

**NCHS upset bid falls short in 31-21 loss to Byrd**

**SHREVEPORT, La.** - The Natchitoches Central Chiefs pushed the Byrd Yellow Jackets before falling, 31-21, Friday night on the road in district 1-5A at Lee Hedges Stadium in Shreveport.

The Chiefs (1-6, 0-5 in district 1-5A) fell behind 7-0 early in the first quarter before battling back. Midway through the opening quarter, KJ Newton caught a pass from Owen Smith for a 52-yard touchdown pass from Owen Smith tying the game at 7-7.

After Byrd (6-1, 4-1 in district 1-5A) retook the lead, NCHS responded as Smith capped off a scoring drive with a four-yard touchdown run. Byrd was able to retake the lead in the final seconds of the first half on a 33-yard field goal to take a 17-14 halftime lead.

The Yellow Jackets added to their lead in the third quarter late in the third quarter on a 1-yard touchdown run to make it 24-14 and then added another one to make it 31-14.

Smith scored on a one-yard touchdown run to make it 31-21 to make the game closer but Byrd held on for the win.

NCHS will be back in action Friday, Oct. 25 at Airline in Bossier City, La.