

Big second half lifts Lady Cats past Eudora



Louisburg sophomore Carson Buffington dribbles down the floor on a fast break opportunity following one of her four steals Friday in Eudora. The Lady Cats put it altogether in the second half for a 57-33 win.

EUDORA – For 16 minutes, the Louisburg High School girls basketball team had a tough time trying to work its way around Eudora’s zone defense.

The Lady Cats had just 16 points at halftime and they weren’t their usual scoring selves.

However, all it took was a couple tweaks and Louisburg got back on track in a 57-33 win Friday at Eudora High School. The Lady Cats turned up their defensive pressure, found a hole in the Cardinals’ zone defense and let the shots fly as they recorded nine 3-pointers on the night.

“Hats off to Eudora, they used a different zone than we are used to playing against and it had an odd front,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “We had to make some adjustments at halftime and we were able to execute much better than the first half. Our defensive intensity wasn’t that great in the first half either, but we picked that up in the second half too.”

That spark on the defensive end led to a big third quarter offensively for the Lady Cats.

Louisburg (7-7) had a 26-22 lead late in the third, but the Lady Cats were physical under the basket getting offensive rebounds and forced several turnovers that started a 12-0 run to end the quarter. Carson Buffington, Haley Cain, Emalee Overbay and Chloe Renner provided big rebounds during that stretch.

Senior Tayler Lancaster led the charge as she picked the pocket of the Eudora guards, which created several chances in the open floor. Lancaster knocked down two 3-pointers during the run and fellow senior Madisen Simpson also nailed a shot from beyond-the-arc that came off a Lancaster steal.



Louisburg senior Tayler Lancaster goes up for two of her

13 points Friday in Eudora.

“Tayler has been good on the ball for us with her pressure,” Lowry said. “She has good hands and she did a nice job (Friday).”

“That run we had was big, but it started with getting on the floor for loose balls and it started with toughness stuff that led into that. I think there was a scramble there that had multiple girls on the floor and it led into the run. Everything that is good for us starts with us giving really good effort and our intensity being really good on defense.”

Lancaster had eight of the team’s 15 steals to go along with 13 points and the Louisburg guard takes pride in stopping her opponent.

“Defense is my main focus and creating a lot of ball pressure so they have problems getting the ball into the post,” Lancaster said. “Defense is where it starts for me and the rest of the team.”

The Lady Cats kept the pressure on as they started the fourth quarter on an 11-3 run and never looked back.

Simpson led the Lady Cats in scoring with 18 points and also had seven rebounds from the guard spot. Louisburg did a lot of work on the glass and Buffington had a team-high 12 rebounds, while Cain and Overbay had eight and seven, respectively. Buffington was second on the team with four steals.

Friday gave the Lady Cats a big Frontier League road victory, and also stopped a short two-game losing streak, which included a loss to rival Paola last week. Despite some setbacks here and there, the Lady Cats are enjoying their season as they continue to make improvements off a year ago.

“We have a sisterly bond,” Lancaster said. “We just work together and we have fun doing it. Even with the losses, we

tough it out together and that is how we win our games.”

Louisburg returns home this week as it hosts De Soto tonight in a makeup contest. Tipoff is set for approximately 7:30 p.m. The Lady Cats will also host Ottawa on Friday.

“We love defending our place, but getting these wins on the road are important to do,” Lowry said. “We have two tough games against De Soto and Ottawa at home so this win was a good one to get.”

LOU	9	7	22	19
- 57				
EUD	5	3	14	11
- 33				

LOUISBURG (7-7): Madisen Simpson 18, Tayler Lancaster 13, Chloe Renner 7, Kody Lowry 6, Carson Buffington 5, Emalee Overbay 3, Haley Cain 2, Isabelle Holtzen 2, Paige Buffington 1. Totals: 19 10-16 57. 3-point field goals: 9, (Simpson 4, Lancaster 3, Lowry 2)