

# LHS to crown fall homecoming king and queen Friday



*The 2020 Louisburg High School fall homecoming candidates are (front row, from left) Jadyne 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...

---

## **LHS sports preparing to start back up in June with summer workouts**



Kansas high school sports has been absent since the middle of March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but that all could change very soon.

During its board of directors meeting earlier this month, the Kansas State High School Activities Association made a change to its summer regulations. Starting on June 1, school employed coaches may begin summer programs as long as it is permitted by the community’s health authorities and the school district.

Coaches at Louisburg High School are making plans to move forward beginning the first of June, but they must meet some guidelines to do so.

In the first two calendar weeks in June, athletes will need to attend a conditioning session each day. Those must be completed to be able to participate in a coach’s camp or

organized competition.

If an athlete is playing football, they must complete an extra five days of conditioning before being able to participate in competition.

The first two weeks of conditioning sessions will not involve weights, indoor facilities or sporting equipment to ensure safety. Masks will be optional at workouts, but six feet of distance will be in place along with no more than the 90 gathering restriction under the phase 3 guidelines put out by the state.

Then on June 15, barring no setbacks, conditioning will include indoor weight sessions and indoor facilities will be allowed. Coaches will also be able to hold camps and competition throughout the summer.





**Louisburg football coach Robert Ebenstein has plotted out summer workouts for his football team beginning with three weeks of conditioning starting June 1**

“I think the guidelines were set to help ensure the safety of all student athletes accords the state, along with their physical health as well as the preparation for the season,” Louisburg football coach Robert Ebenstein said. “Challenges may be there, but overall they are irrelevant as all the teams in the state have to follow the same guidelines. Our school administrators have been very supportive throughout this process.”

Along with the new changes, KSHSAA also lifted the moratorium period at the end of the summer and will allow teams to practice all the way up to the beginning of the school year. Fall sports, however, will take precedence from Aug. 1 through Aug. 15.

For some programs, the changes won't be much different as what they have experienced in the past, other than practicing social distancing through the first two weeks of conditioning.

“We are still allowed to compete in leagues and camps after all athletes have completed 10 days of conditioning/training,” Louisburg volleyball coach Jessica Compliment said. “Our summer weights program is changing some this summer, so it gives the players a chance to acclimate back into workouts before putting a ball in their hands.

“When you really look at the schedule, we lost the first two weeks in June (in terms of volleyball skill work), but we gained the moratorium week and have full contact until August 16. The fall season starts on August 17. Normally, we can't have contact, outside of weights and conditioning, after mid-July. This actually gives us about four weeks on the back end of summer to work with the athletes.”



**Louisburg volleyball coach Jessica Compliment has her normal summer scheduled planned out despite a different start.**

Still, the new-look summer won't be without its challenges – especially in the first 10 days of the summer calendar. However, the coaches and athletes will gladly work around the new rules in order to get back together and competing again.

“I think the new guidelines will help kids get back to some normalcy as long as everything continues to get better, but the six feet of social distancing could be challenging when you are coaching a team sport,” Louisburg soccer coach Kyle Conley said. “We will find a way to overcome these challenges and help the kids develop as much as possible.”

Coaches have already altered their camp schedules for the summer, and that information, along with a list of camps, can be found [here](#).

As for Louisburg cross country, the runners will also be going through a conditioning period like everyone else. They will meet at the football practice field at 7 a.m. for an hour every morning beginning June 1 and that will continue through the summer.

Since school has been out since the middle of March, coaches have tried to find a way to stay in touch with their players – and like with online schooling – the zoom platform has been a big help for coaches.

“Football has been doing online zoom workout together for those currently in high school every Monday, Wednesday and Friday while we have been out of school, so I have still been seeing them and they have been doing some cardio,” Ebenstein said. “We have as normal of a summer planned as possible. We will have our weights sessions, our team camp, review/skills night, and we will have our contact camp that KSHSAA is allowing.”

With everything going on around the state and the country, everything is still in limbo and dates could have to be altered once again depending on what local officials decide. Even with all that, the coaches believe there will be a fall season.



**Louisburg soccer coach Kyle Conley has tried to keep many of his same events for both the boys and girls teams.**

“I am confident our fall season will be played,” Conley said “It may have some things that are different, but we will play. I know that the boys are very anxious in having conversations with some of them.”

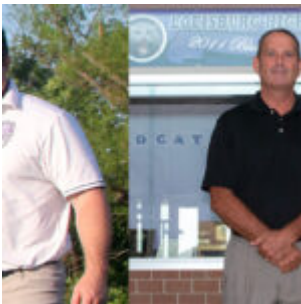
Many of the coaches and players are just ready to return to some kind of routine following the spread of COVID-19 and they hope sports can give that to them.

“As of right now, our season is scheduled, and we’ll plan accordingly if told differently,” Compliment said. “But for right now, (activities director Michael) Pickman has stressed that for most of the athletes, a return to summer weights/conditioning/activities will be their first taste of ‘normalcy.’ I’m excited to get back at it and see the athletes

and students again.”

---

## Pickman named as new LHS activities director



Michael Pickman (left) was hired as Louisburg High School’s new activities director and assistant principal last week following the USD Board of Education meeting. Current Louisburg AD, Scott Hinkle (right), will move to the middle school to serve in the same capacity starting next school year.

Louisburg High School will have a little different look to its activities department for the 2020-21 school year.

Following the USD 416 Board of Education meeting on April 13, Michael Pickman was hired to serve as the school’s new assistant principal and activities director. Pickman will replace Scott Hinkle, who has been in that position for the last two years.

Hinkle will remain in the district and will move over to the middle school to serve in the same capacity.

“I had known for a while that I wanted to continue my education by getting a second master’s degree, but I didn’t really know which area,” Pickman said. “I talked with current

administration and was both inspired and encouraged to explore administrative leadership. This is the job I wanted because it meant staying in Louisburg and continuing to work with the staff and coaches who I know have, can and will achieve great things when it comes to our students and student athletes.

“We are a Louisburg family and I want my daughter in the Louisburg community and school system, so I wouldn’t have done this anywhere else. The atmosphere from district leadership to the building leadership is top notch and I am ready to grow as an educator and work alongside (principal) Jeremy (Holloway) and the administrative staff at the high school and the amazing coaches and support them.”

Pickman has taught English at the high school for the last seven years and has also worked in the Prairie View, West Franklin and Maur Hill Prep school districts.

He has also spent a lot of time in the athletic arena as he has served as the Wildcat boys and girls soccer assistant coach, alongside head coach Kyle Conley, for the last five-plus years.

“It will be tough to give up all aspects of it, but the magic of these soccer programs will be especially difficult,” Pickman said. “Kyle has been an amazing person to coach with and his passion is contagious. Getting to start the girls program with him and the immediate success has been amazing. State finals and big wins and the atmosphere – some don’t ever get to experience that – and lastly the players, both boys and girls who have graduated and those who remain to carry on the greatness are why I said yes to coaching. They make the whole experience amazing and fun.

“So it will be hard, but I would also not have gone anywhere else to do a different job and so I will still be able to support the soccer players and every other student and athlete through my new opportunity and to do so the Wildcat Way.”

As for Hinkle, he spent the last two years as the LHS activities director after coming from Liberal High School. He is excited that his new position at the middle school will allow him to spend more time with family.

“I really enjoyed my time at the high school, even though it was only two years,” Hinkle said. “I am leaving behind a great workplace with a great culture and an unbelievable staff. It was not an easy decision.

