

Sophomore Redbirds Scratch Out a Win

Like birds and cats, the sophomore Metamora Redbirds and the Washington Panthers did not get along for their game on Tuesday September 9th. A hard fought game, with Metamora requiring three injury timeouts, ended with Redbirds on top 28-14.

The Metamora sophomores started out reasonably well with a scoring drive that saw Kyle Heck (#34) reach the end zone with a 50 yard run on a misdirection play. The Birds captured the lead 7-0 on the extra point by kicker Brennen VanMieghem (#26).

In the second quarter, quarterback Beau Geier (#12) playing with a broken left thumb, again handed off to Heck on the Metamora 45 yard line. Heck quickly scampered down the sideline before being tackled at the goal line for the touchdown. VanMieghem added the extra point and Metamora appeared to be cruising to an easy victory with a 14-0 second quarter lead.

The Panthers were not about to give in to their arch rival Metamora. With the help of a pass interference call, Washington completed a 65 yard scoring drive to keep the game close, 14-7. The pass interference call drew the ire of the large Metamora crowd as the games intensity seemed to rise. The first half came to a close with Metamora maintaining its' lead 14-7.

The Washington Panthers wasted little time in the third quarter tying the score at 14 with 10:29 left after recovering a Metamora fumble. It was "gut check" time for the Redbird sophomores. Metamora's Bryan Love (#41) responded with several keys runs to get the Birds down to the Panthers 24 yard line. Quarterback Geier then completed a touchdown pass to David Tracy (#46) to put the Redbirds up 21-14. On Metamora's next possession, Geier found the end zone on a 42 yard scramble to pad the Bird's lead 28-14.

Midway through the 4th quarter, Washington drove the ball down to the Metamora 41 yard line. Facing a 4th down and 1 yard to go, down by two touchdowns, Washington made the critical decision to go for the first down. Metamora defenders David Tracy (#41), Zack Swords (#50), Tom Bieneman (#83), Drew Cullett (#36) and Andrew Jones (#45) created a pile at the line of scrimmage to hold the Panthers for no gain. Metamora took over possession and was able to use up the rest of the game clock. Metamora limped away with the 28-14 victory on a day that will no doubt intensify the heated Redbird-Panther rivalry.

The Metamora sophomores will play their first home game on Monday, September 15th against Dunlap. The Birds then travel to Pekin on September 22nd before returning home on the 29th to take on the Raiders of East Peoria. Game times are 6:00pm. Come out and support these future varsity Redbirds!