

Metamora takes Round 1

“Those that forget the past are destined to repeat it.” The old adage held true for the Metamora varsity football team last Saturday. This team, ranked #1 in the state, were not going to be a “one and done” team in the playoffs. The Redbirds showed Champaign Central why they deserve their #1 ranking with a 52-6 victory in first round of the state playoffs.

Metamora received the opening kickoff and drove the ball 91 yards for the touchdown. Aaron Peters (#47) rushed in from 10 yards out and Brennen VanMieghem (#26) added the extra point for the early 7-0. Peters added another rushing touchdown in the quarter from 7 yards to up the lead to 14-0. Then, with a 1:15 left the quarter, quarterback Michael Fay (#15) found senior Kody Kanaga (#39) open over the middle for a 52 yard TD pass. VanMieghem again added the extra point as Metamora took a 21-0 lead at end of the 1st quarter.

The 2nd quarter saw the Birds add another 21 points as Fay rushed in for two TDs and Peters reached the end zone from 25 yards out. Metamora held a 42-0 halftime lead as the Birds defense held Champaign to just one first down. Offensively for the half, the Redbirds only recorded one 3rd down play late in the 2nd quarter on a drive that Champaign forced Metamora into a rare punting situation.

The second half moved quickly as the IHSA “mercy” rule running clock took effect. Metamora’s kicker VanMieghem added a nice 37 yard field goal in the 3rd quarter while junior Zack Garber (#5) picked up a rushing touchdown in the 4th from 15 yards out. Champaign avoided the shutout with a touchdown in the 4th quarter but missed the extra point attempt. The box score reported Metamora with a total of 435 yards of offense on the day while limiting Champaign to 128 totals yards.

Metamora will take on Streator at Malone Field this week in round 2 of the class 5A playoffs. Streator defeated Normal U-High 14-13 last Saturday afternoon to advance. At press time, game date and time had yet to be announced. Please check the Metamora High School web site or <http://LakeVermilionRetreat.com/Football> for the game schedule this weekend.