

Lady Chiefs shut out Haughton 3-0, advance to second round of playoffs

NATCHITOCHEs, La. - Sydney Terrell pitched a four-hit shutout as the 16th-ranked Natchitoches Central Lady Chiefs defeated the 17th-ranked Haughton Lady Bucs, 3-0, in the first round of the Division I non-select softball playoffs Friday at NCHS.

The Lady Chiefs (14-15) finished with just three hits, but it was more than enough for Terrell. The NCHS senior allowed just one walk along with the four hits while pitching her second shutout against Haughton this season. The Lady Chiefs defeated Haughton 5-0 back on April 2 as Terrell threw a one-hit shutout.

As for today, Terrell had to work out of a few more jams. With the game scoreless in the top of the fourth, Haughton had runners at first and second and one out. However, Terrell got a strikeout and groundout to end the inning.

The Lady Chiefs struck first in the fourth inning in an odd fashion. With runners at second and third and one out, Ehren Guidroz grounded out to pitcher and Lila Robertson got caught in a rundown between third base and home. As Robertson dove back towards third base, the throw hit her in the back and trickled into left field allowing Robertson to score the first run of the game.

The Lady Bucs (18-16) threatened again in the fifth inning. Terrell gave up a lead-off double as Haughton had runners at first and third and two outs before a groundout ended another scoring opportunity for the Lady Bucs.

After both teams went quietly in the bottom of the fifth and top of the sixth inning, NCHS scored in a more conventional way. Senior Morgan Robinson blasted a solo homerun to left center to give NCHS a 2-0 lead. Later in the inning, Guidroz lined an RBI single past the first baseman to score pinch-runner Jade Barfield to make it 3-0 as NCHS went on for the win with an uneventful seventh inning.

“We knew it was going to be a grind when we got a district opponent coming in here for the second time,” said NCHS head softball coach Jeramie Hale. “Sydney (Terrell) has been good all season long for us, but she has been even better the last month of the season. But the way she has been pitching, when we scored those two extra runs, I really felt like that was the nail in the coffin for today.”

Next up, the Lady Chiefs will face top-ranked Sam Houston Lady Broncos (26-2) Tuesday or Wednesday in the second round. The Lady Broncos enter the matchup boasting a 24-game winning streak.

“They’ve (Sam Houston) been number one most of the season and if you look behind them there’s Benton at number 2,” said Hale. “And we played a heck of a game with them. At this point, you throw records out the window because the way we are playing right now, I don’t think there’s a lot of teams that want to play us right now. We just have to keep that momentum going and go down there and play Lady Chiefs’ softball.”

