

Redbirds disarm the Rockets

On a wet field under cool temperatures, the Metamora Redbirds varsity football team used a little trickery to get up on top of the Limestone Rockets last Friday night as the Birds defeated the Rockets 42-14 on Senior Night. Credit Limestone or blame the poor field conditions, the Redbirds didn't look as sharp as they had in previous weeks.

Metamora took the opening possession but quickly fumbled the ball away to the Rockets deep their own territory. The Bird's defense did a good job of holding Limestone and regaining possession for the home team's offense. Metamora then took the lead 7-0 as quarterback Michael Fay (#15) found the end zone with a 12 yard rush.

Metamora broke from tradition in the second quarter as senior Dan Burk (#13) fielded a Limestone punt on the Rocket's 30 yard line. Burk then handed the ball to senior Jesse Mischler (#43) on a reverse. Mischler found the goal line as he ran over a would-be Rocket tackler to give the Birds a 13-0 lead. Kicker Brennen VanMieghem (#26) added the extra point to make it 14-0 at the 11:08 mark. On the first play from scrimmage after the kickoff, Limestone's Tyler Ashby took the ball 80 yards for the Rockets, cutting the Metamora lead to 14-7. Five minutes later, senior Aaron Peters (#47) scored from 3 yards out to bring the Redbird's lead to 21-7. On the Birds next possession, senior running back Zach Garber (#5) rushed 62 yards to get Metamora close to the goal line. Fay then took the ball in from 3 yards out to bring the score to 28-7 at halftime.

Limestone scored the first points of the second half on a 38 yard pass play to close the score within two touchdowns. Metamora responded with a 6 yard run by Garber for a 35-14 score in favor of the Birds. The Redbirds completed the game scoring on a nice pass from backup quarterback Beau Geier (#12) to junior receiver Kyle Albertson (#1). Albertson's TD brought the score to 42-14 as the Birds consumed the clock the rest of the game.

Geier was substituting for the starting quarterback Fay after Fay aggravated his ankle injury on a late hit out of bounds. Peters was also removed from the game in the second half after injuring his foot. Both players' injuries appeared to be minor as the Redbird injury plague continued.

Rushing leaders for Metamora were Peters with 106 yards and Garber with 71. Receiving leader was Albertson with two receptions for 56 yards and a TD. Peters has now gone over a 1,000 yards rushing for the season.

With this win, Metamora has clinched its' 16th consecutive playoff appearance under head coach Pat Ryan. This week Metamora travels to Morton to take on the Potters for the final conference game of the season. The Redbirds then travel to Pontiac on October 23rd to close out the regular season. Please visit www.LakeVermilionRetreat.com/Football for more Metamora football highlights.