Bad innings hurt Wildcats against Chanute



Louisburg sophomore Sam Guetterman follows through on a pitch during Thursday's doubleheader with Chanute at Lewis-Young Park. The Wildcats fell to Chanute 4-1 and 19-10.

The mood of the Louisburg baseball team was a lot different at Lewis-Young Park following Thursday's doubleheader with Chanute.

Just two days earlier, the Wildcats swept No. 3 De Soto and were on top of the world. Louisburg came down to Earth a little bit as Chanute outlasted the Wildcats for an extra-inning 4-1 victory in game one and then used an 11-run inning to win 19-10 to complete the sweep.

The losses made for a frustrating evening.

"We had opportunities in both games to come out with wins," Louisburg coach Jeff Lohse said.

In the first game, the Wildcats (9-7) were tied with Chanute at 1-1 going into the eighth inning, but the Comets took advantage of a wild throw home with runners on second and third that led to three runs, and eventually the win.

Louisburg scattered seven hits in the game, but was never able

to put together the big inning. After Chanute scored a run in the first, the Wildcats tied the game in the fourth when Austin Henderson doubled and later came around to score on an error.

Sophomore Sam Guetterman started the first game for Louisburg and kept his team in the game with a strong performance. Guetterman gave up just one run in four innings and struck out seven.

Senior Ethan Caldwell came on in relief to pitch three innings and gave up one earned run on just two hits. Caldwell also led the Wildcat offense with three hits and Henderson finished with two.

“Sam did an excellent job in game one,” Lohse said. “He struggled with his command but was able to hold them to one run and keep us in the game. Ethan came in and did a great job giving us a chance to win at the end. We just couldn’t get one more across to win it in the seventh inning.”

It was the nightcap that probably frustrated the Wildcats even more.

Louisburg jumped out to a 7-3 lead in the fourth inning and appeared to have all the momentum. Instead, Chanute grabbed it right back and scored 11 runs on just four hits in the fifth inning. The Comets were also aided by two Louisburg errors and six walks in the frame.

“Game two was very frustrating and uncharacteristic of us this season,” Lohse said. “With our pitching, I feel pretty confident when we have a 3-4 run lead late in the game. For some reason, we struggled to throw strikes and a few mental mistakes on defense came back to haunt us. This was a very winnable game that I feel we let slip away.”

Offense wasn’t a problem for Louisburg in the second game as the Wildcats took a 3-0 lead in the first inning on an RBI

single from Lucas Smith and a two-run double from Dalton Stone.

After Chanute came back to tie the game in the third, Louisburg answered back in the fourth with four runs. Mitchell Caldwell delivered an RBI double, Henderson followed with an RBI single and he came around to score on an RBI triple from Grant Harding. The Wildcats also got a sacrifice fly from Ethan Caldwell to score Stone.

Then came Chanute's 11-run fifth that put the Wildcats down 14-7. Louisburg did display some power to try and get back in the game as Stone and Smith each hit solo home runs, but the deficit was too great.

Stone finished the game with a team-high three hits and 3 RBIs. Cole Kramer, Mitchell Caldwell, Henderson and Smith each added two hits each.

All is not lost for the Wildcats, however. Louisburg is currently in a tie for second in the Frontier League standings with Paola and behind Ottawa.

Luckily for the Wildcats, they host Ottawa today at Lewis-Young Park in hopes of creeping their way atop the standings. It is also the Wildcats' final home contest of the season and they will honor seniors Lucas Smith, Mitchell Caldwell and Ethan Caldwell on senior night.

Louisburg ends its regular season Monday when it travels to Spring Hill.

"Our next two double-headers are going to be huge for us," Lohse said. "We control our own destiny as far as a league championship goes and our guys are excited for this opportunity."

Cats overcome odds to sweep No. 3 De Soto



Junior Cole Kramer crosses home plate and is congratulated by teammates Matt Risenhoover (left) and Mitchell Caldwell following his inside-the-park home run Tuesday against De Soto at Lewis-Young Park.

