

Meet the 2021 Fall Homecoming Candidates



The 2021 LHS Fall Homecoming candidates are (from left) Brandon Doles, Davis Guetterman, Michael Seuferling, Malee Rutherford, Delaney Wright, Braden Yows, Katie Dillon and Tom Koontz.

Homecoming week at Louisburg High School kicked off Monday and events are in full swing. With something going on every day this week, it will be a busy time for students. All of it is, of course, centered around the crowning of the 2021 fall king and queen. Eight students were selected as nominees and here are their names and profiles.

The crowning will take place on Friday before the Wildcats' home football game with Eudora. Kickoff for that game is set for 7 p.m., with the crowning to take place at 6:30. Good luck to all the participants and make sure to come out on Friday to support the Wildcat football team if you have the opportunity.



Brandon Doles and Davis Guetterman

Brandon Doles

Brandon is the son of Bryan and Desiree Doles. Brandon has participate in football, wrestling, baseball and choir for four years. He is unsure of his plans after graduation.

Davis Guetterman

Davis is the daughter of Michael and Jodi Guetterman. She has participated in volleyball and track for four years, FBLA and FFA for three years, basketball and National Honor Society for two years and Debate and Interact Club for one year. After graduation, Davis plans to play volleyball at the University of Sioux Falls and dual major in chemistry and biology.



Malee Rutherford and Michael Seuferling

Michael Seuferling

Michael is the son of Philip and Heather Seuferling. Michael has participated in soccer and basketball for four years and FFA for two years. He is undecided on his plans for after graduation.

Malee Rutherford

Malee is the daughter of Breck and Shane Rutherford. She has participated in student council and FFA for four years, track and select choir for three years, and cross country, basketball, football manager, musical, FCCLA, FBLA and National Honor Society for two years. After graduation, Malee plans to attend either Kansas or Kansas State and her major is

undecided.



Braden Yows and Delaney Wright

Braden Yows

Braden is the son of Greg and Heather Yows. He has participated in soccer for four years and National Honor Society and FBLA for two years. Following graduation, he plans to play soccer at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and pursue a degree in business and accounting.

Delaney Wright

Delaney is the daughter of Andy and Amy Wright. She has participated in basketball and track for four years, student council for three years, National Honor Society for two years

and cross country and Wildcat Crew for one year. After graduation, Delaney plans to run track in college.



Katie Dillon and Tom Koontz

Tom Koontz

Tom is the son of Ken and Jill Koontz. He has participated in FBLA, football, student council and track for four years, and

National Honor Society and Interact Club for two years. After graduation, Tom plans to attend a four-year university and major in zoology and possibly run track.

Katie Dillon

Katie is the daughter of Jim and Karen Dillon. She has participated student council, FBLA, FFA, Debate, FCA and musical for four years. Katie has also participated select choir for three years and Scholar's Bowl, Interact Club, Forensics, National Honor Society for two years. She also did concert choir, Wildcat crew and band for one year. Following graduation, Katie plans to major in agribusiness with a potential pre-law emphasis.











KSHSAA releases classifications for this year, next football cycle



The Kansas State High School Activities Association released the classifications for the current year, along with the football classification for the next two years.

The biggest changes came in the new 2-year football classification cycle as St. Thomas Aquinas has moved from Class 5A to 4A and will join other schools like Louisburg, St. James Academy and Bishop Miege for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

Along with St. Thomas Aquinas, Schlagle High School also made the move down to 4A. Previous 4A football schools, Great Bend and Lansing, jumped back up to 5A.

Kansas State High School Activities Association

Football Classifications and Enrollments-Descending Order 2022 & 2023

*Enrollment figures are based on ninth, tenth and eleventh grades only.
Enrollment figures are as of September 20, 2021.*

6A

Member Schools: 32
Range: 1832 - 1083

Wichita-East	1832
Wichita-North	1750
Wichita-Southeast	1741
Derby	1616
Garden City	1609
Kansas City-Wyandotte	1570
Dodge City	1516
Olathe North	1513
Manhattan	1465
Olathe Northwest	1460
Olathe South	1435
Topeka-Washburn Rural	1428
Wichita-South	1421
Olathe East	1376
Haysville-Campus	1374
Lawrence-Free State	1366
Gardner Edgerton	1347
Junction City	1266
Shawnee Mission East	1265
Shawnee Mission West	1250
Shawnee Mission Northwest	1244
Topeka	1240
Lawrence	1212
Olathe West	1203
Overland Park-Blue Valley West	1179
Shawnee Mission North	1169
Shawnee Mission South	1165
Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest	1150
Overland Park-Blue Valley North	1139
Wichita-Northwest	1126
Wichita-Heights	1116
Overland Park-Blue Valley	1083

5A

Member Schools: 32
Range: 1081 - 677

Kansas City-JC Harmon	1081
Wichita-West	1071
Liberal	1011
Emporia	997
Hutchinson	987
Leavenworth	980
Shawnee-Mill Valley	970
Maize	948
Kansas City-Turner	934
Topeka-Seaman	932
Kansas City-Washington	927
Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights	908
Wichita-Bishop Carroll	899
Topeka West	846
Salina-South	808
Maize South	806
Overland Park-Blue Valley Southwest	796
Newton	755
Andover	751
Goddard-Eisenhower	749
Valley Center	746
De Soto	742
Spring Hill	739
Topeka-Highland Park	738
Salina-Central	732
Pittsburg	708
Lansing	701
Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel	698
Hays	692
Great Bend	689
Goddard	677
Kansas City-Sumner Academy	677

4A

Member Schools: 32
Range: 663 - 330

Kansas City-FL Schlagle	663
Overland Park-St. Thomas Aquinas	662
Andover Central	656
Lenexa-St. James Academy	655
Basehor-Linwood	637
Arkansas City	624
Bonner Springs	596
Kansas City-Piper	574
Ottawa	545
McPherson	543
Buhler	525
Shawnee Mission-Bishop Miege	505
Winfield	496
Augusta	492
Tonganoxie	474
Chanute	469
Louisburg	457
Towanda-Circle	452
Independence	445
Fort Scott	432
Mulvane	419
Paola	416
Coffeyville-Field Kindley	415
Eudora	402
Altamont-Labette County	397
Wamego	395
Rose Hill	377
El Dorado	371
Atchison	368
Wellington	359
Ulysses	342
Abilene	330

In the football numbers, Schlagle is the biggest 4A school with an enrollment of 663 and Aquinas was right behind them at 662. Andover Central was the third biggest at 656.

Louisburg's football enrollment, which is based on ninth through 11th grades, sits at 457.

