



### **St. Mary's High School Football Week 2 Preview**

**Buckeye Panthers (1-0) at St. Mary's Tigers (1-0)**

**Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023 | 7 p.m. CT | Natchitoches, La. | Turpin Stadium**

**Last 2 Meetings:** SMH 26, Buckeye 7 (Sept. 9, 2022 at Buckeye)

SMH 38, Buckeye 6 (Sept. 10, 2021 at Turpin Stadium)

**Live Audio:**[listen \(kzblradio.com\)](https://www.kzblradio.com) - 100.7 KZBL

**NATCHITOCHES, La.** - For the third consecutive year, the St. Mary's Tigers will take on the Buckeye Panthers in Week 2 of the high school football season Thursday when SMH hosts BHS at Turpin Stadium at 7 p.m.

The Tigers (1-0) are coming off a thrilling win over Abbeville, 21-18, as senior quarterback Mixon Bankston scored on a three-yard touchdown run with 23 seconds left to power St. Mary's to the win. SMH also got 14 tackles from senior Ben Bienvenu including six for a loss to aid the win. Bankston finished with three rushing touchdowns (13 carries for 78 yards) and also picked off two passes from Abbeville.

“Looking at our schedule this year, we knew that would be one of our toughest games,” said sixth-year SMH head coach Aaron York. “I thought the game showed how good of a shape we were in to pull that one off.”

SMH will turn the page to a familiar opponent Thursday in the Panthers (1-0). Buckeye defeated former St. Mary's district rival Block 46-20 in the season opener last week. However, the Tigers have defeated the Panthers two years in row (26-7 in 2022, 38-6 in 2021).

The Tigers will be playing on a short week with Monday being Labor Day and the game being on Thursday, but York doesn't see that affecting the team.

"We will simply get back to basics this week," said York. "I told my staff this week to do the things we are good at and not worry about the things we aren't as good at. I thought last week we tried to do a little too much so this week I just want us to focus on what makes us the good team we are."

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](http://kzbl.com/listen.html). Live updates will be available at well at the Inside Natchitoches Sports Facebook page.