The odds were certainly stacked against the Louisburg baseball team Tuesday when it hosted De Soto.

Not only was De Soto the defending state champion, it is ranked No. 3 in Class 4A-Division 1 and brought an imposing lineup that featured Wichita State commit Greyson Jenista.

Louisburg, on the other hand, was without No. 1 starter Lucas Smith due to an injury. The Wildcats were also without their coach, Jeff Lohse, who was out with an illness and missed his first game in his 17 years.

All that didn’t seem to matter much to the Wildcat players as they put their best two games together of the season to upset De Soto 5-3 and 11-1. It also marked four wins in a row for Louisburg and it has now won eight of its last 10.

“This is really big for our team and a real confidence builder for us,” junior Cole Kramer said. “With them being the defending state champion, hopefully these wins will carry over into the rest of the season. I know coach (Lohse) is going to be really happy when he hears about it and proud of us. Hopefully he gets better soon and it will be good seeing him again.”

In the first game, Louisburg (9-5) got on the board early and forced De Soto to play from behind. The Wildcats scored four runs in the first inning to take De Soto a little off-guard.

Kramer led the inning off with a walk and Mitchell Caldwell singled to put two runners on for Austin Henderson, who followed with a 2-run double. After a single from Grant Harding, Henderson scored on a fielder’s choice by Alex Dunn and Matt Risenhoover singled home pinch-runner Cale Schneider to make it 4-0 early.

“Scoring early was imperative,” said assistant coach Jarrod Worthington, who filled in for Lohse in his absence. “If you get into a hole against a program as accomplished as De Soto, you never know if you’ll be able to get out. On top of that, it’s one thing to say that you’re ready to take on the big dogs, but it’s another thing to go out and do it. And for us to score in the first inning of both games meant the world to us.

“Instantly our guys believed that we could do this; that it wasn’t just talk. Plus, if you look at game one, their starting pitcher really took over in the later innings. So we needed each and every run that we scored early.”

Risenhoover followed with an RBI single in the third inning to make it 5-0. Going back to last week’s doubleheader with Osawatomie and his first two bats against De Soto, Risenhoover was 8-for-8 and reached base 10 straight times.

Harding, the Wildcats’ starting pitcher, shut down De Soto in

the first three innings and he also picked off two runners in the first inning to keep them off the board. De Soto would score three runs in the fourth inning to get back in the game, but Harding worked around 12 base runners in five innings before handing the ball to Kramer to work the final two.

Kramer pitched two strong innings to pick up the save and recorded three strikeouts. He faced the heart of the De Soto order in the seventh inning, but struck out the final two batters, including Jenista with a curve ball on a 3-2 pitch.



Sophomore Dalton Stone follows through on a pitch during Tuesday's home contest against De Soto.

"Cole was told that he might be used in the closer's role, and he really embraced the challenge," Worthington said. "He inherited one runner in the sixth and the tying run was at the plate, but Cole came in throwing strikes."

Defense was also a big factor for the Wildcats, especially in the opener. The outfield of Kramer, Ethan Caldwell and Korbin Hankinson ran down several balls, but it was third baseman Colton Smith who saved the most runs.

Smith helped turn two double plays on hard base hits his way

and also made several diving stops that kept the De Soto offense at bay.

“The defense was big for sure,” Smith said. “I was just doing my job and everyone just came together and did their part. It was good to see.”

The fireworks started in the nightcap as the Wildcats offense came alive. De Soto’s starting pitcher had to leave with an injury in the first inning and Louisburg took advantage.

De Soto scored a run in the first, but Louisburg scored four in its half of the first thanks to RBI singles from Harding and Alex Dunn. Dalton Stone broke the game open with a 2-run single to score Harding and Dunn.

Stone took the mound for the Wildcats in the nightcap, and despite a shaky start, settled down for another strong performance. He pitched a complete game and allowed one unearned run on three hits to go along with five strikeouts.

