

The St. Mary's Tigers and Lady Tigers split their district-opening basketball doubleheader Tuesday night at home with LaSalle as the Lady Tigers fell, 59-54, while the Tigers won 79-36.

The Lady Tigers (9-12, 0-1 district 3-1A) battled undefeated LaSalle (17-0, 1-0 district 3-1A) every step of the way. SMH led 23-15 at the end of the first quarter before LaSalle tied the game at halftime, 29-29. St. Mary's edged back in front at the end of the third quarter, 45-43, to put the LaSalle winning streak in jeopardy. But LHS's Kenzi Nino hit six free throws in the fourth quarter as LaSalle outscored SMH 16-9 in the final period for the win. Nino finished with a game-high 30 points while Ava Holland led SMH with 20 points. Ave Errington added 19 for the Lady Tigers.

The Tigers (14-5, 1-0 3-1A) won their sixth straight game in emphatic fashion getting out to a 49-26 halftime lead. SMH was led by Ben Bienvenu with 28 points and snatched 20 rebounds. Ayden Warren scored 17 points while Mixon Bankston chipped in with 12 and Atlas Hicks had 10 and 12 rebounds.

St. Mary's will be back in action Friday night at home when they take on 4A Tioga in non-district action beginning at 6 p.m.