Louisburg boys look to regroup for 24-25 season



Louisburg senior Myles Vohs drives the lane during a game last season. Vohs is one of six seniors for the Wildcats in the 24-25 campaign.

Despite its ups and downs last season, the Louisburg boys basketball team found itself one victory away from earning a spot in the state tournament.

The Wildcats fell to Baldwin, the eventual fourth place finisher at state, in the sub-state championship and ended its season strong under then first-year coach Ben Doll.

This season, Doll and the Wildcats will face a new set of challenges. Louisburg will have to figure out how to replace

the production from seven departing players, including five seniors that all played big roles on last year's team.

Louisburg does return three players who saw significant varsity minutes, and even started at times, in point guard Myles Vohs and forwards Luke Schultz and Gavin Lohse.

"I mean it will look a lot different because we basically have no returning starters, but we do have three returning guys who played a lot last year and started at moments, so that's good. We will be working around those three guys to start out with and Myles, Luke and Gavin will have to play a lot and they understand that.

"We will be doing a lot of things to try to try to get them shots and then also, hopefully we can avoid foul trouble and things like that. Those guys, I think we'll be huge for our team this year and will carry us."

Vohs was one of the team's top defenders last season as he led the way with 30 steals, while Lohse was the team's second leading rebounder. Schultz, who missed part of last season with an injury, still averaged close to five points per game and had 42 rebounds.

Doll knows those numbers will only grow for those three players and is excited to see who will fill those voids in the lineup.

"Myles is just a good leader and he just runs the show and is athletic and kind of understands what we're supposed to be doing," Doll said. "The things I'm starting to see in practice is I think actually we're probably gonna rebound pretty well because Gavin's a great rebounder and Luke has knack for getting to the right spots and at good angles and stuff like that. So I've been really excited, even though we lost some size from last year, that we still got two guys that can get a lot of get a lot done."

Senior Ethan Kush, who saw a handful of varsity games last season, will contribute. Senior newcomer Aiden Kennedy, who stands at 6-4, will give the Wildcats some size in the paint.

Senior guard Billy Vohs, another newcomer, could also see some minutes along with junior guard Derek Frederick.



Louisburg senior Gavin Lohse is the team's top returning rebounder from a year ago.

"Aiden Kennedy is coming on this year and he's a big body and he definitely will grab a fair share of rebounds so I kind of feel like we're going to get a lot of second chances," Doll said. "Hopefully most teams that we play don't have the same amount of bigs or athleticism that we have and we should be pretty good at controlling the boards.

"There's a few younger guys that are stepping in and coming up from the JV that that have done a good job like Derek

Frederick. He is filling a good role as a shooter and kind of taking up some of the scoring that we had last year. I think he'll do a good job there as a new guy coming into the lineup."

It will be a challenging schedule for the Wildcats this season as they will play every Frontier League team twice. The league currently has three teams ranked in the top 10 in Class 4A in Baldwin (No. 2), Ottawa (No. 4) and Eudora (No. 10). Louisburg will open its season Friday at home against Tonganoxie.

"Baldwin, obviously, I think is still the best team and with the best player in the league, so it'll be tough to stop," Doll said. "They'll be really good and then Ottawa will be as well and we have both those teams before the break. So we're gonna get right to it, and the rest of the schedule is always just tough."

For a younger, inexperienced team, Doll knows it will be a challenge early, but knows they will be a different team later in the year.

"Expectations are gonna evolve through the year because the nice thing about basketball at the high school and college level is you want to be playing your best at the end when it comes playoff time," Doll said. "So that's going to be our main goal, is to keep building and getting stronger. Going 5-0, 2-3 or 1-4 in December, it doesn't seem to matter as much when you get to February, so we just want to use these first games and everything to keep building on something that will be sustainable in February and March. I think we have enough young guys that are going to eventually add to us that I think will be a lot better in February."

KSHSAA approves several postseason changes

KANSAS STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

TOPEKA – Changes to postseason formats and championship sites for basketball, football, wrestling and track and field highlight actions approved at the June 12-13 KSHSAA Executive Board Meeting. The postseason formats are set by the KSHSAA Executive Board each year.

Basketball – Beginning in March of 2026, the state basketball tournaments will be moving to four total sites. Four facilities will play host to the seven classifications, 14 championships. By honoring the KSHSAA membership voted in the fall of 2023 to qualify eight boys teams and eight girls teams involved at the final site, modifications to the daily schedule will be developed. The schedule and other event details, including classification designations for each site and venue selection will be determined and announced following the 2024-25 basketball season.

Another basketball postseason change effective with the

2024-25 season will come at the 3A, 2A, 1A DI and 1A DII classifications. Each class will be divided into four regions and then seeded into two sub-states within the region: Substate A: 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16; Substate B: 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15. The winner of each substate will advance to the state basketball tournament. Further format details and dates will be sent to member schools.

