



Haughton shocks Chiefs 36-35 on final play of regulation

NATCHITOCHEs, La. – The Natchitoches Central Chiefs' football team lost yet another sickening loss as they were defeated on the final play of regulation for the second straight week after a 36-35 loss to Haughton Friday night at home.

The Chiefs (2-6, 1-4 1-5A) jumped out to a 15-0 lead as Zion Thompson scored on a three-yard touchdown followed by a two-point conversion by Braden Woods. Later in the first quarter, Naiim Helaire scored on a shovel pass from Owen Smith for a 45-yard touchdown run making it 15-0.

Haughton (3-5, 1-4 1-5A) cut into the lead on a 56-yard run by Christian Turner to make it 15-7 with 2:13 left in the opening quarter.

NCHS responded with a 22-yard touchdown run by Dillon Braxton to take a 21-7 lead. However, Haughton scored on a 69-yard touchdown reception by Jayden Lewis right before the end of the half to make it 21-14

The second half was a wild one as Haughton cut the lead to one after a 40-yard interception return for a touchdown by Bryson Hinkie. However, Woods blocked the extra point for NCHS to keep the Chiefs in front 21-20.

NCHS added to their lead as Thompson scored his second touchdown of the game late in the third quarter to make it 28-20.

The Chiefs maintained the lead until the 5:31 mark of the fourth quarter when Turner scored on a 3-yard touchdown run followed by an 18-yard two-point conversion (Haughton was penalized on the touchdown for unsportsmanlike conduct) to tie the game at 28-28.

Natchitoches Central regained the lead as Braxton got free and caught a 35-yard touchdown pass from Smith with 1:53 to go. The following possession featured two horrible breaks for NCHS as Haughton was stuck 4th and 10 from their own 33-yard line with 1:03 to go. Lewis got behind the Chiefs defense for 53 yards inside the NCHS 20-yard line.

NCHS appeared to have the game won with 28 seconds left as a fourth down fell incomplete, but the Chiefs were called for holding, setting up first and goal for the Buccaneers.

Moments later, Haughton scored on a 4-yard touchdown run then converted on a 2-point conversion from Turner to Jamarion Montgomery with just 8 seconds left on the clock as the Chiefs were dealt yet another disheartening loss.

NCHS will wrap up the regular season next week on the road against Byrd Friday night at 7 p.m. in Shreveport.

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.