2022 Louisburg Sports Zone Male Athlete of the Year Nominees



For the past six years, Louisburg Sports Zone has given out Athlete of the Week awards during each of the three sports seasons. I do it to recognize special athletic achievements and to highlight the athletes.

For the fifth consecutive year, Louisburg Sports Zone will be handing out an Athlete of the Year honor to a male and female athlete at Louisburg High School. I wanted the opportunity to recognize those who exemplify what it means to be an "athlete."

Although I am giving out the award, I wanted the process to be subjective, so I asked the head coaches at LHS to help me out. I asked each coach to send me nominations of who they thought exemplified the Athlete of the Year honor. They will then vote for their top 3 male and female athletes and then I will tabulate the results and determine the winner. The winner will be announced in the coming days.

Below are the nominees for the Male Athlete of the Year award in alphabetical order by last name. Congrats to all those who were nominated and best of luck!



Aiden Barker, Senior, Football and Wrestling

Aiden Barker played big roles on both the Louisburg football and wrestling teams this past season. Barker was a starting lineman for the Wildcat football program and wrestled at 195 pounds for the wrestling team.

Barker was a key fixture on both sides of the ball for the Wildcat football team, but his biggest impact came on the defensive side. He was a first team All-Frontier League selection on the defensive line, where he finished with 58 tackles on the season to go along with 11 tackles for a loss and 5.5 sacks.

On the wrestling mat, Barker finished his season with a 31-8

record and earned a fifth place medal at the Class 4A state tournament in Salina. He was named the Wildcats' wrestler of the year and is a two-time first team KWCA Academic all-state winner. He finished with titles at the December Duals, Tonganoxie and Louisburg Invitationals. He finished his career with a program record of career reversals with 74. He will continue his athletic and academic career as a member of the MidAmerica Nazarene University football program this fall.



Brandon Doles, Senior, Football, Wrestling and Baseball

Brandon was a starter on three Wildcat programs during the 2021-22 school year. Doles was the starting linebacker on the football team, he was a varsity captain and 182-pound wrestler

on the wrestling team and played the outfield and pitched for the Louisburg baseball program.

In football, Doles was a key part of the Wildcat defense as he earned first team all-league honors from the linebacker spot. He finished the season with 90 tackles and averaged 11 stops per contest. He also forced two fumbles and had 11 tackles for a loss during the Wildcats' 4-5 season.

Injuries hampered most of Doles' wrestling season, but he was able to make a comeback late in the season and made his way to his third state tournament. At 182 pounds, Doles was win one short of a medal and finished the year with a 9-5 record. Doles ended his career as a two-time team captain and first team KWCA Academic All-State recipient.

On the baseball diamond, Doles was one of the Wildcats' top hitters during the 2022 season that saw them end with an 8-14 record and a spot in the regional championship game. Doles, who started in left field, finished with a .338 average and a .969 OPS. He also had 24 hits, seven doubles and two home runs to go along with 17 RBIs and 22 runs scored. Doles also earned second team All-Frontier League honors.



Kolby Kattau, Senior, Football and Baseball

Kolby was a senior starter for both the Louisburg football and baseball teams this past season. Kattau was the starting first baseman and pitcher for the baseball program that reached the regional championship. He was a two-way starter on the football team at running back and safety.

On the baseball diamond, Kattau thrived for the 2022 season as he was named as a first-team All-Frontier and all-state selection for his play at first base. Kattau had a team-high .471 average in 82 plate appearances. He had an OPS of 1.294 and had 33 hits on the season with seven doubles, five triples and a home run. He also scored 24 runs and had 13 RBIs from the leadoff spot. He started five games for the Wildcats and

earned three wins with 25 strikeouts. Kattau was also selected to participate in the KABC all-star game.

On the football field, Kattau was one of the team’s starting running backs and recorded two touchdowns with more than 200 yards of total offense. He also started at safety for much of the season as well, and finished with 27 tackles and three deflections.



Tom Koontz, Senior, Football and Track and Field

Tom was a starting defensive back for the Wildcat football team that finished with a 4-5 record, along with being a hurdler and sprinter on the Louisburg track team.

On the track, Koontz helped the Wildcats to a third place team finish at the Class 4A state meet as he earned a pair of state titles in the hurdles and two more medals on relays. Koontz won the 300-meter hurdles with a school record time of 38.98 seconds and also won the state title in the 110 hurdles for the second straight year in 14.61 seconds.

He also helped the 4×400 relay to a fourth place state finish and the 4×100 relay to a sixth place medal. Koontz was also a part of the 4×100 team that broke the school record earlier in the year. He ends his Wildcat career as a 3-time state champion in the hurdles and garnered eight state medals. He was also a member of the 2021 state championship team.

Koontz also made his presence known on the football field as he was a starting cornerback for the Wildcats. He finished the year with 46 tackles, four deflections and a forced fumble.



Maverick Rockers, Senior, Basketball and Baseball

Maverick played key roles for the Wildcat basketball and baseball teams this season. Rockers was the starting point guard in basketball and made an impact on the baseball team as the starting shortstop.

On the baseball diamond, Rockers helped the Wildcats to their second straight regional championship game and had a big year at the plate. Rockers finished with a .406 batting average with a 1.111 OPS. He recorded 28 hits, seven doubles and two home runs to go along with 22 runs scored and 16 RBIs. He also had just six errors from his shortstop position. Following the season, he was named as a second team All-Frontier League player.

Rockers also had a big year on the basketball court as the team’s starting point guard. He averaged 11 points a game to go along with three rebounds, two assists and 1.5 steals a game.



