

Menard Edges St. Mary's 7-6

ALEXANDRIA, La. – The St. Mary's Tigers were edged by the Holy Savior Menard Eagles, 7-6, Friday at MHS in non-district football action for the fifth annual Bishop's Cup game.

Despite the offensive struggles, things started well for SMS as AJ Johnson connected for 57 yards with Chalin Gandy on the first play of the game. However, SMS's 22-yard field goal attempt was no good.

Menard (2-1) would score later in the first quarter on a 40-yard touchdown run (PAT good) with 3:37 to go in the opening quarter.

The Tigers (0-3) would have their only scoring drive in the second quarter. John Paul Thibodaux rushed 31 yards into Menard territory before pushing the ball inside the Menard 5-yard line. Johnson capped off the drive with a touchdown pass on fourth and goal to Haiden Nelson for the score (PAT no good).

Neither team was able to put together a drive in the second half, but Menard got just enough in the game's final six minutes to run the clock out and give them the win.

The Tigers struggled for much of the night offensively as they finished with just 191 yards of total offense (87 passing yards and 104 rushing).

SMS was led by Thibodaux with 15 rushes for 66 yards while Johnson had 87 passing yards and a touchdown. Nelson had four catches for 26 yards including the Tigers' lone touchdown on a 1-yard pass from Johnson. Connor Kay led the defense with five solo tackles while Thibodaux had four.

SMS had won the previous four matchups against the Eagles, but the Bishop's Cup goes to MHS for the first time since the event began five years ago.

Next up, the Tigers return home to face the Many Tigers at 7 p.m. in Turpin Stadium Friday, Sept. 26. The game will be broadcast on 97.5 KDBH and on 446 Sports on YouTube with Dudley Cedars, Chad Methvin and Trent Friedel being on the play-by-play.