Henderson signs with Pittsburg State baseball



Louisburg High School first baseman Austin Henderson is getting a chance to achieve his dream when he found out last week that he earned a spot on the Pittsburg State baseball team.

Baseball is in Austin Henderson’s blood.

Like many young athletes across the country, Henderson has played the game he loves since he was small and always had aspirations of playing college baseball one day. Once the high school baseball season was over in May, he has been looking for that right fit.

He found that perfect place last week.

Henderson earned a spot with the Pittsburg State baseball team and the recent Louisburg High School graduate is looking forward to hitting the field with the NCAA Division II program.

“Since I was little I knew I wanted to play baseball at the college level so when the coach offered me a spot it was crazy because a dream became a reality,” Henderson said.

That coach is Tom Myers, who was hired to take over the Gorillas program last month. The Gorillas finished 15-33 last season, but Henderson is excited to learn under Myers, who led

Central Missouri State to the NCAA Tournament six times.

After speaking with Myers during his college visit, the choice was an easy one for Henderson.

“Pitt State is an awesome school and when I took my visit it felt just like home,” Henderson said. “Coach Myers is an awesome guy and he is a winner. I can’t wait to play under him.”

Henderson also had some guidance from former Louisburg baseball coach Jeff Lohse, who played for the Gorilla baseball team himself. Lohse coached Henderson his first three years in high school.

“I really want to thank coach Lohse for all his help,” Henderson said. “He was a huge part in all this and he really helped me out a lot with the recruiting process.”

Henderson had a strong final season for Louisburg as he earned honorable mention all-Frontier League honors at first base. He also provided a lot of power in the middle of the lineup for the Wildcats.

He finished the season with a .348 average and had 24 hits in 77 plate appearances. Henderson added six doubles and three home runs on the season to go along with 16 RBIs. He also walked eight and struck out just nine times.

Although Henderson played a lot of first base for the Wildcats, that won’t necessarily be his position at Pittsburg State. The Gorillas coaches want to try him in a couple different spots and Henderson is happy to give it a try.

“After speaking with coach Myers, he wants to see me play more around the field and try third base and the outfield,” Henderson said. “As for playing time, it isn’t guaranteed and he said the best player plays and if I work hard then it will be a possibility for me to play right away. He doesn’t want to

make the decision to redshirt me or not until the end of winter when he can gauge where I am at.”

All-Frontier League Baseball Team

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE BASEBALL

First Team

Catcher: Jared Fry, Eudora, senior

Infield: Donovan Sutti, Paola, junior; Andrew White, De Soto, senior; Kaleb Shaffer, sophomore; Cody Lucas, Spring Hill, sophomore

Outfield: Blaine Ray, Ottawa, junior; Blain Ohlmeier, Paola, senior; Ben Van Diest, Eudora, senior

Pitcher: Zach Courbat, Eudora, senior; Blaine Hanf, Paola, junior

Utility: Mason McDow, Paola, senior

Second Team

Catcher: Anthony Slaughter, De Soto, sophomore

Infield: Aaron Foster, Eudora, senior; **Matt Risenhoover, Louisburg, senior**; Keegan Finch, Ottawa, junior; Jakob Shields, De Soto, senior

Outfield: Cooper Lee, De Soto, senior; **Grant Harding,**

Louisburg, junior; Ivan Hughes, Spring Hill, senior

Pitcher: Zach Bilek, De Soto, senior; Zach Curry, Ottawa, junior

Utility: Adam Carlson, Baldwin, junior

Honorable mention

Catcher: **Alex Dunn, Louisburg, senior**

Infield: Jake Schrock, Baldwin, sophomore; **Austin Henderson, Louisburg, senior**; Drew Burger, Spring Hill, junior

Outfield: Nathan Staats, Paola, senior; Ben Morgenstern, Baldwin, senior

Pitcher: Aaron Foster, senior, honorable mention

Utility: **Korbin Hankinson, Louisburg, junior**; Chris Misner-Iles, Eudora, senior

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Wildcats fall in dramatic fashion to end season



Louisburg catcher Alex Dunn tags out a Paola runner at the plate during the Wildcats' first round regional tournament

game in Paola. The Wildcats took a lead into the final inning, but fell to the Panthers 4-3.

PAOLA – The Louisburg baseball team was just three outs away from creating some major reverberations at the Class 4A regional tournament in Paola.