“Dalton was coming off of a complete game shutout on Thursday, and you can tell that he is starting to look comfortable on the hill,” Worthington said. “He shrugged off an early error and didn’t let an unearned run affect him at all. I was impressed with his ability to not only get the ground ball when we needed it, but also put batters away with his fastball as well as his curve.

“I think our guys are glad they don’t have to face him, because right now he can beat you in a lot of ways. His ball has good movement, and it is so fulfilling to see him gaining confidence. For Dalton to pitch another complete game is a tremendous lift for our team, so that we can have more arms available for Thursday’s doubleheader.”

The Wildcats then started to have a little fun as Dunn launched a 2-run home run in the second inning to make it a 7-1 game and the Wildcats widened that lead in the fifth.

With two on and two out, Kramer hit a fly ball to center field. De Soto's centerfielder seemed to lose the ball in the sky and the other outfielders were already making their way to the dugout thinking it was going to be the third out.

The ball landed behind the centerfielder and Kramer used his speed to complete the 3-run inside the park home run.

"I saw him and he was just standing with his arms out and I was just hoping that he dropped it or it landed behind him," Kramer said. "Luckily it landed behind him and I just booked it home. It was good."

Kramer led the Wildcat offense with a four-hit game and Mitchell Caldwell finished with three hits, including a pair of doubles, one of which nearly went over the wall after Kramer's inside the park home run.

Colton Smith also finished with three hits and Dunn added a pair of hits to help Louisburg. The sweep was a perfect way for the Wildcats to help heal an ailing Lohse.

"I can't put into words how much I wanted this for coach Lohse," Worthington said. "He has put in so much time behind the scenes to find any little way to improve this program. It all came together tonight, and the only negative thing I can think of for this evening is that he didn't get to see the culmination of his hard work.

"His philosophies have allowed every single one of our players to improve in their role on this team, and I am so proud to be a part of his coaching staff, because I believe in everything that he stands for. We can't wait to get him back. He is Louisburg baseball."

Louisburg returns to action tonight when it hosts Chanute at Lewis-Young Park. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Wildcats roll to two wins over Trojans



Ethan Caldwell and the rest of the Louisburg baseball team had a strong showing Thursday as the Wildcats rolled to 10-0 and 15-0 victories over Osawatomie. Sam Guetterman and Dalton Stone each pitched complete game shutouts for the Wildcats.

OSAWATOMIE –Pitching, defense and plenty of runs were on display for the Louisburg baseball team.

The Wildcats traveled to Osawatomie for a doubleheader on Thursday and got back to their winning ways as they rolled to a 10-0 and 15-0 victory over the Trojans. The run-rule wins were just what Louisburg needed after getting swept earlier in the week by Baldwin.

It all started on the mound as Louisburg got two strong pitching performances from Sam Guetterman and Dalton Stone.

Guetterman opened the doubleheader and went the distance to get his second win of the season. He went six innings, gave up just two hits and struck out seven.

Stone had almost the exact same line as he pitched a five-

inning complete game. He gave up one hit, walked one and struck out seven.

Offense wasn’t much of a problem for the Wildcats as they were able to jump on the Trojans early in both games.

Matt Risenhoover led the Louisburg attack in the opener as he was 4-for-4 with 2 RBIs, while Mitchell Caldwell added three hits, including a double. Alex Dunn and Cole Kramer each finished with a pair of hits, including RBI doubles from both.

Korbin Hankinson finished with a pair of singles, a walk and an RBI. Ethan Caldwell also had a sacrifice fly for an RBI.

Louisburg opened the game with three runs in the third, then scored four in the fifth and three in the sixth to secure the victory.

In the nightcap, the Wildcats used an 8-run fourth inning to propel their way to an easy win. Louisburg already had a 6-0 lead at that point before the big fourth and added another run in the fifth.

Colton Smith was perfect at the plate with a 3-for-3 day, including a pair of doubles and 2 RBIs. Risenhoover continued his perfect evening with a 2-for-2 performance that included two walks and 3 RBIs to finish his day with six hits and 5 RBIs.

