



Chiefs' second half comeback not enough in 42-35 loss to Benton

BENTON, La. – The Benton Tigers edged the Natchitoches Central Chiefs, 42-35, holding off a furious rally from NCHS Friday night in District 1-5A action.

The Chiefs (2-4, 1-2 district 1-5A) trailed 34-14 at halftime and appeared to be heading for a long night. But NCHS, under first year head coach Jess Curtis, had other ideas.

NCHS scored the first points of the second half as Zion Thompson scored on a 6-yard touchdown run to make it 34-21 in favor of the Tigers. Later in the third quarter, Natchitoches Central's Kelton Howard scored on a 21-yard run straight up the gut to cut it to 34-28 BHS.

The Chiefs took a 35-34 lead with 6:01 to go as Dillon Braxton took an end-around handoff to the right side turning the corner for a 23-yard touchdown run followed by Mateo Restrepo's point after attempt.

However, Benton (2-4, 1-2 district 1-5A) responded with their only points of the second half scoring on a 26 -yard touchdown reception with 2:46 to go. NCHS would turn it over on downs on the following possession inside their own 40-yard line allowing Benton to get in victory formation and kneel the clock out.

Next up, the Chiefs continue district play as they host Captain Shreve (5-1, 3-0 in district 1-5A) Friday night at 7 p.m. in Turpin Stadium. CSHS defeated Airline, 60-35, snapping the Vikings 8-game district winning streak Friday night.

Fans can tune into Friday's game by listening live at 107.1 KWLX locally. Live updates will be available as well at the Inside Natchitoches Sports Facebook page.