“I made the move to the middle school to get back some evenings and weekends. I have been an athletic director for 11 years at the high school level in my career, and I was ready to free up some time. I know I am joining another great staff at LMS, and look forward to the new challenge ahead of me.”

---

## **Ratliff-Becher captures second straight powerlifting state title**



Louisburg senior Reilly Ratliff-Becher poses with her four state medals after capturing her second straight Class 4A state powerlifting championship on March 7 at Piper High School.

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – After winning

a state championship a year ago, 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.”





**Louisburg sophomore Bailey Hallas finished second overall at the state meet in her division.**

Ratliff-Becher wasn't the only Wildcat weightlifter to find their way to the podium. Sophomore Bailey Hallas had a strong performance of her own in the 114-pound division.

Hallas finished as a state-runner-up

as she finished second overall. She was the state champion in bench, was third in clean and sixth in squat.

Sophomore Sierra Hahn finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the 165-pound division to round out the Louisburg girls participants.

On the boys side, the Wildcats had four lifters take fourth in the state. Sophomore Aidan Cannon (132 pounds), sophomore Tom Koontz (148), freshman Ethan Wrigley (165) and senior Ian McGuire (181) all came in fourth.

McGuire came in third in both the squat and clean competitions, while Wrigley also finished third in bench.

Junior Will Patterson (powerweight) came in fifth overall, while junior Cole Evans (242) took ninth. Evans also finished second in the bench competition.



**Louisburg is just in its second year of sending athletes to the state powerlifting championships.**

The Wildcats are just in their second year of doing powerlifting competitions at the state level and Ratliff-Becher has seen herself improve in other areas outside the weight room.

“Weightlifting has improved me as an athlete in a lot of ways,” Ratliff-Becher said. “It’s made me much more disciplined with my work ethic. It’s taught me to never underestimate myself and to keep working when I get frustrated. Weightlifting makes people realize

(or me at least) that you can't be 'handed' strength. You can only be the best of the best if you outwork everyone else."

---

## Meet the 2020 LHS Winter Homecoming Candidates



The Louisburg High School Winter Homecoming candidates are (from left) Haley Cain, Michael Waldron, Erin Lemke, Landon Johnson, Gabby Tappan, Deven Wieland, Andie Masten and Garrett Rolofson.

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 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 Spring Hill. 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



**Haley Cain and Michael Waldron**

## **Haley Cain**

Haley is the daughter of Robin and Keith Meeks and Tom and Terri Cain. Haley has participated in volleyball and basketball for four years, soccer for three years and track for one year. She plans to attend Pittsburg State University and is undecided on a major.

## **Michael Waldron**

Michael is the son of George and Jackie Waldron. He has participated in football and basketball for four years, track

and band for three years, National Honor Society for two years and baseball and FBLA for one year. Michael plans to attend the University of Central Missouri and major in accounting.



**Erin Lemke and Landon Johnson**

## **Erin Lemke**

Erin is the daughter of Mike and Teresa Lemke. Erin has participated in volleyball and soccer for four years, along with basketball, student council and FFA for three years. After graduation, Erin plans to attend the University of Central Missouri in the fall.

## **Landon Johnson**

Landon is the son of Tim and Angela Johnson. He has participated in soccer and choir for four years, National Honor Society and girls soccer manager for two years and the musical for one year. Landon plans to attend Washington University in St. Louis and study sports management.



**Gabby Tappan and Deven Wieland**

## **Gabby Tappan**

Gabby is the daughter of Dave and Jackie Tappan. Gabby has participated in cheerleading and the musical for four years, FCCLA for three years, along with Leo's Club, FBLA, National Honor Society and student council for two years. She plans to attend the University of Kansas and major in marketing.

## **Deven Wieland**

Deven is the son of Dan and Deanell Wieland. Deven has participated in choir for four years, soccer and golf for three years, FBLA, National Honor Society, student council, debate and the musical for two years and TSA and scholars bowl for one year. Following graduation, Deven plans to study mechanical engineering and his school of choice is unknown at this time.



**Andie Masten and Garrett Rolofson**

## **Andie Masten**

Andie is the daughter of Darren and Kristin Masten. She has participated in choir for four years, volleyball and FFA for



three years and basketball, soccer and National Honor Society for two years. After graduation, Andie plans to attend Pittsburg State University and major in occupational therapy.

## **Garrett Rolofson**

Garrett is the son of Robert and Gloria Rolofson. He has participated in basketball for four years, select choir for three years, cross country, soccer, golf, baseball, National Honor Society, debate and FCA for two years and Leo's Club for one year. Garrett plans to attend the University of Kansas after graduation and major in exercise science and obtain and minor in business.







---

# Top 10 Louisburg Sports Stories of 2019



It was a successful, and eventful, 2019 for Louisburg High School athletics and for those who are connected to the Wildcat program. This past year created a lot of school history for LHS and several programs brought back state hardware.

Below are the Top 10 stories from 2019, 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. There were stories that I had to leave off that normally would easily make it. 2019 was that successful of a year for Wildcat athletics.

This year was a blast to cover and I was blessed to have the opportunity to go along for the ride with many of these. As much fun as it was, I can't wait for 2020 to begin. Looking forward to it!



**10. Tucker, Ratliff-Becher win powerlifting titles, Tucker breaks state record.**

Two Louisburg High School weightlifters made their way to the top of the podium in March during the Class 4A State Powerlifting Meet at Basehor-Linwood High School.

Louisburg senior Kiefer Tucker and junior Reilly Ratliff-Becher both earned state championships in their respective weight class. Senior Jonathan DePriest finished third overall and several other Wildcats also earned individual medals.

Not only did Tucker win a state title in the 220-pound division, he also broke a 24-year state bench press record as he recorded a bench of 375 pounds to surpass the old mark of 365. He also won the squat competition at 505 pounds and had a total of 1,165 pounds to run away with the crown.

Tucker's total was the highest three-lift mark at the entire state meet in all weight classes.

"I had messed around with 375 and 385 before on bench, so I was confident that I could lift it if I had the chance," Tucker said. "I was more worried about my first lifts on bench at 345 and 365 because if I messed up on those attempts then I would not have had the change to even attempt 375. It was definitely a sigh of relief when I finally locked it out.

"It was a great feeling to beat the state record. To put Louisburg up on the record chart definitely brought a smile to my face."

Ratliff-Becher had a big day in the women's division as she won a state crown in the 180-pound weight class. She finished with a three-lift total of 575 pounds.



The Louisburg junior took first in bench press with 155 pounds, first in clean at 150 pounds and second in squat with a 270-pound lift.

“Winning the state title meant a lot to me,” Ratliff-Becher said. “I have put in a lot of time and

effort in weights class, so it's nice to see it has paid off. But, also because I feel as if I put out a message to girls that it's cool to be strong physically. I know that being sometimes the only girls in a class with a lot of strong guys is intimidating. Weightlifting is all about your own personal growth and seeing how far you can push yourself.

"I was honestly surprised I won because there are lots of very strong girls there and it's good competition. It's also fun to meet new people that have the same interests and motivation as you."



## **9. Golf qualifies for state, Dillon medals for third straight season**

As the scores trickled



in to the clubhouse at Paola Country Club, the Louisburg golf team could hardly stand it.

The Wildcats were nervously waiting to hear if they had qualified for state, but they knew it was going to be close. Louisburg had to be in the top three of the team standings to earn a spot and the Wildcats had some tough competition amongst them.

