

Chiefs drop heartbreaker to Captain Shreve 42-36

NATCHITOCHES, La. – The Natchitoches Central Chiefs let a 14-0 lead slip before falling to the Captain Shreve Gators, 42-36, Friday night at Turpin Stadium in district 1-5A football action.

The Chiefs (1-2, 0-2 in 1-5A) struck on the game's opening drive. Senior quarterback Owen Smith connected for a 27-yard touchdown pass to LaMontray Holden (PAT good by Amsden Pasche) giving NCHS the early 7-0 lead.

Later in the first quarter, NCHS's Derek Beaudoin intercepted and returned it 22 yards inside the Captain Shreve 1-yard line. Two plays later, Kelton Howards scored on a 1-yard touchdown run make it 14-0 NCHS (Pasche PAT good) with 1:57 to go in the quarter.

Despite the early hole, the Gators (2-1, 1- 0 in 1-5A) fought back and to the game at 14-14 scoring on two straight possessions. CHS scored on a 23-yard touchdown run by Wake Forest commit Jamarcea Plater before tying the game on a 4-yard run by Gabe Lockett with 5:53 left until halftime.

The game was just beginning as NCHS quickly responded. Smith gave the Chiefs the lead again as he scampered 22 yards for the touchdown run putting NCHS back in front 21-14 with 5:03 to go in the second quarter.

Captain Shreve returned the favor as Plater capped off the Gators' ensuing drive with a 9-yard touchdown run tying the game at 21-21 with 2:53 to go until halftime.

The Chiefs had more in the tank before the half. Smith drove the Chiefs down field before connecting in the corner of the endzone with senior Mason Brittain for a 10-yard touchdown reception with eight seconds left giving NCHS a 27-21 (PAT no good) halftime lead.

The second half, which was a wild roller coaster, couldn't have started better for NCHS. The Gators fumbled the third quarter kickoff into the endzone and were tackled for safety giving NCHS a 29-21 lead.

However, Captain Shreve responded with a scoring drive capped off by yet another touchdown by Plater, this time from one yard out. The Gators tied it by converting a two-point conversion halfback pass from Plater to Jaylen Houston making 29-29 with 5:53 left in the third.

The Gators took their first lead early in the fourth quarter when Plater scored on a 4-yard touchdown run to make it 36-29 Gators with 9:15 left.

The Chiefs appeared in trouble on the following possession facing a 4th and 8 from their own 40-yard line. But Smith calmly lofted a pass in the middle of the field to Howard for 38 yards inside the Captain Shreve 20-yard line with 6:08 to go. Smith would cap off the drive as he scored on an 8-yard touchdown run with 5:40 left in the game tying it at 36-36.

However, the Gators would deliver the final blow as Cardarrian Devers scored on a 50-yard touchdown run with 3:46 to go.

The Chiefs had a chance as they drove inside the Gators' 35-yard line with 1:15 remaining. But they were stopped on fourth and four as Smith was hit after just a two-yard run for a turnover on downs. The Gators took two knees as the clock ran out on the Chiefs as they fell in heartbreaking fashion.

"It's disappointing," said NCHS head football coach Brad Laird. "I think we played hard for four quarters but it's tough not come away with the win. We will go back and look at the film and get better at the things we need to and get ready for next week."

Coming up next, the Chiefs will take on the Parkway Panthers Friday, Sept. 26, on the road at 7 p.m. Fans can follow the game on 100.7 KZBL as Brad Ford, Dane Terrell and Kaleb Usleton will have the play-by-play.