

## Redbirds Continue Winning Way

The Pekin Dragons visited Malone Field Friday night with a new coach, a new attitude and high hopes of upsetting the top ranked team in the state. The enthusiasm was high on the Pekin side of the field, but the varsity Metamora Redbirds continued their march to another conference title by defeating the Dragons 42-6.

Metamora scored first on a 20 yard run by quarterback Michael Fay (#15) with 7:35 left in the first quarter. Brennen VanMieghem (#26) continued his prefect season, adding the extra point, as the Redbirds seemed to take control. But, the Pekin Dragons offense had different ideas. The Dragons took the next possession and marched 80 yards for the touchdown. Metamora maintained its' lead, 7-6, as Pekin's extra point attempt failed with 2:09 left in the 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Dragons touchdown represented the first touchdown scored against the Metamora Redbirds starting defensive unit this season. The gauntlet was thrown down and the Birds needed to respond.

The second quarter was all Metamora. Quarterback Fay scored another rushing touchdown early the quarter to put the Redbirds on top 14-6. Fay then found receiver Charlie Heinzmann (#49) with a 19 yard pass to up the score to 21-7. On the Redbirds next possession, Fay found a new receiver in Luke Ioerger (#7) for a 51 yard pass play for the score as the Birds took control 28-7. Metamora's final score of the second quarter came on a short pass to Dan Burk (#13) who made a spectacular 34 yard run to the end zone that will easily make the end-of-year highlight video. The Redbirds cruised into halftime with a 35-6 lead on Pekin. Metamora added one more rushing touchdown in the second half as quarterback Christian Roth (#8) found the end zone with 4:24 left in the fourth quarter to complete the scoring.

Metamora's defense made several adjustments after the initial Dragons scoring drive in the first quarter. Pekin was held to 26 yards of total offense the rest of the game. Metamora offensive output totaled 406 yards with 218 yards through the air. Redbird rushing leaders were Fay with 84 yards, Aaron Peters (#47) with 80 yards and Dane Kempf (#24) with 30 yards.

Metamora travels to East Peoria on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> to take on the Raiders. The Raiders are currently undefeated in conference play after upsetting the Morton Potters last week 19-11. The East Peoria football program is on the upswing this year as hopes remain high for the Raiders to make a playoff run in 2008. Surprisingly, this game will determine the conference leader as Metamora and East Peoria are the only undefeated teams in Mid-Illini Conference play. Game time is 7:30pm at Eastside Center.