Dunn, Kramer and Grant Harding each finished with two hits, while Kramer and Ethan Caldwell added a pair of RBIs. In all, the Wildcats tallied 13 hits to go along with their 15 runs.

Louisburg returns home tonight when it hosts De Soto at Lewis-Young Park. The Wildcats stay at home Thursday when they host Chanute.

Big hit evades Louisburg in sweep



Louisburg senior Mitchell Caldwell looks in a throw at second base as he tries to tag a runner out during a game earlier this season. The Wildcats fell to Baldwin on Tuesday, 7-2 and 4-3.

BALDWIN CITY – The Louisburg baseball team had a lot of momentum going into Tuesday's doubleheader with Baldwin and for good reason.

The Wildcats had won four straight going in and had a chance to build on it even more against the Bulldogs. Unfortunately for Louisburg, it couldn't find the big hit in the 7-2 and 4-3 losses to Baldwin and the Wildcats are now 5-5 on the season.

"We were two very even teams according to the stats," Louisburg coach Jeff Lohse said. "Baldwin was able to come up with a few timely 2-out base hits that scored runs for them. I thought we actually played pretty good in both games, but we weren't as mentally focused as I would like to have seen."

In the opener, the Wildcats jumped on Baldwin early as they

scored two runs in the first inning.

Senior Mitchell Caldwell reached on a fielder’s choice, stole second, went to third on a wild pitch and then scored on a RBI single from Austin Henderson. Henderson later scored on a single from Grant Harding.

Baldwin answered right back in its half of the first inning with two runs off Harding and the Wildcats were not able to find the holes against the Bulldog pitchers. Louisburg managed just five hits in the final six innings.

Junior Cole Kramer reached base in all four plate appearances as he walked twice and had two singles.

The Bulldogs, on the other hand, took the lead with a run in the second and then blew the game open with five runs in the third to all but seal the win.

Louisburg battled in the nightcap, and after it fell behind early, rallied to take the lead in the second inning. Harding led off with a triple and later scored on a single from Colton Smith. Smith came around to score on a fielder’s choice from Ethan Caldwell.

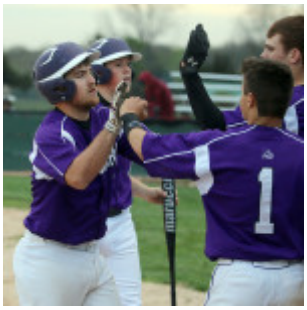
It didn’t take long for Baldwin to take the lead back as it scored two runs in the third to take the lead for good. The Bulldogs added a run in the fourth to take a 2-run lead.

The Wildcats tried to rally in the seventh as Kramer tripled and came around to score, but they couldn’t get the tying runner on base.

Harding led the Wildcat offense with a pair of hits, while Dalton Stone singled and walked twice.

Louisburg will try and get back on track today when it travels to Osawatomie. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Louisburg puts it all together in sweep



Louisburg's Alex Dunn (left) is congratulated by Mitchell Caldwell (1) and Grant Harding on Tuesday after scoring one of the Wildcats's 26 runs in their sweep of Eudora at Lewis-Young Park. The Wildcats have now won four straight games.

Everything was working for the Louisburg baseball team during Tuesday's home contest with Eudora.

The Wildcats got good pitching, strong defense and some timely hits that led to some big innings. It all resulted in a 14-0 and 12-2 doubleheader sweep over Eudora.

After beginning the season with a tough schedule and a 1-3 start, the Wildcats have now won four straight games as they are getting production from everyone in their lineup.

"Being able to play some good baseball and win a few games now has given us a lot of confidence going into the middle part of our season," Louisburg coach Jeff Lohse said.

Louisburg (5-3) wasn't lacking much confidence Tuesday as the Wildcat offense exploded in both games. The Wildcats scored

five runs in the first three innings, but the flood gates opened in the fourth as Louisburg scored nine runs in the frame to go up by 14 runs.

Six players had at least two hits for the Wildcats and every player reached base one time or another. If they didn’t get a hit, they got a free base as the Wildcats were walked six times.