In the general classification, there wasn't much movement. Class 6 and 5A schools stayed the same.

The only school that moved into 4A was Rock Creek High School, while Nickerson moved down to 3A.

2021-2022 Classifications and Enrollments

Enrollment figures as of September 21, 2021 based on ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades.

Note: Schools are listed in descending order

- ↑ School Moved Up in Class
- ↓ School Moved Down in Class

 [Printable View](#)

[Sort By School](#)

6A

Member Schools: 36
Range: 2371-1328

Wichita-East HS	2371
Wichita-North HS	2268
Wichita-Southeast HS	2266
Derby HS	2147
Dodge City HS	2024
Garden City HS	1989
Olathe South HS	1944
Olathe North HS	1943
Olathe Northwest HS	1895
Olathe East HS	1875
Manhattan HS	1874
Kansas City-Wyandotte HS	1853
Topeka-Washburn Rural HS	1850
Lawrence-Free State HS	1822
Wichita-South HS	1813
Wichita-Haysville Campus HS	1772
Gardner Edgerton HS	1735
Shawnee Mission East HS	1669
Shawnee Mission Northwest HS	1641
Overland Park-Blue Valley West HS	1628
Shawnee Mission West HS	1626
Olathe West HS	1613
Lawrence HS	1599
Topeka HS	1598
Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest HS	1581
Junction City HS	1580
Overland Park-Blue Valley North HS	1534
Shawnee Mission South HS	1524
Overland Park-Blue Valley HS	1484
Shawnee Mission North HS	1484
Wichita-Heights HS	1440
Wichita-Northwest HS	1408
Kansas City-JC Harmon HS	1397
Wichita-West HS	1397
Liberal HS	1362
Hutchinson HS	1328

5A

Member Schools: 36
Range: 1308-729

Leavenworth HS	1308
Shawnee-Mill Valley HS	1298
Emporia HS	1255
Topeka-Seaman HS	1218
Maize HS	1215
Wichita-Bishop Carroll HS	1178
Kansas City-Washington HS	1167
Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights HS	1166
Kansas City-Turner HS	1126
Topeka West HS	1124
Maize South HS	1116
Overland Park-Blue Valley Southwest HS	1062
Salina-South HS	1040
Newton HS	1006
De Soto HS	989
Salina-Central HS	982
Andover HS	970
Goddard-Eisenhower HS	965
Spring Hill HS	963
Valley Center HS	950
Topeka-Highland Park HS	944
Pittsburg HS	943
Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel HS	910
Goddard HS	887
Lansing HS	885
Hays HS	882
Overland Park-St. Thomas Aquinas HS	880
Kansas City-Sumner Academy	877
Great Bend HS	866
Lenexa-St. James Academy	859
Andover Central HS	848
Basehor-Linwood HS	830
Kansas City-FL Schlagle HS	825
Arkansas City HS	796
Bonner Springs HS	779
Kansas City-Piper HS	729

4A

Member Schools: 36
Range: 729-316

McPherson HS	729
Ottawa HS	709
Shawnee Mission-Bishop Miege HS	668
Buhler HS	660
Augusta HS	652
Winfield HS	646
Louisburg HS	607
Tonganoxie HS	601
Chanute HS	592
Towanda-Circle HS	585
Fort Scott HS	576
Paola HS	570
Independence HS	554
Mulvane HS	548
Eudora HS	545
Coffeyville-Field Kindley HS	541
Altamont-Labette County HS	523
Wamego HS	508
El Dorado HS	488
Rose Hill HS	484
Wellington HS	470
Atchison HS	462
Abilene HS	447
Ulysses HS	431
Baldwin HS	409
Parsons HS	398
Andale HS	370
Chapman HS	351
Pratt HS	346
Iola HS	343
Clay Center Community HS	341
Clearwater HS	341
Topeka-Hayden HS	336
Holton HS	328
↑ St. George-Rock Creek HS	317
Concordia HS	316

Louisburg is considered the seventh biggest school in Class 4A with an enrollment of 607, which encompasses ninth through 12th grade.

McPherson is the biggest school at 729 and Ottawa is second at 709. Bishop Miege is third at 668.

Piper, which also has an enrollment of 729, stayed in Class 5A as the smallest school.

For the complete general classification list, [click here](#).

For the complete football classification, [click here](#).

Cunningham wins national title in goat tying



Louisburg graduate Lakin Cunningham won the national title in goat tying last month at the Little Britches Rodeo in Guthrie, Okla.

Lakin Cunningham couldn't have asked for a better way to finish her high school rodeo career.

Cunningham, who is a 2021 Louisburg High School graduate, won the world title in goat tying at the National Little Britches Rodeo (NLBR) in Guthrie, Okla. In the high school division, approximately 175 girls competed at the national finals

"Going into Nationals, I knew that all I could do was go out and do my best and hope it would be good enough as there's a lot of great goat tyers across the nation that qualify for Nationals," Cunningham said. "Loading my horses in the trailer for Nationals I had a horse step on my foot and beat it up to

the point I could barely walk. Luckily, I drew up in the middle of the week, so I had a couple days to recover a bit. In the back of my mind, I was still very worried about tying goats on an injured foot and was pretty nervous, but knew there was nothing I could do but go out and tie.

“Last year at Nationals was a disappointment and I’ve ended up in the top 15 in the world standings in goat tying three times. Last year, I didn’t even qualify for the Short Go in goat tying. “I was ready for redemption.”

She definitely got that as she put together a couple good runs, and got off to great start. She had 6.6 second run in the first round, which was the fastest time for the entire competition.

Cunningham then had a run of 7.1 seconds in the second round, before struggling a little bit in the short go.

“Honestly, after I tied, I thought I didn’t win the title and had thrown it away,” Cunningham said. “Although I felt defeated, I was still proud of myself as I’d never placed as high as the top 7 in the world in goats and knew I’d have at least accomplished my highest world finish. When the point standing sheet was posted and my name was at the top of the list, I was so excited I didn’t know what to do. I’d actually done it. I’d won the World Championship title. If you ask my mom, it looked like I had no emotion when I found out as I truly thought I had lost that title and convinced myself that I had.

“I was so shocked and excited at the same time. I set a goal a few years ago to someday win a world title. This year my New Year’s resolution was to finish in the Top 5 in the world standings. I surpassed that resolution and that my dream I set a few years ago had come true. It was such a great feeling knowing that a small-town Kansan had won a world title that I’d dreamed of for so long.”



Lakin Cunningham poses with her prized saddle after winning the goat tying competition at the Little Britches Rodeo.

