

Redbirds Recover to Defeat Raiders

The varsity Metamora football team had to make some adjustments early last Friday night at Malone Field. The East Peoria Raider's young offense put up quite a battle in the first quarter. But when it was over, Metamora cruised to a decisive 61-14 victory.

Metamora and East Peoria recorded at total 35 points in the first thirteen minutes of play as neither defense could gain an advantage. Metamora's Adam Parr (#14) bobbled the opening kickoff but recovered nicely to run it back for the Redbird's first touchdown. The Birds then forced a Raiders punt on their opening possession. On Metamora's first offensive play from scrimmage, quarterback Michael Fay (#15) ran the ball 70 yards for a quick strike TD as Metamora opened up a 14-0 lead with just over five minutes played. The Redbirds appeared to be in control early.

East Peoria's young quarterback, sophomore Nick Haeffele, and running back, freshmen Michael Thompson, were not about to give up. The Raiders took the next series 80 yards for a score as Thompson capped off the drive with a 49 yard TD run. Metamora's Fay then responded by finding a wide open David Tracy (#46) for a 65 yard touchdown pass to give the Redbirds a 21-7 lead.

East Peoria brought the score to 21-14 on a 10 yard pass by Haeffele with 11:10 left in the second quarter. But it was all Metamora after that, as the Redbird's defense adjusted and the offense exploded.

Junior fullback Charlie Nowotnik (#34) had a stellar evening leading the Birds scoring with three touchdowns and 98 yards rushing. Quarterback Fay added another passing touchdown to his resume by connecting with Brett McKinney (#21) for a 66 yard touch strike just before halftime. Metamora held a 34-14 lead at the break. The Redbirds added touchdown runs by quarterback Beau Geier (#12) and sophomore quarterback Bryan Burk (#9) to complete the scoring. Geier, while playing the defensive corner position, made a nice interception in the end zone to halt a Raider drive in the second quarter.

The Redbirds returned a couple of players from injury this week. Tracy had an outstanding game on both sides of the ball as he returned from a knee injury suffered a couple of weeks back. Kyle Reeder (#89) also returned for a head injury suffered in the South Elgin game. Metamora appears to be on the mend as several other injured players are scheduled to begin workouts this week.

The Birds will need to be at full strength as they travel to Dunlap this week. The Dunlap Eagles lost for the first time this season last Friday to the Washington Panthers. The Eagles came into that game ranked as high as 10th in the class 5A state polls. Metamora, currently ranked 5th, will need to contain the Eagles explosive passing game to come away with a victory. Expect an offensive showdown this Friday at Dunlap.

Follow all the Metamora varsity games in the Woodford Courier or online at <http://LakeVermilionRetreat.com/Football> .