Junior Colton Smith had a good day at the plate with two hits, including a bases-loaded triple that drove home three runs and also had two stolen bases. Sophomore Grant Harding also had a double and a triple to go along with 2 RBIs

Senior Ethan Caldwell had a pair of hits, including a double and 2 RBIs. Juniors Cole Kramer and Austin Henderson also had RBI doubles.

Lucas Smith, who started the game on the mound, helped his cause with a pair of RBIs as well.



rg senior Lucas Smith delivers a pitch during Tuesday's home contest Eudora. Smith pitched a complete game shutout and struck out five l batters

"I thought we had great approaches at the plate in both games," Lohse said. "We were able to move runners and then drive them in. We have been stressing that a lot in practice lately and it is good to see us come through in those situations."

Lucas Smith, a senior, picked up his first win of the season as he pitched the complete five-inning game. Smith gave up just three hits and struck out five batters.

When runners did reach base, the Wildcat defense was there to back him up. Catcher Alex Dunn threw out three runners trying to steal and caught two more in the second game.

“Lucas’ performance is what I expected from him all season,” Lohse said. “He was able to use all his pitches effectively today and keep them off balance while our defense was solid behind him.”

The Wildcats got another strong pitching performance in the nightcap as Harding pitched his second straight complete game to go to 2-0 on the year. Harding gave up two runs on six hits and struck out five Eudora batters.

Louisburg actually trailed 1-0 in the first inning, but Kramer led the bottom of the inning off after he was hit by a pitch. He then went on to steal two bases and score on an error.

Kramer led the Wildcat charge again in the second as he helped manufacture two runs. He drove home Blake Ruder on an RBI single and then scored himself later on a wild pitch.

Louisburg went on to score four runs in the fourth and five more in the fifth to complete the sweep.

Ruder, a sophomore, led Louisburg with three hits and scored twice. Kramer also had a pair of hits, including a triple.

Henderson had two hits that included a 2-run double and Dalton Stone had a pair of RBI singles as well.

“I thought we came out and were focused in game two,” Lohse said. “Once again, Grant did a very nice job on the hill. We had several guys step up at the plate and carry over where we left off from game one. We aren’t satisfied and still have a lot of things to work on.”

Louisburg will try and continue its win streak Tuesday when it travels to Baldwin for a doubleheader. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Louisburg gets sweep of Prairie View



Louisburg senior second baseman Mitchell Caldwell makes a throw to first base after making a diving stop Thursday in the Wildcats' home opener with Prairie View.

It will take a sweep whenever it can get it, but for the Louisburg baseball team, Thursday's sweep of Prairie View couldn't have come at a better time.

After losing three of their first four games, the Wildcats' offense came alive for an 11-1 and 13-12 victory in their home opener over Prairie View at Lewis-Young Park. Louisburg had just come off two, run-rule losses at the hand of Fort Scott earlier in the week in which it was shutout of both games.

"It is always good to win two games, no matter who you play," Louisburg coach Jeff Lohse said. "We did everything we could

to hand them the second game. The game should have never gotten to where it was at the end if we would have competed through the elements and made routine plays that we make every day in practice.”

The elements were a factor for both teams as gusty winds and cold weather moved in shortly before first pitch and it only got worse as the night wore on. Although it wasn’t ideal playing conditions, the Wildcats were still able to plate plenty of runs.

Everyone contributed offensively in the first game. All nine players in the starting lineup each had a hit but none was bigger than senior Ethan Caldwell.

Caldwell finished with three hits to go along with 5 RBIs to spark the Wildcats from the No. 9 spot. Fellow senior Mitchell Caldwell had a pair of hits, while juniors Cole Kramer and Matt Risenhoover had 2 RBIs each.

“Ethan had a nice game at the plate,” Lohse said. “It is good to get some production down in the lower part of the line-up. We, as a team, did some good things but we left way too many runners on base when we had chances to drive them in.”

The Wildcats (3-3) batted around in the five-run third inning that eventually spotted them an 8-1 lead and tacked on a few more runs later to complete the run-rule win in the sixth inning.

