

# Mills' 78th-minute goal puts EHS past O'Fallon

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EDWARDSVILLE – Edwardsville's boys soccer team has the knack of being able to connect when they need to.

It was being able to connect that helped lead to a 78th-minute goal from Alec Mills to defeat O'Fallon 2-1 in a Southwestern Conference match at Tiger Stadium Thursday night. The win put the Tigers to 5-0-1 on the season thus far, 3-0 in the SWC; the Panthers fell to 3-3-1 on the year overall, 0-1 in the league.

“Our kids do a pretty good job of connecting in tight spaces,” said Tiger coach Mark Heiderscheid, who was coaching following a visitation for his father, who died earlier in the week. “It's personality of players, personality of groups and that's what theirs is. A lot of it is that flow of playing one and two touches in and around the field; that was certainly indicative of what they tried to bring to the game.”

The Tigers had taken the lead in the 56<sup>th</sup> minute on a Ethan Miracle goal; the goal held up until the 74<sup>th</sup> minute, when Jordan Ellis beat EHS goalkeeper Michael Hoelting to his right to tie the match, the first goal the Tigers have conceded this year that wasn't a penalty kick. “There's a common thing that talks about 'what is your reaction?' that's played out often,” following a goal, Heiderscheid said. “Certainly there's no question it can play out in high school as well; I think the reaction, if you look at the demeanor of our players – obviously, O'Fallon is going to be excited – but I thought that, from ours,

it was a case that there was still a game on and I thought we were continuing to be very positive and striving to try to get that next goal.

“All of a sudden, there was some sustained pressure from us again from us; I think we were still doing a lot of right things to create that next chance and we finally get the game-winner at that point.”

Mills' goal came off a scramble in front of the goal mouth, when the ball bounced to him and he was able to tuck it past Panther goalkeeper Aiden Cesa for the match-winner. The Panthers had a couple of chances to force extra time, but the Tiger defense turned them back to preserve the win.

Edwardsville will have Labor Day weekend off and returns to action with a trip to Waterloo Gibault at 7 p.m. Sept. 6 before heading to the Morton Tournament the weekend of Sept. 8-9.

