

Chiefs fall in shootout to Evangel 63-42

SHREVEPORT, La. – The Natchitoches Central Chiefs fought valiantly in a shootout loss to the Evangel Eagles, 63-42, Friday in District 1-5A football action at Evangel.

Entering Friday, the Chiefs knew they had their work cut out for them as Evangel features the 94th ranked player in the country (according to Rivals Industry Ranking) in the class of 2027, quarterback Peyton “Pop” Houston. The Eagles quarterback lived up the hype as he led the Eagles on nine scoring drives Friday.

The Chiefs (1-1, 0-1 in 1-5A) tied the game at 7-7 late in the first quarter as senior quarterback Owen Smith scored on a nine-yard touchdown run. However, the Eagles (1-1, 1-0 in 1-5A) scored 20 unanswered points in the second quarter to take a 27-7 halftime lead.

NCHS wasn’t going to let the second quarter define the game. After another score by the Eagles put the Chiefs in a 34-7 hole, The Chiefs scored on a 38-yard touchdown reception from Smith to LaMontray Holden to cut it to 34-14.

After another touchdown by Evangel, the Chiefs capped off an 80-yard scoring drive on a 1-yard touchdown run by defensive lineman JJ Palmer making it 41-21.

The Chiefs would cut the Evangel lead to 13, 48-35, after touchdowns by Owen Smith on a 1-yard run on the “tush push” play. Then, the Chiefs’ defense scored on a 25-yard fumble return with under eight minutes to go.

But that’s as close as the Chiefs would get as the Eagles pulled away for the win.

Next, the Chiefs will face Captain Shreve Friday, Sept. 19 at home at 7 p.m.