Louisburg got a complete game performance on the mound from Grant Harding. The Wildcats sophomore allowed just one run, struck out six batters and worked around six walks to get the win.

“I thought Grant had a great outing,” Lohse said. “He is a competitor out there and doesn’t ever want me taking the ball out of his hand. I think he will tell you that he walked too many guys but overall he did a great job for us.”

The nightcap got interesting late for both teams. Louisburg held an 8-2 lead going to the sixth inning, but several Wildcat errors led to seven Prairie View runs in the sixth and the Buffalos took a one-run lead.

Louisburg was able to take the lead back with five runs in its half of the sixth and hold on after Prairie View scored three runs in the seventh.



Louisburg junior Cole Kramer follows through on a pitch Tuesday

against Prairie View. Kramer recorded eight strikeouts in the nightcap.

> “I am proud of the way we persevered and kept battling,” Lohse said. “The weather conditions were not ideal for baseball and I thought that affected us mentally which lead to some uncharacteristic errors on defense. We just need to clean up a few things and we will be OK.”

The Wildcats got a strong performance from Kramer on the mound. Kramer pitched five innings in which he allowed only two runs, but his defense didn’t help him in the sixth when Prairie View took the lead back.

Kramer allowed eight runs, but none of them were earned and he also struck out eight. Sophomore Sam Guetterman came on in relief and got the win.

“Cole did a very nice job for us as well,” Lohse said. “Unfortunately, we didn’t help him out defensively and I had to take him out when he was cruising right along for the first five innings.”

Kramer and sophomore Korbin Hankinson led the Wildcat offense with two hits and a double each. Kramer also finished the game with three stolen bases and 2 RBIs, while Colton Smith led the team with three runs scored.

Louisburg will try and continue its winning ways Tuesday when it hosts Eudora at Lewis-Young Park. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Wildcats help open new Fort Scott ballpark



Louisburg’s Matt Risenhoover throws a pitch during the Wildcats’ season opener last week. The Wildcats traveled to Fort Scott on Tuesday and played in the new Dave Regan Stadium at the LaRoche Baseball Complex.

FORT SCOTT – When the Louisburg baseball team entered the newly-constructed Dave Regan Stadium at the LaRoche Baseball Complex on Tuesday at Fort Scott, the Wildcats couldn’t believe their eyes.

Louisburg was about to play in a stadium that not only seated more than 500 fans in chairback seats, but it was also a state of the art facility that featured a bullpen, indoor batting cages, a clubhouse and artificial turf.

It was a welcoming experience for the Wildcats, at least until the game started anyway.

Fort Scott made sure the debut game on its new field was a good one as it downed Louisburg 10-0 in the first game of the doubleheader and followed it up with a 15-0 victory in the nightcap.

“To be honest, we didn’t play real well down there,” Louisburg coach Jeff Lohse said. “It was an incredible atmosphere and

the field is one of the best that I have ever been on, but for some reason we just didn’t execute in any phase of the game.”

The LaRoche complex was funded by 11-year Major League Baseball veteran Adam LaRoche, who is currently a first baseman for the Chicago White Sox. LaRoche, a Fort Scott High School graduate, put down more than $2 million of his own money for the project.

LaRoche was also in attendance for the stadium unveiling along with famous friend Willie Robertson, from the television show “Duck Dynasty.” LaRoche even met with the Louisburg squad.

“Willie kind of stayed down the left field line, but Adam LaRoche came over and talked to us after the game,” Lohse said. “He is a real class act and what he did for that school/community is absolutely amazing. I am happy for our guys that they got to be the first team to play on that field and be a part of their opening ceremonies.”

In fact it was a Louisburg player who recorded the first ever hit at Dave Regan Stadium. Junior Austin Henderson smacked a single in the first inning against Fort Scott starter Mason Knopp.

The base runners would be few and far between, however.

Louisburg (1-3) scattered just five hits off Knopp who pitched a complete game with seven strikeouts. Junior Alex Dunn led the charge with a pair of base hits, while Mitchell Caldwell and Matt Risenhoover also added singles.

