



St. Mary's Scores Two Defensive Touchdowns to Outlast Menard 26-13

ALEXANDRIA, La. – Ben Bienvenu and Ethan Busby both had interception returns for touchdowns in the second half to aid the St. Mary's Tigers football team to a 26-13 win over Holy Savior Menard Eagles Friday night at Donald Garner Stadium in Alexandria.

The Tigers (3-0) fell behind in the first quarter as Menard scored from 1 yard out to take the early lead, 7-0. SMH responded with a 2-yard touchdown run by Mixon Bankston and then Bankston found Busby for a 27-yard touchdown reception to give the Tigers a 12-7 lead in the second quarter.

Menard (1-2) continued to struggle against the Tigers' defense as the Eagles tallied just 168 yards of total offense for the game. SMH's Drake Griffin led the defense with 15 tackles to hold Menard.

In the third quarter with SMH maintaining a 12-7 lead, Busby stepped up with the big play defensively. The senior jumped in front of the pass for a 41-yard interception return to give the Tigers a 19-7 advantage.

Early in the fourth quarter, it was Bienvenu who put the game on ice with a 21-yard interception return for a touchdown to make it 26-7 as the Tigers held on for a hard-fought 26-13 win.

Bankston finished with 120 yards passing, 40 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Griffin finished the game with 13 rushes for 68 yards. The Tigers finished with 268 yards of total offense and 11 first downs.

Next up, St. Mary's will return home to take on DeQuincy Thursday at Turpin Stadium at 7 p.m.

Fans can tune into Thursday's game by listening live at 100.7 KZBL locally. The game will also be available for those out of the listening area at kzbl.com/listen.html. Live updates will be available as well at the Inside Natchitoches Sports Facebook page.