Prior to her world title in late July, Cunningham had racked up another title earlier and had some success alongside a pair of two other Louisburg students.

At the Kansas High School Rodeo Association, Cunningham won the state title in goat tying and was also a reserve state champion in the reined cow horse event.

“Throughout my high school career, I have won many state and reserve state championship titles in other events, but this

year's state title was probably the most special," Cunningham said. "Seven years ago, I set a goal to win a goat tying state championship title and follow in the footsteps of my long-time goat tying mentor Jacoby (Hotsenpiller) Johnson. Although the other state championship wins have been special, this one was by far the best. I've come very close to this title over the years and have many reserve champion finishes, but have always been a bit short of points needed for the title at the very end.

"I came home with that State Championship title in the goat tying that I'd set the goal for all those years ago. That evening at the rodeo, I cried, and I don't normally cry for things like this, but I did. It was a mix of emotions, knowing that it was my last KHSRA rodeo ever and I'd finally won that state title on my last shot at it."

Breck Nielsen, who is a student at Louisburg Middle School, won the state title in barrel racing at the Kansas Junior High School Rodeo Association.

Freshman Shylar Whiting was reserve champion in pole bending at the junior high state competition. Whiting also ended up in the top 20 in the world standings for breakaway roping for the National Little Britches Rodeo Association.

"Louisburg has some true rodeo athletes among us and I know these girls have many more successes they'll bring back to our hometown in the year's to come," Cunningham said.

Now Cunningham is preparing for life on the college circuit with Missouri Valley College and she is looking forward to the challenge.

"I'm nervous, but also excited," she said. "Being gone rodeoing and pursuing my last summer run as a high schooler has definitely helped me get ready for college. My MoVal rodeo coach Ken Mason was at two of the large competitions I was at this summer. I got to talk to him a few times, he gave me some

coaching after my second round at Nationals, and he got to see me win the world title. That helped tremendously. He saw me make some great runs, some ok runs and some bad runs this summer.

“I witnessed first hand before I head off to college how encouraging he is and that helps tremendously as I prepare to head to school in a few weeks. I know that college and college rodeo will be a totally different experience than high school, but I’m ready to tackle this next challenge. My first college rodeo goal is to qualify for the College National Finals Rodeo.”

Driskell places at national powerlifting competition



Louisburg junior Cade Driskell recently placed third in his weight class at the USA High School and Teen National Championship competition in Aurora, Colo.

Cade Driskell had one of those “I want to be like my dad” moments several years ago.

It is what got Driskell started in the sport of powerlifting as he watched his father, Mark, lift weights on a regular basis.

"I've been lifting competitively for about three years, but what got me started was always seeing my dad go to the gym and lift big heavy weights," Cade said. "I wanted to be like him. He mentioned doing a powerlifting meet and once the first meet was done, I was hooked."

Since that time, Driskell has six state records for his weight class and recently placed third at the USA High School and Teen Nationals Championships in Aurora, Colo., on May 28.

Driskell competed against 11 other lifters in his age and weight class that had qualified from across the country.

In order to qualify for nationals you must have achieved a 3 lift total that is high enough based on your age/weight division at a USA powerlifting meet within the past year. Over 500 lifters competed over the 4 day event.



"I was very pleased with placing third, although it's not a first place finish and it gives me more to work on," Cade said. "It's about where I expected to place after looking at the other kids I was competent against."

Driskell, who is entering his junior year at Louisburg High School, had a good showing as he had a 3-lift total of 492.5 kilograms, or 1,085.7 pounds in the 83 kg weight class. He had a squat of 182.5 kg, a bench of 105 kg and a deadlift of 205 kg.

For taking part in his first national competition, Driskell was pleased with the way everything unfolded.

“I went up against some really good competition for sure,” he said. “The kids that placed ahead of me were very strong kids and the whole experience was pretty cool. I’ve never got to do a national meet, so it was really awesome and it was great to meet some of the people I follow on social media, in person.”

In November of last year, Driskell broke two USAPL (USA Powerlifting) Kansas records in his 83 kg weight class. He had a squat of 374 pounds and broke the previous record of 369. He also set the record for bench press single lift at 237 pounds.

Then in December, he broke four USPA records with a 402 pound squat, a 237 pound bench, a deadlift of 419 pounds and a total lift of 1,058 pounds.

With all the success he has achieved in powerlifting, he has also seen it translate into other sports.

“I can definitely tell how much it’s helped with baseball,” Driskell said. “it has made me a lot faster and has improved my hitting a lot, as well as my arm strength.”

Vohs has sights set on

success with Lindenwood shotgun sports



Louisburg senior Konnor Vohs recently signed his letter of intent to join the shotgun sports team at Lindenwood University. Seated next to Konnor are his parents Cassi and Kevin Vohs. Standing (from left) is his sister Ellie and brother Mylo.

For the last seven years, Konnor Vohs has been aiming for that one opportunity.

Competition after competition only fueled Vohs' fire to be able to take that one shot – a chance at participating in college athletics. However, he isn't participating in your normal college sport.

Vohs has spent several years working toward the opportunity to take up shooting in college and he found the perfect spot to do it.

Last month, Vohs signed his letter of intent to participate in shotgun sports at Lindenwood University.

"Shooting sports is definitely something a little different than what most people think of as a college sport," Vohs said. "Since the day I found out it would help pay for college, I was really hooked. I've worked for the past 7 years to get where I am now so that I can receive a scholarship to shoot."

Needing to make a decision in a short amount of time, Vohs

took a few visits to schools in the spring and he had a few options. However, the choice was an obvious one for him.

“Originally, I was looking at others schools and didn’t have Lindenwood on my radar,” Vohs said. “Then some things changed and I got a chance to go out and visit. The campus was very nice and the people there were super friendly. The team pays for everything shooting related, which is a huge help towards yearly personal expenses. All around it was the best fit and it is close to home.”

Shooting competitions have been a big part of Vohs’ life the last few years and has an array of awards to show for it.

In the high school league he competes in, Vohs’ team won a skeet state championship and he tied for first. In national leagues, the Louisburg senior has won a Missouri and Kansas state championship in FITASC.

Vohs has also been on a national championship trap team and placed in the top 10 in AIM events in different disciplines.

“I have been doing shooting competition for 7 years,” Vohs said. “I started shooting shotguns when 22 rifle ammo became too expensive. We had plenty of reloading supplies for shotguns, so we switched to that. My first competition was a charity shoot called Shoot for the Cure, which is ran by my uncle Ken Seltzer. I shot well for my age then and was asked to join the Kansas City Crushers, which I am still a part of today.”

