secondary, Terrance Newell is the only experienced starter, but senior Bryce Sims is expected to start on the corner. Sophomore Chase Moore has been impressive in the spring and summer at corner back with a lot of speed. Junior Greg Evans will go both ways as wide receiver and cornerback. Wide receiver Chris Johnson will spot play in the secondary in passing situations, when a lot of speed is needed in the secondary.

"Our young guys in the secondary are really coming around right now," said Newell, who will play wide receiver on offense, also.

"We just need to get a lot of experience early on," said Cooper. "I think, by game five, we will have a lot more experience heading into our district schedule."

"Experience is a key at this level, and we just do not have a lot of it past the front line to start," said Cooper. "We have got to have some guys step up as vocal leaders, like we had last year."

"South Panola has a talent of quarterback and running back, so we are going to have to grow up early."

Another factor that should help the Arrows defense is that the Arrows offense will most likely not score as fast and have longer drives.

"Last year, we scored very quickly, and our defense was on the field a lot of snaps. Our defense got tired in the fourth period, and we gave up a lot of points late in the game. We hope that will not be the case this year."

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