As it turned out, the Wildcats had nothing to worry about.

Louisburg recorded a team score of 352 during the Class 4A regional tournament in May and finished third overall by nine strokes over fourth-place Ottawa. The Wildcat team of Calvin Dillon, Drake Varns, Garrett Rolofson, Ryan Haight, Noah Hill and Colin Cook all competed in the state tournament

Topeka-Hayden won the regional title going away with a 332 and Louisburg was just three strokes behind runner-up Tonganoxie, which had a 349.

“It feels great, especially with all the hard work we have put in the offseason and last few months,” Dillon said. “It was our goal coming in and we did it. I felt like we had a good chance. It was borderline with those four teams being as close as we are. I knew we had a chance, but it was nice to actually qualify. It was definitely a little nerve-racking waiting for the scores to come in.”

As impressive as that

feat was for the Wildcats, Dillon's performance blew away the rest of the competition.

The Louisburg junior won his first individual regional title as he carded a 1-over 73 to win the tournament by six strokes. Dillon's 73 was his best score on the season and he has now won all but one tournament on the year.

Dillon went on to record his third consecutive state medal and finished 11<sup>th</sup> overall in Dodge City after the tournament was postponed several times, and eventually moved due to weather.



## **8. Wildcat wrestling sends six to state, Moore earns first state medal**

Back in early November of 2018, Austin Moore was in a sling with a broken collarbone and he wondered why all this was happening.

Moore suffered the injury during the regional football playoffs and he didn't get to finish his final high school season. Not only that, his hopes of getting his first state wrestling medal was in serious jeopardy.

A little more than four months later, Moore was on the medal stand with some of the state's best wrestlers in his weight class.

The Louisburg senior earned a fourth-place medal at 220 pounds during the Class 4A Kansas State Wrestling Championships in February at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina. It was his first high school state medal and it marked the end of a long journey for Moore.

"It was pretty special for me to get a state medal, especially because it has been a goal of mine ever since I started wrestling," Moore said. "Overall, I felt like I wrestled pretty well, but I just wish I could've ended it on a win."

The Wildcats qualified six wrestlers for state, had three regional champions and took third place in the team standings during the regional tournament in Paola – all while not being able to field a full team.

Louisburg's talent was

certainly on full display during the two-day tournament. Brandon Doles, Blue Caplinger and Austin Moore won regional crowns, Cade Holtzen was a regional runner-up, while Gabe Bonham and Ryan Owens also qualified for state by placing third and fourth, respectively.

As a team, the Wildcats ended up with 138.5 points and was just 2.5 points out of second place. Ottawa won the regional with 149.5 points and Eudora was second at 141. It was the highest regional team finish for Louisburg since 1998.

“The way these guys wrestled this weekend shows that the program has been doing so many things right this season,” Louisburg coach Bobby Bovaird said. “We’ve had the obstacle of low numbers, which hurt us in our duals, but when it comes to tournament time, we have a bunch of guys who are placing high and that gives us a lot of team points. Taking six to state feels pretty encouraging, and finishing third at regionals is an awesome statement for this team.

“If a few things had gone the other way, we would have been in second as a team. On paper, we weren’t supposed to be in the race for a regional plaque. Almost all of our guys stepped up and scored huge team points for us.”



## 7. Louisburg softball captures regional title

OTTAWA – Madison

Svoboda could feel her heart starting to come out of her chest.

Karson Griggs was a feeling a little nauseous.

Those are some of the same feelings that were flooding the Louisburg softball's team dugout during the final inning of the Class 4A regional championship game against Chanute on Tuesday in Ottawa.

Louisburg held a one run lead, but Chanute had the tying run on third, two outs, and a trip to the state tournament was on the line. On the mound was sophomore

Brooklyn

Diederich, and with two strikes, the Chanute batter fouled five straight pitches.

The tension was mounting.

Finally, on the 10<sup>th</sup> pitch of the at-bat, Diederich got what she was looking for – a swing and miss.

The strikeout sealed the Lady Cats' trip to state with a 6-5 victory over No. 7 seed Chanute and sent shockwaves throughout Class 4A softball.

"I want to cry, but at the same time I am just really happy," Griggs said. "It is exciting because I never thought something like this could happen, especially this year. It feels really nice and now maybe people will actually start taking us seriously."

Not many gave people gave the Lady Cats a chance as they entered the Class 4A regional tournament with just five wins and were forced to begin tournament action in the play-in game.

After a 17-2 win over Parsons last Monday in the play-in game, No. 15 Louisburg advanced to the regional semifinals and upset No. 2 seed Ottawa, 9-7, which helped set up the Lady Cats' first state tournament appearance since 2014.

"I think a lot of

other teams underestimated us,” Diederich said. “The fact that we came out and played our hardest ball showed what type of team we actually are. It is just crazy.”

At the state tournament in Salina a week later, the Lady Cats faced off against Andale and lost to the eventual state champion in the first round, 10-0.



## 6. Cross Country qualifies for state, Moore breaks school record and takes third at state

BALDWIN CITY – One by one, members of the Louisburg girls cross country team crossed the finish line and coach John Reece was unsure whether or not his team did enough

to qualify for  
state.

The Lady Cats had made  
school history by qualifying the last two seasons, but the  
third time was a  
little bit in jeopardy – that was until the results were  
released.

As it turned out,  
Reece didn't need to be so worried.

Louisburg finished third overall with 96 points in October at  
the Class 4A regional meet at the Baldwin Golf Course, and  
beat out Bishop Miege by six points to earn a spot at the  
state meet this weekend in Wamego.

The team of Trinity  
Moore, Carlee Gassman, Reese Johnson, Claire Brown, Ruth  
Minster, Kennady  
Wilkerson and Bree Gassman competed for the Lady Cats at  
state.

“This group of girls runs  
well, they race well and they train well together,” coach  
Reece said. “They are  
a good group and this is just as exciting as the other two  
times. The  
competition was a lot tougher than the previous two times. We  
had to run our  
races and we did. From our third to fifth runners was about an  
eight point  
spread.”

Trinity Moore has left a  
lasting impression on the Louisburg cross country program over  
the last four  
years, but she saved the best moment for her final act.



Moore broke her own school record with a time of 19 minutes and 39 seconds to finish third overall at the Kansas Class 4A State Cross Country Championships at the Wamego Country Club a week later.

The Louisburg senior recorded the program's best ever state finish as she eclipsed her fourth-place state medal from a season ago.

"It meant so much to me to finish with such a great race for my high school career," Moore said.

"Going into the race, I didn't know how well I would finish. This race had the best competition that I have ran against all year and I think that is what really pushed me.

"When I saw my time crossing the finish line, I was ecstatic. I felt great the entire race and was able to control everything I did. Finishing third was icing on the cake. I was surprised but so incredibly happy to be able to place in such a great spot, but I also knew that this what I had worked for all year."

This made the fourth state medal for Moore in her high school career and she improved on her state finish every year. Last season, she took fourth overall and bested her state time from a year ago by more than 30 seconds.



## **5. Boys Soccer wins league, regional titles to earn No. 1 seed in playoffs.**

For more than 70 minutes, the goals for Louisburg were hard to come by and it started to leave an eerie feeling on Halloween night.

However, the Wildcats got their treat when it was all over.

Louisburg scored two goals in the final seven minutes of the match to earn a 2-0 victory over Kansas City Christian in the Class 4-1A regional championship game Thursday. The Wildcats (16-2-1) earned their third regional title in the last four years and advanced to the state quarterfinals.

