

St. Mary's Set for Season-Opening Rematch with Abbeville Friday

The St. Mary's Tigers football team will open the 2023 season against Abbeville for the second straight season as they host the Wildcats Friday at 7 p.m. in Turpin Stadium.

The Tigers (11-2 in 2022), under sixth-year head coach Aaron York, look to even the score after the Wildcats defeated the Tigers 21-7 in Abbeville last season. St. Mary's had a 7-6 lead at halftime but the Wildcats scored 15 unanswered points in the second half for the win. However, the Tigers went on an 11-game winning streak following the loss to Abbeville.

"This (Abbeville) is a very good football team on both sides of the ball," said York. "I fully expect us to be tested Friday night and it should tell us a lot about what kind of team we are. Abbeville is a very big and physical football team and I'm looking forward to seeing how our guys matchup against it."

This year the Tigers will look to dual-threat quarterback Mixon Bankston to lead the offense. The senior tallied three touchdowns in last week's 42-20 win over Lakeview throwing for two and rushing for one.

Abbeville (7-5), under fourth-year head coach Roderick Moy, will look to a double threat under center of their own in Da'Vien Hays. AHS has continued to improve after last season's second round playoff appearance. Moy guided the Wildcats to the semifinals in 2021 following a 1-8 season in 2019 and a 3-5 record in 2020.

Fans can follow Friday's game by listening to 100.7 KZBL as Trent Friedel and Chad Methvin will have the play-by-play. Live updates will also be available at the [Inside Natchitoches Sports Facebook Page](#).