

**Lady Chiefs pull away from New Iberia in second half for 59-43 win**

*(Lady Chiefs advance to second round of playoffs with win over Yellow Jackets)*

**NATCHITOCHES, La.** - The sixth-ranked Natchitoches Central Lady Chiefs surged past the 27<sup>th</sup>-ranked New Iberia Yellow Jackets, 59-43, Thursday night in the first round of the Division I non-select girls' basketball playoffs at NCHS.

The Lady Chiefs (28-4) opened the game on 7-0 before the Yellowjackets (17-12) rallied to take a 12-11 lead late in the first quarter. However, NCHS's Akeelah Wade drilled a three-pointer at the end of the quarter to give the Lady Chiefs a 14-12 lead. The second quarter was a defensive struggle as NCHS led 22-18 at halftime.

In the second half, the Lady Chiefs began to take control as their defensive pressure allowed them to take a 40-28 lead at the end of the third quarter.

NCHS continued to pull away as they led by as many as 20 points, 50-30, before coasting to the win.

The Lady Chiefs were led by Annalise Newton with 20 points while Wade finished with 14. Jordan McDaniel added 12 to pace NCHS. The Lady Chiefs shot 20-for-44 for the game and was 17-for-26 from the free throw line.

The Lady Chiefs will face 11<sup>th</sup>-ranked East Ascension (21-5) Monday in the second round at a time TBA. East Ascension defeated 22<sup>nd</sup>-ranked Northwood-Shreveport, 50-44, Thursday in the first round.