The nightcap was even rougher for Louisburg as Fort Scott scored 10 runs in the first inning. Cole Kramer, Caldwell and Dalton Stone all had base hits.

Louisburg will try and get back on the winning track today when it hosts Prairie View in its home opener at Lewis-Young Park. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Wildcats rally for split against Paola



Louisburg third baseman Colton Smith tags out a Paola runner Thursday during the Wildcats' season opener in Paola. The Wildcats earned a split after getting a 9-7 victory in the nightcap. Louisburg lost the first game 9-5.

PAOLA – All it took was one swing of the bat and a little lightning to prevent what could have been two straight losses to start the season for the Louisburg baseball team.

During Thursday's season opener in Paola, Louisburg junior Alex Dunn hit a bases-clearing double that led to a four-run sixth inning in the nightcap and helped give the Wildcats a 9-7 victory against the Panthers. Lightning in the area shortened the game by an inning and cemented Louisburg's first win of the year.

The Wildcats battled in the opener, but fell 9-5 after Paola scored five runs in the second inning thanks to a few Louisburg miscues with two outs. The Panthers are the defending Class 4A Division I state runner-up.

“Paola is a very good team and I was proud of the way we kept our composure after we gave up the lead,” Louisburg coach Jeff Lohse said. “I was happy to see us compete and find a way to win. We really didn’t play too bad in game one, but Paola did a nice job of putting some runs together with two outs.”

Louisburg (1-1) scored 14 runs in the two games but it got clutch hitting from several different areas in the second game. Mitchell Caldwell, Austin Henderson and Lucas Smith each finished with three hits, while Caldwell added an RBI double, Henderson a double and Smith an RBI single.

The Wildcats held a 5-2 lead in the fourth inning, but Paola answered with four runs in the fourth to grab a 6-5 lead. In what turned out to be the final inning, Caldwell and Henderson led the sixth inning off with a pair of walks and Smith reached on an error to load the bases for Dunn.

Dunn’s double brought home three runs to take the lead back and the Wildcats added another when Dunn scored on a squeeze bunt from Grant Harding. Paola added a run in its half of the sixth, but the Wildcats were able to hold on.

Dalton Stone added an RBI single early in the game as several players got involved in the offense. Caldwell scored three runs, while Henderson and Smith each scored twice. Ethan Caldwell also had a single and a run scored.



Louisburg junior Alex Dunn came up with a big hit in the nightcap with a 3-run double Thursday in Paola.

In the two games combined, Louisburg scored 14 runs on 22 hits against some strong arms from Paola.

“In past seasons, we have always struggled against guys with plus arms, especially early in the year,” Lohse said. “We have changed some things at practice to help us prepare for those

kind of pitchers and I think it is working for us.”

Cole Kramer picked up the win for Louisburg as he came on to pitch three innings of relief after Harding started the game. Each pitcher gave up three earned runs and had two strikeouts.

Louisburg struck first in the opener as Kramer singled, stole second, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on a fielder’s choice from Mitchell Caldwell.

Paola tied the game with a run in the first, but the Panthers broke the game open in the second inning with five runs. Paola had two outs and no one on in the frame, but the next Panther batter was hit by a pitch, then two more walks led to two big hits to give Paola a 6-1 lead.

The Wildcats didn’t give up as they tried to chip away at the lead several times, but they couldn’t dig out of the hole.

Kramer and Mitchell Caldwell each finished with a pair of hits and Caldwell added 2 RBIs on two doubles. Ethan Caldwell also had a run batted in and Matt Risenhoover added a double.

Smith started for Louisburg and gave up the six runs in two innings, but only two of them were earned. He also had five strikeouts in those two innings. Risenhoover and Colton Smith each came on in relief.

“For the first outings of the year, I thought our guys did fine,” Lohse said. “There were some pitches that we would have liked to have back, but for the most part we did OK on the hill. We will get better as the season goes, but our depth out there definitely is a plus.”

