

Redbirds Slip Past Breese

The will to win, sometimes you see it on high school football players faces, other times they show it on the field. Senior Aaron Peters (#47) demonstrated his will to win in the 4th quarter last Saturday as Metamora defeated the Breese Mater Dei Knights 28-21. Peters twisted, drove and powered his way for those precise few yards that made the difference between ending the season and continuing to round 4 of the class 4A playoffs.

In the 4th quarter with the score tied at 21, Metamora's David Kahne (#10) intercepted a Mater Dei pass and returned the ball to the Bird's 35 yard line. Metamora then engineered a classic power football drive that concluded with a Peters' TD. Peters scored from 14 yards out with 1:42 left on the game clock to give the Birds the lead. On the next possession, Metamora's defense held the Knights to four incomplete passes to secure the Redbird's victory.

The Birds again deployed the "bend but don't break" pass defense. Although at game time it appeared Metamora was giving up a huge amount of passing yards to Mater Dei, the final statistics proved otherwise. The Redbirds held Breese to 172 yards passing, 79 yards rushing, and 3 touchdowns. Coming into this third round playoff game, the Knights had averaged 34 points per game.

Offensively, Metamora took the lead 7-0 with 2:21 left in the 1st quarter as Peters scored from 12 yards out. Breese tied the game at 7 early in the 2nd quarter but the Birds responded with a 4 yard rushing TD by quarterback Michael Fay (#15) to take a 14-7 lead at the half. In the second half, the Knights tied the game at 14 and again at 21 in the 4th quarter before Peters' final TD. Metamora's kicker Brennen VanMieghem (#26) was a perfect 4 for 4 with the extra point conversions.

Peters was the leading rusher for Metamora with 159 yards and 3 touchdowns. Fay added 119 rushing yards while Dan Burk (#13) contributed 42 as the Birds totaled 338 yards on the ground and just 11 yards through the air.

Metamora comes home for round 4 of the class 4A playoffs to take on the Rochester Rockets this weekend. The Rockets enter Malone field undefeated with a powerful offense that averages 49 points per game. Rochester has been ranked #1 in class 4A most of the season and will represent Metamora's biggest challenge to date in the 2009 playoffs. As of this writing, game time has not been announced. Please visit www.LakeVermilionRetreat.com/Football for more Metamora football updates and pictures.