

Lady Chiefs sweep Airline to advance in volleyball playoffs

NATCHITOCHEs, La. - The 12th-ranked Natchitoches Central Lady Chiefs' volleyball team cruised past the 21st-ranked Airline Lady Vikings in three sets Thursday night in the first round of the LHSAA Division I Playoffs

The Lady Chiefs (27-4) won the first set 25-18, the second 25-23 and the final set 25-14 in route to their 13th straight win.

NCHS controlled most of the first set as Maggie Dunn served an ace to give the Chiefs the opening set. In the second set the Lady Chiefs got all they could handle from Airline (24-13) as they trailed 14-8.

The Lady Chiefs rallied back but still trailed late in the second set, 23-22. Campbell Morrow stepped to the service line and got NCHS the advantage, 24-23, before Lora Cole got the emphatic kill to clinch to set for the Lady Chiefs.

In the third set, it was all Natchitoches Central as they jumped out to a 10-3 and never looked back on their way to the third set route, 25-14.

“We played well in the first and third set but had to battle a little in the second set,” said NCHS head coach Kerri Kiracofe. “It’s been a kind of theme for us this year where we play well in first and third but not the second. But we found a way to get it done tonight.”

Next up, NCHS will take on fifth-ranked Sam Houston (34-7) Saturday at 11 a.m. in the second round of the playoffs in Moss, Bluff, Louisiana.

“They have a lot of seniors and are well-coached,” said Kiracofe. “We know its going to be a tough matchup, but we will be ready to go.