Michael Seuferling, Senior, Soccer and Basketball

Michael had big seasons for the Louisburg soccer and basketball teams in 2021-22. Seuferling was a starting defender for the Wildcat soccer team that made it to the regional championship game and was a starting guard for the Wildcat basketball program.

On the soccer field, Seuferling was one of the best outside backs in the Frontier League and was a first team all-league performer for Louisburg. He was also a first-team all-state player as he helped the Wildcats to a No. 1 seed in the Class 4-1A state playoffs.

Seuferling was also one of the top basketball players in the

Frontier League as earned honorable mention honors after leading the Wildcats in scoring. He averaged 13.3 points per contest to go along with 3.4 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game.



Braden Yows, Senior, Soccer

Braden had a big season for the Louisburg boys soccer team as he helped lead the Wildcats to the No. 1 seed in the Class 4-1A state playoffs and a spot in the regional championship game.

Yows was named as a first-team All-Frontier League and all-state player from his midfield spot and was named team captain. He ended his season with a 17 goals and 11 assists. He will continue his soccer career this fall at the University

of Missouri-Kansas City.

Kattau named first team all-state, chosen to play in all-star game



Louisburg senior first baseman Kolby Kattau was named to the KABC all-star game that is to be played Wednesday at Kansas State University.

Kolby Kattau has been a consistent player for the Louisburg baseball team for the last two years – consistently good, that is.

Kattau, who was a first team All-Frontier League player a year ago, earned the same honor again at the end of his senior season. Those weren't the only honors to come his way.

The Kansas Association of Baseball Coaches released their all-state team and the Louisburg first baseman earned a spot on the Class 4A first team.

Kattau was one of the top hitters in the Frontier League. He finished the season with a .471 average in 82 plate appearances and had an OPS of 1.294. He had 33 hits on the season, seven doubles, five triples and a home run from the

leadoff spot.

“This year meant a lot being my last year playing baseball with my teammates,” Kattau said. “I have been playing with since I was a kid and to earn all-state in my senior year means a lot. It shows that all my work has paid off.”

That wasn’t the only honor to come Kattau’s way. The KABC also announced their annual all-star game roster and Kattau made his way onto that list as well.

The KABC all-star game will be played at Kansas State University at noon on June 8. Kattau will suit for the purple team and is one of two first basemen listed on the roster.

Kattau named first team all-league; Wildcat earn six spots



The Frontier League had a load of talent this season in baseball and it was evident as three of the last four teams left standing in the 4A state tournament, were from the Frontier.

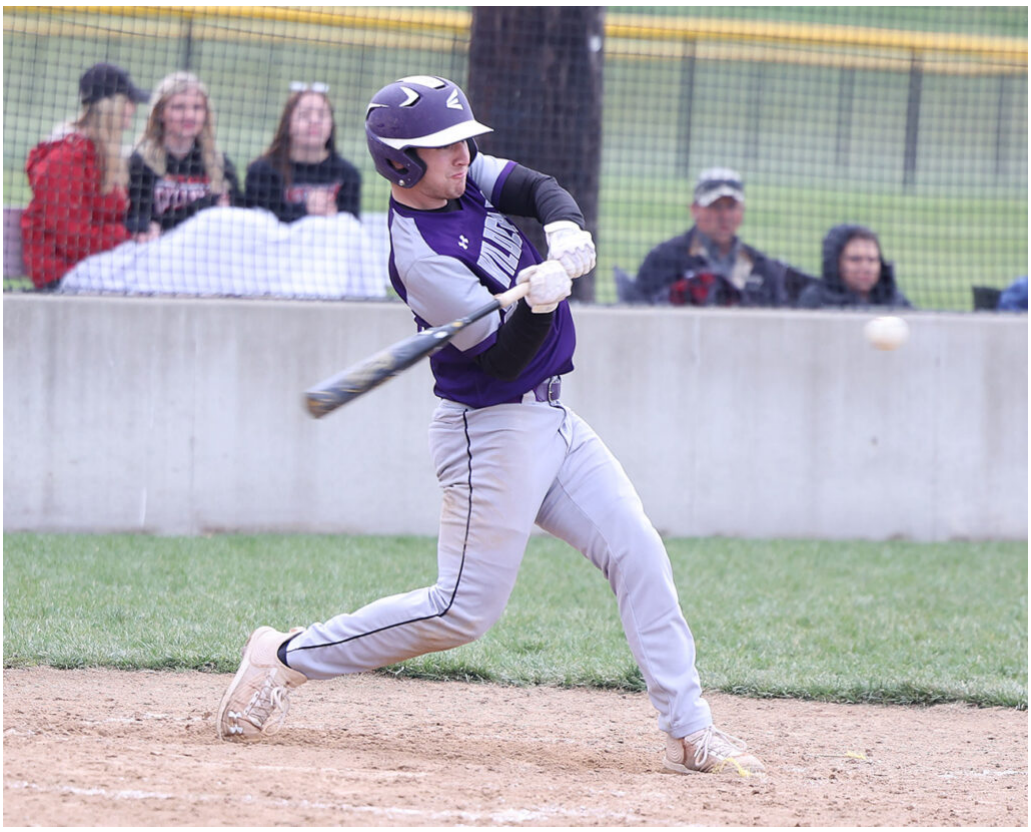
For the second year in a row, Louisburg found itself in the regional championship game and had a lot of talent of its own.

The Wildcats had six players named to the All-Frontier League team this past week after finishing their season with eight wins.

“I thought we were really well recognized,” Louisburg coach Kade Larson said. “Being in such a tough league it can be very difficult to get honors, and our guys showed they deserved it all year.”

Senior Kolby Kattau earned first-team all-league honors for the second consecutive season for his play at first base and he was one of the top hitters in the league all year.

