

### *SMH vs Oak Grove recap*

NATCHITOCHES, La. - The St. Mary's Tigers' baseball team dropped a home doubleheader to the Division IV non-select top-ranked Oak Grove Tigers falling in game 1, 5-4, and game 2, 2-0.

In game one, SMH (16-11, 6-0 in 3-1A) fell behind 1-0 in the top of the first before they tied the game in their half of the inning. Payne Williams, who had three hits and three RBIs, ripped an RBI double to left to score Braylon Normand.

Williams was also terrific on the mound pitching 5 2/3 innings allowing three earned runs, seven hits, two walks and striking out four while throwing 99 pitches.

St. Mary's capitalized in the fifth inning as Preston Martinez led off with a double to left center. After a strikeout, Nathan Slaughter reached on an infield single putting runners at 1<sup>st</sup> and third and one out. After a pop out, Williams stepped to the plate with runners at second and third and two outs. The senior, again, clutched up with a two-out two-strike two-run single to give SMH a 3-1 lead.

OGHS (12-9, 1-1 in 2-2A) would explode in the sixth for four runs. They scored on an RBI double with two outs to make it 3-2 SMH with the tying run in scoring position and chasing Williams from the game. The SMH bullpen took over, but Oak Grove took the lead on back-to-back RBI singles and an RBI double to make it 5-3 OGHS.

St. Mary's cut the lead in half its half of the sixth as Martinez lined a single to center to score Ayden Warren making it 5-4 Oak Grove. But the Tigers were unable to push across a fifth run as they dropped game 1 of the doubleheader.

In game two, Martinez gave SMH a dynamic start throwing six 2/3 innings, allowing two unearned runs, five hits, three walks and striking out three.

Oak Grove scored the first run of the game in the third on an RBI single with two outs. OGHS had a chance to add to their lead in the sixth with runners at first and third and one out. But Warren made a catch in center field then threw a laser to the plate for the third out keeping the score 1-0 Oak Grove.

St. Mary's threatened in the bottom of the sixth putting two runners on base and one out. But Oak Grove threw a runner out trying to steal third and got a popout to end the inning keeping a 1-0 advantage.

OGHS added a run in the top of the seventh on a two-out RBI single to make it 2-0. SMH went down quietly in the seventh as Oak Grove swept the doubleheader.

Next up, St. Mary's will play at Buckeye Monday at 6 p.m.