

The Natchitoches Central Chiefs and Lady Chiefs picked up home wins in district over Captain Shreve Friday night at the Teepee with the Lady Chiefs winning 65-26 and the Chiefs edging the Gators 54-51 in overtime.

The Lady Chiefs (18-9, 7-3 in 1-5A) dominated from the opening tip as they led 18-5 after the first six minutes of the game and led 42-13 at halftime as they cruised to the win. Alyssa Christophe had 21 points to lead NCHS while Makayla ‘Tootie’ Gallien had 16 points and five rebounds. Morgan LaCour had 11 points and 11 rebounds for her second straight double-double. NCHS shot 45 percent for the game (22-for-48) and shot 9-for-18 from the three-point line.

The boys’ game was anything but lopsided as the Chiefs (20-4, 6-2 in 1-5A) and Gators (20-4, 7-1 in 1-5A) needed overtime to decide the outcome.

Early on, it was a back-and forth contest with Captain Shreve leading 13-8 at the end of the first quarter. In the second quarter, NCHS began to tilt the scale as they led, 23-18, at halftime.

The Chiefs appeared to be taking control of the game as they led 39-25 with under 2 minutes to go in the third quarter. Suddenly, the game took a 180-degree turn on the Chiefs as the Gators stormed on a 17-0 run as they led 42-39 with under 3:53 left in the fourth. The Chiefs rallied to tie the game at 47-47 and had a chance at the end of regulation to win. Jaden Braden’s jumper hit the side of the rim as the buzzer sounded sending the game to overtime.

Braden would make his presence known as he drilled a three-pointer and hit four free throws in the extra period. The Gators had a chance to tie the game and got a good look at the game-tying three-pointer at the overtime buzzer, but the shot hit the back of the rim as the Chiefs picked up the win.

“We made some big plays as a team,” said Braden. “And I wanted to do my part in overtime to help us and was able to do that. But we really got the energy from the crowd tonight. They were awesome.”

The Chiefs, despite letting a 14-point lead slip away, were able to remain undefeated at home this year (10-0).

“Captain Shreve is an extremely tough team,” said NCHS boys basketball head coach Kolton Sepulvado. “It’s always a battle when we play those guys, and it was no different tonight and I credit coach Deans (Corey Deans, Captain Shreve head coach) because he does a great job with them. But our guys played really hard and well tonight despite letting the lead slip away. But when you can guard the way our guys did tonight and theirs did then you win a lot of games. It was a great game and am just glad we came out on top.”

The stats were as close as the game. The Chiefs shot 17-for-44 from the field while the Gators were 19-41. NCHS was 15-for-19 from the free throw line while the Gators were just 10-for-20. Both teams were whistled for 19 fouls while the Gators won the rebounding battle, 30-29.

NCHS was led by Braden and Logan Smith with 12 points each while Cam Davis and Ja’Dell Demery each had 10 points.

Next up, the Chiefs and Lady Chiefs will host Haughton Tuesday night at ‘the Teepee.’