

Chiefs battle past Tioga in 4-3 victory

TIOGA, La. - The Natchitoches Central Chiefs battled past the Tioga Indians, 4-3, Friday night at Ward 10 Complex in Tioga thanks to timely hitting and a dominate performance out of the bullpen by senior Harper Marcotte.

The Chiefs (7-2) fell behind in the first inning as the Indians (7-4) took advantage of a two-out error by NCHS in the outfield allowing a run to score. NCHS tied the game in the third inning as Kyron Payne scored on a balk making it 1-1.

It stayed that way until the top of the fifth when NCHS broke through. Senior Brock Laird, a Southeastern Louisiana University baseball signee, ripped an RBI double followed by a sacrifice fly by Yancy Spillman, Jr making it 3-1 Chiefs.

The Indians tied the game in their half of the fifth as they took advantage of a passed ball and RBI single to make it 3-3 which chased starting pitcher Adam Guillet from the game.

The Chiefs regained the lead in the sixth inning as Kaiden Vallery single on a ground ball to right to score courtesy runner Jace Hale making it 4-3.

Guillet was solid as he pitched 4 1/3 innings and allow two hits, three runs, one earned run, four walks and struck out five before giving way to Marcotte.

Marcotte, the senior left-hander, was fantastic as he allowed just one hit and struck out five batters in 2 1/3 innings. He threw 32 pitches and with an absurd 27 strikes.

The Chiefs finished with seven hits led by Grambling State signee Dillon Braxton with two hits.

Next up, NCHS will face Pineville (4-6) on the road Saturday at 1 p.m.