Kattau finished the season with a .471 average in 82 plate appearances and had an OPS of 1.294. He had 33 hits on the season, seven doubles, five triples and a home run.



Louisburg senior Kolby Kattau was selected to the All-Frontier League first team for the second consecutive year.

He also scored 24 runs and had 13 runs batted in to go along with 10 walks.

“Kolby had a phenomenal year for us,” Larson said. “He really swung it well and was a problem for teams all season.”

Seniors Brandon Doles and Maverick Rockers ended their Wildcat careers with second team honors in the outfield and infield, respectively.

Doles who was the starting left fielder for the Wildcats, finished with a .338 average and a .969 OPS. He had 24 hits, seven doubles and two home runs to go along with 17 RBIs and 22 runs scored.

As for Rockers, he finished with a .406 batting average with a 1.111 OPS. He recorded 28 hits, seven doubles and two home runs to go along with 22 runs scored and 16 RBIs.



“Maverick and Brandon getting second team is great,” Larson said. “Again there is a ton of talent in this league and for them to be second team shows how much they helped us this season.”

The Wildcats also earned three honorable mention honors. Juniors Corbin Hamman (infield) and Jackson Kush (utility), along with sophomore Jackson Howard (catcher), were given all-league recognition.

Hamman recorded a .286 average as the team’s starting third

baseman and had 20 hits to go along with four doubles, two triples and a home run. He scored 19 runs and had 15 RBIs.

Kush, who saw time in the outfield, batted .419 in 48 plate appearances to go along with a 1.104 OPS. He had 18 hits, two doubles and a home run to go along with 16 RBIs.

As for Howard, the Wildcat catcher had a .282 average with 11 hits, four doubles and 9 RBIs.

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE BASEBALL

First Team

CATCHER – Logan Wake, junior, Tonganoxie

PITCHER – TJ Kerns, sophomore, Ottawa; Owen Welsh, senior, Tonganoxie

INFIELD – **Kolby Kattau, senior, Louisburg**; Chase Bloomer, senior, Ottawa; Dalton Picek, senior, Paola; Gehrig Goldbeck, senior, Tonganoxie

OUTFIELD – Caden Marcum, senior, Paola; Ethan Walker, senior, Piper; Zach Knowlton, senior, Spring Hill

UTILITY – Caton Lanter, junior, Piper

Second Team

CATCHER – Kolby Wheeler, junior, Paola

PITCHER – Donovan Johnson, junior, Spring Hill; Mason Davenport, senior, Tongnaoxie

INFIELD – Jagger Dey, freshman, Baldwin; **Maverick Rockers, senior, Louisburg;** Austin Pitcher, senior, Ottawa; Cooper Milroy, senior, Spring Hill

OUTFIELD – Trenton Long, senior, Eudora; **Brandon Doles, senior, Louisburg;** Trevor McGraw, sophomore, Tonganoxie

UTILITY – Jon Earlywine, senior, Paola

Honorable Mention

CATCHER – Brett Davidson, freshman, Baldwin; **Jackson Howard, sophomore, Louisburg**; Brandon Reynolds, sophomore, Ottawa; Brandon Richardson, junior, Spring Hill

PITCHER – Brandin Andrew, senior, Bonner Springs; Trenton Long, senior, Eudora; Jaykob Lemonds, senior, Eudora; Caden Marcum, senior, Paola; Dalton Picek, senior, Paola

INFIELD – Brandin Andrew, senior, Bonner Springs; Eden Meyers, freshman, Bonner Springs; Liam Prentice, junior, Bonner Springs; **Corbin Hamman, junior, Louisburg;** Ryan Laurie, senior, Ottawa; Dillon Ohlmeier, senior, Paola; Donovan Johnson, junior, Spring Hill; Mason Khanthaboury, senior, Tongnaoxie; Gabe Bailey, senior, Tonganoxie

OUTFIELD – Kyan Guss, sophomore, Baldwin; Carson Boehm, senior, Paola; Blake Porter, senior, Piper; Cade Johnson, junior, Spring Hill; Sam Kleidosty, senior, Tonganoxie

UTILITY – **Jackson Kush, junior, Louisburg;** Jake Titus, junior, Ottawa; Brett Hadl, senior, Ottawa; Ryan Pahl, sophomore, Spring Hill; Rocco Gehring, junior, Tonganoxie

---

Wildcats fall in weather-shortened regional title game to Paola



Louisburg shortstop Maverick Rockers puts a tag on an Atchison player Tuesday during the Class 4A regional tournament at Atchison High School.

ATCHISON – The regional tournament for Louisburg baseball started out with a bang.

The end was about ready to be another firework-type explosion, only to find out it was a dud.

The No. 15 Wildcats opened the Class 4A regional tournament with a 10-0 victory over No. 2 Atchison and found themselves in the championship game against No. 7 Paola.

Louisburg put together a rally late against the Panthers as it was down two runs, but the game was officially called in the seventh inning with two runners on and one out, due to inclement weather.

Paola was awarded the 3-1 victory at Amelia Earhart Stadium in Atchison and the Panthers earned the state tournament berth.

Since five innings had been played, it had became an official game and the Wildcats weren't able to see it all the way through.

It also meant the final game for Louisburg seniors Maverick Rockers, Brandon Doles, Sam Hastings, Kolby Kattau and George Reichart.

"I hate that this is how these seniors are going out," Larson said. "They had their sophomore year taken away due to Covid and then their final chance to try for a win together taken

away, too. They worked their tails off for this program for four years to get to that position to have a chance to win a game to go to state.

“They got into the position and then the opportunity was taken from them. Couldn’t be more proud of the work they put in and how they always did things the right way on the field.”



