

JV softball picks up first win in two years



The Louisburg High School junior varsity softball team won its first game in two years following its 10-9 victory over Fort Scott on Tuesday at Lewis-Young Park. Members of the team are (front row, from left) Kallee Bartlett, Bailey Sarna, Skylar Keaton, Sophie Purdon, Bailey Kern; (back row) Ryan Caldwell, Taylor San Agustin, Tomi Frederes, Hannah Jones, Riley Vohs, Alexa Goodspeed and Haven Turner. Not pictured is Kelsey Higginbotham and Vonnah LaHue.

The Louisburg High School junior varsity softball team walked off the field at Lewis-Young Park on Tuesday with a feeling they haven't felt in quite some time.

In the first game of its doubleheader with Fort Scott, Louisburg not only won its first game of the season, but its first in nearly two years. Not only that, the Lady Cats did it in walk-off fashion.

With the Lady Cats down a run, Tomi Frederes singled and scored a pair of runs to give Louisburg a 10-9 win and a taste of victory they have long been waiting for.

"The key to victory was consistent pitching, our speed

on the base paths, solid defense and good at bats,” Louisburg assistant coach Brian Keegan said. “I was happy for the girls especially after taking a tough loss against Paola the week before. Every girl on the team contributed to tonight’s win. They played great team softball and this should give them some confidence heading into the rest of the season.”

Freshman Kelsey Higginbotham started the game for Louisburg and got into a little trouble in the first inning as Fort Scott scored five runs, but Higginbotham pitched two scoreless innings after. Fellow freshman Bailey Kern came in for relief and kept the game close.

Louisburg got back into the game with a six-run third inning, but Fort Scott battled back and the Lady Cats found themselves down a run in the final inning.

Haven Turner started the rally as she reached on a bunt single, and with two outs, Kallee Bartlett hit a double to put both runners in scoring position. Frederes then hit the single to center to win the game.

The Lady Cats went on to lose the second game, but they still managed to score several runs in the 16-7 loss.

Kern hit a 3-run inside-the-park home run to score Hannah Jones and Riley Vohs. Jones also hit a 2-run single to score Vonnah LaHue and Bartlett. Sophie Purdon also scored two runs in the game.

“The girls had just given it their all and came up short in pitching and hitting,” Louisburg assistant coach Cindy Apple said. “However, the confidence they have gained is immeasurable. This is such a fun, energetic group of girls and I look forward to the rest of the season.”