

# Ezell's run ends with loss in semis

By **JESSICA HOPP**

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**MEMPHIS** — Ezell-Harding formed its boys soccer team four years ago. Building the program took some time, with the Eagles struggling to move past the district tournament their first three seasons.

This year the Eagles finally found the cohesion they had been searching for, making it all the way to the Class A/AA semifinals last night before falling 2-1 to Christian Academy of Knoxville.

The Eagles (13-6-2) just couldn't find the intensity they needed to reach the final.

"We tried to move it as best we could," said Ezell-Harding senior Jeremy Walker, who scored the Eagles' goal. "But they were fast."

CAK controlled the ball for the better part of the first half, forcing Ezell to make some aggressive defensive moves. One such move resulted in a penalty in the box, giving CAK's Jason Bowman a free shot at the goal. The strike went past Eagles goal keeper Randy Schlappi and gave CAK a 1-0 lead 13 minutes into the game.

"It was a well deserved PK," said Ezell-Harding Coach Rob Mitchell. "We came up from behind in the box. It just was something we didn't need. They were already fired up a little more than we were and to get an early goal like that it hurt."

The Eagles put the pressure on CAK thwarting any more serious attacks through the rest of the half.

But CAK regained control in the second half, with the ball once again at the feet of Bowman.

Unassisted on the right side, Bowman beat two defenders, and as Schlappi approached from goal, Bowman sent a shot to the back of the net to give CAK a 2-0 lead six minutes into the second half.

In the last minute of the game, the CAK goalie deflected a shot right to a waiting Walker, who headed the ball back of the net.