

The St. Mary's Tigers and Lady Tigers stunned 5A Alexandria Senior High Tuesday night with road wins as the Lady Tigers won 46-39 while the Tigers edged the Trojans 44-43.

The Lady Tigers (11-15) got off to a good start as the game was tied at 12-12 after the first quarter and then they led 26-14 at halftime. However, the Lady Trojans (14-13) rallied back in the third quarter as they outscored SMH, 14-2, to tie the game 28-28. In the fourth quarter, the Lady Tigers rode the hot hand on Ava Hebert and Ava Holland as the two combined to score 13 of the 18 points for SMH. Hebert finished the game with 21 points including five three-pointers to lead the way. Holland had eight while Lybi Cross chipped in with 11 points.

The Tigers (19-6) won for the 11th time in 12 games, but it was a 32-minute battle. SMH led the Trojans (18-9), 10-6, at the end of the first quarter. ASH rallied back in the second quarter as they took a 17-16 lead into halftime. The two teams traded blows in the third quarter and when the dust settled, the game was tied 31-31 as the game entered the fourth period.

In the final eight minutes, it was much of the same as the two teams continued to pressure each other defensively as points were at premium. The Tigers had the ball with 22 seconds left and the game tied 43-43. SMH ran the clock down and got a shot off but missed. However, Mixon Bankston was there for the offensive rebound and was fouled with less than two seconds left. The senior calmly sank the first free throw to give the Tigers the lead. Bankston then purposely missed the second free throw as time ran out giving SMH an unbelievable upset victory on the road.

The Tigers were led by Aiden Warren with 18 points while Payne Williams had 13.

Next up, the Tigers and Lady Tigers will face district rival Montgomery Thursday night on the road in a makeup game from Jan. 16 when the ice storm hit the Natchitoches area.