

### *Chiefs battle to hard-fought 3-2 win over Haughton*

Despite walking eight batters, the Natchitoches Central Chiefs' baseball team found a way to defeat the Haughton Buccaneers, 3-2, Saturday afternoon at home.

The Chiefs (14-3, 3-2 in 1-5A) scattered six hits led by Brock Laird and Yancy Spillman who both had two. NCHS took the early lead in the bottom of the second when Andrew Odom singled to score Laird.

After the Buccaneers (13-5, 2-3 n 1-5A) scored two runs in the third inning, the Chiefs retook the lead in their half of the third. Spillman scored on a passed ball to tie the game at 2-2. Moments later, Dillon Braxton hit a sacrifice fly to center scoring Kyron Payne to give the Chiefs the lead.

The Natchitoches Central pitching staff had to battle to hold the lead as the Buccaneers threatened to tie the game several times. In the fifth inning, the Chief cut down the tying run at the plate as second baseman Owen Smith's relay throw nailed the runner at home to end the inning.

In the sixth inning, Haughton put runners at second and third with two out before pitcher Kaidon Vallery got a flyout to left field to end the inning.

Haughton, against, threatened in the seventh inning as they put two runners on and two outs. Vallery got the hitter to pop up harmlessly to Laird at shortstop to end the game as the Chiefs picked up the win.

Vallery pitched the final three innings allowing two hits, three walks and striking out two. Adam Guillet started the game pitching, allowing two unearned runs, five walks and striking out seven.

The Chiefs will be back in action Monday at Pineville (1-15) at 6 p.m.