

St. Mary's rallies past Glenbrook into Quarterfinals

NATCHITOCHEES, La. – The sixth-ranked St. Mary's Tigers' football team scored 20 unanswered points in the second half to defeat the 11th-ranked Glenbrook Apaches, 30-27, Friday night at Turpin Stadium in the second round of the Division IV Select high school football playoffs.

The Tigers (8-2) fell behind 12-0 in the first quarter due to two first quarter turnovers. SMH got on the board with 2:18 to go in the quarter as Colorado State commit Payne Williams kicked a 29-yard field goal.

Late in the second quarter, Williams caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Mixon Bankston to trim the Apaches' lead to 12-10 with 2:49 left in the first half. However, Glenbrook (8-3) scored on a 7-yard touchdown pass with 30 seconds left until halftime to take a 19-10 lead at intermission

In the second half, the Tigers came out and took control. The opening drive of the second half, SMH drove 60-yard capped off by a screen pass to Williams for 34 yards, his second receiving touchdown of the game. SMH forced the Apaches into a punt on the following possession. The Tigers would then cash in again with a 16-yard touchdown run by Bankston to give SMH their first lead of the game, 23-19, late in the third quarter.

The Tiger held the slim lead until late in the fourth quarter when Bankston ran another one in from nine yards out to make it 30-19 SMH with 3:39 to go. The Tigers appeared on their way to a relatively uneventful finish as they had the ball with 2:14 to go. But they fumbled the snap inside their own 20-yard line. The Apaches scored with 1:37 left to make it 30-27, forcing a critical onside kick.

The ensuing kickoff saw an end-over-end onside kick that bounced into the waiting hands of senior Braylon Normand to secure the victory.

“This is the kind of game you want in the playoffs,” said sixth-year SMH head football coach Aaron York. “We had to come from behind and that’s the mark of a true champion. I thought coaches on both sides of the ball made some good adjustments and it showed in the second half.”

Next up, the Tigers will take on third-ranked Ouachita Christian (10-1) Friday, Nov. 24 in Monroe, Louisiana for the Division IV Select Quarterfinals.

Fans can tune into Friday's game by listening live at 100.7 KDBH locally or KZBLradio.com. A live video broadcast will be available at the [Inside Natchitoches Sports Facebook page](#).