

Bunkie defeats St. Mary's in season opener

BUNKIE, La – The Bunkie Panthers defeated the St. Mary's Tigers, 42-6, Friday night in the high school football season opener for both teams.

It was the tall order that Tiger fans expected as they opened the season on the road against the Panthers (1-0). Bunkie finished the 2024 regular season 12-1 and allowed just eight touchdowns all season before falling to Dunham in the Division III select semifinals.

Not much had changed for the Panthers as they jumped out to a 29-0 halftime lead on their way to the win. However, the Tigers showed some signs of being able to move the ball against the juggernaut of Bunkie. They had the ball inside the Panthers' redzone in the first half three times but were unable to score.

The Tigers' (0-1) lone touchdown came late in the game when freshman Jacob Thibodaux scored on a short touchdown run.

Next up, St. Mary's will host Red River Friday, Sept. 12 at Turpin Stadium at 7 p.m. The Tigers lost on the road last year to Red River 26-14.