

Metamora closes conference play with win

The Metamora varsity football team finished conference play last Friday with a decisive win over the Morton Potters. Under muddy conditions and 42 degree temperatures, the Birds shut out the Potters 41-0.

The Redbird's defense was outstanding as they held the Potters to just 58 yards rushing and 104 yards passing. The Birds frustrated the Potters offense all evening with four interceptions and a fumble recovery as they dominated the line of scrimmage.

Offensively the Redbirds appeared much sharper than last week despite missing a couple of starters. Quarterback Michael Fay (#15) and fullback Aaron Peters (#47) were nursing ankle injuries and were held out of the game. Junior quarterback Beau Geier (#12) played an outstanding game in place of Fay. Geier completed six passes for 112 yards, rushed for 85 yards and scored two touchdowns. Senior Dan Burk (#13) took over most of the rushing responsibility for Metamora. Burk recorded an eye-opening 207 yards rushing despite the difficult field conditions. Senior Zack Garber (#5) added 69 yards as Metamora totaled up 348 yards rushing for the game. For the second week in row, junior Kyle Albertson (#1) was the leading receiver for the Redbirds. Albertson's 49 yard touchdown reception keyed the 24 point second quarter for the Birds.

Metamora's only blemish on the evening was three lost fumbles. The Redbirds will have to avoid these turnovers in the future, if they expect to make a deep run in the playoffs.

With this win, Metamora runs their record to 7-1, 6-1 on the conference. The Redbirds finish second in the Mid-Illini behind Washington. Washington defeated the Birds in week 2 of the season and captured the Mid-Illini top spot last week for the first time since 1994, going undefeated.

Metamora travels to Pontiac this Friday night to take on the Indians. Pontiac enters the game with a 4-4 record and needs a win to have a chance to make the playoffs. Metamora knocked Pontiac out of the playoffs last year as the Indians came to Malone Field with the same record. No doubt, Pontiac will be out for revenge in the hopes to extend their season this year. The varsity game time is scheduled for 7:45pm.

Redbird fans will eye the playoff pairings this Saturday night as the IHSA announces the matchups. Metamora is again "on the bubble" between class 4A and class 5A and could end up either class depending on the results of the regular season finale of larger schools. The last two years, Metamora has made consecutive trips to the class 5A championship game in Champaign. This year the Birds will not only need to overcome difficult playoff foes but will also have to contend with the many injuries that have beset them this season. Please visit www.LakeVermilionRetreat.com/Football for more Metamora football highlights.