**Chiefs Take on Loyola, Tigers and Gators face off at Jamboree Friday**

(NCHS, Lakeview and St. Mary’s gear up for final regular season tune-up)

The Natchitoches Central Chiefs, Lakeview Gators and St. Mary’s Tigers will be in action Friday in the Natchitoches Regional Medical Center Jamboree at Turpin Stadium beginning at 6 p.m. as the teams prepare for the regular season.

The Tigers and Gators will face off at 6 p.m. while the Chiefs will take on Loyola College Prep (Shreveport) at 8 p.m. SMH and LHS played in last season’s jamboree with the Tigers coming out on top. However, the Gators possess a new look this season with the hiring of former Avoyelles coach Andy Boone. Lakeview will feature a game plan that includes no punts and all onside kicks. St. Mary’s will continue to follow the lead of sixth-year head coach Aaron York.

“Teams take on the character of their coaches,” said York. “And Coach Boone is a big hard-nosed guy and I know that Lakeview is going to be physical and hard-nosed just like him and that’s what we want. We want to see how our guys respond and handle that.”

As for Boone and the Gators, they will be looking to build themselves into a perennial threat in 2A with Boone’s unconventional style and will be seeking to test St. Mary’s Friday.

“I can understand if you have a punter that can kick it 50 or 60 yards,” said Boone. “But in the lower levels of high school football especially, most punters will only kick it 25-30 yards which isn’t much of a NET. I’m the kind of the coach that feels if you’re going to get the football from us, you’re going to have to take it from us. I’m not going to give it to you. Fourth down means nothing to us, it’s just another down. It’s just not enough of a reward to kick so no matter where we are on the field, we will go for it. And as for the onside kicks, it’s very simple. We want the other team’s offense to touch the ball as little as possible and we want to have it in our offense’s hands as long as we can.”

The night cap features the Chiefs under first-year head coach Jess Curtis, a three-time state champion coach for Many High School, and Loyola College Prep. NCHS is coming off a 15-12 win over Pineville in last week’s scrimmage while LCP lost 6-0 to Haynesville in their scrimmage. Loyola finished last season with a 6-5 record and a tough loss to Episcopal in the second of the Division III playoffs, 10-7.

Following Friday’s jamboree, the teams will begin preparation for their season openers Friday, Sept. 1.

NCHS will take on Woodlawn-Shreveport on the road, while St. Mary’s will face Abbeville at home. The Gators will have a Week 1 showdown with D’Arbonne Woods High School in Farmerville, Louisiana.