Brandon Doles celebrates with teammate Declan Battle after a scoring a run Tuesday against Paola in the regional championship game.

The Wildcats (8-14) had a big challenge on their hands as they had to go up against Paola ace Caden Marcum. The Panther senior, who has signed to play baseball at the University of Tennessee, struck out 11 Wildcats over six innings and gave up just one run.

However, Marcum was at his pitch-count limit and couldn’t pitch the seventh, and final inning. Paola went to its bench and the Wildcats were able to take advantage.

“We had a plan to try to work the count and not help Marcum on

the mound while we were at the plate," Larson said. "The guys did it really well and got to the bullpen in the top of the seventh. We may have only managed one run, but we had some of the best at bats we've had all year. Guys were locked in all night and I can't express enough how proud I am of them for the way they showed up in this regional."

After an out to begin the inning, sophomore Brody McGreer singled and senior Kolby Kattau worked a walk to put runners at first and second with one out. The heart of the Louisburg order was coming up next.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, lightning got too close to the complex that forced a delay, which eventually turned into an official game.

"The guys had no idea that would be the last time they touched the field together," Larson said. "We were ready to come back and finish up at midnight if we had to. When I told them, everyone seemed to be in shock that they would let it end this way. I think for the most part all of us still are."



Louisburg junior Corbin Hamman winds back for a pitch Tuesday against Paola.

Had the Wildcats taken the lead, their starting pitcher would have gone back out for the bottom the seventh.

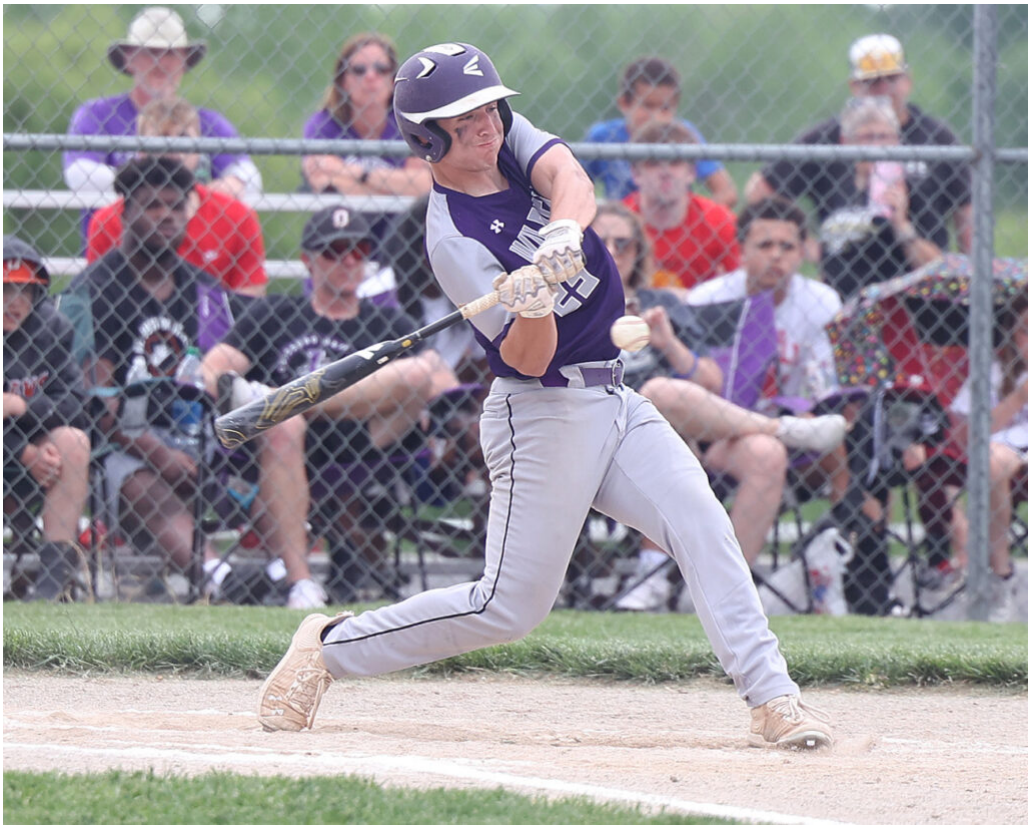
Junior Corbin Hamman had his best outing of the season as he gave up just three runs on five hits and struck out nine. A pair of solo home runs by Dalton Picek and Marcum turned out to be the difference in the game.

“Corbin threw his best game of the season and did it at the perfect time,” Larson said. “He filled up the strike zone all game and competed his butt off. Minus only 2 pitches he kept it a 1-1 game for 6 innings.

“Had we taken the lead in the seventh, Corbin was ready to go in the bottom half. I wouldn’t have been able to take the ball away from him with how great he was pitching all night.”

The Wildcats opened the tournament against Atchison and got out to a fast start and never looked back.

Louisburg scored eight runs in the first inning and added two more in the third to complete the run-rule victory.



Senior Kolby Kattau swings at a pitch during the regional championship game Tuesday at Atchison.

Doles led the Wildcat offense with four hits, including a double and a run driven in. Mack Newell and Kattau each finished with a pair of RBIs, while McGreer and Rockers also had two hits.

Declan Battle, Jackson Howard, Jackson Kush and Hamman also had an RBI in the opener.

Newell started the game for Louisburg and went the distance for the Wildcats. He pitched five innings, gave up just two hits and struck out 10 Atchison batters.

“Mack came out and threw very well,” Larson said. “I was extremely proud of how he pitched. He worked ahead in the count all game which he had struggled with earlier in the season. That was great to see. That hot start at the plate helped everyone. We were able to relax and play our game.”

