

Chiefs split first two games of playoff series with Dutchtown

NATCHITOCHES, La. - The Natchitoches Central Chiefs split the first two games of their second-round playoff series with the Dutchtown Griffins winning Game 1, 5-1, and dropping Game 2, 3-0, in the Division I non-select baseball playoffs Friday at NCHS.

The Chiefs (28-8) got a strong start from senior Ross Lindsey in Game 1. The left-hander pitched five and two-thirds innings and allowed just one earned run, five hits and struck out six before departing.

NCHS jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning as Titus Williams drove in the game's first run with a safety squeeze bunt. Later in the inning, Yancy Spillman Jr lined a two-run single to left center plating two more as the Chiefs took the early advantage.

That was more than enough for Lindsey as he didn't allow a hit until a lead-off double in the fourth inning. He worked around the trouble and got out of the inning with no damage done as NCHS kept a 3-0 lead.

The Chiefs added another run in the bottom of the fourth as Spillman Jr singled to center to lead off the inning. He later scored on a sacrifice fly to center by Dillon Braxton making it 4-0 NCHS.

The Griffins (26-12) got on the board in the sixth inning as Lindsey allowed a single and a double to start the inning making it 4-1. After a groundout and strikeout, that was all for Lindsey as he relieved by Harper Marcotte with two outs in the sixth inning. Marcotte promptly got the hitter to pop out to shortstop to end the inning.

The Chiefs added another run in the sixth inning on a sacrifice fly by Daygen Johnson making it 5-1. Marcotte pitched an uneventful seventh inning as the Chiefs took Game 1.

NCHS finished with five hits led by Spillman who was 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Andrew Odom was 2-for-3 while Adam Guillet had the other hit for the Chiefs.

In Game 2, the Chiefs fell behind 2-0 in the first inning and never recovered as they were shutout by Dutchtown's Cayden Hill. The senior right-hander allowed just four hits, no walks and struck eight.

Spillman Jr pitched well enough in Game 2 as he allowed just one earned run, three hits, three walks and five strikeouts.

A winner-take-all Game 3 is scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m. at NCHS. The winner advances to the quarterfinals to face second-ranked Barbe next week.