“This group is special,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “It is going to be tough when it is

all over. This group has changed our culture. They came back to what this program believes and they have bought in to what we are teaching them. They have worked so hard since June. For these seniors, this is their third title in four years and I think it is a lot of fun for them.

A school record 16 wins, a Frontier League championship and a regional title are all something worth celebrating, but following the state quarterfinal match with Bishop Miege, all Louisburg could think about was the finality of it all.

Despite all those accomplishments, the Wildcats fell one win short of their main goal – a spot in the state final four.

Louisburg saw its season come to a close with a 3-0 loss to Bishop Miege at the Wildcat Sports Complex. The Wildcats lost to the eventual state champion, as Miege went on to defeat Wichita-Trinity on Saturday, 3-1, for the Class 4-1A state championship – the Stags' fourth in a row.

As difficult as the loss was for Louisburg, there was no forgetting how big of a jump the Wildcats made from the season before as they went from a 6-win team to one that earned the East's No. 1 seed in the state playoffs.

“Going 6-11 last year and seeing this Miege team almost mercy-ruling us in the regional championship last year in the rain, was a program changer,” Louisburg coach

Kyle Conley

said. "After that was over, we talked about how things needed to change and it starts now. For our first practice in June, I told them that they are the ones that has to change them. Since day one, they have played for each other, played hard in practice and it was a total mindset change. When someone got hurt, it was the next guy up. We missed two starters for half of the year and it was always the next guy up taking advantage of his opportunity to fill in. The freshmen stepped up huge for us.

"This team is special.

16 wins is a school record and only two losses is probably a school record.

This team is incredible, played so hard and did everything I asked them to do.

They were always there to pick each other up and that is what this soccer

family is all about. It will be tough to say goodbye to these kids."



#### **4. Volleyball knocks off Miego to win regional title, takes fourth at state**

ATCHISON – The sub-state semifinal game between Louisburg and Bishop Miego had all the feels of a state tournament match.

Partially because a year ago, it was.

Louisburg met Miego in the state championship match only to see the Stags send the Lady Cats to a runner-up finish in two sets. Then three weeks ago the two teams met again, and like before, Miego dispatched of Louisburg in two sets.

However, Bishop Miego saw a different Louisburg team during the sub-state tournament at Atchison High

School – one they didn't expect.

The Lady Cats came out on fire and never let up in a 25-18 and 25-22 win over Miego to end the Stags' season. It marks the first time in at least 12 years, if not longer, that Miego will not be at the state tournament.

Since the state tournament began in 1971, Bishop Miego has made 39 state appearances during that time in either Class 5A or 4A and is the most in Kansas history.

"Our energy was going to be the difference in that match, so we knew we had to bring it," Louisburg senior Erin Lemke said. "We knew we had the same skill set as Miego, but our energy was what was going to pull us through there in the end. To get there, we just had to believe in ourselves and work hard this past week to give us the confidence that we needed."

However, even after pulling off a big revenge win that expended a lot of energy, the Lady Cats still had a sub-state championship match to play against No. 2 seed Atchison. The No. 7 seed Lady Cats took care of business as they won in straight sets, 25-12 and 25-15, at Atchison High School.

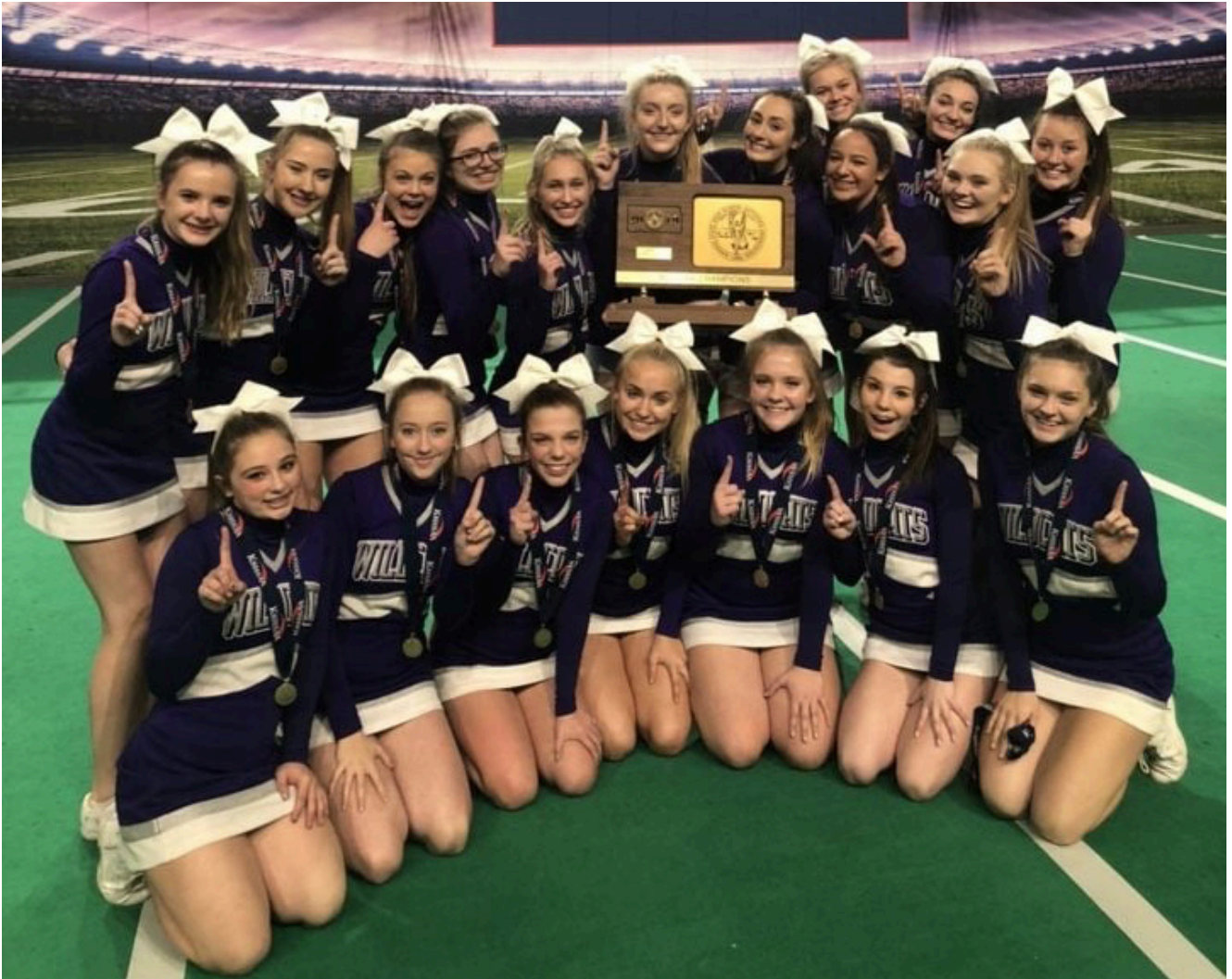
Louisburg lost its final two matches of the season, but those setbacks didn't take away from what the Lady Cats accomplished during the Kansas Class 4A State Championships.

For the third straight season, the Lady Cats were among the last four teams playing

and brought home a little hardware for their efforts. Louisburg took fourth overall after losing its third place match to Towanda-Circle, 2-1, in October at Hutchinson Sports Arena.

