

BOYS SOCCER: CBC pushes past pesky Edwardsville



Two second half goals are difference in 2-1 Cadets' victory

Jim Faasen/STLHighschoolsports.com photo | CBC's Kyle Malle moves the ball upfield as Edwardsville's Robbie Tays marks him during Monday's game at CBC. Malle and the Cadets own the game 2-1.

The Edwardsville boys soccer team went toe-to-toe with CBC of the Metro Catholic Conference Monday at CBC and for most of the game, the Tigers held their own.

Edwardsville even took a 1-0 lead in the second half before a shaky five-minute span cost the Tigers in a 2-1 loss.

"It is always a challenge but that's the reason we play the game," said Tigers coach Mark Heiderscheid of facing the MCC foe. "We know what to expect and we know that we've got a lot of adjusting to do in a contest like this. You also know that if you're not prepared, you're going to have a very difficult time."

After a scoreless first half, Edwardsville (10-2) came out and made the first set of adjustments in the second half.

The Tigers took a 1-0 lead with 37 minutes, 10 seconds left in the game on a 25-yard shot by sophomore midfielder Tyler Swanner.

Swanner turned to his left and back toward the middle of the field where he uncorked a rocket that went off the hands of CBC goalkeeper Nick Lenkman and into the net.

“I had a give-and-go with Pat Dowd,” Swanner said. “He cut it, it (the ball) came back and I got a shot off on goal. It went in.”

Just as quickly as the Tigers jumped ahead, the Cadets came firing back.

With 29:25 left in the game, CBC’s Alec Cochran converted a penalty kick after a teammate was pulled down inside the Edwardsville penalty area.

Just three and one-half minutes later, CBC (8-2) took the lead for good.

The decisive goal came when Jake Bond sent a shot toward the Edwardsville goal that eluded the grasp of Tigers’ goalkeeper Daniel Brennan and bounded into the goal after an apparent miscommunication of coverage.

“It was probably one of those you see every once in a while where there is indecision (over) who is going to get the ball,” CBC coach Terry Michler said. “The goalie is going ‘you got it, he’s got it, who’s got it’ and somebody puts a toe pike in and it’s a goal. Nobody touched the ball. It looked like everybody was going to play it and no one (except Bond) did.”

Even though the game wound up 2-1, Edwardsville did everything it could in the game’s final minutes to change the score.

The best chance for the Tigers came with just over 11 minutes left when Swanner had the ball and an open net but a mishit ball paved the way for an easy save.

“I just put my head down and tried to hit it,” Swanner said. “I didn’t see the (defender) next to me (who affected the shot) until it was too late.”

What made matters worse for the Tigers Monday was that the team’s leading scorer – Sam Fink – left the game in the second half with an apparent injury.

“It certainly wasn’t super serious,” Heiderscheid said. “It was just one that we couldn’t take a chance on. You’ll see Sam Fink again. He’s a competitor.”

In the wake of the loss, Edwardsville will get a chance to return to Missouri to get back to its winning ways when the Tigers play at Parkway West (2-8) Thursday at 6 p.m.

CBC returns to action Wednesday against St. Dominic (7-3) in a 6 p.m. game.

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