State-ranked Eudora rolls past Louisburg



Louisburg senior Brady Lambeth and the Wildcats couldn’t keep up with Eudora on Friday in a 77-34 loss. Lambeth finished with nine points.

EUDORA – For the second straight game, the Louisburg boys’ basketball team faced off with a state tournament team from a year ago and had to do so with two starters on the bench with injuries.

Eudora, the No. 5 ranked team in Class 4A-Division I, had the Wildcats’ number from the opening tip Friday as the Cardinals took care of Louisburg 77-34 in Eudora. Earlier in the week, the Wildcats fell to Paola on the road as well.

The Wildcats (4-11) were without starters Corbin Wertz and Mitchell McLellan again due to injury. McLellan is out for the season with a broken leg, while the Wildcats hope to have Wertz back soon from a leg injury.

“When you’re as inexperienced as us, to play without two starters is a tremendous negative and we knew without Corbin and Mitchell finding points would be tough,” Louisburg coach Jason Nelson said.

It was difficult, especially early as Eudora put together a

huge run to outscore Louisburg 29-2 in the first quarter and the Wildcats were never able to recover.

Eudora sophomore Mitchell Ballock, one of the top players in the state, put on a show in front of his home crowd as he finished with a game-high 25 points, including six 3-pointers.

“The resiliency of our boys was commendable,” Nelson said. “Playing in Eudora, against a state ranked team, with the best player in the state is a daunting task for the most seasoned of varsity players. We consistently had three [or] four sophomores on the court and despite the slow start for us and lightening quick start for them, the boys never backed down.

“In the near future, when we look back at our improvement, I suspect that this game will be watershed for us. Our sophomores played in a high intensity, hostile environment and despite the score, they never backed down.”

One of those sophomores, Grant Harding, led the Wildcats in scoring for the second straight game with 10 points to go along with six rebounds. Senior Brady Lambeth added nine points for the Wildcats, while fellow senior Nathan Moore led the team with eight rebounds.

The Wildcats will try and rebound this Friday when they host Ottawa for homecoming. Louisburg also expects to have Wertz and his 20-plus points per game back in the lineup.

“Our boys are awaiting Corbin’s return with open arms and we are all eagerly anticipating his return,” Nelson said. “I know he’s tired of listening to our staff on the bench.”

Tipoff is set for approximately 7:30 p.m.

LOUISBURG 2 12 11 9 – 34

EUDORA 29 18 21 9 – 77

LOUISBURG (4-11): Grant Harding 5-10 0-2 10; Brady Lambeth 4-8 0-1 9; Jacob Welsh 2-6 2-2 6; T.J. Dover 2-5 1-2 5; Sam Guetterman 1-4 0-0 3; Nathan Moore 0-1 3-4 3. Totals: 14-39 6-11 34. 3-point field goals: 2, (Guetterman, Lambeth)

Welcome to Louisburg Sports Zone!



Leave it to a children's movie to solve all of life's problems – well, at least my problems anyway.

It was a movie that led me to create the Louisburg Sports Zone website and start my own action photo business to coincide with it.

Before I get to that, let me take you back to seven years ago when I arrived in a small quaint town called Louisburg. It was a town I was familiar with as I grew up in Paola, but I never envisioned myself coming back to Miami County to raise a family.

Coming out of college, my goal was to make it big one day by getting a job at a large, daily newspaper and become a beat writer for a college team or professional team. I knew with

hard work and practice that I could get there one day.

Well, two kids later and my priorities quickly changed – for the better. After stops at newspapers in Leavenworth and Atchison, my wife Jennifer and I wanted to move closer to family and when a newspaper job in the county opened up, I was offered the job and took it.

After I was hired, my family and I bought a house in Louisburg and decided to make this our home. The place where we were going to raise our two kids, that eventually became three several years later, was a place we fell in love with.

Louisburg was our home, and at the same time, covering Louisburg athletics became my responsibility and one I didn't take lightly. Living in the same town I worked in was a first for me.

I got the chance to get to know the community and they got the chance to know me through my articles. I was lucky enough to cover Louisburg High School's first state football championship in 2010 and several other state title runs in other sports.

Getting a chance to know the kids, coaches and parents was something I will never forget. Unfortunately, all that ended for me a month ago when I was let go from my responsibility of writing about Louisburg sports.