Three outs and the Wildcats would knock off No. 1 seed Paola and they would find themselves in the regional championship game for the right to go to state. As it turned out, getting those outs was easier said than done.

After Louisburg took the lead with a run in the seventh inning, Paola answered with a pair of runs in bottom of the inning to win in walk-off fashion, 4-3, on May 17. The loss ended the Wildcats' season and they finished with an 8-12 record.

"It was a tough loss," Louisburg coach Joel McGhee said. "Many of the guys were hoping to move deeper into the playoffs this year and to have the opportunity slip away hits hard. We played some of the best baseball we had all year and made some great plays to get out of a couple of jams. We hit well and did a good job moving on the base paths. We had key hits when we needed them, but still left a number of runners on base."

The game was tied at 3-all going into seventh inning thanks to the Louisburg defense the inning before. Paola appeared it was going to break the game open as it loaded the bases with no outs.

Louisburg got some help when Paola bunted foul for a third strike to get the first out. The Panthers then hit a sharp groundball, but Wildcat first baseman Austin Henderson made a diving stop and threw home to get the force.

Pitcher Colton Smith then coaxed a groundball his way for an

easy third out and gave Louisburg some momentum.



Senior Cale Schneider connects on an RBI single during the Wildcats' regional tournament game on May 17 in Paola.

The Wildcats had one last rally in them as they were able to scratch out a run to take the lead a back.

Senior Cale Schneider reached on an error to lead off the inning, and with two outs, Paola intentionally walked Henderson. Senior Alex Dunn made the Panthers pay as he singled to score Schneider and broke the tie.

Smith then singled to load the bases, but the Wildcats weren't able to get that extra run.

"The guys did a great job with two outs," McGhee said. "Dunn's at-bat after the initial walk to Henderson was huge. He kept us moving forward and elevated everyone's energy, we were able to load the bases, but came up short. It would have been great to pick up a couple of runs in that situation."

Paola reached on a Louisburg error to open the bottom of the

seventh, the Panthers then singled and both runners stole a base to get on second and third with no outs. Smith was able to get a strike out, but the Panthers eventually singled to score both runs.

Dalton Stone started the game for Louisburg and went three innings and struck out a pair of batters. Smith came on in relief and pitched just over three innings and struck out six to keep the Wildcats in the game.



Louisburg third baseman Dalton Stone makes a throw to first base during the Wildcats' regional tournament game in Paola.

"Stone and Smith both threw well," McGhee said. "They did a good job pitching against the hitters they faced and were selective with their pitches. Both did a good job working around the zone, and did not leave many pitches to be hit hard. However, we gave away some free bases that hurt us, but with good hitters at the plate working zone is necessary.

"It was great to have Smith available, as he was unable to play against Spring Hill, but when called upon he came out and

gave it everything he had.”

Paola struck first as it scored a run in the bottom of the first to take an early lead, but the Wildcats came right back with a run in the second as Blake Ruder singled home Smith to tie the game.

The Panthers took the lead back with another run in the bottom of the third, but again, Louisburg responded. Ruder led off the fourth inning with a double and then came around to score on a single from Schneider.

Dunn, Smith and Ruder all had two hits to lead the Wildcat offense and Ruder’s double was the lone extra base hit for Louisburg.

Wildcats end senior night with big win



Louisburg seniors (from left) Cale Schneider, Alex Dunn, Matt Risenhoover, Cole Kramer, Austin Henderson and Colton Smith were honored in-between games for senior night during Thursday’s doubleheader with Spring Hill at Lewis-Young Park.

Six Louisburg seniors walked onto the Lewis-Young Park field Thursday for the final time and one last chance at a win.

It was senior night and the Wildcats had already lost the doubleheader opener, 6-3, to Spring Hill and were staring at a six-game losing streak. They were not about to let it become seven.

Instead, Louisburg jumped on Spring Hill with three runs in the second and three more in the fifth to pull away for a 7-1 victory in the nightcap. The six seniors – Alex Dunn, Matt Risenhoover, Austin Henderson, Cole Kramer, Cale Schneider and Colton Smith – were able to leave their home field on a positive note.

“I feel we came out strong in the first game and we wanted to come out and compete but we had a lot on our minds,” Risenhoover said. “In the second game we just came out more free and loose and a bunch of the seniors just wanted to come out and have fun.”

Henderson got the fun started in the first inning when he hit a solo home run to put the Wildcats up 1-0 and from there Louisburg was able to relax offensively and followed it up with a pair of big innings.

