

## **Metamora Sophomore Continue the Win Streak**

The sophomore Metamora Redbird football team got out of school early last Friday (August 29<sup>th</sup>) to make the long road trip to Riverside, Illinois. The Redbirds played the Riverside-Brookfield Bulldogs at 5:00pm on a warm, bright, sunny evening. This class of 2011 hoped to continue their winning ways as they build on an undefeated freshmen season. The group has seen some changes as a couple of their teammates moved up to the varsity level. Quarterback Michael Fay and linemen Tyler Burch both got the nod to move to the varsity level leaving Coach Curt Ryan with some vacancies to fill.

Beau Geier (#12) took over the quarterback position to start the game. Geier quickly commanded the Birds to an early lead as Kyle Heck (#34) took a handoff and ran 47 yards for a touchdown. Metamora regained possession on a Bulldog's fumble recovered by linebacker Tom Bieneman (#83) mid-way through the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Metamora found success again as the offensive line of Mitzelfelt (#71), Ford (#70), Butner (#53), Nannie (#61) and Taseff (#54) opened holes. Metamora fought its way down to the Riverside-Brookfield 14 yard line before Geier completed a TD pass play to Heck and the Redbirds looked like they would run away with the game. Unfortunately for the Birds, Geier had to leave the game with a thumb injury. Backup quarterback Brett McKinney (#22) would take over the reins for the Birds.

The Bulldogs continued to battle in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter as they marched down the field to score a TD and a 2 point conversion with 5:49 left until halftime. With the score 14-8, the Redbirds needed to respond to shift the momentum back in their favor. Metamora drove down the field but a turnover deep the Bulldogs territory kept the momentum toward Riverside-Brookfield. The Redbird's defense continued to put pressure on the quarterback and eventually forced an interception late the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Backup quarterback McKinney found Tyler Sluga (#3) open for a touchdown with 24 seconds to go in the half giving the Birds a 20-8 lead at the break.

The second half was all Metamora as the Birds' used the ground game to wear down the Bulldogs. Bryan Love (#41), David Tracy (#46) and Mark McDaniel (#22) powered the ground game. McKinney was able to complete a few key pass plays James (#82), Jones (#45) and Wernsman (#17) as the Birds cruised to a 34-8 victory.

The Metamora sophomores begin their quest for the Mid-Illini championship on Tuesday September, 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. They'll travel to Washington to take on the always tough Panthers in the conference opener.