



St. Mary's Scores 34 Unanswered Points in 44-12 Route of Buckeye

NATCHITOCHEs, La. – The St. Mary's Tigers scored 34 unanswered points in a 44-12 victory over the Buckeye Panthers Friday night in Week 2 of the high school football season at Turpin Stadium.

The Tigers (2-0) opened the scoring late in the first quarter as quarterback Mixon Bankston connected with Ben Bienvenu for a 14-yard touchdown reception (Payne Williams PAT good).

However, the Panthers (1-1) responded with a 12-yard touchdown run of their own to trim it to 7-6 SMH with 4:24 to go in the first quarter.

From there, it was all Tigers as St. Mary's roared to 34 straight points. Drake Griffin returned the ensuing onside kick 55 yards for a touchdown then scored on a powerful 26-yard touchdown run plowing through four Panthers' defenders to make it 21-6 Tigers.

The second quarter onslaught wasn't finished as SMH scored on a 65-yard touchdown reception by Ethan Busby from Bankston on a short slant across the middle of the field. Busby made one man miss then evaded three tackles scampering 59 yards after the catch. St. Mary's took a commanding 28-6 lead into halftime.

In the third quarter, the Tigers continued to dominate the game. Freshman quarterback Preston Tilley came into the game and threw another slant to Busby for his second touchdown reception, this time for 42 yards.

St. Mary's final nail in the coffin came on a 73-yard interception returned for a touchdown by Dalton Waters making it 41-12. Williams added a 38-yard field in the fourth quarter to complete the scoring following a Buckeye touchdown.

“For a short week I think we were okay,” said SMH head football coach Aaron York. “But we’ve got to learn how to work better on a short week because we may get one in the playoffs. We still have a lot of things to clean up. Offensively we had too many penalties and defensively they gave us some fits with the no-huddle, so we need to clean that up and keep getting better.”

Despite the 44 points from the Tigers, oddly enough, the biggest jaw dropping play of the night for SMH came on a play that didn't result in points. Williams, the Tigers' place kicker, attempted a field goal from 56 yards out in the first half. The senior exploded the left footed attempt from the Buckeye 46-yard line and missed just inches to the right with plenty of distance.

“It absolutely had the distance,” said York. “But I couldn't really tell if it was on line or not but he certainly showed the kind of weapon he truly is.”

Next up, St. Mary's will hit the road for the first time as it faces the Holy Savior Menard Eagles (0-1) in Alexandria, Louisiana Friday, Sept. 15. HSM is set to take on 5A Pineville tomorrow night at Pineville.

Fans can tune into Friday'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. Live updates will be available at well at the Inside Natchitoches Sports Facebook page.

[SMH vs. Buckeye Box Score](#)

