

Redbird's Win Legendary Game

In his post game speech, Metamora's head coach Pat Ryan called last Friday night's game with Pontiac "a legend". The legend status may develop later but in the mean time, most people would call the game wildly exciting. The Redbirds defeated the Pontiac Indians in the closing minute of the game by a score of 43-42.

With just 15 seconds off the clock to start the game, Metamora's quarterback Michael Fay (#15) threw an interception that was returned 36 yards for a touchdown. Pontiac was off to an early 6-0 lead that held until early in the 2nd quarter.

The Redbirds got on the board with a 40 yard touchdown run by Aaron Peters (#47) that began the track meet 2nd quarter. Before the half ended, Metamora had scored 35 points. Peters scored another TD on a 1 yard run; Dan Burk (#13) ran a kickoff 92 yards for the third touchdown of the quarter; Zach Garber (#5) rushed in from 44 yards out; Fay scored from 2 yards out while kicker Brennen VanMieghem (#26) was a perfect 5-5 in the quarter to complete the Birds scoring frenzy.

Unfortunately, Metamora's defense could not hold the Indians. Pontiac's running back Chase Alford scored three times on runs of 52, 78 and 80 yards. The Indians had countered Metamora scoring with 22 points of their own. The 2nd quarter came to an end with the Redbirds holding on to a 35-28 lead.

Pontiac scored 14 additional points in the 3rd quarter to take the lead into the final quarter by a score of 42-35. Metamora wouldn't score again until 25 second left in the game on a 2 yard run by Fay. Head coach Ryan then called time out to gather his extra point team in an attempt to tie the score. In an uncharacteristic move for Ryan, the Redbird's offense convinced him to go for the win with a 2 point conversion. The decision ended up being brilliant as Fay walked into the end zone for the conversion giving the Birds a one point lead, 43-42.

The Metamora's defense held Pontiac on senior Jesse Mischler's (#43) interception as the clock ran out. The legendary game was complete and the Redbirds finished the regular season with an amazing victory. Metamora ran their record to 8-1 on the season and now look forward to the playoffs.

The Redbirds host Bloomington Central Catholic on Saturday at 1:00pm in the first round of the 2009 playoffs for class 4A. Central Catholic is the defending 2008 4A state champions and come to Malone Field with a 7-2 record. Metamora, the 2008 state runners up in class 5A, will have to play mistake-free ball to continue their playoff run. Many high school sports fans are calling this game one of the best 1st round playoff matchups in the state. No doubt, emotions will be elevated for this high profile game. Please visit www.LakeVermilionRetreat.com/Football for more Metamora football highlights.