I honestly didn't know what to do. It was my life for seven years and then all of a sudden I was going to have to find something else to do, something I probably wasn't going to like.

Trying to figure things out, I remember watching an animated movie called Big Hero 6 with my kids. It talked about when a problem arises, and you can't figure out a solution, try looking at it from a different angle.

So, ladies and gentleman, Louisburg Sports Zone is my different angle.

This site gives me the opportunity and privilege to write about athletic achievements in the area and continue doing what I love to do. It is a free service that I provide to you and one I hope you appreciate.

Hopefully, down the road, not too far, businesses in the area will want to advertise here so that this can grow into something even bigger. For those who want to buy photos from events I cover, they can visit louisburgsportszone.smugmug.com and search through what I hope becomes several galleries.

I plan on covering athletic events at Louisburg High School and Louisburg Middle School, along with elementary-age activities. This page is going to be updated on a regular basis to give you the most up-to-date sports news and you won't have to wait 5 days or even a week to read about it.

Oh, and did I mention…IT IS FREE!!

I just want to say a big "Thank you" to my family for all the support and encouragement they have given me. I want to thank all the members of community who reached out to me on Twitter, Facebook or just picked up the phone during what was a difficult time in my life.

Also, I want to give a big shout out to Mr. Kenneth Sweeney, a senior at Louisburg High School who helped design this site for me and was there to answer all my weird questions. I appreciate everything and all the hard work you put into it.

When I moved here seven years ago, I figured I was never going to make it "big." I couldn't have been more wrong. I have definitely hit it big and this community is the reason why.

Wildcats fall short at Paola





Andy Brown / louisburgsportszone@gmail.com
Louisburg guard Sam Guetterman goes up for a shot Tuesday in Paola.

PAOLA – Louisburg boys basketball coach Jason Nelson was disgusted when he looked down at his bench.

It wasn't the fact that he was disgusted at his team, but more so that he had two players not suited up that could have helped the Wildcats on Tuesday in Paola.

Starting point guard Corbin Wertz, who is the team's leading scorer and an all-Frontier League player, along with starting wing Mitchell McLellan both sat out with injuries and the Wildcats couldn't keep up with the bigger, faster Panthers in a 61-42 loss.

"There was 29 points a game sitting on the bench with me," Nelson said. "We were outsized, like we are most nights, so that hurt a little bit. We still have to play better though."

After a competitive first quarter, the Wildcats just couldn't stay with the Panthers in the second. Paola put on a press defense, forced 17 turnovers for the game, which led to some easy baskets. At the same time, Louisburg struggled from the field.

Paola outscored Louisburg 28-9 in the second quarter to pull away from the Wildcats for good. The Wildcats stayed with Paola in the first quarter and trailed just 16-10.

"I think the problem was we came out a little too timid," Nelson said. "We didn't do the things that we work on in practice and that we have done all year. We didn't do a good job of moving without the ball and we didn't rotate and get back on defense."

Sophomore forwards Grant Harding and T.J. Dover gave the Wildcats the bulk of the scoring. Harding and Dover each finished with 13 points, while Harding pulled down seven rebounds.

Senior Nathan Moore finished with nine points and Ben Minster came off the bench to lead Louisburg with 10 rebounds.

Louisburg (4-10) contained the Panthers' runs in the second half and even brought its fans to its feet when Dover nailed a shot from near halfcourt to beat the buzzer in the third quarter. The Wildcats just couldn't come up with enough offense to get back in the game – it was still sitting on the

bench in street clothes.

“Hopefully we can get Corbin back soon, but we are just taking it easy right now with him,” Nelson said. “We actually did do a better job of making better decisions and playing better in the second half, which was good to see.”

The Wildcats will try and rebound when they travel to Eudora on Friday for another Frontier League matchup. Tipoff is set for approximately 7:30 p.m.

LOUISBURG	10	9	13	10	– 42
PAOLA	16	28	14	3	– 61

LOUISBURG (4-10): Grant Harding 5-13 2-3 13; T.J. Dover 6-11 0-2 13; Nathan Moore 4-7 0-0 9; Ben Minster 2-2 0-0 4; Sam Guetterman 1-4 0-0 2; Brady Lambeth 1-1 0-0 2; Jacob Welsh 1-5 0-0 2. Totals: 20-45 2-5 42. 3-point field goals: 3, (Moore, Harding, Dover)