

Sophomore Redbirds Remember

Many of the current Metamora sophomore football players played in the Metamora area JFL program while in junior high school. They participated in well run program that is privileged to have some of the best JFL coaches in central Illinois. This is a program where fundamentals are taught, enjoyment of the game is emphasized, and winning is not the primary focus. These kids finished their JFL careers with appreciation of the game, the understanding of the work effort needed to succeed, and a lifetime of fond memories.

But one not so fond memory still plagues these Redbirds. On October 29, 2006, these Birds played the Dunlap Eagles in what was anticipated to be a fun filled afternoon of kids' football. Metamora completely dominated the much heralded Eagles in the first third of the game. The remaining portion of the game was a much different story. Several Dunlap fans became very upset at Metamora "running up the score" and the Dunlap coaches began complaining to the referees. The referees decided to take control of the game and made the decision to "even it up". The remainder of the game saw penalty flags thrown at the rate of 6-1 against Metamora. At one stretch, these young Redbirds were flagged for 5 off-side penalties in row. Metamora lost that memorable game 36-34 after leading 27-0. Numerous apologies from many of the Dunlap supporters were sent out in agreement with Metamora assessment of the game. The Metamora JFL coaches gently reminded these kids they'd get four more opportunities in high school to avenge this travesty.

And avenge they have. These Redbirds as freshmen easily defeated Dunlap last year 34-0 and this year witnessed more of the same. Metamora sophomores annihilated the Eagles 58-21. The Redbirds completely dominated the first half that had Dunlap players swearing at each other and Dunlap coaches red-faced frustrated.

Dunlap Eagles were held to three downs and out on 5 of their 7 first half possessions as the Redbirds racked up a 34-7 halftime lead. Bryan Love (#41) rushed for two downs and Colton Willett (#28) collected another rushing TD. Quarterback Beau Geier (#12) found Kyle Albertson (#1) and Kyle Heck (#34) in the end zone for two more passing touchdowns as Metamora cruised. Midway through the second quarter, Head Coach Curt Ryan had called in the reserves to get them some much deserved playing time.

The second half have revealed more of the same as Metamora added rushing touchdowns from David Tracy (#46) and Geier. Geier also passed to Heck for a TD as the Redbirds added to their lead. Jake Ferguson (#32), coming off an early season injury, carried the majority of the rushing load in the second half for the Birds. By the end of the game, Metamora had defensive noise guard Drew Cullett (#36) at fullback and linemen doing kickoffs as the fun continued with all players seeing action.

The undefeated Metamora sophomores take it on the road to Pekin on September 22nd at 4:00pm. Then Metamora hosts the much improved East Peoria Raiders on September 29th at 6:00pm before the road trip to Canton on October 6th. Good luck Redbirds!