

Metamora Sophomores Finish Season Undefeated

The Metamora sophomore football team knew the end of 2008 football schedule would not be an easy one as the Birds had to take on three opponents in ten days. With an undefeated season on the line, the Redbirds defeated Limestone on October 13th, Morton on October 20th and Pontiac October 23rd to remain undefeated in their high school career. The sophomores completed a perfect 9-0 season and now have the opportunity to work with the varsity as they prepare for the playoffs.

The sophomores traveled to Morton on Monday, October 20th to take on the pesky Potters in the final Mid-Illini conference game of the season. The game started auspiciously for Metamora as the Birds held Morton on their opening possession but fumbled away the punt return to the Potters at midfield. The Birds defense again stopped the Potters and the Redbirds offense took charge. Metamora then assembled a 62 yard scoring drive capped off with an 8 yard run by Bryan Love (#41) and the extra point conversion by kicker Brennen VanMieghem (#26) to put the Birds on top 7-0 at the end of the 1st quarter. Early in the 2nd quarter, Morton gained possession on an interception and evened the score 7-7. The Redbirds then score two more rushing touchdowns in the quarter by Bryan Love to take a 21-7 halftime lead.

During the second half, the Birds picked up touchdowns on a 52 yard pass to Kyle Albertson (#1) from quarterback Beau Geier (#12), another rushing score by Love from 26 yards out, and a 28 yard pass from Geier to Landin Wernsman (#17). Morton tried to keep the game close with a couple of TDs but Metamora came away with the conference victory 40-22.

The sophomore Redbirds then traveled to Pontiac last Thursday in their season finale to take on the Indians in a driving rain. Pontiac didn't need help from a "malfunctioning" sprinkler system because the field was completely saturated making ball handling difficult. Metamora again put themselves in an early hole as quarterback Beau Geier (#12) had to recover an errand snap in the end zone to give Pontiac the touchback and a 2-0 lead. But Metamora's defense was stellar all evening and did not allow the Indians to score the remainder of the game. The Redbirds defensive linemen of Drew Cullet (#36), Zack Swords (#50) and Andrew Jones (#45) along with linebackers David Tracy (#46), Tyler Sluga (#3), Tom Bieneman (#83) and Bryan Love (#41) kept the Indians in check all evening.

Metamora took an 8-2 lead into the halftime after Kyle Heck (#34) rushed 40 yards for a TD and quarterback Geier completed the 2 point conversion. In the second half, the Metamora offensive line opened up a couple of huge holes for running back Bryan Love (#41). Love scored two touchdowns with rushes from 45 and 50 yards out as Metamora notched the victory 20-2 to cap off the undefeated season.

The Metamora sophomore Redbirds defeated their opponents by an average score of 40-12 this season as they continued their perfect high school record. The sophomores now

hope to gain valuable experience working out with the varsity during the post season. Head coach Curt Ryan has challenged these young men to continue their development in the off season as they prepare for their first varsity season as a team. Congratulations to the Redbirds and good luck in the future.

Check out <http://LakeVermilionRetreat.com/Football> for more pictures and information on Metamora football.