Now Vohs will set his sights on the college level and he believes he hit the bullseye with Lindenwood.

“Lindenwood is going to be a place for me to focus on shooting and school,” Vohs said. “I don’t have to worry about three other sports during the year. I hope that the coaches can help improve my game so that I can be competitive in the national and world championships. Being competitive and consistent is

the goal. The coaches are all about improving each individual which in all helps the team. They have great knowledge of the game and are encouraging.”

Cunningham signs on with Missouri Valley rodeo program



Lakin Cunningham has a long list of accomplishments when it comes to rodeo and for good reason.

She has spent most of her young life on the rodeo circuit and has loved every minute of it, along with the accolades that have come her way. It is a life she isn't ready to give up just yet.

Cunningham has always wanted rodeo in college and now she will get that chance. She recently committed to the Missouri Valley College rodeo team and found her future home.

“College has always been a goal of mine,” Cunningham said. “There’s never been a moment when I thought I wouldn’t further my education after high school. Missouri Valley is the place that’s going to make that all happen. I’ve always wanted to rodeo on the collegiate level in hopes that I’ll make the College National Finals. Missouri Valley and coach Ken Mason are going to help my goals come true, and I can’t wait to be a Viking in the fall.”

As confident as Cunningham was going to rodeo in college, she didn't think Missouri Valley was going to be her eventual landing spot.

She was all set to attend Oklahoma State and major in Ag Business, but decided to change her major and become a chiropractor. The new trajectory for her future didn't fit Oklahoma State and went to find a new stop.

Cunningham decided to give Missouri Valley a visit, and the rest as you can say, is history.



Lakin Cunningham recently committed to Missouri Valley and its

rodeo program under head coach Ken Mason.

"My mom told me to visit MVC because it was close to home and we knew many people that have attended/are attending and love it," Cunningham said. "When I went in October to visit, I was ready to sign after that. I fell in love with the small quiet campus, the beautiful scenery, the way that even non-rodeo kids knew the rodeo coach, the rodeo facility, and just everything about Missouri Valley.

"The one thing that really held me back was the travel to rodeos as I have to travel as far as 13 hours one way to get to some rodeos. After my visit, my mom and coach Mason told me to go visit at least one more college to be sure MVC is where I wanted to attend. So, in November of last year, I visited South Western Oklahoma State and I loved the rodeo program and coach there, but the school just wasn't for me. I knew in that moment that Missouri Valley is where i'll be calling home for the next few years."

Cunningham has one several championships during her youth and high school rodeo days, but knows the collegiate level will be more challenging.

She has found a lot of success in Barrel Racing and Goat Tying, but will try some new events as well, including Breakaway Roping.

"Rodeo is something i've been so passionate about for a very long time," Cunningham said. "As those who I've went to school with know, I'm always gone for rodeos and not involved in school activities as much as I would be without rodeo. It's always been my goal to rodeo in college, instead of getting my pro rodeo cars right off the bat. Reason being, Goat Tying is my best event and favorite event, and I can really only do that through college as they don't really have many opportunities for goat tiers after college.

"In the fall I will be taking three horses with me to MVC

where I will be competing in the Barrel Racing and Goat Tying event. Coach Mason also would like me to try my hand at Breakaway Roping.”

Cunningham wants to face off with the best the collegiate circuit has to offer and has high goals for herself.

“It has always been a goal of mine to make the College National Finals Rodeo,” she said. “I’m hoping to make it my freshman year, but I know that it won’t be easy and I will have to really work in order to be the very best I can be. I’ve had a lot of accomplishments on the Junior High and High School level, but I know that the collegiate scene is way more difficult and I will have to be on my A-game in order to achieve that goal.

“I also plan to go to other big events and compete outside of just college rodeo in hopes to win more titles and more money as I progress my skills and knowledge through the coaching of Ken Mason.”

LHS 2021 winter king and queen to be crowned Friday



This year's 2021 Louisburg High School winter homecoming candidates are (from left) Sydney Thornton, Alec Younggren, Olivia Barber, Luke Faulkner, Brooklyn Diederich, Dawson

Barnes, Madilyn Melton and Ben Guetterman.

Homecoming week at Louisburg High School kicked off Monday and events are in full swing. With something going on every day this week, it will be a busy time for students. All of it is, of course, centered around the crowning of the 2021 winter king and queen. Eight students were selected as nominees and here are their names and profiles.

The crowning will take place on Friday during halftime of the Wildcat boys' basketball game with Ottawa. Tipoff for that game is set for approximately 7:30 p.m. Good luck to all the participants and make sure to come out on Friday to support both the Wildcat girls and boys basketball teams if you can get your hands on tickets.



Olivia Barber and Luke Faulkner

Olivia Barber

Olivia is the daughter of Adam and Angie Barber. Olivia has participated in soccer for four years, National Honor Society, Interact Club and forensics for two years and FBLA, cheerleading and FCCLA for one year. After graduation, Olivia

plans to attend the University of Kansas and major in biology.

Luke Faulkner

Luke is the son of Brad Faulkner and Cindy Faulkner. Luke has participated in track for four years, soccer and yearbook for three years, FBLA for two years, and cross country and Interact Club for one year. Following graduation, Luke plans to attend Cowley Community College and pursue his track career.



Sydney Thornton and Alec Younggren

Sydney Thornton

Sydney is the daughter of Shawn and Megan Thornton. Sydney has participated in choir and FFA for four years, been the boys basketball manager for three years, softball for two years and student council for one year. Following graduation, Sydney

plans to attend the University of Central Missouri to major in nursing and then plans to attend medical school to become an OB/GYN.

Alec Younggren

Alec is the son of Jason and Monica Younggren. Alec has participated in football for four years and wrestling for four years. Following graduation, Alec will attend Fort Hays State University on a football scholarship and major in construction management.



Madilyn Melton and Ben Guetterman

Madilyn Melton

Madilyn is the daughter of Andy and Meghan Melton. Madilyn has participated in basketball for four years, volleyball for one

year and band for one year. Following graduation, Madilyn will attend Benedictine College on a basketball scholarship with the goal of becoming a dermatologist.

Ben Guetterman

Ben is the son of Ted and Lisa Guetterman. Ben has played basketball for four years, been a member of FFA for four years and played football for two years. Ben is currently undecided on his post-high school plans.



Brooklyn Diederich and Dawson Barnes

Brooklyn Diederich

Brooklyn is the daughter of Derek and Jenny Diederich. Brooklyn has participated in basketball and softball for four years, FBLA for three years and Interact Club and FFA for one

year. Following graduation, Brooklyn will attend Neosho County Community College on a basketball scholarship and major in occupational therapy.

