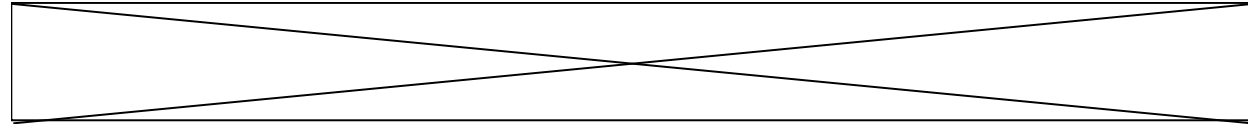


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Coe talks Illini visit

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Four-star athlete [Rodney Coe](#) of Edwardsville (Ill.) High School paid Illinois a visit on Saturday as the Illini battled the Minnesota Golden Gophers. Despite the disappointing loss to Minnesota, Coe had only positive things to say about his visit.



Rodney Coe

Rivals.com lists Coe as the top athlete in the state and the number four prospect overall. Though he occasionally lined up on the defensive side of the ball, Coe played primarily at running back for Edwardsville, and that is his preferred position at the next level. Coe envisions himself as a workhorse back, but he is willing to take on any role that his college coaches ask him to.

"I see myself getting the ball twenty times a game at running back," he said. "But if they choose to move me up to the tight end position or receiver to get the ball in my hands, that's fine with me."

"I like teams that are going to play the I formation and run the ball. Illinois is running an offense that is a lot like the one we had in high school this year, so I think it would be a good fit for me."

With over twenty offers on the table, Coe is one of the most heavily recruited players in the Midwest . He has narrowed his list down to a few schools and will take all of his official visits before closing the book on his recruitment early in 2011.

"I'm still considering Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and Kansas State ," said Coe. "I'll probably make my decision some time in January when I'm done with all of my visits. I'm visiting Iowa this weekend, and then I'm going to Kansas and Arkansas. It's going to come down to the system they run and the relationship I have with the coaches. "

Illinois fans will get a chance to see Coe in action on national television Jan 8th in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. He was one of 90 players selected for the game, which will be played in San Antonio, TX and televised live on NBC. Coe is honored to be selected, but is a little disappointed that he won't get a chance to line up at running back.

"I'm going to be playing linebacker at the Army game," said Coe. "They didn't ask me what position I wanted to play, they just told me I was playing linebacker. I would have liked to play running back, but I'm just going to go down there and play and have a good time."