

The Natchitoches Central Chiefs defeated the Parkway Panthers, 66-58, while the Lady Chiefs fell at the buzzer 64-62 to Parkway Friday night at home in district 1-5A action.

The Lady Chiefs (15-9, 4-3 in 1-5A) pushed the reigning Division I non-select state champions Parkway (19-6, 7-0 in 1-5A) to the brink. The game featured several ties and lead changes as the two 5A heavyweights battled step for step all night. NCHS led 19-16 at the end of the first quarter before Parkway took the halftime lead of 33-31. The Lady Panthers and Lady Chiefs continued to play stride for stride as Parkway led 50-48 early in the fourth quarter. But in the final moments it was Parkway scoring on a buzzer beater to break a 62-62 tie to pick up the victory.

The Chiefs (18-3, 4-1 in 1-5A) remained undefeated at home this season (8-0), but it wasn't easy. NCHS had to overcome 25 turnovers and shooting 3-for-15 from the three-point line. The Chiefs were led by Logan Smith with 24 pts and 10 rebounds. Jaden Braden had 19 points and nine assists. Ja'Corien Beard pulled down 14 rebounds as the Chiefs remain unblemished at home.

Next up, NCHS will host Benton Monday night beginning at 6 p.m.