OPINION: Wildcats deserve to finish game – the right way



As the Louisburg baseball team walked off the Amelia Earhart Field and headed toward its bus Tuesday at Atchison High School, the Wildcats had no idea their season was about ready to come to a close.

Louisburg, the No. 15 seed, was trying to knock off No. 7 Paola to earn a berth in the state tournament after defeating No. 2 Atchison, 10-0, in the Class 4A regional semifinal.

The Wildcats were batting in the top of the seventh and had two runners on, with one out and down 3-1 in the championship game. Then the lightning came.

Thirty minute delay, they said.

Then with every lightning strike and clap of thunder, they started the 30 minute delay over. I think most of us that have attended enough sporting events have been through these types of delays before.

You either wait the storm out or suspend the game if the storm is too bad. That’s how these things usually work out.

During the regular season, games that have completed five innings, and are called, are considered official games.

But that same rule can’t be for the postseason too…can it?

Short answer – Yes.

With more raining moving in, the umpires were forced to call the game, thus giving Paola the 3-1 victory since five innings were played.

Regional officials contacted the Kansas High School Activities Association to see what their options were. Could they resume the game, or just suspend it to the next day?

KSHSAA informed the Atchison activities director that the game cannot be suspended and that it was officially a completed contest and would revert back to the previous completed inning, which was the sixth.

It was the last, and worst thing Louisburg head coach Kade Larson expected to hear following the delay.

“When I first found out I was absolutely gutted for the guys who worked so hard all year long for the opportunity to try to win a game in the seventh to go to state,” Larson said. “I was not aware this was a postseason rule to be completely honest. My guys competed their butts off all night. We always talk about giving ourselves a chance in the seventh inning and we did just that.”

The Wildcats had to work hard to get that chance in the seventh.

Louisburg had to go up against Paola ace Caden Marcum, who is a fantastic talent that has signed with the University of Tennessee. Marcum baffled the Wildcat hitters as he held them to just one run and struck out 11 batters.

However, Marcum had reached his pitch count limit after the sixth and the Wildcats faced off with a different Paola pitcher.

After a groundout to begin the seventh, the Wildcats got a single and worked a walk to get two runners on base. The heart of their order was coming up.

“We got to their bullpen and had all of the momentum,” Larson said. “I never would have dreamed they wouldn’t finish this game. We had the exact guys that we wanted to in that situation.”

What would have happened? No one will ever know, but that is the real problem here. The student athletes were not given the chance that every other team in the state had – an opportunity to play a full seven innings.

In Louisburg’s case, it meant an opportunity to advance to the state tournament – something they had been working since March to obtain.

Onlookers from different programs also voiced their displeasure on social media after they heard the news.

> *This is absolutely unconscionable. Players and coaches work too hard for an outcome to be decided like this. Not fair to anybody!! Feel so bad for Louisburg.* *https://t.co/x6dP8nbOFM*
>
> *– FSHS Tiger Baseball (@FSTigerBaseball)* *May 18, 2022*

> *This is wrong. We have failed kids in this instance. No guarantee the outcome changes but those kids and coaches deserve the chance. How does this happen?!* *https://t.co/zLaTya7oaA*
>
> *– Coach Loomis (@CoachLoomis)* *May 18, 2022*

> *I can’t wrap my head around this… it’s only Tuesday… just suspend and finish today?* *https://t.co/yRTmlfB2Xa*

— Heath Gerstner (@CoachGerst) May 18, 2022

Lightning had littered the sky starting in the fourth inning and eventually began to get closer. With one out in the seventh, it had gotten too close and both teams went to their busses – what turned out to be for good.

Just like that the season was over, but even more heartbreaking, seniors Brandon Doles, Maverick Rockers, Kolby Kattau, Sam Hastings and George Reichart saw their high school careers come to a close – all thanks to Mother Nature and an outdated rule by KSHSAA.

There is almost 10 days before the start of the state tournament and the forecast is sunny and beautiful the rest of this week. The game could have easily been suspended and played at Paola today or tomorrow.

The players deserve the finality of it all and should not have to think about, what if.

Those seniors already had to go through that 'what if' moment two years ago when their season was cancelled due to COVID-19.

"The guys had no idea that would be the last time they touched the field together," Larson said. "We were ready to come back and finish up at midnight if we had to. When I told them, everyone seemed to be in shock that they would let it end this way. I think for the most part all of us still are."

The problem seems like a simple fix – play the game and let the kids decide who wins – not Mother Nature.

The rule makes sense during the regular season when it is hard to make up games – not for postseason play. The kids deserve better and there are people that let them down.

Sometimes, even in the postseason, there might not be an opportunity to suspend or postpone due to time constraints or field availability. Neither of those were the case here.

“The game could’ve been over the next pitch on a ground ball double play, it could’ve gone our way, or could’ve went Paola’s way later,” Larson said. “But we’ll never know…”

That is the unnecessary gut punch of it all.

Wildcats fall to Paola, Piper; ready for fresh start at regionals



Louisburg junior Mack Newell makes a pitch last Tuesday at Paola. The Wildcats lost both games to the Panthers, and on Thursday, lost two at home to Piper.

The Louisburg baseball team had hoped to gain a little momentum in its final week of the regular season.

The Wildcats had doubleheaders against Paola and Piper to end the season, but the Wildcats couldn’t gain much traction.

Last Tuesday, Louisburg fell to Paola 10-0 and 12-6 and then hosted Piper on Thursday in its regular season finale. The Wildcats had the same result as they lost to the Pirates, 12-9

and 9-2.

