

Louisburg boys, girls fall to Paola



Louisburg senior Jake Hill tries to back down a Paola defender during the Wildcats' game Tuesday at Paola High School. Paola rallied for a 55-49 win over Louisburg.

PAOLA – The Louisburg High School boys basketball team was just minutes away from pulling off an upset of its league rival, and a possible future substate opponent, on the road.

A victory would have given the Wildcats an even bigger boost of confidence as they had already won three of their last four games going into Tuesday's game at Paola High School. Unfortunately for Louisburg, the Wildcats will have to wait a little longer to try and knock off Paola.

The Panthers overcame a six-point deficit with four minutes left in the game to pull out a 55-49 win over Louisburg.

"The loss itself was disappointing, but the dedication to improvement our boys displayed that night and practice the next day was impressive," Louisburg coach Jason Nelson said. "We've spoken of the necessity to maintain our game plan implementation for 32 minutes and we saw, first hand, what happens when we don't execute. We went through a two-minute period where we didn't execute at the defensive end and it cost us dearly."

Louisburg (6-8) put together a 45-39 lead midway through the fourth quarter after 3-pointers from Jayce Geiman, Dalton Stone and a basket from Desmond Doles. Paola then called a timeout and the Panthers picked up their intensity.

Paola's Dalton Rankin hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead in half, and then got a pair of baskets from Tanner Moala and Andrew Phillips to give them a 1-point lead with under three minutes left.

Wildcat senior Sam Guetterman hit a pair of free throws to put Louisburg up one again, but only for a short time.

Noah Bell responded with a 3-pointer to put Paola back on top by two points, then Louisburg senior T.J. Dover drove the lane for two points to tie it up with 1 minute and 16 seconds left.

Paola took the lead on pair of free throws by Brandon Wilkes, and then the Panthers got a Wildcat turnover, which turned into two points for Phillips and all but sealed the win for the home team.

The Wildcats were playing short-handed as they missed one of their post players in junior Dalton Ribordy, who was out with an illness. Nelson believes the team did what it could to pick up the slack, especially having to go up against a pair of 6-foot, 5-inch players in Moala and Matthew Wilson.

"Given our dramatic personnel rotation, we played really well," Nelson said. "With Dalton out of the lineup, we're significantly smaller, and knew we'd have to play some smalls on their bigs. Those who were tasked with playing against their bigs did a really good job."

Senior Grant Harding led the Wildcats with a double-double as he recorded 10 points and 10 rebounds. Geiman also had a team-high 12 points, including four 3-pointers, while Dover finished with 10 points. Guetterman had eight points and six rebounds in the loss.

Bell led the Panthers with 13 points and Moala finished with 10 points and eight rebounds.

Louisburg will try to get back on the winning track, but the Wildcats face a tough test tonight on the road at No. 4 Eudora. The Wildcats played the Cardinals close for a half earlier this season and they hope to turn that into more this time around.

"We know that if and when we put 32 minutes of our style of basketball together we can play with most anybody and we've gotten progressively better," Nelson said.

LOU	8	12	15	14 –
49				
PAO	8	12	14	21 –
55				

LOUISBURG (6-8): Jayce Geiman 12, Grant Harding 10, T.J. Dover 10, Sam Guetterman 8, Dalton Stone 6, Desmond Doles 2, Jake Hill 1. Totals: 19-46 7-11 49. 3-point field goals: 6, (Geiman 4, Stone 2)

Lady Cats fall to No. 8 Paola

PAOLA – At times, there wasn't much the Louisburg girls basketball team could do Tuesday against Paola.

The Lady Cats played the type of defense they were looking for, but Paola always had an answer. The Panthers shot a high-percentage from the field as they took down Louisburg, 67-43.

"They are athletic," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said of Paola. "I am not sure what their shooting percentage was, but it was good. It is not that we were playing off anywhere, they

were just hitting some nice shots and hats off to them for that. It was a nice offensive performance.”



Louisburg senior Tayler Lancaster tries to dribble into the lane Tuesday in Paola.

Paola senior Matti Morgan lifted her team with a game-high 27 points as she was perfect from the field.

Morgan and the rest of the Panthers were tough to stop as they scored 41 first half points and the Lady Cats weren't able to keep up. The two teams provided a back-and-forth first quarter as Paola took a 24-17 lead going into the second.

"We did ok," Lowry said. "We have some things that we have to make some adjustments on and some fundamental things that we have been doing and we didn't do this time. We had some breakdowns that happened that the players know about and we will get it fixed. I wasn't disappointed at all with our

toughness or effort. The kids give a lot.”

Louisburg (6-7) got a bulk of its scoring from a pair of seniors. Madisen Simpson led the Lady Cats with 22 points, including four 3-pointers, while Paige Buffington finished with 12.

Sophomore Carson Buffington finished with a team-high 11 rebounds.

The Lady Cats will try and snap mini two-game losing skid tonight when they travel to Eudora.

“That is what great about this time of year is you are in the meat of your schedule with Tuesday and Friday games,” Lowry said. “Now we just have to get ready for the game (today) and turn around play two more times next week. We just need to get some of our stuff fixed.”

LOU	17	8	10	8 – 43
PAO	24	17	17	9 – 67

LOUISBURG (6-7): Madisen Simpson 22, Paige Buffington 12, Chloe Renner 4, Kennia Hankinson 3, Carson Buffington 2. Totals: 14 9-16 43. 3-point field goals: 6, (Simpson 4, P. Buffington 2)