

# Metamora Collects a Trophy Panther

If the “Wow Factor” could be applied to football, it would have to go to the Metamora Redbirds last Friday night at Malone Field. The Redbirds, ranked #2 in the state, took on the #8 ranked Washington Panthers. This game was considered the early season showdown that put the winner on the fast path to the Mid-Illini conference title. The pre-game rhetoric was high and the emotions intense as both teams knew what was at stake. But the game didn’t live up to its billing, as the Redbirds took control early and dominated nearly every aspect of the game.

Metamora took the first possession and engineered a drive that kept the Washington Panthers back on their heels. Aaron Peters (#47) collected the yards with ease as the Redbirds offensive line again provided the openings. Quarterback Michael Fay (#15) completed the scoring drive on a 2 yard rush with 7:14 left in the first quarter. Brennen VanMieghem (#26) continued his perfect record on extra points to put Metamora on top 7-0.

VanMieghem booted on the ensuing kickoff deep in Panther territory. Metamora quickly hustled down field as tacklers Corey Reatherford (#35), Matt Brunton (#40), Joe Wyzlic (#44), Jesse Mischler (#43) pinned Washington back on their own 5 yard line. The Metamora defense proved it’s superiority as the Panthers went 3 downs and out for a total of -3 yards of offense.

On the Redbirds second possession, the combination of Peters and Fay again found the end zone with 0:37 seconds left in the first quarter to give Metamora a 14-0 lead. Metamora never looked back as they dominated nearly every aspect of the game against the highly touted Panthers.

Aaron Peters led Metamora with 154 yards on 17 carries. Dane Kempf (#24) led the second half with 9 rushes for 49 yards as Metamora chewed up the game clock. The Redbirds recorded a total of 301 yards rushing on the night with 388 yards of total offense. Fay recorded 3 touchdown runs while Peters added 2 more rushing TDs. VanMieghem booted 5 extra points as the Redbirds special teams play was nearly flawless the entire game.

Metamora’s defense only allowed the Panthers a total of 121 yards of offense for the evening. Washington had hoped to emphasize their passing game but the Redbirds defense would not permit it - allowing only 26 yards through the air. Most of Washington rushing yards came after the game was out reach against the Redbirds reserves.

Washington did have one highlight on the evening that produced the loudest cheer. The Metamora Boosters 50/50 drawing reached over \$2800 and went to a Panther fan – welcome to a new tax bracket.

Metamora travels to Dunlap on Friday night to take on the Eagles. Game time is scheduled for 7:30pm following the freshmen game.