



*(NCHS's Lila Robertson is greeted by teammates after a 6<sup>th</sup> inning homerun.)*

### **Lady Chiefs' rally fall short in 17-11 playoff loss to Neville**

The 11<sup>th</sup>-ranked Natchitoches Central Lady Chiefs' softball team made a valiant comeback before ultimately falling, 17-11, to the 22<sup>nd</sup>-ranked Neville Lady Tigers Friday at home in the first round of the Division I non-select playoffs.

The Lady Chiefs (18-13) found themselves in a monster hole as they trailed 11-0 going into the bottom of the third inning. The Lady Tigers (18-10) scored eight runs in the first inning, two in the second and one in the third as NCHS was staring down a long tunnel back.

The Lady Chiefs didn't quit as they scored seven runs with two outs in the bottom of the third inning. Ehren Guidroz lined a single to right field to score Morgan Robinson for the first run. Moments later, Mallory LaCour ripped a two-double to the left center field gap scoring Guidroz and Sydney Terrell. After a walk to Skylar Braxton, Syndi Jones grounded an RBI single to left to score LaCour making it 11-4 Neville. Bre Hale reached on an error that scored Braxton to prolong the inning. Moments later, Maggie Massia singled to the left side to score Jones and Hale as the Lady Chiefs were right back in the game, 11-7, going to the fourth inning.

The score remained 11-7 Neville until the bottom of the fifth inning when Hale lined a double to the right center gap scoring Braxton and Jade Barfield as the Lady Chiefs were nipping at the heels of the Lady Tigers trailing 11-9.

NCHS's comeback attempt would be thwarted in the sixth inning as Neville scored six runs on seven hits to take a 17-9 lead.

The Lady Chiefs would make one last mark on the game in the bottom of the sixth as Lila Robertson blasted a two-run homer to center making it 17-11. But that's as close as they would get as Neville picked up the victory ending NCHS's, the district 1-5A champion, season.

Natchitoches Central finished with 12 hits led by Massia with three, while Jones and Hale both had two. Neville had 16 hits as five different players had two hits and one had three knocks.

With the win, Neville advances to the second round to face sixth-ranked Sam Houston in the second round.

As for the Lady Chiefs, the entire team is slated to return next year except for lone senior Sadie Spillman who played her final game in a Lady Chiefs' uniform.