Dawson Barnes

Dawson is the son of Rick and Cindy Barnes. Dawson has participated in basketball for four years, been a part of the football, volleyball and soccer student section for four years, baseball for one year and cross country for one year. Following graduation, Dawson plans to attend the University of Kansas and study psychology.







Top Louisburg Sports Stories of 2020



There hasn't been a year like 2020, and for most people, they are ready to put it behind them and forget it ever existed.

Still, with all the challenges that 2020 brought, there were still plenty of positives to talk about when it came to

Louisburg High School sports. History-making state places and state medals were plentiful on this list, but it wasn't all positive. Louisburg had to say goodbye to a beloved town figure and athletes had to deal with the loss of spring sports.

Below are the top stories from 2020, along with a brief explanation of each. Included in the explanation is the link to the actual story from the event.

When putting the list together, I took a lot of things into account – whether it was team vs. individual, popularity of the sport, historical achievements and the interest it drew on the web site. Thanks to the cancellation of spring sports, I don't have the top 10 like I normally do, but I got close.

This year was a blast to cover, when I had the opportunity, anyway. Still, I am looking forward to what 2021 will bring. Thank you for everyone's support and can't wait for it all to begin again.



8. Ratliff-Becher wins state powerlifting title

After winning a state championship in 2019 Reilly Ratliff-Becher had every intention of backing up her performance during the Class 4A State Powerlifting Championships on March 7 at Piper High School.

In fact, the Louisburg senior wanted to improve it. Last

season, Ratliff-Becher took first in everything but squat, which she got runner-up.

This time around, she got the clean sweep.

Ratliff-Becher took first in bench, squat and clean and that led to her second straight state championship in the 180-pound class.

“It means a lot to me that I was able to win the state title again,” Ratliff-Becher said. “I set a goal for myself to win first in everything since I had got second in squat last year and I achieved it. Even though it wasn’t my best showing with the numbers I got on my lifts.

“The competition was very good this year, as it always is. But, fortunately with all the work I put in to at least maintain my numbers from last year, meant I was able to lift bigger amounts than my competition.”



7. Conley named state and midwest coach of the year

After a third place finish to end the year, Louisburg boys

soccer coach Kyle Conley was recognized among the state's best.

Conley was named as the Class 4-1A Coach of the Year by the Kansas Soccer Coaches Association in November.

He guided the Wildcats to a 16-2 record on the season and the team's highest finish in program history when Louisburg ousted Rose Hill, 3-0, in the state third-place game.

Just a few weeks later, Conley was honored once again – this time on the girls' side.

Despite the lost season, the United Soccer Coaches wanted to recognize coaches for their past accomplishments and for what this past spring was supposed to hold.

Atop that list was Conley as he was named as the Small School Midwest Coach of the Year.

"I am absolutely honored to receive this award," Conley said. "There are so many great coaches in the Midwest, but to me this is a program award. None of this is possible without everyone involved; girls coming to work their tails off everyday, parents traveling and supporting us anywhere and everywhere, community helping with supporting the program, the school supporting the girls, etc. Without the support and buy in from the girls, parents and community none of this is possible."

The Wildcat girls program has had a successful start in its four years. Conley has a 54-22-2 record during that span, that included two state runner-ups and another state final four appearance.



6. Louisburg cheer places third at state

The Louisburg cheer squad had to do its postseason competition a little different this year thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It didn't seem to bother them much as the defending state champions found themselves right in the thick of things again.

Although they didn't repeat as champs, they were still among the state's best as the Wildcats cheerleaders finished third in the state back in November.

Unlike performing in front of judges like they did in 2019, the Wildcats had to video tape their performance and send it in to be judged. It fared well as they tallied 83.35 points to finish in the top 3.

Baldwin earned the state title with 88.85 points and Abilene was second with 85.25.

Members of the Louisburg cheer squad are Bella Feikert, Addison Drake, Brooklyn Harmon, Jayden Trester, Maddy Carpenter-Ross, Sophie Katzer, Sammy McDaniel, Julia Arriola, Andrea Gaza, JoJo Hendrickson, Sydney Dudzik, Abby Bradley, Anna Poe, Sienna Finch, Mable Graham, Audrey Anderson, Zoe Weers, Anna Morrison and Maggie Madison



5. Holtzen, Owens earn state medals for Wildcat wrestling

Ryan Owens and Cade Holtzen both had their own agendas going into the state wrestling tournament.

Owens, qualified for state last year, but left without a win and he vowed to fix that this time around. As for Holtzen, he came up short in his efforts for a second state medal as a

sophomore last season and had all the motivation not to come home empty-handed again.

Both wrestlers more than made up for their rough patches a year ago.

Owens and Holtzen left Salina with a state medal during the Class 4A Kansas State Wrestling Championships on Friday and Saturday at the Tony's Pizza Events Center.



Owens made it to the semifinals and wound up earning a fourth-place medal at 120 pounds, while Holtzen finished fifth at 126 pounds.

It also marked the first time since 2016 that Louisburg finished the season with multiple state medalists, when Nathan Keegan and Mason Koechner each brought home medals.

The Wildcats nearly had three medalists as sophomore Brandon Doles finished one win shy of a state medal at 160 pounds with a 2-2 record.



4. Dennis steps down as LHS team doctor

Almost every day of the week, if you were looking for Damon Dennis, he could be found at his office on 11 S. Broadway St., helping treat those pesky aches and pains, taking X-rays, or mending those beaten up athletes after a game.

Doc D – as he is affectionately known – opened Louisburg Chiropractic Office 28 years ago and has served as the

Louisburg High School athletic team doctor for almost that same amount of time.

Dennis has seen it all. The walls in his office are lined with mementos from his years of service to both the community and the high school.

He has taped thousands of ankles, seen even more patients and has touched many lives during his time in Louisburg. That is why this week is one of the more emotional times in his life.

In May, he left Louisburg Chiropractic Office and handed the reins over to Dr. Jake Polzin. Add to that, Dennis also stepped away as LHS' team doctor and left an absence on the sidelines and behind the mic that many in Louisburg have come to know.

"My decision to step down and sell the practice has turned out to be the hardest thing I have ever done," Dennis said. "I have poured everything I have into my job and community. It has become my entire existence. I was taught from a young age to serve others and your community. I feel like the pressures I have put on myself have become unhealthy. I have put about 40 years work in to 28 and feel like there is never going to be a good time to make such a huge life change.

