

### **Chiefs drop tough one at Haughton 28-25**

**HAUGHTON, La.** - The Natchitoches Central Chiefs dropped a heartbreaker, 28-25, to the Haughton Buccaneers Friday night on the road in District 1-5A action as NCHS's game-tying field goal attempt sailed just right with less than minute to go.

The Chiefs (1-3, 0-4 in 1-5A), after allowing a touchdown to Haughton, scored on an 18-yard touchdown reception by KJ Newton from Owen Smith with under four minutes to go in the first. NCHS missed the extra point as they trailed 7-6.

The Buccaneers (2-3, 1-3 in 1-5A) added to their lead with a 3-yard touchdown pass with 2:02 left in the second quarter to make it 14-6 HHS.

NCHS responded as Smith found Kelton Howard for a 53-yard touchdown reception (two-point conversion failed) to make it 14-12 with under two minutes to go in the half.

The Chiefs appeared to be going into the half trailing by two but fumbled inside their own 10-yard line. Haughton scored on a short touchdown run two plays later to make it 21-12 at halftime.

NCHS responded early in the second half as Newton exploded 70 yards inside the Haughton one-yard line. Moments later, Smith punched it in for the touchdown to make it 21-18 less two minutes into the third quarter.

Haughton, once again, had an answer as it scored on a 25-yard touchdown run on fourth and two to make it 28-18 midway through the third.

NCHS cut the deficit to three, 28-25, after a 10-yard touchdown pass from Smith to Derrian Anthony with under two minutes to go. Moments later, the Chiefs recovered an onside kick near midfield to give NCHS a chance.

The Chiefs moved it inside the five-yard line with a chance to tie the game on fourth down as Mateo Restrepo's 33-yard field goal missed just right with under a minute to go.

Next up, the Chiefs will face the Opelousas Tigers in non-district action Thursday night at Turpin Stadium at 7 p.m.