The losses to Piper were a tough one, especially in the first game. Piper scored four runs in the final inning that broke open a tie game and the Wildcats weren't able to recover.

Piper opened the contest with four unanswered runs, but the Wildcats struck for four in the bottom of the third to tie it up.

Sophomore Jackson Howard delivered the big hit as he doubled with the bases loaded to make it a 4-3 game. Howard later scored on a passed ball to even the score.

The Wildcats answered with a run in the fourth and fifth inning to take the lead, but Piper scored four in the top of the sixth. Louisburg answered with two in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game again, but Piper's 4-run seventh was too much to overcome.

"I thought we played well minus a few mistakes," Louisburg coach Kade Larson said. "The guys never gave up and we had our opportunities, but we just couldn't finish it. In game one we really swung it well. I liked seeing our guys have a great approach and find a way to get runs on the board. We got down 4-0 but we never stopped competing and finding ways to get runs on the board. Piper swung the bats really well too. We struggled keeping them off the scoreboard all night."

Louisburg (7-13) put together a 14-hit performance, that included a 3-hit outing from sophomore Declan Battle. In all, the Wildcats had six extra base hits, including doubles from Howard, Battle, Jackson Kush, Kolby Kattau and Brody McGreer. Kattau also finished with a triple.

Piper never gave the Wildcats a chance to get in it in the nightcap as the Pirates jumped out to a 8-2 lead in the fourth inning and never looked back.

Junior Corbin Hamman and Kattau each finished with a triple, while Battle and senior Brandon Doles each drove in a run.

Against Paola, the Wildcats went up against the Frontier League's top pitcher in Caden Marcum. The Paola senior gave up just two hits and struck out 14 batters to shutout Louisburg.

The Wildcats had a better chance at winning the nightcap and the game was tied at 6-all late, but the Panthers scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth to pull away.

Senior Maverick Rockers led the Wildcat offense with three hits, including a double. Junior Mack Newell also had a pair of hits, including a solo home run.

Howard added an RBI double, while Hamman finished with two hits and a run driven in.

"Definitely disappointed in how game 2 turned out," Larson said. "We had some very untimely mistakes that didn't help us down the stretch. Marcum threw really well and kept us off balance the all game."

Now the Wildcats will try and erase what happened last week and focus on the postseason. Louisburg is the No. 15 seed and will travel to No. 2 Atchison today to compete in the Class 4A regional semifinal.

It is scheduled to start at approximately 4 p.m. with the championship game to follow after.

"I'm excited to get regionals going," Larson said. "We definitely wish we were a higher seed, but we can throw the records out and just go try to win one game at a time. We've started figuring things out at the plate and I like our chances if we can play a clean game in the field."

Week 7 Athlete of the Week: Kolby Kattau



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week seven of the spring sports season, sponsored by IronHorse Family and Cosmetic Dentistry.

KOLBY KATTAU, SENIOR, BASEBALL

Louisburg senior Kolby Kattau helped the Wildcat baseball team to a memorable Senior Night victory over Eudora last week. Kattau finished with three hits and two doubles in the 5-3 victory over the Cardinals and also added an RBI and two runs scored to his line. Kattau also picked up the win as the team's starting pitcher as he went 5.1 innings, gave up one earned run and struck out four.

On the season, Kattau leads the Wildcats with a .509 batting average and a team-high 29 hits – including six doubles, three triples and a home run. As a starting pitcher, he has three of the team's seven wins on the season to go along with 25 strikeouts.

The athlete of the week award is announced every Wednesday morning during the spring season and the winner is selected by Louisburg Sports Zone with the help of nominations from coaches.

Previous Winners

Week 1: Lexi Hampton

Week 2: Sabra Brueggen

Week 3: Emma Lohse

Week 4: Nathan Vincent

Week 5: Mia Wilson

Week 6: Reese Johnson



Kattau, Doles lead Wildcats to win over Eudora on Senior Night



Louisburg senior Kolby Kattau pitched five innings and recorded a pair of doubles in the Wildcats' 5-3 victory over Eudora on Tuesday at Lewis-Young Park.

Senior Night is always a special game on every team's schedule, but Kolby Kattau and Brandon Doles made sure it was a memorable one for the Louisburg baseball team.

The two Wildcat seniors combined for four doubles, five hits, 3 RBIs – and between the two – pitched a complete game in Louisburg's 5-3 victory over Eudora on Tuesday at Lewis-Young Park.

"I thought the guys played extremely well," Louisburg coach Kade Larson said. "We hit the ball well and found a way to win. A few untimely errors led to a couple runs, but overall we got the job done and we will clean up the small stuff for next game.

"Brandon and Kolby were huge for us. Both hit the ball hard and got us going and both were really locked in on the mound."

Doles and Kattau, along with seniors Maverick Rockers, George Reichart and Sam Hastings, were honored with their parents prior to the contest. It is a group that Larson has been impressed with since they first got into high school.



Junior Corbin Hamman tags out a Eudora runner at third Tuesday at Lewis-Young Park.

“These seniors have really set the foundation for this team moving forward,” Larson said. “They have done really well getting the freshman involved and making sure they do things the right way. They will be greatly missed.”

Kattau started the game for the Wildcats and went 5-plus innings, gave up one earned run and struckout four to get the win. Doles nailed down the save as he pitched an inning and two-thirds and gave up just one hit.

At the plate, both did damage as Kattau finished with three hits, two doubles and an RBI. Doles added a pair of doubles and 2 RBIs.



Louisburg seniors (from left) George Reichart, Kolby Kattau, Maverick Rockers, Brandon Doles and Sam Hastings were honored with their parents on Senior Night prior to the game Tuesday with Eudora.

