

Metamora Takes Round 1

What everyone thought would be a close game turned into a decisive victory for the Metamora Redbirds football team last Saturday in round 1 of the class 4A playoffs. The Birds defeated the Bloomington Central Catholic Saints by a score of 42-14 on a muddy Malone Field.

Against the defending class 4A state champs, Metamora used a strong 2nd half and good defensive pass coverage to take charge. Senior safety David Kuhne (#10) lead the way with three interceptions as the Bird's collected a total of 6 turnovers. Cornerback Brett McKinney (#21) added two interceptions of his own and senior captain Dane Kempf (#2) recovered a fumble to stall out the Saint's drives. The Birds relinquished just 203 total yards to the powerful Central Catholic offensive. Metamora's two goal line stands in the 4th quarter kept the game out of reach as the Redbird's celebrated.

Metamora scored first on Aaron Peters (#47) 8 yard run with a 1:43 left in the 1st quarter. The Saints quickly evened the score early in the 2nd quarter with a 25 yard pass play. On the Redbirds next possession, quarterback Michael Fay (#15) found the rarely utilized tight end Sean McKee (#42) with a 28 yard pass completion. A couple plays later, senior Zach Garber (#5) took an inside handoff from Fay and rushed 15 yards for the score. The touchdown gave Metamora a 14-7 lead at the half.

In the 2nd half, Metamora scored on the opening drive as Garber again found the end zone from 26 yards out. Later in the quarter, Fay scored on a 19 yard run that was set up by one of Kuhne's interceptions. The Birds took a commanding 28-7 lead into the 4th quarter. Central Catholic and Metamora exchanged a pair of TDs in the fourth to complete the scoring.

Metamora's Fay was the leading rusher with 180 yards. Peters added 131 yards rushing as the Bird totaled 401 yards on the ground. Metamora distributed the scoring evenly as Fay, Peters and Garber each ended the game with a pair of touchdowns.

Metamora travels to Champaign this weekend to take on the Saint Thomas More Sabers in round 2 of the playoffs. The undefeated Sabers are seeded 2nd in the upper bracket of class 4A. The game will represent a unique challenge for the 7th seeded Redbirds as these two teams have never meet. As of this writing, the game date and time have not been announced. Please visit www.LakeVermilionRetreat.com/Football for more Metamora football updates and pictures.