

Metamora Undefeated in Mid-Illini

The Metamora Redbirds wrapped up their regular season last Friday night with victory over the Limestone Rockets. The Birds completed their sweep of the Mid-Illini Conference with a 59-27 win. Metamora heads into the playoffs with a perfect 7-0 conference record and 8-1 record overall.

The victory didn't come easy but in the end Metamora's Senior Night belonged to the Redbirds. Senior Jake Ferguson (#32) carried the load at fullback most of the evening for the Birds. Ferguson had 66 yards on 13 carries and two touchdowns. His first TD was on Metamora's opening drive as the Birds took an early 7-0. Metamora's defense again struggled early in the game. On Limestone's ensuing possession, Tyler Ashby exposed a weakness in the Redbird's defense by cutting back across the field. Ashby went 80 yards for the TD tying the game at 7 with 8:27 in the first quarter. Metamora responded with two consecutive scoring drives in the quarter. Quarterback Michael Fay (#15) found the end zone with rushes from 14 and 34 yards to give Metamora a 21-7 lead. Limestone's Ashby was not done exploiting the Redbirds defense. On the Rockets next possession, Ashby again went 80 yards on a cut back run bringing the score to 21-14. Metamora completed the first quarter score frenzy with another touchdown by Fay. Brennen VanMiegham (#26) added the extra point giving Metamora a 28-14 lead. The first quarter score held until halftime.

The Redbirds took control in the third quarter as the Bird's defense controlled the Rockets and the offense racked up points. Fay rushed in from 1 yard out with 8:27 on the clock giving Metamora a 35-14 lead. Two and half minutes later, Fay found Brett McKinney (#21) with a 47 yard touchdown pass. Beau Geier (#12) then took over the Redbird's offense and quickly found the end zone from 15 yards. Geier's rush gave Metamora a commanding 49-14 lead. Ferguson would later score from 4 yards out and VanMiegham would complete the Redbird's scoring with a 37 yard field goal. Limestone would put up a couple of touchdowns late in the game to bring the final score to 59-27.

The Redbirds learned last Saturday night they would get an opportunity to defend last year's class 4A state championship. The Redbirds were "on the bubble" between class 4A and 5A as the playoff pairings were announced. Metamora wound up with the largest school enrollment in class 4A. The Birds will take on the Mahomet-Seymour Bulldogs in Round 1. The game is scheduled for Saturday, October 30th at 1:00pm. Malone Field will no doubt be hooping as the perennial playoff Bulldogs are prepping to bring several fan buses to the game. Metamora coach Pat Ryan stated "we still feel like we've got a better game out there." as the Birds prepare for another exciting post season.

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