

Redbirds Season Ends

The Metamora Redbird's football season came to a close last Saturday night. The Birds lost to a talented Rochester team by a score of 50-17 in the Class 4A state tournament semi-final game.

The tone of the game was set early as Metamora fumbled the ball away on the opening possession of the game. The Rochester Rockets quickly took advantage with a touchdown and a 7-0 lead. The Redbirds responded with a 35 yard field goal by Brennen VanMieghem (#26) to bring the score to 7-3. The drive was keyed by several strong rushes by quarterback Michael Fay (#15) and a 20 yard pass reception by tight end Andrew Jones (#45).

Early in the second quarter, the Rockets found the end zone with a 27 yard rushing TD by all state running back Colton Glazebrook. The Redbirds found some spark on their next possession as running back Charlie Nowotnik (#34) had several outstanding rushes. The drive ended with Fay finding sophomore running back Dekota Doerr (#25) over the middle for a 29 yard touchdown pass. Metamora had closed the score to 13-10 with 5:55 left in the quarter.

Unfortunately for the Redbirds, it was all Rochester after that point. The Rockets scored 37 unanswered points. Metamora put together the final scoring drive of the game but by that time, the ending had already been written. The Birds had fallen short of defending their state championship by one game as they competed in their fifth consecutive semi-final game.

The core strengths that made up this year's team seem to elude them in this contest. Metamora committed 5 fumbles. Several of those fumbles stopped drives that could have kept the Redbirds in the game. The Rockets seemed to have Metamora's number on defense. The Birds gave up a total of 452 yards to Rochester. A devastating 257 of those yards was through the air as the Redbirds found it difficult to put pressure on the quarterback while making several pass coverage mistakes. Metamora couldn't get a handle on Rochester's Glazebrook as he rushed for 198 yards on just 19 carries.

The Redbirds demonstrated they could move the ball against the Rockets as they collected 235 yards rushing. Fay lead the Birds with 122 of those yards followed by closely by Nowotnik with 117 yards.

It was a tearful end for a Metamora team that has much to celebrate. The 2010 Redbirds end the season with 11 wins and 2 loses. This Redbird senior group finishes their careers with an impressive 46 wins with just 4 defeats. Average score of those victories is an astonishing 43-14. Most of these seniors participated in two state championship games while a few, as freshmen, were there for three. Last year this class collected the ultimate prize in a state championship trophy. They've been to the semi-final state tournament

game all four years of their high school career. The last five years of Metamora football will be the yardstick that future programs will be measured.

Congratulation Metamora on a truly outstanding season. And to the 2010 football seniors, thank you for all your hard work and commitment. You've brought us memories that will be talked about for years. Good luck in all your future endeavors. No doubt with Metamora football on your resume, you'll be successful in whatever you chose to do in your life.

On a personal note, my wife Cindy and I say goodbye to the Metamora football after 10 consecutive years being involved with the program. All three of our boys have participated in Redbird football and it's been a wonderful experience for all of us. We've met lifelong friends, gained memories we'll carry with us the rest of years, felt the tears of defeat and the elation of the ultimate high school football victory. Thank you for letting us be a small part of your success. I'd like to thank the Metamora Township High School staff for all their support. Special thanks to the Redbird coaching staff for helping our children grow and for all your amazing dedication. The future continues to be bright for Metamora football. Good luck to the Redbirds, we'll be watching.