

The Natchitoches Central Chiefs bounced back in a big way following their first home loss of the season Tuesday night to Airline as they routed Hicks, 81-46, Thursday night on the road in non-district action.

The Chiefs (24-5, 8-3 in 1-5A) controlled the game all night long as they shot 37-for-68 from the field for 54 percent. NCHS's defense was also remarkable, forcing 28 turnovers leading to 34 points off turnovers while outrebounding Hicks (21-12) 40-21.

NCHS was led by Logan Smith with 23 points while Ja'Corien Beard did a little bit of everything. Beard finished with 16 points, grabbed seven rebounds and had four steals to aid NCHS. Tobi Adelaye scored 11 to aid the Chiefs.

While the Chiefs were just 4-10 from the three-point line and 3-for-5 at the free throw line, they lived under the rim scoring 62 points in the paint.

Next up, NCHS will continue district play Friday night on the road against Benton (13-15, 4-7 1-5A). The Chiefs edged Benton, 68-66, at home back on Jan. 16 as they eye the season sweep Friday.