

The Natchitoches Central Chiefs were dealt their first home loss of the season while the Lady Chiefs cruised to a win against Airline Tuesday night at home in district 1-5A action.

The Lady Chiefs (21-10, 10-3 in 1-5A) jumped out to a huge halftime lead as they led 39-15 while outscoring Airline 20-4 in the second quarter. NCHS was led by Tootie Gallien with 25 points as the Lady Chiefs cruised to the win despite committing 26 turnovers and shooting 24-for-58 (41 percent) from the field.

The Chiefs (23-5, 8-3 in 1-5A) dropped their first game of the year at the Teepee (11-1) as they played from behind most of the night. Airline led 26-19 at halftime and had a 10-point lead early in the second half. However, NCHS was able to take the lead, 43-42, going to the fourth quarter. The Chiefs' offense stalled out as they scored two points in the first six minutes of the fourth quarter but still managed to hold a 47-46 lead with under two minutes to go.

But Airline wasn't to be deterred as they hit six free throws in the final minute and stole the game from the Chiefs for a 55-52 setback. Logan Smith led NCHS with 21 points while Ja'Dell Demery had 11 points.

The Chiefs will continue district at Benton while the Lady Chiefs will wrap up the regular season Friday in preparation for the post season.