"That being said, I feel like I need to make changes while I am still able to do the things that will be best for my family. Dr. Polzin came along and I think he will carry on the work at the office wonderfully. We are a lot alike in many ways. I could not have found anyone better to replace me."

For many, Dennis has been a big part of people's lives, especially in the athletic arena. He has served as the LHS team doctor since 1992 and has treated many athletes in those 28 years.



3. Girls Cross Country Takes Third at State

For 23 years, the Louisburg cross country program has been chasing a top three finish at the Class 4A meet.

The Wildcats have had several teams qualify, especially in the last few seasons, but have always come up short of their goal. Following Saturday's race in Wamego, the Wildcats can finally stop running after it.

The Louisburg girls put together an historic performance at the Class 4A Kansas State Cross Country Championships at Wamego Country Club. The Lady Cats earned a state plaque with a third place finish as they surpassed Buhler by eight points to record the school's first top three state finish.

Junior Reese Johnson, sophomores Claire Brown, Bree Gassman and Nova Ptacek, along with freshmen Lola Edwards, Maddy Rhamy and Erin Apple, will all go down in school history as they became the first Wildcat team to bring home state hardware.

"It means the world to me to be a part of the first team ever to place at state," Rhamy said. "Coming into the state meet, I was just hoping our team would be in the top half, so you could imagine my excitement when our team placed third. I didn't even know we made school history until our coaches told us."

Rhamy was one of two freshmen who earned top 10 finishes individually, along with Edwards. Rhamy finished eighth overall in 20 minutes and 58 seconds, while Edwards was right behind her in 10th in 21:02.

Junior Reese Johnson also garnered a state medal as she was 15th in 21:28 to help the Lady Cats to an historic performance.

It was a proud moment for many in the Louisburg program, and included in that is John Reece. The longtime Wildcat head coach was all smiles following his team's performance.

"It is 23 years the making," coach Reece said. "You always have the plans and goals to get to state and then you get a group to go to state and do something great. This year was one of those. With the Frontier League as tough as it is, and then getting third there, put it in our heads that maybe we could do this. They all went out and ran their races, and that just shows their grit and determination and who they are."

A week earlier, the Wildcats also made history as it was the first time in school history when they qualified the entire boys team to the state meet as they took third at regionals.



2. Boys Soccer Finishes Runner-Up At State

As the Louisburg players huddled around their state plaque, many of them looked at it in awe and wonder.

“Hey guys, we won this,” a player shouted.

The statement was obvious at the time, but nonetheless, their excitement was more than warranted.

For the first time in program history, the Louisburg boys soccer team brought home a plaque from the state final four as the Wildcats defeated Rose Hill, 3-0, on Saturday in the third place match of the Class 4-1A state tournament at Stryker Sports Complex in Wichita.

It was only the second time in school history that the Wildcats had it made it this far, with the other being in 2016, when they finished fourth.

“There are only six teams in the entire state that get to end their year with a win and we wanted to be one of those teams,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “We want to be able to hang up a banner on our field and we wanted a plaque so that no one can forget what these kids earned and what they did this season. I am so proud of all of them.”

It was a program defining moment for the Wildcats as they began the weekend searching for a state championship, but lost 2-0 to Bishop Miege on Friday in the semifinals. Still, recording the best finish in school history is nothing for someone to hang their head about, and the Wildcats came out Saturday wanting to make sure they brought some hardware home.

“It’s absolutely crazy to think about what we have accomplished this year, partly because I have only played soccer in high school,” senior captain Logan Faulkner said. “Bringing a state plaque back will just be a reminder of what we did and how we reached our goal.”



1. COVID-19 Cancels Spring Sports

In March, Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly closed all schools for the rest of the 2019-20 school year due to the spread of COVID-19.

When most students hear school has been closed, especially in the winter, cheers erupt. In this case, however, the tone was much more somber – especially among the senior class.

Proms were canceled. Any plans they had for a graduation ceremony were put on hold, and for more than 30 seniors, their last opportunity at playing a sport at Louisburg High School was taken away.

In fact, close to 200 students were planning on participating in an activity in the spring, but with no school, the Kansas State High School Activities Association followed suit and canceled the spring season the day after Gov. Kelly's declaration.

Students, parents and coaches alike have had to come to grips that a season they had been looking forward to all year, was never going to happen. Tears flowed, walls were punched in frustration and some were left speechless.

There would be no game days, no Senior Nights and no postseason runs. Athletes had to figure out how to cope with this fact and it was a challenge for the Louisburg girls soccer, track and field, baseball, softball, golf and swim teams.

Many of those teams had big postseason aspirations after success in 2019 and were left wondering what could have been.

LHS to crown fall homecoming king and queen Friday



The 2020 Louisburg High School fall homecoming candidates are (front row, from left) Jadyn Amren, Megan Foote, Madi Quinn, Alyse Moore; (back row) Weston Guetterman, Konnor Vohs, Ben Wiedenmann and Jay Scollin.

Homecoming week at Louisburg High School kicked off Monday and events are in full swing. With something going on every day this week, it will be a busy time for students. All of it is, of course, centered around the crowning of the 2020 fall king and queen. Eight students were selected as nominees and here are their names and profiles.

The crowning will take place on Friday before the Wildcats' home football game with Ottawa. Kickoff for that game is set for 7 p.m., with the crowning to take place at 6:30. Good luck to all the participants and make sure to come out on Friday to support the Wildcat football team if you have the opportunity.



Jadyn Amren and Weston Guetterman

Jadyn Amren

Jadyn is the daughter of Mark and Carmen Amren. She has been involved with choir for four years. Jadyn has participated in cheerleading, FFA, FBLA and National Honor Society for two years. She also was a member of FCCLA for one year. Following graduation, Jadyn plans to attend Missouri State and major in nursing.

Weston Guetterman

Weston is the son of Mike and Jodi Guetterman. Weston has been involved for football, basketball and FFA for four years. He was also a member of the baseball team for two years and track for one year. After graduation, Weston plans to attend college and major in Ag Business.



Megan Foote and Konnor Vohs

Megan Foote

Megan is the daughter of Jim and Dana Foote. Megan has participated in basketball for four years, FBLA for three years, National Honor Society, choir and cross country for two years. She has also been a member of the Louisburg Interact

Club and softball team for one year. After graduation, Megan plans to go to college and major in psychology or nurse anesthesia.

Konnor Vohs

Konnor is the son of Kevin and Cassi Vohs. Konnor has participated in football, basketball and FFA for four years. He has also been a member of National Honor Society and the baseball team for two years. Following graduation, Konnor plans to attend college and major in business and will shoot competitive shotguns.



