

Chiefs commit five turnovers in 41-21 loss to Airline

NATCHITOCHES, La. – The Natchitoches Central Chiefs couldn't overcome five turnovers as they were defeated by the Airline Vikings, 41-21, Thursday night at Turpin Stadium in district 1-5A action during Week 8 of the high school football season.

The Chiefs (4-4, 2-4 in 1-5A) had an early 7-6 thanks to a 4-yard touchdown run by senior running back Kelton Howard. However, 21 unanswered points by the Vikings (4-4, 4-3 in 1-5A) in the second quarter put NCHS in a 27-7 halftime hole.

NCHS tried to mount a rally as Howard scored on a 36-yard touchdown run following by a 4-yard touchdown reception by KJ Newton to make it 33-21 late in the third quarter. The Chiefs appeared to be heading to another touchdown early in the fourth quarter which would have made it a one-possession game. However, the Vikings got an interception at their own 15-yard line and returned it to midfield

Airline's Kenny Darby, an LSU commit, immediately put the game on ice as he scored on a 38-yard touchdown run with 10:33 to go and that's as close as the Chiefs would get.

Howard finished with 223 rushing yards and two touchdowns to lead the Chiefs.

The loss snapped NCHS's three-game winning streak as they entered Thursday night ranked 28th in the Division I non-select power rankings.

Coming up, NCHS will face the Huntington Raiders (3-4, 3-3 in 1-5A) on the road in Shreveport Thursday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m.