“Every season our goal is to put ourselves in the best position to qualify for state and then to hopefully advance to bracket play on Saturday,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “Leading up to state, we talked about how nothing is guaranteed and in order to make it to bracket play, we have to show up and play our best from the first whistle to the last whistle. If we play our game, then hopefully the winning will take care of itself and we’d advance.”

“The eight teams at state this year were all very talented. I was happy that we qualified for the semifinals because that put us one step closer to the championship. Even though we didn’t reach the championship match and finished fourth, I was still very proud of how the team played throughout the tournament.”



### **3. Louisburg cheer wins first state championship**

The Wildcat

cheerleaders competed at the Class 4A KSHSAA Game Day Spirit Showcase

Competition on Nov. 23 at the Stormont Vail Events Center in Topeka and came back home with a big trophy in tow.

Louisburg edged out runner-up Augusta with a point total of 82.25 to 81 in the finals to secure what is just the third athletic team state title in school history.

“I was so nervous at the awards,” Louisburg senior Lauren Vincent said. “We were all holding hands and had our heads down. We thought that we would get second



place at best, most likely third. We were content because we put everything out on the mat and did the best we could. But when they called out second place and it was Augusta, we screamed, cried, and hugged each other because we knew that we had just won.

“When our name was called for first, we jumped up and hugged each other. Then I ran out onto the mat and grabbed the trophy and we held it up and jumped around victoriously. It was the best feeling in the entire world. Knowing that all of our hard work had finally paid off was indescribable feeling of joy.”

The Louisburg cheerleaders that competed are Lexi Pena, Lauren Vincent, Ashlyn McManigal, Brooklyn Mitchell, Gabby Tappan, Andrea Gaza, Eleanor Willming, Jayden Trester, Lacie Kallevig, Sammy McDaniel, Mable Graham, Anna Morrison, Bella Feikert, Audrey Anderson, Sydney Dudzik, Kaitlyn Vest, Jolie Hendrickson, Abby Bradley and Zoe Cutshaw. Louisburg’s head coach is Jayna Guerra.

Not only were the Wildcats the third team to win a state title in school history, they were also the first female squad to win a team crown as well. All the history just added to what was a special day for the program.

“It means so much to me and all my teammates,” Tappan said. “As someone who’s been a part of a variety

of sports my entire life, I know how hard each of our teams work to do their very best in whatever sport they're a part of. We are so thankful that we got to make history for Louisburg and it is something that I can guarantee that each and every one of us will remember it for the rest of our lives."



**2. Girls soccer takes second at state, Conley named coach of year and Scholtz, Buffington awarded players of year.**

When it was all said and done, the Louisburg girls soccer team held its trophy high in front of the Wildcat faithful and the tears were easy to spot.

After nearly 200 minutes of soccer in a nine-hour time period, including one

match that ended in penalty kicks, the Wildcats were spent. They gave everything they had.

For the second consecutive season, Louisburg earned the Class 4-3-2-1A state runner-up trophy after a wild victory over Topeka-Hayden in the semifinals and then were shutout by Bishop Miege in the championship game, 4-0. It was the third consecutive state final four appearance for Louisburg.

Frustration and sadness was easy to see following the Wildcats' loss to the defending state champion, but the team realizes what they have accomplished in just four years of existence is to be celebrated.

"Being in this situation two years in a row is something that doesn't happen very often," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "There are a bunch of teams that haven't been to a state final four and we have been to three in three years. It is pretty cool and it is special."

It was a wild 24 hours for the Wildcats. Louisburg was supposed to play Hayden on Friday in the semifinals, but severe weather forced the postponement to early Saturday morning.

The Wildcats battled Hayden through four overtimes and eventually led to penalty kicks. After an intense first five penalty kicks that left the match still tied, senior goalie

Carson Buffington recorded a big save and then senior Hallie Hutsell converted the sixth penalty kick to break the tie and give Louisburg a 2-1 win over Hayden.

“We usually play 80 minutes, but this time we had to play 110 minutes and we were gassed,” Conley said. “We were holding on and had some chances at the end to win it, but then we went to overtime and then to penalty kicks. It was all about to see if we could survive. Emotionally it was just a high for us and an unbelievable response and a great finish. Carson making a big save, Hallie putting it in for the win – it was just a great game.”

In the championship match, the Stags were just too much for the Wildcats and junior Sophia Stram provided a big spark. Stram scored all four goals for Miego in the title game, all of which came in the first half, and the Wildcats didn't have an answer.

“They are just so freaking good,” Conley said. “I think the girls were mentally ready, but I don't think their legs were quite ready, but we lost to one of best teams in the state of Kansas. They have great players, they are well-coached, but our girls played their butts off.

Coming off its second consecutive state runner-up appearance, Louisburg had some positive repercussions from its historic season.

However, none bigger came when the all-state teams were released by the Kansas Soccer Coaches Association. Not only did six Wildcats earn all-state selections, but they were honored with some of the highest awards out there.

Junior Mackenzie Scholtz was named as the Co-Offensive Player of the Year in Class 4-1A with Bishop Miege's Sophia Stram after she led the Wildcats in scoring.

Louisburg was also recognized on the other side of the ball as senior Carson Buffington was named the Class 4-1A Goalkeeper of the Year.

"Seeing Mackenzie and Carson recognized for their positional player of the years was fantastic," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "They both had incredible years."

The Wildcats weren't done, as for the second consecutive season, Conley was named as the Class 4-1A Coach of the Year as he guided Louisburg to a 17-4 record. He also led the Wildcats to three consecutive final four appearances.



**1.4×400 boys wins state championship, Wright wins four state medals and team breaks six school records at regional meet.**

Three days after arriving in Wichita for the Kansas State Track and Field Championships, Justin Collins, Blue Caplinger, Ben Wiedenmann and Chris Williams finally got the chance to get on the Cessna Stadium track.

The four Wildcat runners had the top time in Class 4A going into the 4×400-meter relay, but weather threw a little wrench into their plans. The meet, which was supposed to end on a Saturday, was postponed to Sunday morning and all

races were judged by  
times with no preliminaries.

It wasn't the ideal  
situation, but they made it work – and it worked well.

Collins, Caplinger, Wiedenmann and Williams won the state  
championship in a time of 3 minutes and 25.39 seconds as they  
edged Chapman at the finish line, which ran a 3:25.61. It was  
the first state track championship for Louisburg since 2015  
when Connor McMullen won the discus.

That was just one  
event in what was an historic week for Louisburg track.

Louisburg freshman Delaney Wright earned four state medals,  
while junior teammate Carlee Gassman finished with three as  
the Lady Cats went on to finish 10<sup>th</sup> in the team standings. The  
Lady Cats earned several other medals at the state meet coming  
off an impressive performance at regionals.

During the Class 4A  
regional meet at Paola High School, Wright qualified for state  
in four events,  
broke two school records and earned a regional title in her  
first postseason  
track meet.



Wright won a regional title in the long jump and finished second in the 200 and 400-meter dashes. She also helped Carlee Gassman, Rain Pugh and Sydni Keagle to a second place finish in the 4x400-meter relay.

“I am so grateful for everything,” Wright said. “I had been having trouble with my hip this week and I just wanted to come out and make state in at least one event. I didn’t realize I would make it in four. It is an unbelievable feeling.”

