

Tigers ready for rematch with OCS in second round of the playoffs.

MONROE, La. - The 14th-ranked St. Mary's Tigers' baseball team travels to face the third-ranked Ouachita Christian Eagles Thursday night at 6 p.m. in the second round of the Division IV select playoffs.

The district 3-1A champion Tigers (20-12, 8-0 in 3-1A) are coming off a thrilling win over 19th-ranked Ascension Catholic in the first round, 3-2. Senior Preston Martinez laid down a safety squeeze bunt with one out in the bottom of the eighth inning to score the winning run.

St. Mary's will be looking to avenge last year's 2-1 loss to Ouachita Christian (22-6) in the second round. However, they will have to do it against an Eagles' team that is red hot.

OCS, the reigning state champions, enters Thursday's matchup following a first-round bye on a nine-game winning streak and have won 11 out of their last 12.

"OCS has a great program with great coaches and great players," said SMH head baseball coach Marty Dewees. "We had a great game against them last year that went down to the wire and maybe this time around we can come out on top. But we have some work to put in and some things to clean up, a couple of at-bats, a couple of mistakes. But I expect it to be a great and competitive ball game Thursday."

Senior Payne Williams leads the Tigers offensive as he is hitting .428 (31-72). Catcher Conor Jordan leads the team with 30 RBIs.

Fans can tune into the play-by-play Thursday at 100.7 KZBL or by listening live at KZBLradio.com. Live updates will also be available at InsideNatchitochesSports.com