Rockers added the other RBI, while Corbin Hamman, Brody McGreer and Jackson Howard also tallied hits on the night.

The game was tied at 1-all going into third inning, but Louisburg struck for two runs. Rockers hit a sacrifice fly to score Cade Driskell and then Doles doubled home Kattau to make it a 3-1 game.

The Wildcats (7-9) added a run in the fourth and fifth innings. In the fourth, Parker Hufferd scored on a single by Kattau, and then in the fifth, Hamman singled and allowed Doles to score on a Eudora error.



Louisburg junior Cade Driskell throws out a runner for the final out of the third inning Tuesday against Eudora.

Eudora added a pair of runs in the seventh inning, but Doles closed the door on the win.

Louisburg now enters the final week of the regular season as the Wildcats travel to Paola on Tuesday for a doubleheader. On Thursday, the Wildcats will host Piper for a doubleheader in the regular season finale.

“The next two doubleheaders are really important to us,” Larson said. “Paola is always a big game and with Piper being right before regionals start, it will be a big game as well. Both teams are solid and I like that going into regionals we are playing some good competition. I hope we can use this as a springboard into the playoffs to get going on the right track and play our best baseball to end the season.”

Wildcats rally for road win over Ottawa



Louisburg catcher Jackson Howard tags out an Ottawa runner at the plate Friday during a make-up game in Ottawa.

OTTAWA – Reeling after a sweep just the day before, the Louisburg baseball team tried to get back on the winning track Friday in a make-up game against Ottawa.

It didn't look good at first as the Wildcats trailed by two runs going into the fifth inning. From there, Louisburg got big hits and took advantage of a couple Ottawa miscues.

The Wildcats scored 12 runs in the final three innings and came away with a 14-6 victory over the Cyclones at Orlis Cox Park in Ottawa.

"Coming back to beat Ottawa after dropping two close ones to Anderson County was huge for us," Louisburg coach Kade Larson said. "Both teams are solid and we kept competing and it paid off against Ottawa. Our offense kept the pressure on Ottawa all night. They made some mistakes and we capitalized on them. We swung the bats well and our defense did enough to hold on for the win."

Brandon Doles got things started for the Wildcats (6-9) as he hit a solo home run in the first inning to give Louisburg the lead – albeit it a brief one.

Ottawa went on to score four unanswered runs and the Cyclones

held a 4-2 lead going into the the fifth inning.

It was there that the Wildcats scored four runs in the inning. Brody McGreer got the scoring started when he doubled home Doles.

Junior Corbin Hamman later scored on a wild pitch and McGreer scored on an Ottawa throwing error. Sophomore Jackson Howard would later score after a dropped third strike on Mack Newell.

Ottawa tied it up at 6-all in its half of the fifth, but the Wildcats responded with three more in the sixth. Kolby Kattau scored on a Maverick Rockers single, while Howard had big single that drove home Rockers and Doles.

In the seventh, the Wildcats widened its lead even more when Declan Battle scored on a wild pitch and Hamman singled to score Jackson Kush and Kattau. Doles would go on to score on a passed ball and Hamman came home on an Ottawa throwing error.



Louisburg second baseman Brody McGreer throws out a runner from second base Friday in Ottawa.

Rockers led the Wildcat bats with three hits, while Doles had two hits, two walks and scored four times. Howard also had two hits and three runs scored.

“Doles and Maverick really led us all night at the plate,” Larson said. “Both brought a huge spark for us that everyone else fed off of. Howard came up big for us as well with a two-out 2 RBI hit. Once that happened it seemed like the guys really locked in and our defense stepped up from there on.”

Newell started the game for the Wildcats and got the win after going five innings, while Doles came in for the final two innings to get the save.

Louisburg will try for back-to-back wins today when the Wildcats host Eudora (3-14) for Senior Night.

Wildcats drop a pair to Anderson County

GARNETT – Louisburg went up against one of the top teams in Class 3A on Thursday when the Wildcats traveled to Anderson County for a doubleheader.

Although the Wildcats hung tough, they left Garnett without a win. Louisburg fell to Anderson County 7-4 in game one and lost a close 6-5 contest in the nightcap.

The Wildcats went up against Anderson County ace Derek Rockers in the opener. Rockers gave up four runs on seven hits to the Wildcats, but struck out 11 batters in the process.

“Derek Rockers is a really great pitcher and we kept pressure on him the whole first game,” Larson said. “We just had a few too many mistakes to push past and get the win.”

Declan Battle led the Wildcat offense with three hits, including a double and an RBI. Doles also finished with two

hits, a double and a run driven in. Maverick Rockers and Jackson Kush brought home the other Wildcat runs.



Louisburg junior Cade Driskell fields a ball at third base Thursday during the Wildcats' doubleheader at Anderson County.

In the nightcap, the Wildcats used a 3-run fifth inning to take a 6-5 lead over the Bulldogs. However, Anderson County scored a run in the bottom of the fifth and seventh innings to escape with a win.

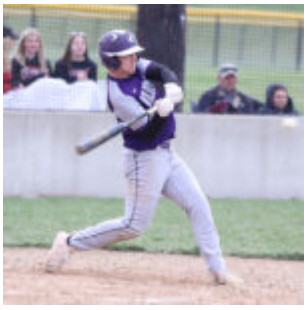
"In game 2 we had guys on base all night," Larson said, "We struggled getting them home from scoring position. Anderson County was opportunistic and scored at the right time. We will clean up the situational hitting and learn from that game moving forward."

Kolby Kattau had a big game at the plate with three hits, including a pair of doubles. Junior Cade Driskell had three runs driven in to lead the Wildcats and finished the game with two hits.

Kush and Brody McGreer also had RBI hits for Louisburg.

