

Chiefs pick up 20th win of the season in 3-1 victory over Byrd

NATCHITOCHEs, La. - The Natchitoches Central Chiefs' baseball team got five strong innings from Ross Lindsey on the mound in a 3-1 win over the Byrd Yellow Jackets Thursday night at Brown-Stroud Field on the campus of Northwestern State.

The Chiefs (20-7, 7-5 in 1-5A) jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second. With runners at first and third and one out, Kyron Payne laid down a safety squeeze bunt that scored pinch runner Collin LaGrange. Moments later, Yancy Spillman hit an RBI groundout to second plating Lannon Collum.

The Yellowjackets (9-9, 4-8 in 1-5A) cut the lead in half in the third inning scoring on a passed ball with two outs to make it 2-1 NCHS.

But Lindsey was too much for the Yellowjackets. The junior left hander threw five innings allowing just one unearned run, two hits, one walk and struck out seven before he handed the ball off to Harper Marcotte.

The Chiefs, ranked eighth in Division I non-select, gave Lindsey some breathing room in the fourth inning. Sophomore Owen Smith drew a walk then stole second base. Moments later, Dillon Braxton dropped in an RBI single to center to score Smith making it 3-1 NCHS.

Marcotte picked up the save throwing the final two innings allowing just one baserunner on a hit-by-pitch.

NCHS scattered six hits led by Laden Rawls with two. Smith, Braxton, Collum and Adam Guillet each had one. The Chiefs' defense was also spotless as they didn't commit an error. Thursday marks the 16th time in 27 games NCHS has allowed three runs or less.

Next up, the Chiefs will play the Airline Vikings Friday at 5:30 p.m. at Brown-Stroud Field.