

**Lady Tigers launch their way into second round with 22-0 win over Westminster**

**NATCHITOCHES, La.** - The ninth-ranked St. Mary's Lady Tigers dominated the Westminster Academy Crusaders, 22-0 in three innings, in the first round of the Division IV Select softball playoffs Thursday afternoon at SMS.

The Lady Tigers (19-11) wasted no time in their half of the first inning as Jenna Sklar led off with a triple to right center followed by an RBI-double to the left center gap by Grace Wren. Moments later, Tyonnah Burton hit a two-run double down the left field line to make it 3-0. After Burton scored on a passed ball, GK Philen lined an RBI double to the right center gap scoring Malorie LaCaze pushing it to 5-0.

The onslaught continued as AG Mabile reached on an error by the shortstop allowing Philen to score as the lineup turned back over. Sklar then lined a single to right field scoring two more runs as Joelee Savell and Mabile came in making it 8-0.

After a wild pitch scored Sklar, Macie Cameron grounded a single to center to score pinch runner Alayna Rachal making it 10-0 before Burton singled home the 11<sup>th</sup> run of the inning.

In the second inning, the Lady Tigers did all their damage with two outs. SMS scored 11 more runs all with two outs capped off on RBI singles by Addy Rhodes, Cailah Bush and Chloe Methvin along with an RBI triple by Savell as SMS cruised into the second round.

Wren pitched three innings and didn't allow a baserunner to the Crusaders (9-11) while striking out eight.

The Lady Tigers were led by Sklar who was 3-for-3 with three RBIs and three runs scored. Wren was 2-for-2 with two RBIs while Burton and Philen both had two hits and combined for five RBIS.

"Once the brackets came out, the girls had a goal set no matter what their ranking was," said SMS softball head coach Stephen Wren. "It didn't matter if we were ranked one or 24, we just wanted to be a threat and today was the first step in doing that. But I feel like we compete with anybody on any given day so I had no doubt the focus would be there today."

Next up, the Lady Tigers will hit the round for the second round against the Riverside Academy Lady Rebels (19-6) at time to be determined in Reserve, La.

"I know they (Riverside) are a good team," said Wren. "I think it's just going to come down to which team throws strikes and swing the bats well but doesn't make the mistakes."