

Tigers punch ticket to playoffs as they defeat Lakeview

CAMPTI, La. – The 19th-ranked St. Mary's Tigers punched their ticket to the Division IV select playoffs as they defeated the Lakeview Gators (score) in the regular season finale of the high school football season Friday night at LHS.

The Tigers (5-5, 4-1 in 3 1A) jumped out to a 21-0 first quarter lead after JP Thibodaux scored on a seven-yard and 20-yard touchdown run. Then, AJ Johnson scored on a 20-yard run as SMS had the advantage at the end of the first quarter.

The Gators (0-10, 0-5 in 3-1A) fumbled in their endzone early in the second quarter for a safety as the lead jumped to 23-0 SMS with 9:00 left in the half. On the following possession, SMS added another score as Johnson connected with senior Cole Yopp for a three-yard touchdown reception (PAT by Hogg) making it 30-0 with 8:31 to go in the half.

SMS added another score in the first half as AJ Lavespere got an interception inside the Gators' 10-yard line. On the next play, Lavespere caught a 6-yard touchdown pass making it 37-0 with 4:31 to go in the half.

The Tigers scored three times in the second half on short touchdown reception from Johnson to Haiden Nelson, a touchdown reception by Chalin Gandy and a 45-yard touchdown run by Jacob Thibodaux to take a 58-0 lead.

With the win, the Tigers will play in the first round of the playoffs at a time and place to be announced Sunday.