

The 16th-ranked St. Mary's Lady Tigers will host the 17th ranked Vermilion Catholic Lady Eagles Thursday at 6 p.m. in the first round of the Division IV Non-Select Girls' Basketball playoffs at SMH Gym.

The Lady Tigers (12-18) held on to the final home playoff spot in the bracket largely in part because of road wins against 5A Alexandria Senior High (15-17) and Logansport (11-12, 2-5 in 3-1A). St. Mary's defeated ASH 46-39 on Jan. 30 while stunning Logansport 72-71 in overtime when Lybi Cross hit a buzzer-beater back on Feb. 6.

The Lady Tigers, under second-year head coach Brooke Jones, have had a remarkable turnaround from a year ago. SMH finished the 2022-23 campaign with just two wins but finds themselves this year hosting a home playoff game.

Vermilion Catholic (12-12, 6-4 in 7-1A) last faced St. Mary's in the postseason in 2020 as the Lady Tigers won 60-43 in the second round of the playoffs that year before going on to win the Division IV title. VCHS enters the postseason with back-to-back wins over Jeanerette and Centerville, a pair of district 7-1A opponents.

Fans can follow Thursday's game beginning at 6 p.m. with the tip off and the play-by-play being heard on kzblradio.com or 100.7 KZBL locally.