

# Season ends for Arrows in playoffs at Madison Central

By Danny C. Davis

After a tough regular season, the Clinton Arrows soccer team played well late into the season and early in the playoffs but fell to rival and #1-ranked Madison Central 3-0 in the Class 6A North Quarterfinals at Madison to end their season on February 2.

The Arrows played very well the first half of the playoff game at Madison, with most of the action taking place on the Clinton end of the field, but CHS couldn't seem to find the net. Clinton's defense held the Jaguars scoreless for the first 25 minutes of the game before giving up a goal late in the first half.

Madison had two goals in the second half to win and advance to the North 6A semifinals.

"We were the better team the first half but couldn't take advantage of playing a lot on our end of the field to score," said Arrows head coach Tyler Wade. "We had a lot of opportunities early but made a lot of mistakes that you cannot make in a playoff game and expect to win against a good team."

Clinton got off to a good start on January 29 in the opening round of the playoffs by upsetting the Oxford



Photo courtesy Johansson Studio

Chargers 2-1 at Arrow Field to advance to the Class 6A North Quarterfinals.

The Arrows avenged an earlier regular season loss at Oxford when the Arrows were missing four starters.

CHS took an early lead when junior Luke Bryant was fouled inside the box and the Arrows were awarded the penalty kick. Junior Miles Sims

found the net on the penalty kick to give Clinton a 1-0 advantage sixteen minutes into the game.

The Arrows found the net again about fifteen minutes into the second half when Sims found Nathan Thomas and passed it over to Thomas, who hit the net to give CHS a 2-0 advantage. The Arrows had a stellar defensive effort, keeping the Chargers

out of the net until Oxford scored with three minutes left. After that, the defense held strong to give the Arrows the upset win to advance.

"We knew we were better than them when we lost up there during the regular season with our starters out," said Wade. "We were confident going in we could beat them at home. We played well. I am proud of how we played."

"This was such a strange season for us," said Wade. "Our record does not tell the story of this season. We were a lot better team this year, even though our record did not reflect it."

"We did not get to full speed until January. Tucker Barefoot was out with football, and then he was selected to be the kicker for Mississippi in the Mississippi Alabama All Star game that was mid-December. So we had him and some others fully healthy until the last part of the season."

"We are going to miss our seniors. Tucker really stepped it up this year, and Nathan was one of our team captains and had such a solid year," said Wade.

"We came together at the right time

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