Spring Hill tied the game in the top of the second, but the Wildcats (8-11) responded right back in the bottom of the inning. Risenhoover walked, Blake Ruder was hit by a pitch, and with two outs, the Wildcats executed a double steal to put both runners in scoring position.

It turned out to be a big play as Schneider came through with an opposite field single that scored both runs. Kramer then followed it up with an RBI double to put Louisburg up 4-1.



Louisburg senior second baseman Cale Schneider flips the ball to shortstop Matt Risenhoover as the Wildcats try for a double play Thursday against Spring Hill.

“I could feel like we were going to have a big inning,” Schneider said. “He threw me a two strike curve and I just took it to right field. It felt good to be able to come through there and help the team out.”

The Wildcats tacked on three more runs in the fifth on a pair of RBI singles from Schneider and Ruder and Henderson scored after Dalton Stone reached on an error.

Louisburg would need those runs as the Wildcats got a strong performance from Kylan Harper. Harper, who has been pitching at the junior varsity level all season, got the start thanks to injuries to Smith and Grant Harding.

Harper filled in nicely as he pitched five innings and allowed just one run on five hits.

“Kylan did a great job,” said Dunn, the team’s catcher. “For him to play junior varsity all year and then come up to varsity, it was good to see him throw strikes and only allow one run.”

Kramer then got one final opportunity to throw off the mound at Lewis-Young and he recorded two scoreless innings to go along with two strikeouts.

“It was very nice to throw those last couple innings,” Kramer said. “I have enjoyed all my time here with this program and playing out here at Lewis-Young. It will stink not being able to come back out here and play next year with these guys, but I enjoyed my last game and it was good to go out with a win and that is all I can ask for.”

Spring Hill jumped on the Wildcats in the opener with two runs in the first, but Louisburg answered right back with a run in the bottom of the inning.



Louisburg’s Kylan Harper got the win for the Wildcats in the second game as he pitched five innings and gave up just one run.

Kramer walked to open the inning, stole second and then scored on a Henderson double to cut the Bronco lead to 2-1. Spring Hill added a run in the top of the second and then scored

three runs in the sixth to break open a one-run game.

Henderson, Risenhoover and Schneider led the Wildcats with two hits each and Henderson had a pair of RBIs.

“It felt good to be able to get some big hits, especially that home run,” Henderson said. “We didn’t play as well in that first game, but that second game Kylan pitched really well for us and we were able to get the bats going a little bit.”

The Wildcats will take part in the regional tournament today in Paola. Louisburg, which is the No. 4 seed, will play No. 1 Paola (15-5) at 4 p.m., at the new Paola Baseball Complex.

If the Wildcats advance, they will play the winner of Fort Scott (12-6) and Spring Hill (10-8) at 6 p.m.

“It is sad that we have played our last home game, but at the same time we are ready for regionals,” Dunn said. “We are going to do everything we can to get a win.”

Wildcats fall twice to De Soto in walk-off



Louisburg senior Matt Risenhoover turns a double play during a game earlier this season. The Wildcats lost a pair of games to De Soto on Friday at 3&2 Baseball and Softball Complex in what

was a makeup from earlier in the season.

LENEXA – It hurts enough to lose in walk-off fashion once, but for it to happen twice makes it all the more frustrating.

That happened to the Louisburg High School baseball team Friday against De Soto in a makeup doubleheader at 3&2 Baseball and Softball Complex. The Wildcats held the lead in the opener and were tied in the nightcap, but on both occasions De Soto won the game in the bottom of the seventh.

De Soto hit a 2-run home run in the opener to down Louisburg 6-5 and then used a sacrifice fly to break a tie game and defeat Louisburg again, 4-3.

The first meeting was back and forth as the two teams traded a pair of 2-run innings. Louisburg opened the first inning with a pair of runs, but De Soto scored two in the bottom of the second to tie the game.

Louisburg (7-10) answered in the fourth when senior Matt Risenhoover doubled to score pinch-runner Kylan Harper and Colton Smith. De Soto answered back with to tie the game again off starter Dalton Stone, who pitched five innings for the Wildcats.

The Wildcats took the lead right back in the top of the sixth as Grant Harding and Risenhoover singled to open the inning and Harding came around to score on an error.

Senior Cole Kramer came on in relief for Stone and pitched a scoreless sixth, but ran into trouble in the seventh. De Soto led off with a double and followed with a home run to steal the win from the Wildcats.