Wright’s day was just one of the many positives for the Lady Cats as they broke four school records, had four regional



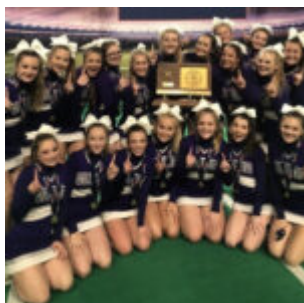
champions and qualified for state in 10 events.

As a team, the Lady Cats nearly earned the regional runner-up trophy as they racked up 86.5 points and finished a half a point behind second place Baldwin and Bishop Miege, who tied for second. Paola won the regional title with 107 points.

The Wildcat boys also broke two school records and would end up qualifying for nine spots at the state meet.

---

## **Wildcat cheer makes history with school's first female state title**



**The Louisburg High School cheer squad was all smiles after the Wildcats edged out Augusta to win the 2019 Class 4A state championship in Topeka.**

It has been almost two weeks since the Louisburg High School cheer squad made history, but the excitement is still like it all happened yesterday

And why wouldn't be – Louisburg won a state title.

The Wildcat cheerleaders competed

at the Class 4A KSHSAA Game Day Spirit Showcase Competition on Nov. 23 at the Stormont Vail Events Center in Topeka and came back home with a big trophy in tow.

Louisburg edged out runner-up Augusta with a point total of 82.25 to 81 in the finals to secure what is just the third athletic team state title in school history.

“I was so nervous at the awards,” Louisburg senior Lauren Vincent said. “We were all holding hands and had our heads down. We thought that we would get second place at best, most likely third. We were content because we put everything out on the mat and did the best we could. But when they called out second place and it was Augusta, we screamed, cried, and hugged each other because we knew that we had just won.

“When our name was called for first, we jumped up and hugged each other. Then I ran out onto the mat and grabbed the trophy and we held it up and jumped around victoriously. It was the best feeling in the entire world. Knowing that all of our hard work had finally paid off was indescribable feeling of joy.”

The Louisburg cheerleaders that competed are Lexi Pena, Lauren Vincent, Ashlyn McManigal, Brooklyn Mitchell, Gabby Tappan, Andrea Gaza, Eleanor Willming, Jayden Trester, Lacie Kallevig, Sammy McDaniel, Mable Graham, Anna Morrison, Bella Feikert, Audrey Anderson, Sydney Dudzik,

Kaitlyn Vest,  
Jolie Hendrickson, Abby Bradley and Zoe Cutshaw. Louisburg's  
head coach is Jayna  
Guerra.

Not only were the Wildcats the third team to win a state title  
in school history, they were also the first female squad to  
win a team crown as well. All the history just added to what  
was a special day for the program.

"It means so much to me and all my teammates," Tappan said.  
"As someone who's been a part of a variety of sports my entire  
life, I know how hard each of our teams work to do their very  
best in whatever sport they're a part of. We are so thankful  
that we got to make history for Louisburg and it is something  
that I can guarantee that each and every one of us will  
remember it for the rest of our lives."

The Wildcats, who competed against 18 other programs, opened  
with a fight song routine, followed by crowd leading and then  
the band chant.

It was the latter that helped put them in the finals when the  
top six teams  
were announced.

At the time, Louisburg was second in points with 180.6, but  
Piper – the defending state champion – had racked up a score  
of 194.8 with a  
good opening round.

"Our band chant was  
definitely the highlight of our individual performances,"  
Guerra said. "On and  
off the practice mat, I was approached by coaches, athletes,  
and staff members  
commenting on how unique and clean our routine was. That was  
really reassuring  
to me being a first time coach. That let me know that I was

doing good, and was providing for my girls.

“Overall

I think our final performance was the best. They killed it out there. Competition day, they were coachable and made quick changes to make the routine fit what the judges were ultimately looking for.”

In

the finals, Louisburg performed its all-cheer, which is all three routines plus a situational sideline for whatever the judges call and they had to perform it all in a 3-minute window.

“We were a little nervous because we have lots of stunts and we always need to have our spirit up and be engaging with the crowd, so it’s very tiring,” Tappan said. “We had practiced a lot though so we knew we could do it. At that point we weren’t thinking we were going to win, we were just happy we made it to the finals.”

When the announcement finally came, the Wildcat cheerleaders were in disbelief when their name was called for first and they had won the state title. A flood of other emotions soon followed, and it was then they realized all their hard work had paid off.

“To win a

state title my senior year is the most amazing yet rewarding feeling,” Vincent said. “Us seniors have been working so hard for this moment for the past four years. We have analyzed countless routines and observed the

seniors from the past years to better ourselves and prepare for this leadership position. And when our time finally came around to lead, we felt prepared and knew that we had a good team on our hands.

“We have put in so much work the last four years to make sure that our team and choreography were up to par. We were hard on our girls sometimes, but to win the state title means that our leadership and constructive criticism paid off. I’m so proud of our girls for stepping up to both Jayna and our high expectations of success.”

It was a lot of work to get prepared for the showcase event as the Wildcats began prepping in October and had 1-2 practices a week along with their normal cheering engagements.

“I could not have asked for a better group of hard working girls,” Guerra said. “They are the ones that did all the work, I just guided them in the direction they set the path for. For me, seeing their reactions and having them know that their hard work paid off was all I needed. I will fully admit that I am overjoyed with our placement, but I am more proud of the girls and the leadership and dedication they showed throughout the process.”

---

# TeamMates program makes its way to Louisburg



**TeamMates program director DeMoine Adams speaks to students at Broadmoor Elementary last week about the new TeamMates program in Louisburg.**

Aaron Bauer, like many other people throughout country, spends part of his day cycling through hundreds of emails.

Then one day, Bauer saw one that caught his eye – it came from his mentee.

You see, Bauer served as mentor to this child in rural Nebraska before making the move to Louisburg. It was part of a program called TeamMates.

Three years after moving to Louisburg, Bauer's mentee graduated high school and sent him, what Bauer called, "the coolest email I have ever received."

*"Aaron, Thank you. Towards the end of the year, Ms. White showed me a picture of our first match. It reminded me of the matches and our time together. You helped a lot during TeamMates, more than you will ever know, and I'll be forever*

*grateful.”*

Bauer really wasn't sure what kind of an impact he was having with his mentee, and if it was even making that much of a difference this child's life.

One email changed all that.

“Unfortunately, I had to move do to my career,” Bauer said.

“My TeamMate

graduated this last spring, three years after I moved. I remember as

school was ending earlier this spring telling my wife that my TeamMate would

graduate and I asked the rhetorical question, “Do you think I had any

impact?” A couple of weeks later, after his graduation and during his

summer break, he wrote me a 4-page email because he wanted to update me on his

life and tell me how much our time meant to him.”

The TeamMates program has created several stories like that through

Nebraska and surrounding states and now it is making its way to Kansas – more specifically

– Broadmoor Elementary in Louisburg.

Louisburg is one of 10 school districts in Kansas that have begun using

TeamMates, a mentoring program that pairs a community volunteer with a student.

That mentor would spend time once a week with their mentee to do things the

student enjoys.

“I think it is a great opportunity

for our students,” Louisburg program coordinator Sara McIntire

said. "We are a small-town, and while we are close to the city or to Overland Park, we have a lot of kids that don't have the resources to go do some of those things. We might have kids who are good at sports like basketball, and have the opportunity to get coached by an adult, but not everyone gets opportunities like that. I also think our community is special. If a family has a need, and people became aware of it, we wrap ourselves around that and resources come out of the woodwork."

