

Bad third quarter stings Wildcats



Louisburg senior guard Jacob Welsh drives to the basket during the Wildcats' game with Spring Hill on Thursday at Spring Hill High School. The Wildcats lost to the Broncos 61-36, which is their four straight setback.

SPRING HILL – For the first half, the Louisburg boys basketball team was right with Spring Hill.

On Thursday, Louisburg matched the Broncos shot-for-shot through much of the first half before Spring Hill went into halftime with a slim six-point lead.

The third quarter was a different story

Spring Hill blew the game open as it outscored the Wildcats by 19 points in third and went on to beat Louisburg 61-36 at Spring Hill High School. It was also the fourth loss in a row for the Wildcats.

“For us, it’s about getting back to the basics that led to our successes early in the year,” Louisburg coach Jason Nelson said. “We’re not running the floor like we were, we’re not aggressive on the boards like we were and our secondary movements in our half court sets haven’t been crisp. All 11 guys on our roster are capable of scoring, and when they’re in

the game it's imperative that they assert themselves in a manner conducive to being a scoring threat."

Louisburg junior Grant Harding provided a bulk of the Wildcat scoring in the first half as he scored 13 of his team-high 15 points in the first half to keep Louisburg in the contest. Spring Hill held a 19-17 lead at the end of the first quarter and led 29-23 at halftime.

However, after scoring 17 points in the first quarter, Louisburg (6-7) responded with just 19 points in the final three quarters combined and it was the third quarter in which the Wildcats saw the game slip away.

Spring Hill opened the second half on a big run and outscored the Wildcats 22-3 in the third quarter to put the game away.

The Louisburg defense had a tough time containing the Spring Hill duo of Trey Heinrich and Ivan Hughes. Heinrich and Hughes scored 22 points each. Hughes also connected on three 3-pointers.

Along with Harding's 15 points, junior T.J. Dover narrowly missed double figures as he finished with nine points and four rebounds. Sam Guetterman had a team-high five rebounds from the guard spot.

The Wildcats will try and stop their losing streak tonight, but it won't be easy. Louisburg will host the No. 3 ranked team in Class 4A-Division I, Paola. Tipoff is set for approximately 7:30 p.m.

LOUISBURG		17	6
3	10 - 36		
SPRING HILL		19	10
22	10 - 61		

LOUISBURG (6-7): Grant Harding 6-14 0-0 15; T.J. Dover 3-4 2-4 9; Jayce Geiman 2-8 0-0 5; Jacob Welsh 1-4 0-0 2; Mitchell McLellan 1-4 0-0 2; Dalton Ribordy 1-1 0-0 2; Sam Guetterman 0-2 1-2 1. Totals: 14-41 3-8 36. 3-point field goals: 5, (Harding 3, Geiman, Dover)