Risenhoover led the Louisburg offense with a pair of hits and

two RBIs, while Austin Henderson had an RBI. Alex Dunn also added a double.

In the second game, the Wildcats took an early lead on De Soto again with a run in the first and third innings. De Soto grabbed the lead back with a 3-run third inning, before the Wildcats tied it with a run in the fourth when Dunn walked with bases loaded to score Kramer.

Harding started the game for the Wildcats and pitched nearly four innings and gave up three earned runs and had three strikeouts. Risenhoover came in and pitched two scoreless innings before De Soto opened with a pair of singles in the seventh and eventually came around to win the game on a sacrifice fly.

Smith and Risenhoover led the Louisburg offense as each had a pair of hits, including a double. Smith and Dunn also had RBI hits for the Wildcats.

Louisburg was scheduled to return to action tonight, but weather postponed its home senior night doubleheader against Spring Hill. The games have now been moved to Thursday. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Ottawa silences Louisburg bats in sweep



Louisburg senior Cole Kramer reaches back to deliver a pitch Tuesday in Ottawa. The Wildcats couldn't keep up with Ottawa in a pair of 11-1 and 10-0 losses.

OTTAWA – It wasn't the doubleheader the Louisburg baseball team had hoped for.

The Wildcats couldn't overcome back-to-back quick starts by Ottawa as they fell in run-rule fashion 11-1 and 10-0 on Tuesday in Ottawa.

In the opener, Ottawa scored seven runs in the first three innings to take an early lead before Louisburg answered with a run of their own.

Senior Matt Risenhoover reached on an error, stole second and then scored on a double from Cale Schneider to cut the Ottawa lead to 7-1. Ottawa scored one more in the fourth and three more runs in the fifth to complete the run-rule win.

Ottawa scored those 11 runs on 10 hits and the Cyclones also worked eight walks and took advantage of a pair of Louisburg errors.

Louisburg (7-8) managed just four hits in the first game, and along with a double from Schneider, got singles from Korbin Hankinson, Alex Dunn and Risenhoover.

The nightcap didn't fare much better for the Wildcats as they managed just one hit in the five-inning game. Louisburg did walk five times, but couldn't string together a big inning.

Louisburg's lone hit was single from Cole Kramer, who also recorded a stolen base. Ottawa scored four runs in the second, a run in the third, three in the fourth and two more in the fifth.

The Cyclones scored those 10 runs on just seven hits and also worked seven walks.

Louisburg will try and snap its three-game losing skid today when it travels to De Soto for a doubleheader. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Wildcats fall to Chanute

The Louisburg baseball team found itself trying to beat a couple of different opponents when it traveled to Chanute on April 29.

Not only were the Wildcats trying to get a win on the road, but they were also racing to beat Mother Nature. Louisburg lost in both instances.

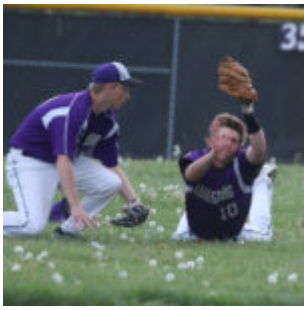
Despite a strong game from starter Dalton Stone, Louisburg couldn't muster much offense in a 2-0 loss to the Blue Comets in the opener. Rain then forced the postponement of the nightcap after the Wildcats were postponed earlier that week against De Soto.

Stone kept the Wildcats in it as he pitched six innings and gave up just two runs on two hits and struck out seven batters. It was a scoreless game into the sixth inning when Chanute struck for their two runs.

The Blue Comets scored twice thanks to a pair of walks, an error, a sacrifice fly and then a single.

Louisburg managed just two hits, a single each from Austin Henderson and Grant Harding and never threatened to score.

Wildcats take two from Osawatomie



Louisburg senior Cole Kramer lays out for a diving catch while teammate Matt Risenhoover looks on during the Wildcats' Apr. 19 doubleheader against Baldwin at Lewis-Young Park. The Wildcats defeated Osawatomie on Thursday with pair of 6-0 and 14-4 victories.

For most of the season, the Louisburg baseball team has found itself in a lot of close games. Some have gone its way, some haven't.

During Thursday's doubleheader with Osawatomie, the Wildcats didn't leave much doubt about the outcomes. Louisburg took care of business with a 6-0 and 14-4 sweep of the Trojans at Lewis-Young Park just two days after winning in walk-off fashion against Baldwin.