#### TeamMates Mentoring Program

began in 1991 with the vision of University of Nebraska Head Football Coach Tom Osborne and his wife Nancy. Coach Osborne felt that the athletes in his program could make an impact on the middle school students, and twenty-two football players began meeting with middle school students in the Lincoln Public Schools.

Of the 22 original mentees, 21 went on to graduate from high school while one left school early to pursue a successful Motocross career. Eighteen of the original mentees also obtained some form of post-secondary education.

Since that time, the program has expanded throughout Nebraska and into surrounding states to help create those connections to help in a child's life.



On Nov. 4, TeamMates program director DeMoine Adams and training and match support manager Allyson Horne made the trip to Louisburg to speak to the Broadmoor Elementary staff and students about the program.

“Our hope, as we started as an organization, is to be able to give kids more opportunities to be feel heard and to give mentors more of an opportunity to see what is happening in school districts today and make a difference,” Horne said. “I don’t think any of us could have ever predicted 10,000 matches, five states and so much ripple effect of the impact.

“My own daughter matched with her mentor when she was in fifth grade. She is now 23 and recently became a mentor herself and we have lots of stories like that where we have former mentees who are now becoming mentors. We have three former mentees who work for the central office. As a mentor, my hope was always to make a difference in my mentee’s life, but I would say they probably changed mine more than anything else.”

Later in the evening, the school provided mentor training for interested participants, and according to McIntire, had 43 possible mentors go through training. By the following Thursday, more than 40 students signed up that they were interested in the program.

“I always tell mentors that it is ok to say ‘I don’t know, or I’m not sure,’” Horne said. “I think my mentee loves doing crafts with me because she knows that I am terrible at them.

She likes to see me struggle I think. When we let our mentee's teach us, I think some phenomenal things happen with trust-building. It also takes a lot of pressure off of a mentor.

"It has been a unique experience to be here already. To come in and already see the space created for mentors and mentees to meet has just been amazing. The school staff has a lot of energy for it and Sara's dedication...43 mentors who are going to be trained is not typical right at the start. For us to come in and feel totally welcomed, but also this excitement and energy, is unique for us. My role for DeMoine and myself, we travel program-wide, so we are in South Dakota, Wyoming, we are in Kansas this month and a lot of communities in Nebraska. When there is already a culture of belonging and welcoming in a community, we know this is a great fit and I can already see that.

As good of a first step as that is, McIntire said they will always be looking for new mentors as they hope to one day build the program into the middle and high school levels.

"We would love for the community to embrace this on an even bigger level," McIntire said. "We have some businesses already, like First Option Bank and Louisburg Family Dental, who are having all their employees sign up to be mentors. It is awesome that businesses are supporting their staff and the giving of their time. We would love to see

that spread. I think the possibilities are endless. I think the legacy of the program speaks for itself.”

Bauer, who has seen what the program has done for students first-hand, is taking on a big role in the Louisburg program as the advisory board president.

Other community members, Becky Bowes (vice-president), T.J. Williams (treasurer), Jennifer Heston (secretary), Connie Barbour, Nick White, Dave Tappan, Dave Alexander, Kristine Lowry, Tim Johnson and Jim Real are all serving on the advisory board, and along with building coordinator Amy Buffington, all hope to see the program take off.

“I am not the type of person that typically gets excited about a whole lot, but I am super excited about TeamMates coming to Louisburg,” Bauer said. “All my colleagues that mentored though TeamMates had similar positive, unique stories. The special part of being a TeamMates mentor is that you are matched with a student based on common interests and you remain TeamMates until the mentee graduates. TeamMates is also unique in today’s world in that it is designed to focus on the student’s strengths, and the meetings must be face to face in a safe environment. There are no phone calls, texts, social media, etc. interactions allowed with your mentee.

“Initially, I would anticipate the impact of mentoring will not be as evident until trust is built between the students and the mentors. In a few years,

and from then on, I expect the impact to be very noticeable and it will only continue to grow. TeamMates has quite a bit of research though Gallup and the resulting data shows the positive impact on students that have had a mentor. Often, it reaches far beyond school academics and truly has a long-lasting and profound impact in the lives of the kids.”

For those that are interested in becoming a mentor, or want to learn more about the program, contact McIntire at [mcintires@usd416.org](mailto:mcintires@usd416.org) or 913-837-1973.

You can also visit [www.teammates.org](http://www.teammates.org) to learn more about the program and view testimonials from those mentors and mentees that have been impacted.

---

**New LHS Hall of Fame class  
happy to be included among  
Wildcat greats**



**(From left) Dennis Stiles, John Lohse, Jason Burk and Krystal Bowes-Grojean were inducted into the Louisburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame last week.**

When Dennis Stiles, John Lohse, Jason Burk and Krystal Bowes-Grojean returned to Louisburg High School and Wildcat Stadium last Friday night, memories came rushing back.

It was hard for them not think back to what was all like. The four former Wildcat athletes created plenty of memories for themselves and left a lasting impression on LHS athletics.

They were each officially inducted into the Louisburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame and were recognized at halftime of last week's football game against Piper. They became the first class since 2008 to be inducted into the hall.

The USD 416 Endowment Association, which oversees the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame, announced the class last summer and they were the top four vote getters in this year's voting.

"Louisburg has a history of great athletes," said Damon Dennis, a USD 416 Endowment Association board member. "We had a good cross-section of both young and older

voters this year that really took their job seriously. The four athletes chosen represent several generations of former Wildcats and each one were dominant in their particular era and sports. The Endowment Association is excited to get the Hall of Fame going again and plan on some big things in the future.”



**Dennis Stiles**

Stiles, who is a member of the Class of 1969, lettered 4 years in football and track and 3 years in basketball. His senior year he was named all-league and all-state in football and was co-captain on the Wildcat team that finished the year 4-4.

As a sophomore, he played on the varsity basketball team, which went 12-0 in league play, finished the year 20-3 and were district champions. He earned honorable mention all-state honors his sophomore and junior seasons and was second-team all-state his senior year. Stiles was at one time the school's career scoring leader.

Stiles competed at the state track meet as a junior and senior where he placed fourth in the discus his senior year. He previously held school records in the discus and triple jump. He also received a football scholarship to Kansas State University.

"Just to be considered is an honor," Stiles said. "But, to be selected, I am thankful to the people who were part of the selection process. I was totally shocked when Damon gave me the news.

"As far as proud moments, it was just being part of teams that were just trying to compete. We didn't always win, but I enjoyed the friendships that were built. As a sophomore, I played on a basketball team made up of mostly seniors, but we went undefeated in league and finished with a 20-3 record. It was just a great group of guys."



### **John Lohse**

Lohse, a member of the Class of 1995, lettered all four years in baseball and was selected to represent Kansas in the all-star baseball classic his senior year. He was an all-league pitcher and centerfielder for the Wildcats his sophomore through senior years. He had a .510 average his junior and senior seasons, with 10 home runs his junior year and 12 more his senior season.

In football,  
Lohse was a 3-year letterwinner. He was an all-league wide receiver his junior and senior seasons. In his senior year, he had 850 yards receiving and 11 touchdowns and was later selected to represent Kansas in the Metro Classic All-Star Game.



Lohse was also a 3-year letterwinner in basketball and was an all-league selection his junior and senior seasons. He averaged a double-double his junior and senior years.

Post-graduation,

Lohse attended Pittsburg State on a baseball scholarship and played on the Gorilla team for four years. He was selected to the all-MIAA team his sophomore and junior seasons before injuring his shoulder his senior year.

