

# Wildcats shutout Field Kindley for regional title



The Louisburg High School boys soccer team celebrates in the huddle after being presented with the Class 4-1A regional championship trophy Wednesday in Coffeyville. The Wildcats defeated Field Kindley 2-0.

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COFFEYVILLE – In a little more than 24 hours, the Louisburg High School boys soccer team played two matches – one that went into double overtime and had to board a bus for a 280-mile round trip for the other.

Players were exhausted. Their legs were weak. But when it was all over, it didn't really matter.

The Wildcats didn't feel any pain. The only thing they felt was pride.

Louisburg captured its second consecutive regional title as it defeated Field Kindley 2-0 on Wednesday in Coffeyville's Veterans Memorial Stadium just hours after defeating Baldwin in double overtime in the regional semifinal.

"To be a part of back-to-back regional titles, it is something that not a lot of people can say happened to them," senior defender Curran Conklin said. "This is something that I am going to carry with me for the rest of my life, and to me that is important."



**Senior Noah Juarez (right) looks up into the stands with teammate Ty Martin after one of his two second half goals Wednesday in Coffeyville.**

It is the seventh regional title in Louisburg history as it now advances to the state quarterfinals. Louisburg will host Wichita-Trinity Academy at 5 p.m. Tuesday as it tries to make program history. In its six previous state quarterfinal appearances, the Wildcats have always ended with a loss and they hope to change it this time around.

“It is a great feeling to win a regional title again,” midfielder Noah Juarez said. “It is my senior year and I definitely didn’t want to stop early. I wanted to go as far as I could. Every Louisburg program has stopped at the state quarterfinal and I want to go as far as I can.”

Juarez did his part to help make sure the Wildcats (13-4-1) advanced onto the next round as he scored both goals in the second half. The Louisburg senior broke open a scoreless game with a free kick opportunity from close to 30 yards out.

His shot made its way through several Field Kindley defenders and past the outstretched arms of the goalie to put the Wildcats up with 34 minutes left in the contest.

Although the Wildcats did have shots on goal, the Golden Tornado defense made it difficult as they put several guys back to prevent breakaway opportunities.

“With seven guys behind the ball all the time, it made it tough for us to score,” Conley said. “Then Noah got the opportunity and we wanted him to just shoot it. So we put everyone in front of him and created a lot of traffic for the goalie to see where the ball was coming. Noah just put it on frame and the rest is history. We were just looking to get shots on goal on see what happens and that benefited us tremendously.”

Seven minutes later, Juarez added more breathing room for Louisburg when he put another shot past the Field Kindley goalie to all but seal the win.

“It was a great relief,” Juarez said of the first goal. “I have been struggling with shooting lately, so it was a like a weight was lifted off shoulder a little bit. It was nice to see that go in for mine, and the team’s sake.”

Louisburg was also able to survive a few scares from the Field Kindley attack and the Wildcat defense of Conklin, Kris Light, Kolten Ragan and Jacob Benne, along with midfielder Scott Murphy, tightened things up in the second half and limited its scoring chances.

Field Kindley nearly scored a couple goals in the first half as throw-ins from the sideline into the box found the heads of

Golden Tornado players, but the headers were either saved or were just wide of the net.

“It was just tough to get into the flow there for a while,” Conley said. “It was back and forth and they would play five to seven guys behind the ball and they were just packing it in. It got really tough and made it frustrating early. We did get some good chances, we just didn’t finish them.

“Defensively, we covered up tight, but they had a player who could just chuck the ball and that was dangerous for us. It went a long way and it was effective. That was their best opportunity. The second half we were more aggressive defensively and much more direct.”



**The LHS boys soccer team poses with its regional championship trophy following its shutout of Field Kindley. The Wildcats will play Trinity Academy on Tuesday in Louisburg in the state quarterfinals.**

Now the Wildcats are preparing to reach the Class 4-1A state tournament for the first time in program history. The team standing in Louisburg’s way is Trinity Academy.

Trinity (9-8-1) finished third in the state tournament last season and have won 15 regional titles since 2000. The Wildcats are hoping their home field advantage can help push them onto the next round.

“We are extremely excited to have the opportunity to host,” Conley said. “We will have our work cut out for us. Trinity is a very talented team that is going to be very direct and has an aggressive style of play. We need to pack the house and make it an incredible atmosphere. It is going to be an intense game.”



Goalie Ambrose Stefan clears the ball out of the box



Senior Ty Martin tries to dribble past a Field Kindley player.



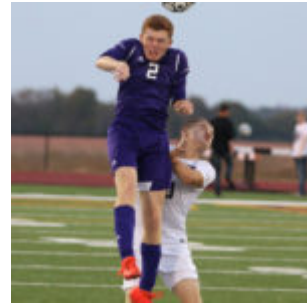
Sophomore Jonathan Ventre heads the ball away.



Junior Raistlin Brewer tries to change directions on a Field Kindley defender.



Junior Kris Light heads the ball out of the box.



Senior Jacob Benne heads the ball back down the field.



Louisburg teammates (from left) Grant Ryals, Kris Light and Herman Knipp celebrate with Noah Juarez after the game's first goal.