The Wildcats (7-5) have now won three straight contests and four out of their last six.

"It was good to get wins and get them in a way that we know we are capable of," Louisburg coach Joel McGhee said. "We have had a few slip away from us due to some late inning slumps this season, and it was great to see runs put up throughout

the entire game. We did a great job on the base paths and had solid performances defensively and from our pitchers. We had a good all-around team performance to come away with the wins."

In the opener, it all started on the mound with starting pitcher Cole Kramer. The Louisburg senior baffled the Osawatomie bats and he pitched a complete game shutout.

Kramer gave up just three hits and struck out five batters over seven innings of work. Although he has pitched some in relief, it was also Kramer's first start of the season.

"Cole did very well and is efficient on the mound," McGhee said. "He throws a lot of strikes and challenges the batters he faces. He and the team did a great job getting lead off outs, and we had multiple innings where we got the first two batters out. Cole draws a large number of ground balls and fly balls each time he pitches. It was great to get the complete game from him."

The offense certainly supported Kramer in his cause as the Wildcats scored a run in the first, three in the second and two more in the fourth inning to seal the win. Louisburg pounded out 10 hits and three of those came off the bat of Austin Henderson.

Henderson, the senior first baseman, finished the day 3 for 4 with a double, a home run and three RBIs. He hit a 2-run home run in the second inning to put Louisburg up 4-0.

"Austin is seeing the ball very well right now and making solid contact when he comes to the plate" McGhee said. "He has been doing a great job when we have runners on and takes advantage of pitchers' mistakes."

Senior Alex Dunn and junior Grant Harding added a pair of hits and Harding had an RBI single. Senior Colton Smith and junior Blake Ruder also drove a run in.

The nightcap brought even more offense as the Wildcats scored 14 runs on 12 hits and took advantage of four Osawatomie errors in the five inning run-rule victory.

Louisburg scored three runs in the first and second innings to take a 6-0 lead. Osawatomie scored two each in the third and fourth innings, but the Wildcats used a 5-run fourth inning to pull away.

Korbin Hankinson, Dunn and Harding each led the Wildcat offense with a pair of hits. Kramer and Harding had two RBIs each.

Matt Risenhoover had the lone extra base hit with an RBI double in the Wildcats' big fourth inning. Dunn, Hankinson, Smith and Dalton Stone also each drove in a run.

Harding also pitched a complete game for Louisburg as he gave up the four earned runs with two strikeouts to get the win.

Louisburg will try and continue its winning streak today when it travels to De Soto. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Wildcats win nightcap over Baldwin on walkoff

The Louisburg baseball team was in a comfortable position going into the final inning of the nightcap against Baldwin on April 19.

Louisburg, coming off a 4-3 loss to Baldwin in the opener, had a four-run lead in the seventh inning of the second game. Instead, a tight strike zone and a couple Louisburg mistakes allowed Baldwin to score four times and tie it.

The game went into extra innings, but the Wildcats got the run they needed in the eighth inning to pull out a 9-8 victory and get the split at Lewis-Young Park.

With one hit in the eighth, Alex Dunn drew a walk and Thomas San Agustin entered as a pinch runner. Colton Smith followed with a single to right field and San Agustin scored all the way from first base for the win.

“It was a challenging evening, but the team remained focused despite the adverse situation,” Louisburg coach Joel McGhee said. “In the end the team displayed great resilience, fighting back to take the game. Alex had a great at-bat drawing a walk and Thomas used his speed and hustle to go from first to home on Colton’s single. We were able to take advantage of a mistake to take the game.”



Louisburg’s Dalton Stone reaches back to deliver a pitch during the Wildcats’ doubleheader with Baldwin on Apr. 19.

Louisburg started the game with a four-run first inning to take a big lead, but Baldwin answered with three runs in the second before the Wildcats scored four more runs in the fourth to take an 8-3 lead.

Grant Harding had a big day at the plate with three hits, a pair of doubles and three RBIs. Matt Risenhoover led Louisburg

with four RBIs, including a two-run double in the fourth.

Dalton Stone started the game for Louisburg and went five innings and gave up three earned runs and had three strikeouts. Risenhoover came in for three innings of relief to help close it out.

Both pitchers had to deal with an inconsistent strike zone all night, which caused a lot of frustration in both dugouts. However, they were able to preserve what turned out to be a big win.

The Wildcats came off a tough loss in the opener. Louisburg used a three-run second inning to take a 3-2 lead, but Baldwin tied it with a run in the third and then eventually took the lead for good with a run in the top of the sixth.

