

Aye provides memorable moment in Senior Night loss to Eudora



Louisburg senior Shayla Aye makes her first varsity basket as her teammates look on during Tuesday's game against Eudora. Aye, who serves as the team's manager, suited up for the first time on Senior Night.

If you are a Louisburg fan, the game itself between the Lady Cats and No. 4-ranked Eudora didn't leave a lot to cheer about.

The Cardinals showed why they are one of the best teams in Class 4A as they defeated the Lady Cats, 56-33.

Despite that, the Lady Cats left the floor with a lot of smiles on their faces and there was one big reason why.

Tuesday was Senior Night for the Lady Cats as they honored senior players Haley Cain and Sydni Keagle, along with manager Shayla Aye.

Aye, who has been in charge of the team's camera the last few years, had a chance to suit up for the first time.

So late in the fourth quarter, she made her way to the

scorer's table to check
in.

What came after was something many
of the Lady Cat players will never forget.

Aye stole the ball and dribbled
down the court in the game's final seconds, and after a couple
missed shots,
scored her first varsity basket as the LHS gymnasium erupted.

"Shayla
has to be one of the most positive people on the planet,"
coach Leanna Willer
said. "She smiles constantly and brings such a positive energy
and light into
any room. We have absolutely loved having Shayla be part of
our program over
the years, and she earned her right to put on that uniform for
senior night.

"At
the end of the game, we were going to do whatever we could to
get Shayla the
ball and the opportunity to score. It was truly an incredible
moment, and I'm
so glad we got to share it together. Shout out to the Eudora
coaching staff and
players – they were true class acts and cheered for her just
as much as we did."

It was also a chance to recognize Cain and Keagle for their
efforts with the program and both players were honored
following the game along with their parents. Both players
started the game for the Lady Cats and Aye was named as an
honorable starter.



Louisburg senior Sydni Keagle (left) battles for the opening tip Tuesday against Eudora.

“It’s difficult to even put into words what Haley and Sydni have meant to this program,” Willer said. “They have been awesome leaders, and are incredible young women. Although roles have changed for each of them over the years, they are completely unselfish and have been willing to do whatever is best for the team. These two are true team players and their teammates

trust them
wholeheartedly as they lead by example.

“There
is no hiding the fact that they are not leading the team in
points, rebounds,
or even minutes, but they make the biggest impact when it
comes to the
intangibles. We can always count on them to give their all and
hold teammates
accountable while being the glue holding our team together.
Personally, I do
not know what I would have done without these two this year.
They will be
greatly missed next year.”

As
for the game itself, Eudora took control of the game early as
it scored the
game’s first 15 points and took a 31-11 halftime lead.

It was a closer game in the second
half and Louisburg (7-10) found a little more of a rhythm
offensively, but the
Cardinals scored 17 points in the third quarter to all but
seal the win.

Junior Madilyn Melton led
Louisburg in scoring with 14 points, while sophomore Delaney
Wright and junior
Alyse Moore each finished with seven. Moore also had a team-
high seven rebounds
and three steals. Cain also had six rebounds to help lead the
Lady Cats and
Keagle had four.

Louisburg will try and bounce back
tonight when it travels to Bonner Springs for a league game.

Tipoff is set for
6 p.m.

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| LOU | 4 | 7 | 11 | 11 |
| - 33 | | | | |
| EUD | 19 | 12 | 17 | 8 - |
| 56 | | | | |

LOUISBURG (7-10): Madilyn Melton
6-7 2-2 14; Delaney Wright 2-8 1-2 7; Alyse Moore 2-4 3-5 7;
Brooklyn Diederich
1-5 0-0 2; Shayla Aye 1-6 0-0 2. Totals: 12-39 6-9 33. 3-point
field goals: 3,
(Wright 2, Diederich)