He had a .315

average his junior and senior seasons. In his first collegiate at-bat his freshman year, Lohse hit a game-winning grand slam to give Pitt State its first win over Missouri Southern in five years.

“Being inducted into the Louisburg

Hall of Fame was a honor,” Lohse said. “All the sweat, tears and practices just

to get to this point is all worth it. That’s not counting the relentless hours

my dad Rich worked with me at home as well. We spent many hours in the backyard

playing catch and working on stuff. My parents never missed a game and I was

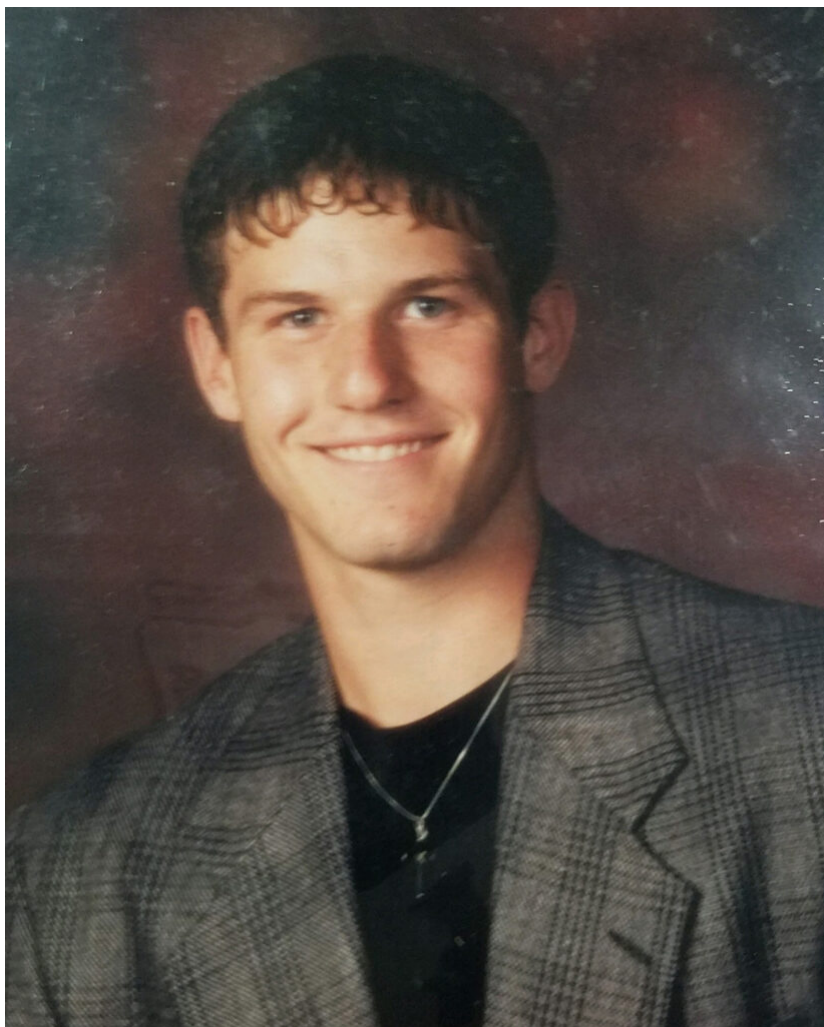
glad my parents, wife and my three kids were present for the induction.

I have always taught my kids to give 110 percent at everything you do. Practice

makes perfect.

“I had a lot of favorite memories. Whether it was winning sub-state my junior year in basketball and going to state, or being selected to play in the Metro Classic football game and being selected as the Kansas MVP or scoring four touchdowns my

senior year against Wellsville on homecoming. I have so many great memories that I could go on and on, but I couldn't have done it without the great coaching and teammates I had."



### **Jason Burk**

Burk, who graduated in the Class of 1999, was a 4-year letterwinner for the Louisburg track and field team and qualified for state in all four years in four events. He accumulated 12 state medals, 16 regional track medals and 14 Frontier League medals. Burk was selected to the Kansas City All-Metro track team in 1998 and 1999.

During his senior season, Burk was a state champion in both the triple and long jump. He won the triple jump with a leap 48 feet and

the long jump with a mark of 22-5. He also finished fifth in the 100-meter dash and sixth in the high jump.

As a junior, Burk won a state championship in the triple jump with mark of 46 feet and won three more state medals. He took second long jump, fourth in the 100 dash and sixth in the 200 dash. As a sophomore, Burk won state medals in the triple jump (second), long jump (fourth) and 4×100 relay (third). He was a member of the 4×100 team that took second at state as a freshman in 1996.

At one time, Burk held seven school records. He currently holds school records in the triple jump, high jump and long jump. Burk holds the school record for most points in a season with 326.

Burk also played football, where he was a part of bi-district, district and regional championship teams.

“It was a great honor and a proud moment for me and my family when we found out,” Burk said. “It gave me a great feeling of accomplishment. I would like to thank Doc D and everyone who was involved in the ceremony. It turned out amazing.

“My favorite memory was my freshman year at regionals when I missed the school record in triple jump by a half-inch. I had a personal record that day and the reaction I got from coach (Aaron) Webb was priceless. That was the moment Webb and I knew the rest of my high school career was going to be great. My proudest moment was going to state my junior year by myself and taking seventh in the team

standings.”



### **Krystal Bowes-Grojean**

Bowes-Grojean, who graduated in 2001, was a 4-year letterwinner in track before she was offered a scholarship on the Wichita State track and field team.

In her senior season at Louisburg, Bowes earned three state medals, including a second-place finish in the javelin with a throw of 145-10. She was also third in the discus with a toss of 126-9 and fifth in the shot put at 37-5. As a sophomore and junior, she finished sixth in the discus at state. In all, Bowes racked up five state medals in her high school career

before moving on to Wichita State. She is the current Louisburg record holder in the javelin (146-10) and discus (137-11).

At Wichita State, she earned academic All-American honors and was a team captain all four years. Bowes was a two-time NCAA national qualifier and finished fifth in the javelin and was second in the Missouri Valley Conference in 2006.

In 2004, Bowes took first in the MVC in the javelin and fourth in the discus. In 2003, she won the Missouri Valley Conference discus title, was second in the javelin and fourth in the hammer throw. Bowes was also a member two Shocker teams that won conference titles.

In volleyball and basketball at LHS, Bowes was a 3-year letterwinner in each sport and earned first-team all-Frontier League honors each season.

"It's a pretty amazing honor to be selected for the Hall of Fame, knowing that there have been some awesome athletes to come out of Louisburg and now to be recognized as one of them, truly is humbling," Krystal said. "You know, when you're in high school and just doing the work you need to do to get the job done on the field/court, you don't think about the level of competition you can set for the next generations. At least I didn't until my name got put on the wall for those school records and having them still there is pretty sweet. I just have high expectations of myself and where I wanted to go with it all and a lot of support from my family helped.

"You know having to write down everything I accomplished over my four years at LHS, and then to go on to WSU and add them

all up was pretty fun to think back on. All the road trips to sub-state and state, no matter what the outcome, the memories that I have and the coaches to help me get there I will never forget. It may have even brought some tears to my eyes thinking about all the fun we use to have.

“But I think most of all my favorite thing looking back at it all was knowing that I had two parents in the stands at all of my games, sitting on those hard bleachers cheering us on through it all. So for that I’m thankful and will always remember I’m one BAC.”