Louisburg returns to action Tuesday when it travels to Fort Scott. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m. on the Tigers’ newly-constructed field.

Louisburg JV splits with Paola

The Louisburg junior varsity baseball team took advantage of a big inning as it won its first game of the season 11-8 against Paola on Tuesday at home. The Wildcats lost the second game 21-5.

In the opener, the Wildcats used a seven-run third inning to pull away from Paola. Louisburg walked five times in the inning and got RBI hits from Joseph Allen and Joseph Hannah to take an 8-0 lead.

Hannah finished the game with a team-high three hits, while Allen and Garrett Caldwell also had a pair of hits.

The second game was a different story as the Panthers jumped out to a 5-2 lead and then scored 11 runs in the fourth inning to pull away.

LHS baseball learns from tough season



Unfortunately for last season’s version of the Louisburg baseball team, the Wildcats spent a lot of time cutting their teeth in what was one of the toughest leagues in Class 4A.

Two Frontier League members battled it out for the Class 4A-

Division I state crown, while Louisburg finished with five wins with what was a young, inexperienced group.

This season, the Wildcats hope to dish out some lumps instead of taking them.

Louisburg returns nine players that saw significant varsity time a year ago and the Wildcats have plenty of depth behind them. They have seven pitchers who will see time on the mound this season and return several position players as well.

“Going into last season, with no seniors and a very young team, we knew that we might take our lumps at times,” Louisburg coach Jeff Lohse said. “We are expecting to be much improved from last season with the leadership we have and all the experience coming back.”

That leadership starts on the mound with senior Lucas Smith as he was the Wildcats’ top hurler last season and an honorable mention all-Frontier League player. Smith will look to lead a group of young and experienced pitchers. Including the junior varsity program, Louisburg will have 17 to 18 different pitchers who will have the opportunity to see time.

“There are several underclassmen who have a bright future on the mound if they continue to work hard and get better,” Lohse said. “Lucas will be our No. 1 again this year and after him we have a bunch of players who could fill the rotation. I don’t think we will be real overpowering, by any means, but all these guys will throw strikes and compete.”



Louisburg senior Lucas Smith is the Wildcats' top returning pitcher this season. Smith was an honorable mention all-league selection as season ago.

Along with Smith, the Wildcats will feature several pitchers that all saw varsity time on the mound to go along with one newcomer. Grant Harding, Cole Kramer, Colton Smith, Matt Risenhoover and Ethan Caldwell will fill out the Wildcat rotation along with freshman Dalton Stone.

In the field, juniors Alex Dunn and Kramer will provide solid defense up the middle. Dunn, who was an honorable mention all-league catcher a year ago, will handle the pitching staff.

Kramer, on the other hand, will man centerfield when he is not on the mound. He also was an honorable mention all-league outfielder last season.

Also returning for the Wildcats is second baseman Mitchell Caldwell and Austin Henderson will be back at first base after missing half of the season last year with an injury. Lucas Smith and Risenhoover will share the shortstop position.

Colton Smith and Stone will alternate at third base, while Harding and Ethan Caldwell will play in the outfield. Korbin Hankinson, Blake Ruder and Mitchell Drew will also provide some depth off the bench.

Although the Wildcats have several returning players, their schedule will present a tough challenge just like a year ago. A schedule that includes state champion De Soto and runner-up Paola.

“Our league is a very good baseball league as well,” Lohse said. “My expectations are to go out and compete while giving ourselves a chance to win. We have got to do the little things to manufacture runs and be very solid pitching and defensively.”

Louisburg will get its season started Thursday when it travels to Paola. First pitch is slated for 4:30 p.m.

LOUSBURG HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Apr. 2	@ Paola	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 7	@ Fort Scott	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 9	Prairie View	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 14	Eudora	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 21	@ Baldwin	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 23	@Osawatomie	

4:30 p.m.

Apr. 28 De Soto 4:30 p.m.

Apr. 30 Chanute 4:30 p.m.

May 5 Ottawa 4:30 p.m.

May 11 @ Spring Hill 4:30 p.m.