Madi Quinn and Ben Wiedenmann

Madi Quinn

Madi is the daughter of Danny and Mary Quinn. Madi has

participated in volleyball, basketball, softball, student council and band for four years. She has been a member of choir/select choir for three years, along with a member of FBLA, forensics and National Honor Society for two years. Madi is has also been in the Interact Club and debate for one year. Following graduation, Madi will attend Kansas University and major in exercise science.

Ben Wiedenmann

Ben is the son of Bill and Vickie Wiedenmann. Ben has been a member of the football, wrestling and track teams for four years. He has also been a part of student council for four years. After graduation, Ben plans to attend college and is undecided on his choice.



Alyse Moore and Jay Scollin

Alyse Moore

Alyse is the daughter of Tommy and Alison Moore. Alyse has been a member of the volleyball and basketball teams for four years and has also participated in choir, the musical and student council for four years. She has been a part of the track team for three years and softball for two years. She has also been a member of National Honor Society for two years and band and FFA for one year. Following graduation, Alyse plans to attend college to continue her athletic and academic career.

Jay Scollin

Jay is the son of Jason and Kashena Scollin. Jay has been a member of the football, track and chess club for four years. He has participated in FBLA and boys volleyball for three years, along with National Honor Society and yearbook for two years. He was a member of student council, the basketball team and debate and forensics for one year. Following graduation, Jay plans to attend the University of Central Missouri and major in safety management.







Dennis leaves lasting legacy in Louisburg, LHS athletics



Damon Dennis, and his wife Karla, pose for quick picture during a timeout at a Louisburg High School basketball game Dennis was announcing. Dennis, who is better known as Doc D, is handing over his business at Louisburg Chiropractic Office to Dr. Jacob Polzin and is stepping away as the LHS team doctor after 28 years of service. His last day at the office is tomorrow (Saturday).

Almost every day of the week, if you were looking for Damon

Dennis, he could be found at his office on 11 S. Broadway St., helping treat those pesky aches and pains, taking X-rays, or mending those beaten up athletes after a game.

Doc D – as he is affectionately known – opened Louisburg Chiropractic Office 28 years ago and has served as the Louisburg High School athletic team doctor for almost that same amount of time.

Dennis has seen it all. The walls in his office are lined with mementos from his years of service to both the community and the high school.

He has taped thousands of ankles, seen even more patients and has touched many lives during his time in Louisburg. That is why this week is one of the more emotional times in his life.

On Saturday, he will officially leave Louisburg Chiropractic Office and hand the reins over to Dr. Jake Polzin. Add to that, Dennis is also stepping away as LHS' team doctor and will leave an absence on the sidelines and behind the mic that many in Louisburg have come to know.

"My decision to step down and sell the practice has turned out to be the hardest thing I have ever done," Dennis said. "I have poured everything I have into my job and community. It has become my entire existence. I was taught from a young age to serve others and your community. I feel like the pressures I have put on myself have become unhealthy. I have put about 40 years work in to 28 and feel like there is never going to be a good time to make such a huge life change.

"That being said, I feel like I need to make changes while I am still able to do the things that will be best for my family. Dr. Polzin came along and I think he will carry on the work at the office wonderfully. We are a lot alike in many ways. I could not have found anyone better to replace me."

For many, Dennis has been a big part of people's lives,

especially in the athletic arena. He has served as the LHS team doctor since 1992 and has treated many athletes in those 28 years.



Dennis (left) and Dr. Jake Polzin pose for a picture in their office. Polzin will officially take over the practice from Dennis after this week, but both have been seeing the patients the last three months.

During the school year, Dennis would leave his place of business every day after 3 to go to the high school to tape up

athletes from all different sports and made sure they were all ready to go for practice. After that was over, he would rush back to his office to finish the day treating his patients.

It would be hectic life for some, but it is one that he has treasured for the last nearly three decades.

“My time in practice has been a blessing,” Dennis said. “I truly care about all of the patients and people in the community that I have been involved with. I have tried to be a positive impact on the town through my involvement in different organizations. As with any business, there are bumps in the road. I genuinely appreciate everyone who has had a positive impact on me through these years.

“I have poured my heart and soul in to every aspect of my business and involvement in the community, sometimes at the sacrifice of my wife, Karla. I am eternally grateful for her patience and love. Part of the reason why I am handing over the reigns is that I have a lot of making up for time to do.”



Damon Dennis (middle) walks out of the locker room with the Wildcat football coaches prior to a game.

Dennis and his family have made a lot of sacrifices during his time and many of the Wildcat coaches – both former and present – appreciate what he has done for them and their players.

“As far as what he has meant to the community, it is immeasurable,” longtime former coach Gary Griffin said. “He came in the first year and made himself available to all the coaches and was there for whatever the kids needed from the medical stuff, to a new pair of shoes, or money to go to a team dinner. He was even there to lend an ear to a kid that was having issues from girlfriends, teacher issues or problems at home.

“For me personally, he was a cheerleader when times were not good, he was an advocate for kids when I didn’t always know what was going on behind the scenes. I trusted Doc like he was a member of the coaching staff. I told him a lot of things in confidence so I could get his advice knowing it would not go

any further. As far as the community goes, he is a pillar and he is involved in everything and is held in high regards by most. It is really hard for Doc to tell anyone no, so most of his days are longer than just his office hours. Doc is going to be missed in so many ways. He is a very humble man and he is very deserving of slowing down and enjoying the fruits of his labor."

A Small Beginning

Back in June of 1992 is when Dennis began to plant his roots in the town he would begin to call home.

Dennis purchased the small satellite office from Dr. Larry Fulk, who at the time also had a practice in Paola. Dennis was less than a year out of school and was eager to get involved in the Louisburg community.

Two months later, Dennis reached out to then Louisburg High School administrator Doug Chisam and asked if he could serve as the team's doctor – free of charge. Since August of 1992, Louisburg High School would not be the same.

Dennis made trips over to the high school for treatment and would also follow many of the team's to their games after work was over. It was a life that would go on to create many memories.

"Jim Knox, Don Meek and Doug Chisam were all very supportive and I am forever in their debt," Dennis said. "I started out just going to all games, home and away, and every sport that I could. At that time I was in the office from 6 am to 7 pm and then off to games 3-4 nights a week. The things I have always enjoyed about being the team doctor was the kids and the coaches. High school athletes have not changed since day one. They want someone who cares about and shows interest in what they are doing. I am still close with a lot of the students who have come through the high school and will

continue to be.

