

The fifth-ranked Natchitoches Central Chiefs advanced to the Division I boys' basketball quarterfinals with a 58-48 win over the 21st-ranked West Monroe Rebels Tuesday night at NCHS.

The Chiefs (28-7), after being heavily tested in the first round by Fontainebleau last Friday, appeared to be more in control of this one from the outset. NCHS took an 18-11 lead at the end of the first quarter and led 25-16 at halftime.

In the third quarter, the Chiefs opened their biggest lead of the game as they led by 16 points, 48-32, at the end of the quarter. Despite just 10 points in the fourth quarter, NCHS maintained a 10-point advantage as their defense suffocated West Monroe (17-12) to just 20-for-55 (36 percent) shooting for the game.

The Chiefs were led by Ja'Dell Demery with 20 points, and he also grabbed nine rebounds. Jaden Braden chipped in with 12 points while Logan Smith had 10 points and eight rebounds. NCHS finished the game 20-for-45 from the field for 44 percent.

Next up, NCHS will face fourth-ranked Denham Springs (28-6) Friday night on the road in the quarterfinals at a time to be determined. Denham Springs defeated 20th-ranked Terrebonne, 69-39, Tuesday in the second round.