

## **Chiefs Fall to Opelousas 40-28 in Home Opener**

**NATCHITOCHES, La.** – The Natchitoches Central Chiefs fell behind 14-0 and never had the lead as it fell to the Opelousas Tigers, 40-28, Friday at Turpin Stadium in the home opener for the Chiefs.

The Chiefs (1-1) found themselves in the 14-0 in the first quarter as Opelousas's (1-1) Zay Amos and Da'Shaun Ford both scored on touchdown runs in the game's first eight minutes. Amos scored from 6 yards out while Ford broke free from 24 yards away.

NCHS roared back in the second quarter scoring on a 29-yard touchdown pass from Owen Smith to Camrin Davis a minute into the quarter. Mateo Restrepo's extra point cut the lead to 14-7 Tigers. The Chiefs pulled to within one when Dillon Braxton scored from 11 yards out on the pass from Smith with 47 seconds to go until halftime. However, the point after attempt failed keeping the Tigers in front at halftime 14-13.

In the third quarter, the Tigers retook a 7-point lead as Ford scored on a 40-yard run to make it 20-13. Opelousas maintained the lead and took a two-possession lead early in the fourth making it 28-13.

The Chiefs seemed on the verge of an uneventful set back as they trailed by 15 with 5:18 to go. However, Smith connected with Braxton for 59 yards inside the Opelousas 5-yard line. Smith scored from five yards out moments later making it 28-19. Smith then found Jeremy Lowe for the two-point conversion to close it to one possession, 28-21.

The Tigers again responded as Ford scored his third touchdown of the game on a 19-yard touchdown run with 2:58 left making it 34-21. The Chiefs still were not ready to throw in the towel.

Smith found Davis again on a crossing route who broke free for a 53-yard touchdown reception to close it to 34-28 with 2:35 left in the game. NCHS's best chance came moments later after recovering an onside kick at the Opelousas 45-yard line. The Chiefs, however, turned it over on downs which led to another touchdown by the Tigers with under a minute to go to seal the Chiefs' fate.

Next up, the Chiefs will play on the road against Alexandria Senior High. ASH defeated NCHS in Natchitoches last season.

Fans can tune into Friday's game by listening live at 107.1 KWLV locally. Live updates will be available as well at the [Inside Natchitoches Sports Facebook page](#).