Colton Smith started the game and pitched five strong innings as he gave up just two earned runs and struck out seven. Cole Kramer came in for the final two innings of relief.

Austin Henderson led the Louisburg offense with a pair of hits, including a double. Harding also finished with two hits, while Stone and Cale Schneider each drove in a run.

Wildcats use big plays to get win over Eudora



Louisburg junior Grant Harding reaches back for a pitch during the second game of the Wildcats' doubleheader with Eudora on Tuesday in Eudora. The Wildcats won opener 7-5, but fell in the nightcap 7-4.

EUDORA – The Louisburg baseball team had a flair for the dramatic during Tuesday's doubleheader opener in Eudora.

Whether it was a dazzling defensive play, a strong pitching performance or a timely hit – the Wildcats seemed to have all their bases covered. It all came together for a 7-5 victory over Eudora to start a night of back-to-back games.

The nightcap didn't go quite as well for Louisburg as the Wildcats couldn't get that big hit in a 7-4 loss to the Cardinals after Eudora scored three runs in the second and fourth innings to pull away.

Louisburg (4-4) started off well as it scored two runs in the first inning to take an early lead and then used a highlight-reel defensive play to get out of a jam in the bottom of the inning.

Eudora had the bases loaded and no one out and Louisburg starter Sam Guetterman coaxed a ground ball. It was the perfect setup as shortstop Matt Risenhoover started the double play with second baseman Cale Schneider who finished it with a strong throw to first baseman Austin Henderson and allowed just one runner to score.

The Cardinals tried to make it two runs, but Henderson made a

strong throw to catcher Alex Dunn, who tagged out the Eudora runner trying to score, and the Wildcats turned a rare triple play to keep the 2-1 lead.

“The triple play was a collective effort and a great heads up play by our infield,” Louisburg coach Joel McGhee said. “It got us out of a jam and provided energy when we could have gotten down on ourselves. It started with a groundball to Risenhoover, which allowed us to turn a double play. After turning the double play Henderson made a great throw home to Dunn, where we caught the third runner coming home.”

The Wildcats added another run in the second when Risenhoover singled and scored on a Cole Kramer double.



Senior second baseman Cale Schneider leaps into the air to snag a line drive Tuesday in Eudora.

Eudora was able to get those runs back and then some in the second inning as it scored three times and added another run in the third to take a 5-3 advantage. Risenhoover added a RBI single in the fifth, but the Wildcats still trailed going into the final two innings.

With two outs and no one on in the sixth, Louisburg rallied to take the lead back. Blake Ruder and Henderson started off with back-to-back singles and both runners scored on double from Dunn to make it 6-5.

Korbin Hankinson scored on a passed ball in the seventh to give the Wildcats a little insurance but they didn't need it thanks to the relief effort of Risenhoover. The Louisburg senior pitched four innings of scoreless relief, gave up one hit and struck out four.

"Matt came in and threw strikes," McGhee said. "He was hitting spots and was throwing quality stuff. He was able to get ground balls, fly balls, allowing his teammates to support him defensively, and was able to strikeout batters as well. Matt threw a great mix of pitches and filled the zone."

Louisburg's offense was on base nearly every inning as it pounded out 17 hits, including three from Grant Harding. Dunn finished with a team-high 3 RBIs, while Kramer, Ruder, Henderson, Colton Smith, Risenhoover and Hankinson each added two hits each.

It was a little bit of the opposite in the second game as Eudora jumped out to the three-run lead and didn't give it up as it out-hit the Wildcats 13-6.

Eudora struck for three runs in the second and fourth innings off Harding as he pitched six innings and gave up the seven runs, but just three were earned. He also struck out five on the night.

Louisburg trailed 6-1 going into the top of the fifth, but cut into the Eudora as it scored a pair of runs on an RBI grounder by Ruder and a sacrifice fly from Henderson.

The Cardinals scored a run in their half of the fifth and the Wildcats weren't able to get much closer.

Smith, Risenhoover and Hankinson each had a pair of hits to lead Louisburg, while Kramer, Ruder, Henderson and Schneider each notched an RBI.

“The second game we were slow to get started,” McGhee said. “We had a couple of 1-2-3 innings in a row which can be challenging to overcome. After the first couple innings we started to be a bit more patient at the plate and began getting more runners on base. We built some momentum late in the game, but were unable to carry it over in the seventh.

