The Natchitoches Central Lady Chiefs' basketball team used relentless defense to defeat the Southwood Cowgirls, 53-24, Thursday night at NCHS in district 1-5A action.

The Lady Chiefs (9-4) had a modest 10-8 lead at the end of the first quarter. But held the Cowgirls (11-3) scoreless through the first six minutes of the second quarter as NCHS led 28-12 at halftime.

In the third quarter, the Lady Chiefs continued to pull away as Southwood was having difficulty locating a shot as NCHS led 39-18 after the third quarter before cruising to the win.

NCHS was led by Makayla Gallien with 12 points while Morgan LaCour added 10 points.

The Lady Chiefs will be in action Friday as they take on Albany (11-2) at 4 p.m. in the Walker Tournament just outside of Baton Rouge.