

### **Big sixth inning propels SMH to 8-4 win over Franklin Parish**

The St. Mary's Tigers' baseball team scattered 12 hits and scored four runs in the sixth inning on their way to an 8-4 win over the Franklin Parish Patriots Monday afternoon on the road.

The Tigers (14-9) were led by Preston Martinez who finished with three hits and two runs scored. Ryan LaCaze, AJ Lavespere and Braylon Normand all had two hits to aid the SMH attack.

St. Mary's struck first in the first inning when Ayden Warren hit a sacrifice fly to score Payne Williams. After the Patriots (5-14) scored two in the third, the Tigers responded with single runs in the fourth and fifth. SMH scored in the fourth on an RBI single by Williams then in the fifth on a safety squeeze bunt by Nathan Slaughter.

With the Tigers leading 3-2 in the sixth, they blew the game open scoring four runs. Martinez led the inning off with a double followed by an RBI triple by Normand. Connor Jordan, then, drilled a double to center field to score Normand making it 5-2 Tigers. LaCaze reached on a bunt single to score Jordan followed by an RBI fielder's choice by Slaughter pushing it to 7-2.

After the Patriots scored two runs in the sixth, SMH added an insurance run in the seventh as Normand singled to score Lavespere.

Normand closed the game pitching two scoreless innings and allowed just one walk and struck out two.

"We came out quick offensively but only came with the one run," said SMH head baseball coach Marty Dewees. "It was the same on the defensive side where I felt like we were a little off after the four-day break with no reps. But we competed with our relievers and got into our small ball game with some squeeze and safety squeeze and slash plays and got aggressive with the run game. It was a good win out of the break with no practice. I just hope we can come out with good energy tomorrow."

Next up, the Tigers will face Montgomery Tuesday night at home at 7 p.m.