“Overall we were glad to come away with the split. Eudora had a well-pitched second game and strung together a lot of singles. Our guys fought hard to keep the game within reach.”

Louisburg returns to the diamond Tuesday when it hosts Baldwin at Lewis-Young Park. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Wildcats defeat Fort Scott in tournament



Louisburg senior Matt Risenhoover tags out a Fort Scott runner trying to steal Saturday during Fort Scott Round Robin Tournament at the LaRoche Baseball Complex. The Wildcats defeated Fort Scott 13-2 and fell to Ottawa 10-4.

FORT SCOTT – The last time the Louisburg baseball team visited Fort Scott they were a part of all the festivities that opened the LaRoche Baseball Complex and the Wildcats were also on the bad end of two run-rule losses.

On Saturday, the Wildcats were the ones doing the run-ruling.

In the first game of the Fort Scott Round Robin Tournament, Louisburg scored five runs in the fifth and sixth innings to pick up a 13-2 victory over Fort Scott. The Wildcats would go on to fall to Ottawa 10-4 in the second game, but they left Fort Scott with a much better taste in their mouth this time around.

Just two days earlier, the Wildcats also notched two wins over Prairie View to get their first victories of the season. Louisburg has now won three of its last four games.

“I was glad that we got the split, but would have liked to have come away with two wins,” Louisburg coach Joel McGhee said. “We were very focused against Fort Scott, which carried over from our play against Prairie View on Thursday. We showed a lot of hustle and made heads up plays. We had high quality at bats, good pitching and the defense was on their toes.”

Senior Colton Smith provided Louisburg with a strong start against Fort Scott. Smith pitched a complete game, allowed no earned runs and struck out five.



Senior Colton Smith pitched a complete game for the Wildcats against Fort Scott and had five strikeouts.

The Tigers scored two runs in third inning to take a 2-1 lead at the time, but Smith, who gave up just three hits as well, stymied the Fort Scott batters.

“Colton had a great outing,” McGhee said. “He filled the zone and was able to get the leadoff man out in each inning, it established a great tone and kept the defense locked in. Colton has the ability to strike guys out and to get ground and fly balls, which he did both.”

As good as Smith was, fellow senior Austin Henderson was just as good at the plate. Henderson finished the day with a 4-for-5 performance with a double and 4 RBIs.

Henderson was one of the many bright spots offensively for the Wildcats. Seniors Cole Kramer, Matt Risenhoover and junior Blake Ruder each finished with three hits each and Kramer added two RBIs and Risenhoover added one.

Smith, sophomore Dalton Stone and senior Cale Schneider also recorded two hits. Stone finished with 2 RBIs, while Schneider and Alex Dunn had an RBI each.

“Henderson was very focused at the plate and was making solid

contact," McGhee said. "He did a great job moving guys around the base path when he had the opportunities against Ft. Scott. He had a lot of quality at bats."



First baseman Austin Henderson looks in a throw as he prepares to tag out an Ottawa runner Saturday in Fort Scott.

The Wildcats (3-3) had to dig themselves out of a big hole against Ottawa in the tournament's second game. Ottawa scored four runs in the first inning and Louisburg nearly overcame the big inning.

Louisburg scored a run in the first and two more in the second as Stone and Schneider hit back-to-back RBI singles.

However, Ottawa scored a run in the fifth and five more in the sixth to break the game open and the Wildcats couldn't mount another comeback.

Stone, Schneider and Dunn each finished the game with two hits, while Henderson added 2 RBIs, including a solo home run in the sixth inning. Ruder also had a triple to open the game.

Louisburg will try and get a pair of league wins today when it travels to Eudora for a doubleheader. First pitch is set for

4:30 p.m.

Louisburg sweeps Prairie View

The weather may have been cold and windy, but that didn’t seem to bother the Louisburg bats Thursday at Prairie View High School.

Louisburg plated 24 runs in a pair of victories against the Buffalos to get their first wins of the season. The Wildcats won the first game 14-6 and finished strong with a 10-3 victory.

“It was good to get the first two wins,” McGhee said. “It is tough starting with Paola, but the guys came out against Prairie View and set the tone early. We were picked up by several multiple base hits and showed great hustle on the base path early on, which is infectious. We were making solid contact and getting hits to drop despite the high winds.”

In the opener, Louisburg pounded out 19 hits to go along with its 14 runs. The Wildcats scored five runs in the fifth inning and another six runs in the sixth inning to break the game open.

