

The Natchitoches Central Lady Chiefs' basketball team defeated Southwood 72-30 while the Chiefs lost 52-44 Wednesday night on the road in district 1-5A action.

The Lady Chiefs (17-9, 6-3 in 1-5A) came storming out of the gate as they took a 30-8 lead at the end of the first quarter and held serve in the second quarter leading 41-16 at halftime. The NCHS onslaught continued in the third quarter as they racked up a 39-point lead, 62-23, before cruising with a running clock in the fourth quarter.

The Lady Chiefs were led by Alyssa Chander with 24 points and six steals while Akeelah Wade added 17 points. Senior Morgan LaCour had a double-double with 14 points and tearing down 11 rebounds. Makayla "Tootie" Gallien added 11 to help the Lady Chiefs as they swept the season series with Southwood. NCHS defeated the Cowgirls, 53-24, at home back on Dec. 14.

The Chiefs (19-4, 5-2 in 1-5A) scored just 16 points in the second half as they sputtered on the road Wednesday night. NCHS led 28-23 at halftime and had a 34-32 late in the third quarter. However, Southwood (17-6, 6-0 in 1-5A) went on a 15-3 run to take a 47-37 lead with 4:14 left in the game. The Chiefs tried to fight back but never got closer than six points the rest of the way as Southwood rallied past NCHS. The Chiefs were led by Ja'Dell Demery with 15 points while Jaden Braden added 10.

Next up, the Chiefs and Lady Chiefs will be back at home Friday against Captain Shreve for the second meeting of the season between the two teams. The Lady Chiefs beat Captain Shreve, 60-41, back on Jan. 2 while the Chiefs fell to Shreve, 60-42.