

Lady Chiefs clinch district title with 3-2 win at Airline

The Natchitoches Central Lady Chiefs clinched the district 1-5A title Tuesday afternoon with a 3-2 win over the Airline Lady Vikings on the road.

The Lady Chiefs (15-11, 7-0 in 1-5A) struck first in the top of the first. Maggie Massia led the game off with a walk before scoring later in the inning on a sacrifice fly by Lila Robertson.

After the Lady Vikings (16-9, 3-3 in 1-5A) scored in the bottom of the second to tie the game at 1-1, the battle was on. The game remained tied until the top of the sixth when NCHS's Skylar Braxton lined a two-out RBI triple to left field to score Mallory Lacour. Moments later, Braxton scored on a wild pitch to make it 3-1.

Airline fought back as they scored a run in the bottom of the seventh on an RBI double putting the tying run at second base with two outs. However, NCHS starting pitcher Sydney Terrell got the next hitter to groundout right back to her in the circle to end the game as the Lady Chiefs won the district title.

"Today was a complete grind all game long," said NCHS head softball coach Jeramie Hale. "Even though it was competitive all game long, it felt like we had the momentum. It just seems like all year long, every time we need someone to step up, they do, and today it was Skylar."

Massia led the way for NCHS with three of the five hits. Terrell allowed two earned runs, five walks and struck out eight. The win clinched NCHS's fourth straight softball district title.

"This district is so tough that we know every game is going to be a battle," said Hale. "Some of these girls had sisters who were former players that know how tough it is to win this district. And this year's team was able to continue the legacy of Lady Chiefs' softball. I couldn't be prouder of this group."

Next up, NCHS will play Saturday at Logansport at noon.