

Wildcats get first victory over Ottawa in at least 17 years



Junior Julian Margrave pulls up for two of his 15 points Friday during Louisburg's homecoming game against Ottawa.

Since 2004, the Louisburg boys basketball team had always been on the wrong side of the scoreboard against Ottawa.

Trialing midway through the fourth quarter against Cyclones, the Wildcats were looking for anything that could give them a spark.

They found that spark in their defense.

Louisburg turned in four strong possessions late that led to eight straight points from Weston Guetterman and the Wildcats picked up their second consecutive win in a 53-44 victory over Ottawa at Louisburg High School.

Defense came to the rescue in the second half as the Wildcats were able to overcome a six-point halftime deficit and held Ottawa to just 16 second half points.

It was the first win against Ottawa for Louisburg in at least 17 years since the Cyclones joined the Frontier League.

"Our defense was big, especially in the fourth quarter there," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. " I think it gave us a lot of energy and made us more effective offensively."

The Wildcats (10-5), who were down 28-22 at halftime, didn't have the opportunity to get out in transition as much as they would have liked. Ottawa worked the ball around on offense and limited Louisburg's opportunities to get out and run.

It all changed in the second half – more specifically – the fourth quarter. Louisburg pressured the Ottawa ball handlers and the Wildcats were able to force 10 turnovers, many of which came in the second half.

The defensive pressure, that was led by senior Konnor Vohs, allowed the Wildcats to get out and run. In fact, it was Vohs, Weston Guetterman and Ben Guetterman that helped speed up the game.

Down 44-42 midway through the fourth, Weston Guetterman scored eight straight points thanks to some Ottawa mistakes and the Wildcats ended the game on an 11-0 run.



Louisburg senior Weston Guetterman lays up the ball up for two of his eight straight points late in the fourth quarter.

"That was a combination of our three guards up top with our press and getting deflections and traps that led to steals," Pfannenstiel said. "That is where Weston is at his best is in transition and he had a lot of transition points. He can really make our offense go cause he is so fast with the ball."

"Ottawa was tough and really slowed the game down running their offense. We were in zone, they were playing zone and that just goes to show that every possession is important. We were good in the second half and it paid off."

Weston Guetterman ran the team well from the point guard spot as he finished with a game-high 19 points to go along with six rebounds, six assists and two steals.

Junior Julian Margrave also had a big night with a double-double. Margrave recorded 15 points and had 14 rebounds and three blocks. Senior Ben Guetterman also had 15 points, five rebounds and a team-high three steals.

The Wildcats also had to play without junior Michael Seufferling, who is one of the team's best defenders, after he had to sit out with an injury. Vohs got the start in his place and stepped up it on defense.

It also meant more minutes for junior guard Maverick Rockers, along with forwards Andy Hupp and Dawson Barnes.



Louisburg senior Konnor Vohs battles on the floor for a loose

ball Friday against Ottawa.

"Konnor was really good defensively," Pfannenstiel said. "Not having Michael was huge for us, but some other guys had to step up and some guys had more extended minutes than what they would have in our normal rotation.

"We had guys really play well and it doesn't show up in the stat sheets. There are a lot of guys that played to their role tonight and did a nice job."

Louisburg will play its third consecutive sub-state opponent in a row Tuesday when it travels to Fort Scott, as the Wildcats try for their third straight win. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

LOU 12 10 12 19 – 53

OTT 12 16 8 8 – 44

LOUISBURG (10-5): Weston Guetterman 9-15 1-2 19; Ben Guetterman 5-16 2-2 15; Julian Margrave 7-14 1-2 15; Maverick Rockers 1-2 0-0 3; Andy Hupp 0-1 1-2 1. Totals: 22-50 5-8 53. 3-point field goals: 4, (B. Guetterman 3, Rockers)