



St. Mary's Holds Off DeQuincy 21-12 to remain undefeated

NATCHITOCHEs, La. – The St. Mary's Tigers scored 14 quick points in the first quarter but had to battle to hang on for a 21-12 victory over DeQuincy Thursday night at home as they remained undefeated this season.

The Tigers (4-0) scored in the opening quarter as Ethan Busby caught a 15-yard touchdown reception from Mixon Bankston along with a point after attempt from Payne Williams to make it 7-0 with 7:19 left in the first quarter.

Later in the quarter, Busby would help out SMH on the defensive end. He stepped in front of a pass from DeQuincy's Carson Rainwater for a 75-yard interception return for a touchdown to make it 14-0 St. Mary's with 3:19 left in the opening quarter.

DeQuincy (0-4) battled back as Wyatt LaVergne scored on a 3-yard touchdown run to cap off an 80-yard drive (two-point conversion was no good) making it 14-6 SMH early in the second quarter.

The game stayed a one-possession game in favor of St. Mary's until late in the third quarter. Bankston rolled to his right and found Busby again for 46 yards down to DeQuincy one-yard line. Bankston scored on the next play to make it 21-6 SMH with 2:12 left in the third.

Early in the fourth, LaVergne scored again on a 5-yard touchdown run to make it 21-12 but DeQuincy couldn't convert the two-point conversion which kept SMH in front by two possessions.

The Tigers defense held strong as DeQuincy never got closer than nine points in the final 10 minutes as St. Mary's earned the win.

"I think offensively, we stalled out," said sixth-year SMH head football coach Aaron York. "But we created several turnovers defensively and those are things we have to capitalize on offensively. The positive is we found a way to win an ugly game, but the negative is we can do a lot better. We don't want to peak this early in the season anyway though, so it just keeps us motivated to get better later in the season."

St. Mary's finished with just 142 yards of total offense. However, Busby finished with seven catches for 120 yards, a receiving touchdown, and a defensive touchdown. DeQuincy had 268 yards of total offense but had four turnovers while SMH had one.

Next up, St. Mary's will have a bye week as the Week 5 contest with Newman was canceled two weeks ago. The Tigers will return to action for the district 3-1A opener Friday, Oct. 6 at home against LaSalle (3-0). Final box score and stats will be released when available.

