

**Lady Chiefs' push top-ranked Sam Houston but fall 7-3 in playoffs**

**MOSS BLUFF, La.** - The 16<sup>th</sup>-ranked Natchitoches Central Lady Chiefs were defeated, 7-3, by the top-ranked Sam Houston Lady Broncos Tuesday in the second round of the Division I non-select softball at SHHS.

The Lady Chiefs (14-16) hung tough early on as Sydney Terrell pitched two scoreless innings. NCHS also had their opportunities to score as they put two runners on base in the first and second innings but were unable to capitalize.

However, in the third inning the Lady Chiefs broke through. Morgan Robinson singled to center to lead off the inning. With two outs, junior Ehren Guidroz lined an RBI double to center field scoring Robinson for the game's first run.

The Lady Broncos (26-2) would respond as they put two runners on with two outs in the bottom of the third. Sam Houston's Layla Landry stepped to the plate and crushed a three-run homer to left center off Terrell to give the Lady Broncos a 3-1 advantage.

NCHS got a run back in the fifth inning as Terrell reached on an error with two outs to score Maggia Massia cutting it to 3-2.

The Lady Chiefs put the tying run on base in the sixth inning as Skylar Braxton reached on an error with two outs. But the inning was thwarted on a lineout keeping Sam Houston in front 3-2.

Terrell had contained the Lady Broncos' offense for five plus innings which had scored 10 or more runs in 10 straight games. But Sam Houston's Kailyn Mire hit an RBI single to make it, 4-2. After a double put runners at second and third, Chloe Peshoff blasted a three-run homer to make it 7-2 and put the game out of reach.

The Lady Chiefs managed to tack on a run in the seventh inning as Lila Robertson doubled home a run, but Sam Houston went on for the win to pick up their 25<sup>th</sup> straight victory.

NCHS finished with seven hits led by Massia with two. Braxton, Robertson, Robinson, Guidroz and Bre Hale each had one hit.

Terrell, a senior, pitched six innings allowing three earned run, 10 hits, two walks and struck out four.

Mire pitched a complete game for Sam Houston allowing three runs, two earned, two walks, and struck out one.

The Lady Chiefs had six seniors play their final game today including Terrell, Hale, Braxton, Syndi Jones, Robinson and Mallory LaCour.

Sam Houston advances to the quarterfinal where they will play the winner of eighth-ranked Live Oak and ninth-ranked West Monroe.