Corbin Hamman started the game for Louisburg and gave up three earned runs on seven hits and struck out seven in five innings.

Kattau, Kush combine for 15 hits as Wildcats sweep Osawatomie



Louisburg senior Kolby Kattau recorded eight hits Thursday in the Wildcats' sweep on the road over Osawatomie.

OSAWATOMIE – Runs certainly weren't a problem for the Louisburg baseball team Thursday in Osawatomie.

The Wildcat bats caught fire as they combined to score 35 runs on 31 hits and rolled to a pair of 19-7 and 16-2 victories at Karl E. Cole Sports Complex.

It was a pair of wins that came at the right time as Louisburg came in with a 3-game losing streak. The Wildcats improved their record to 5-7 on the season.

"Those were some much needed wins," Louisburg coach Kade Larson said. "With a loaded east side of the state in 4A, every win is needed and playing in the Frontier League you know it will be a battle every night. So to come out against

Osawatomie and take care of business was great to see.”

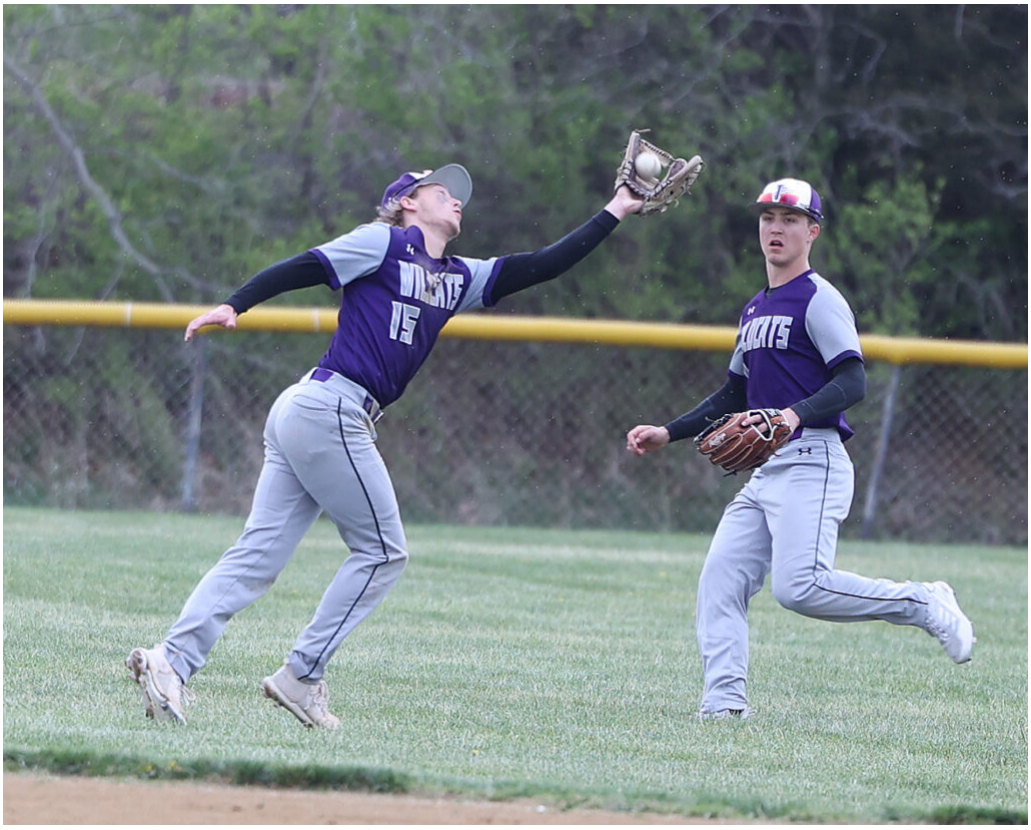
Senior Kolby Kattau and junior Jackson Kush provided a bulk of the offensive spark for the Wildcats as the two players combined for 15 hits.

Kattau had eight hits on the night, including a double, a triple and 3 RBIs from the leadoff spot. Kush did his damage at the bottom of the lineup with seven hits, a double and 4 RBIs.

“Overall we played well and were locked in from the first pitch,” Larson said. “Kolby and Jackson were seeing the ball really well all night. Having 15 hits between the two of them really gave our offense a much needed spark.”

Louisburg jumped out to an 8-1 lead early in the opener and finished the game off with an 8-run fifth inning to seal the run-rule victory.

Wildcat junior Corbin Hamman finished the game with 4 RBIs, while sophomore Declan Battle also had a pair of hits and 2 RBIs. Brandon Doles, Maverick Rockers, Sam Hastings and Mack Newell also drove home runs.



Louisburg shortstop Maverick Rockers stretches out for a running catch last week.

Hamman started the game for the Wildcats and gave up one run in three innings and struck out five. Hastings pitched the final two innings of relief.

That solid pitching carried over into the second game. Newell started and went four innings and gave up two runs and struck out five. Doles pitched the final three innings of relief and recorded six strikeouts.

“Corbin, Sam, Mack and Brandon all threw really well,” Larson said. “It was great to see them do well on the mound and shut the door on Osawatomie once we got the lead.”

Kush had four hits and three runs driven in to lead the Wildcat bats. Rockers also added a pair of doubles and had 3 RBIs.

Sophomore Brody McGreer also drove home three runs. Doles, Newell, Battle and Wyatt Holland also had RBIs.

With the game tied at 2-2, Louisburg scored three runs in the

third and used a 7-run seventh inning to put the game away.

The Wildcats will try to build on their winning streak Thursday when they travel to Anderson County for a doubleheader, before going to Ottawa on Friday for a makeup contest.