

Redbirds Return to Champaign

The Metamora Redbirds earned the right to defend their class 5A football title last Saturday by defeating Cahokia 42-13 in the semi-final playoff game at Malone Field.

The round 4 playoff game didn't turn out to be much of a game thanks to the Redbirds outstanding defense. Metamora held Cahokia's star quarterback Patrick Ivy to a negative 59 yards rushing. Redbirds seniors Charlie Heinzmann (#49) and Kody Kanaga (#39) seemed to be in the Cahokia backfield all afternoon. The Birds contained Cahokia's potent offense to nearly 150 yards less than their season average. The constant pressure by the Redbirds up front kept Ivy scrabbling and prevented Cahokia from developing any offensive rhythm.

Metamora's first string defense committed just one major mistake by allowing Cahokia running back Deonta Beverly to run 89 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter. With the extra point, Cahokia closed the score to 21-7 at the half.

The Redbirds defensive back field also had their fair share of highlights as Josh Kennedy (#23) and Ryan Herring (#14) each made outstanding plays for interceptions to halt Cahokia scoring drives. David Kuhne (#10) also stopped Cahokia with a tipped ball on a pass attempt deep in Metamora territory.

Offensively, Metamora scored two touchdowns in the first quarter as quarterback Michael Fay (#15) rushed 65 yards for one and threw a 49 yard pass to Dan Burk (#13) for another. During the second quarter, the Birds added a TD on Aaron Peters (#47) 18 yard run to bring the score to 21-0 with 10:18 left.

Peters made the score 28-7 in the third quarter with a 35 yard run. Early in the fourth quarter Metamora put the game away with two more touchdowns. Fay found Heinzmann wide open for a 22 yard touchdown pass. Peters added his third rushing touchdown of the game from 9 yards out as the Birds took a commanding 42-7 lead with 8:21 left in the 4th. Cahokia added touchdown pass against the Birds reserves to bring the final score to 42-13.

Sophomore kicker Brennen VanMieghem (#26) added 6 additional extra points in the game to bring his season total to 79. VanMieghem needs just two PATs to tie the state record set by Metamora's Anthony Elger.

Metamora will take on Wheaton-St.Francis for the class 5A championship on Saturday, November 29th at 10:00am. The IHSA state championship games are held at the University of Illinois Memorial Stadium in Champaign. Details on Saturday events will be posted on the Metamora High School web site or <http://LakeVermilionRetreat.com/Football>. Come cheer on the Redbirds as they attempt to repeat as state champions.