“My role evolved over the years. I began doing all the taping before practice and games, Impact testing, announcing basketball and other roles as the coaches requested. I enjoy helping others and that is how my role evolved in to so many other areas. Over the years, the coaches have included me and I will always be grateful to them for allowing me to be a part of the experience.”



Damon and his wife Karla pose for a picture in front of his office back in the early 90s.

His role got even bigger when the new high school was built and Dennis was asked if he would like to announce basketball games. He certainly didn't mind having a mic in his hand and loved playing off the crowd and making sure the athletes felt a little extra special.

“We had a girls' tournament and Dave Tappan asked me if I would announce the game,” Dennis said. “He thought it would be a nice touch to have an announcer. I am not sure he ever asked me to continue, I just did it. I had to be at games anyway and I like to talk, so it worked out. Dave never said to quit, so I just kept doing it.

"I really did enjoy that. I would try to throw in a little funny once and awhile just to see if people were listening. Dottie Cook had a birthday every game night for several years. Knowing the kids so well, it was fun to add their middle name or nickname at the game."

Tappan, who is currently the USD 416 assistant superintendent, worked as the LHS activities director and principal during many of Dennis' years in Louisburg and the two became quick friends.

With that, Tappan is well aware of Dennis' work ethic and commitment to Louisburg athletics. In fact, he has seen it firsthand.



Doc D lets out a cheer on the sidelines following a big play during the Wildcats' 2010 state championship game.

"Most people know that Doc doesn't take vacations very often,"

Tappan said. "In fact, it usually takes a team of us to get him out of the office for more than a day. But in 2010, he and Karla scheduled a trip over Thanksgiving break to Chicago. Well, that was also the year of our run to the state football championship and there was no way he was going to miss it. In typical Doc D fashion, he lined things up to perfection. He takes a 5 a.m. flight from Chicago to Kansas City, has Karla drive him to the Legends off of I-70 and at about 6:30 I'm picking him up and we beat the team to Salina. When the bus finally rolls in, he looks at Coach (Gary) Griffin with a grin and says, 'What took you so long?' About four hours later we were celebrating a championship.

"The commitment that Doc D has demonstrated over the years to the students of Louisburg schools is second to none. From the football sidelines on a Friday night in the fall, to being behind the mic in the LHS gym during basketball season, Doc always supported the students, the coaches and the administration of USD 416. I am proud to call Damon Dennis my friend."

Beyond The Call of Duty

Running a business can be difficult enough, but when you have other responsibilities on top of all that, it can be stressful at times.

The coaches at Louisburg High School never got that when working with Doc D. Veteran and young coaches alike were amazed at the dedication he displayed.

"Doc D is one of the most honest and honorable men I have ever met," Louisburg soccer coach Kyle Conley said. "He has donated countless hours and years for helping Louisburg student athletes. He always went out of his way to help anyone and everyone. He wasn't always just helping players. He would always check in on the coaches as well – checking on their well-being, their teams, and their families.

"Doc always went out of his way to make someone feel important and special. He was NEVER too busy for anyone. He will be greatly missed and he is irreplaceable. Thank you Doc D for everything that you have done for my teams, my family and for myself. You are someone I am lucky enough to call a friend."

That dedication would not only be found after school in the evenings, but even before the sun came up as well.



Doc D checks out Louisburg's Hallie Hutsell following an injury during last soccer season.

"Doc D will be greatly missed," Louisburg volleyball coach Jessica Compliment said. "He unselfishly devoted many hours to our athletes and was always a phone call or a text away. I can't count how many times he would meet myself and an athlete or two at the school at 5:30 a.m. prior to departure for a volleyball tournament. Not only was he a great role model and mentor for the athletes, but he served as a great mentor to a

young coach for the past 14 years. He will be greatly missed by many.”

However, where Dennis is most recognized was on the football sidelines. He did anything from tending to injured athletes, mentoring future trainers and handing out free food or candy to the student section before certain games.

It wasn't gone unnoticed as many around the school and community know what Doc D has meant to the district.

“If Louisburg had a Mt. Rushmore, Damon would definitely be up there,” Louisburg graduate and longtime coach Jeff Lohse said. “Doc is one of the most selfless people that I know. He was always more than willing to help anyone out and never expected anything in return. I consider Doc to be a great friend of mine and this is definitely bittersweet. I wish him and Karla nothing but the best as they open up this new chapter in their lives. Damon will be missed but his legacy in Louisburg will live on forever.”

Dennis always made sure to welcome the new coaches to the district and made them feel a part of the family and that was the case with boys basketball coach Ty Pfannenstiel when he came to the school three years ago.



Doc D was presented with a team signed helmet following the team's award banquet two years ago.

"Doc D is the most selfless man I know," Pfannenstiel said. "What Doc gave to this school and community is unprecedented. He cared so much for all of our athletes, there's no way we are going to be able to replace what he brought to this school. I feel bad for whoever is going to come in and try to fill his shoes – he set the bar way too high."

Dennis has been on the sideline for many of Louisburg's greatest athletic achievements, including three state football appearances and has watched many athletes along the way achieve great individual accomplishments.

He knows that he has been blessed to be able to be a part of Wildcat athletics in one form or another the last 28 years.

“As for favorite memories, it is not always about the wins and losses,” Dennis said. “The things I have most enjoyed is the time spent with athletes and coaches. The things that go on in the locker room, before and after games were the fun part. I have had a behind the scenes view of some pretty amazing people.

“Obviously the 2010 state football championship is at the top of the list. We had gone to the championship twice and come home in second on two occasions. It was a great group to be around and a great experience. If I had to choose a group of kids that really stand out the most, it would be the seniors my first year here (class of 1993). They welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like I was appreciated. I still speak to members of that class often and consider them friends. It was a really special group. I also loved seeing kids accomplish their dreams of success. Louisburg has had its share of champions and athletes that have gone on to do some amazing things.”



Doc D was also good with equipment as he works on Madden Rutherford's helmet prior to a game.

In his last week at the office, Doc D has seen a lot of visitors that have come to thank him for everything he has done. Although Dennis won't be around as much as he used to, he wants people to know that this isn't a farewell – but more of a see you later.

"I want everyone to know how much I appreciate their kind words," Dennis said. "There has been talk of various activities surrounding my career change that have been proposed. While I genuinely appreciate this, I don't think I can handle the attention. My emotions have gotten the better of me and I am not sure that I can handle any celebrations publicly, unless everyone wants to see me cry.

"I am not going away. I just won't be at 11 South Broadway or at the high school every day. Thank you to everyone that has

supported me as I have made every effort to support my community."

No, Doc – thank you...