

Chiefs drop third straight district game in 4-2 loss to Airline

BOSSIER CITY, La. - A three-run double in the fifth inning was too much to overcome for the Natchitoches Central Chiefs' baseball team as they lost, 4-2, to the Airline Vikings Saturday on the road in district 1-5A action.

The Chiefs (19-7, 6-5 in 1-5A) threatened in the second inning as Brock Laird led off with a line drive single to center and Titus Williams reached on a bunt single. However, a double play and groundout ended the inning with no damage done.

Natchitoches Central struck first in the fourth inning. Yancy Spillman led off with a walk and advanced to second on a bunt and to third on a flyout to center. With two outs, Chiefs' left fielder Titus Williams grounded an RBI single to right field to score Spillman giving NCHS a 1-0 lead.

NCHS starting pitcher Ross Lindsey was dominating early. The Chiefs' left hander set the Vikings (12-13, 5-6 in 1-5A) down in order in the first three innings and retired 11 straight hitters before a two-out walk in the fourth.

Lindsey was cruising until the fifth inning. He didn't allow a hit until back-to-back lead off infield singles in the fifth led to the Vikings tying the game on RBI single with one out.

Moments later, Airline took the lead on a bases clearing three-run double to make it 4-1, chasing Lindsey from the game.

Lindsey threw four 1/3 innings allowing four hits, four earned runs, one walk and striking out five as Harper Marcotte took over on the mound.

The Chiefs got a run back in the sixth inning as Laird reached on error by the center fielder to score Spillman making it 4-2 Airline. But the threat ended as Williams flew out to deep center.

NCHS tried mount a comeback in the seventh as Laden Rawls and Owen Smith hit back-to-back singles with two outs. But a groundout ended the threat and the game as the Chiefs lost their third straight district game.

Natchitoches Central finished with six hits as Williams and Rawls both had two. Laird and Smith collected the other two.

Next up, NCHS will be back in action Monday at home against the Converse Wildcats (11-14) at 6 p.m.