

# Rodgers' five touchdowns, tight defense spark Tigers to easy 49-12 victory over Warriors

by Brent Feeney, Sports Writer  
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**EDWARDSVILLE** – Edwardsville's **Dionte Rodgers** gets plenty of attention from a lot of people.

He got quite a bit of attention from **Granite City** going into Friday's Southwestern Conference regular-season ending game at Tiger Stadium.

Rodgers still got **five touchdowns** to extend his single-season team touchdown record to 24 and ran for 166 yards as the Tigers made their case for a good playoff seed with a 49-12 win over the Warriors to go to 8-1 on the season, 6-1 in the SWC. Granite, who went into the game still harboring playoff hopes, fell to 4-5 overall, 3-4 in the league.

“They're a very good team,” said **Warrior coach Carl Luehmann**. “They're 8-1 for a reason, they're going to the playoffs, they're a conference team, so good luck to them in the playoffs.”

“I'm proud of what my guys have done this year; they finished 4-5, which is something they can be proud of. A game here or there, we had a shot to make the playoffs. No one believed in these kids, no one gave them a shot; I'm proud of my coaching staff and what they've done with them, I'm proud of the kids. They showed a lot of heart.”

“I was really surprised,” **Tiger coach Matt Martin** admitted. “They worried me; they particularly give defenses issues, but we played very well. We executed pretty much almost flawlessly except for a tipped pass that led to an interception.

“**Freddy (Edwards)**, the Warriors' freshman who gained plenty of attention for his performances) does a good job scrambling; he's hard to tackle and he's a tremendous athlete and he buys time. It'll break down a defense if you're not disciplined and he'll find somebody open. He's a good player.”

Edwardsville's offensive line and tight ends did get the job done to spring Rodgers, Martin felt. “I thought our o-line and tight ends did a great job up front and when he gets to that second and third level, he's making people miss and bouncing off tackles.”

Rodgers scored on runs of 2, 64, 17, 3 and 24 yards in the first half to pace Edwardsville to a 49-6 lead on the Warriors, with Dayleon Harris scoring from 17 yards out in the opening term and **Kendall Abdur-Rahman** bursting through for a 37-yard run in the second term to break the game open. Granite City's only touchdowns came from a 34-yard pass from **Edwards to Torrey Deal** and a 3-yard pass from **Williba to Kyle Thompson** midway through the final quarter, which was played under a running clock once the Tiger lead had gotten to 49-6 late in the first half.

For Edwardsville, it's now a wait-and-see game they're playing until the IHSA announces the first-round pairings for the 43<sup>rd</sup> IHSA Football Championship Saturday night; the announcements begin at 8 p.m. and will be live-streamed at [www.ihsa.tv](http://www.ihsa.tv) and [www.csnchicago.com](http://www.csnchicago.com).

“It's not going to be an easy road,” Martin said. “I told the kids I think we can play with anybody, but I think it's going to be hard-fought. It's going to come down to four or five plays; there's a lot of good teams in (Class) 8A this year if that's where we end up.”

The dates and times of the first-round games will be announced by the IHSA at 3 p.m. Monday.





[Dan Brannan also contributed to this story.](#)