

## Metamora collars Panthers

The Washington Panthers said they were ready to take their program to the next level. The Panther faithful said their team had made major improvements during the season. Last Saturday, Metamora showed Washington the road to Champaign goes through their neighbors to the north as the Birds dominated the Panthers with a 38-7 victory.

Contrary to previous reports, Metamora scored first on an 80 yard drive that was capped off by a 14 yard run by quarterback Michael Fay (#15). In a rare miss on the PAT by kicker Brennen VanMieghem (#26), the Redbirds had a 6-0 lead with 4:24 left in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. On the first play from scrimmage on the ensuing Washington possession, Metamora committed it's only major defensive mistake by allowing the Panthers to run 71 yards for the TD and take a 7-6 lead.

The Panther's lead would only last 34 seconds as Metamora's running back Aaron Peters (#47) returned the favor by rushing 80 yards on the Redbirds first play from scrimmage on their possession. Metamora collected the 2-point conversion and a 14-7 lead at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

The Redbird's defense then took total control. Metamora held Washington's offense to just 20 yards, one first down, and zero points the remainder of the game. The domination carried over to the Birds offense as Fay recorded two more touchdowns on runs from 55 and 41 yards. Kicker VanMieghem added 3 more points just before half time with his career long 44 yard field goal. Metamora took a commanding 31-7 lead into the break.

Aaron Peters added a 47 yard rushing TD in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter to complete the Redbird scoring attack at 38-7. Metamora had nearly 350 yards of total offense in the first half and record 497 yards for the game. The rushing leader for the Redbirds was Aaron Peters with 197 yards and two touchdowns. Quarterback Michael Fay lead the scoring with three touchdowns and 175 yards rushing. VanMieghem recorded three extra points which places him just eight short of the state record. VanMieghem leads all scoring by a kicker in the nation.

Metamora will host Cahokia in round 4 of the playoffs this weekend. Cahokia is known for their team speed and represents the biggest challenge to the Redbirds return to Champaign so far is season. Metamora's large vocal crowd at the Washington game needs to return to Malone field this weekend to cheer the Redbirds to victory. There has been some criticism of Metamora fans not supporting their Birds in previous games but that was clearly not evident last weekend. Several players commented on the great support at Washington and hoped it continues this weekend. Come out to cheer on the Birds and moms don't be bashful about bringing your cowbells. Please check the Metamora High School web site or <http://LakeVermilionRetreat.com/Football> for the game schedule this weekend.