Senior Matt Risenhoover had a big day with the bat with a single, double and had 6 RBIs. Senior Cole Kramer and juniors Grant Harding and Korbin Hankinson each added three hits a piece. Harding finished the day with two triples and a double.

Seniors Austin Henderson, Colton Smith and Alex Dunn each had a pair of hits. Henderson and Dunn had 2 RBIs each.

Junior Sam Guetterman got the start for Louisburg and picked up the win with four innings of work. Guetterman allowed just one earned run and had three strikeouts.

Kramer and junior Kylan Harper worked the final three innings

to preserve the win.

The nightcap was a little different story as Louisburg found itself down 2-0 going into the second inning, but the Wildcats responded with five runs in the second, one in the fifth and four more in the seventh to secure the win.

Harding pitched a complete game for Louisburg as he went seven innings, gave up three earned runs and had 10 strikeouts.

Kramer led the way offensively as he finished with two hits, both triples, and had 3 RBIs. Harding also added three hits and an RBI.

Risenhoover and Henderson also added two hits and each had a double. Ruder added 2 RBIs in the win.

Paola gets best of Louisburg baseball in opener



Louisburg catcher Alex Dunn reaches down to put a tag on a sliding Paola runner during the Wildcats' season opener last Thursday at Lewis-Young Park. The Wildcats fell to No. 3 Paola 8-0 and 6-3.

It is never easy when you have to play your rival to open the season and it is even harder when that team is one of the top five teams in the state.

That was the test the Louisburg baseball team faced last Thursday in its home opener at Lewis-Young Park. The Wildcats met Paola, which is ranked No. 3 in Class 4A-Division I, and found themselves trying to shake off the rust.

Paola shutout Louisburg 8-0 in the first game of the doubleheader, but the Wildcats settled down in the nightcap before eventually losing 6-3.

“During the first game we played very tight, a tension that I was feeling as well,” Louisburg coach Joel McGhee said. “Facing a rival and league opponent, who happens to be ranked, in the first game of the year adds a significant amount of pressure. Despite the pressure, we were getting the ball in play, but hitting balls right at the defense. We made several mental mistakes, which will come with getting back into competition, and struggled to communicate with each other.

“During the second game we relaxed and were back to the team that we see at practice each day. The guys were communicating, being more supportive of each other, and playing relaxed. The hits started to fall in, but we had a lot of strikeouts and left guys on base.”



Blake Ruder looks to make contact with a pitch during the Wildcats' season opener against Paola last Thursday.

Senior Colton Smith started the opener for the Wildcats and got off to a strong start as he worked around pair of walks to strikeout the side in the first inning. Smith gave up a run in the second, but struck out two more batters.

Paola got to Smith in the third inning as it scored three runs in the third and two more in the fourth to build a 6-0 lead. Smith finished the game with six strikeouts before junior Sam Guetterman came in for relief.

"Colton was filling the strike zone and he was throwing hard," McGhee said. The hits were just dropping. A few batters slipped away when we were ahead in the count, but Colton threw well for his first outing."

The Wildcats (0-2) had six hits in the first game, including a pair of singles from Grant Harding and double from Cole Kramer. Smith, Matt Risenhoover and Cale Schneider each had a single.

In the nightcap, sophomore Dalton Stone got the start for Louisburg, but the Panthers scored three runs in the first two

innings and the Wildcats had to dig out of a hole early.



Louisburg third baseman Colton Smith tags out Paola's Mason McDow in the first game of the Wildcats' doubleheader with the Panthers.

Louisburg scored a run in the fourth when Austin Henderson led off with a walk and later scored on an RBI single from Grant Harding. Paola had a 6-1 lead in the sixth, but the Wildcats continued to fight as they scored a pair of runs.

Alex Dunn, who led the Wildcats with a pair of hits, doubled and Stone singled to lead off the sixth. Risenhoover and Kramer followed with singles to score the two runs.

"We faced some good pitchers, but we were also hitting balls at guys and Paola made several great plays defensively," McGhee said. "It takes some time to get back into competition mode and the hits will start falling. We had some missed signs and misunderstandings, which we'll get ironed out."

The Wildcats will try for their first win today when they travel to Prairie View. First pitch of the doubleheader is set for 4:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Louisburg will participate in a three-team tournament in Fort Scott. The Wildcats are slated to play Fort Scott at 10 a.m., followed by Ottawa at 11:45.