

Redbirds start a new streak

The Metamora football faithful were stunned a few weeks ago as they witnessed a 35 conference game win streak come to an end by the Washington Panthers. The Panthers decisively defeated the Redbirds on September 4th by a score of 28-7. The host team took advantage of several miscues by the Redbirds while playing nearly mistake free football themselves. Metamora players, parents and fans all took the defeat with difficulty but Redbirds have responded with a couple of exclamation points on consecutive victories over Dunlap and Pekin.

On September 11th, Metamora started a new conference win streak by shutting out the Dunlap Eagles at home by a score of 42-0. The Redbirds scored on their first four possessions and took a 28-0 lead into the halftime. Metamora added two additional TDs in the second half to start the running clock "mercy" rule. The Redbirds played inspired football against a foe that typically finishes in the top half of the Mid-Illini Conference. Backup quarterback Beau Geier (#12) led the Metamora attack with 4 touchdowns and 178 yards rushing. Aaron Peters (#47) recorded 104 rushing yards as the Birds appeared to better the Eagles in nearly every aspect of the game. The new streak had begun.

Metamora took it on the road to Pekin on September 18th to take on the Dragons. Pekin installed a new head coach and offense this season creating a bit of question mark for the Redbirds. Due to injuries to starting quarterback Michael Fay (#15) and backup quarterback Geier, starting running back Dan Burk (#13) was installed as a quarterback. Burk did an outstanding job commanding the Redbirds offense as Metamora wasted no time figuring out the Dragons raking up a 42-0 halftime score. The Birds recorded a total of 367 yards rushing, led by Peters with 211 yards. The second half again saw the running clock rule. Pekin picked up a couple of touchdowns against Metamora reserves but the game was never in doubt past the break. Metamora came away with 42-14 conference victory.

Metamora has suffered through several injuries in the first half of the season that raise some concern among the Metamora fans. All conference quarterback Michael Fay has missed several games due to an ankle injury. Backup quarterback Beau Geier has filled in well but suffered a mild concussion in the Dunlap game forcing him to sit out the Pekin game. Linebacker Bryan Love (#41) suffered a shoulder injury in the Washington game and may be lost for the season. Lineman Chris Nannie (#61) has been out several weeks with a knee injury. Defensive back Mark McDaniel (#22) has been out with hip surgery while another defense back, Brett McKinney (#21) suffered a shoulder injury during the Pekin game and may miss several weeks. Running backs Grant Whittington (#4) and Jake Ferguson (#44) have both sat out with ankle injuries.

On the plus side, both linemen Tyler Burch (#57) and linebacker David Tracy (#46) have been cleared to play after recovering from ankle and abdomen injuries respectively.

Metamora (3-1) hosts the much improved East Peoria Raiders this Friday, September 25th. The Raiders are currently undefeated in conference play and are tied for the Mid-

Illini Conference lead with Washington. Game time is 7:30pm for what will no doubt be billed as the game of the week in the area.