Football – As announced in January, the state football championships will be moving to three sites with three games being played at each site. The executive board approved the following sites and schedule for 2024:

Emporia State University:

Class 6A = Friday, November 29 at 2:00pm

Class 4A = Saturday, November 30 at 1:00pm

Class 5A = Saturday, November 30 at 7:00pm

Hutchinson Community College:

Class 2A = Friday, November 29 at 6:00pm

Class 3A = Saturday, November 30 at 12:00pm

Class 1A = Saturday, November 30 at 5:00pm

Kiowa County High School, Greensburg:

Class 8-player DII = Saturday, November 30 at 11:00am

Class 6-Player = Saturday, November 30 at 3:00pm

Class 8-Player DI = Saturday, November 30 at 7:00pm

Wrestling – Girl’s wrestling will now include four classes to mirror the boy’s classification designations. The addition of another class for girl’s wrestling necessitates the addition of another championship site. 6A, 5A, 4A and 3-1A will each

have their own site to determine a champion. 3-1A state wrestling will be in Hays and 4A will be in Salina. Park City Arena and one other facility to be named later will house either 6A or 5A. State sites and regional dates will be determined at the September KSHSAA Executive Board meeting. The state wrestling tournament will take place February 28 – March 1, 2025.

Track and Field – Qualification for the state meet was adjusted to now be the top 3 plus the next four best regional performance in each event.

Two committees will be formed to gather input from membership school leaders. One to discuss the details behind the implementation of Esports prior to the possible adoption as a KSHSAA sanctioned activity. The second committee will review the KSHSAA calendar to consider possible alternatives to dates of postseason activities.

Wildcats earn 3 spots on all-league; Parker named first team



Louisburg senior Nathan Parker was recently named to the All-Frontier League first team.

The Louisburg boys basketball team had to weave through some difficult opponents throughout its Frontier League schedule, but the Wildcats more than held their own and some of their opposition took notice.

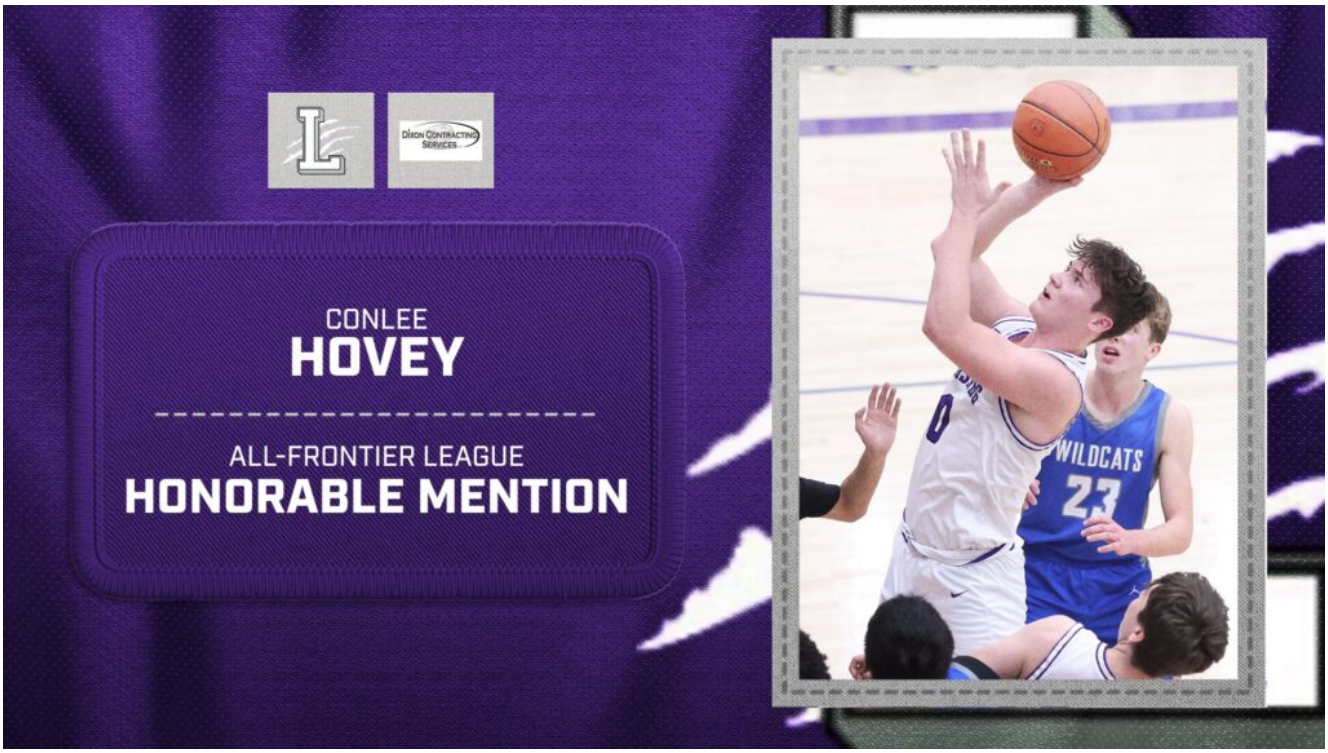
The All-Frontier League team was released Sunday and the Wildcats had three earn league honors. Senior Nathan Parker was selected to the first team, while junior Conlee Hovey was named as an honorable mention. Senior Brady Hickey was selected to the All-Defensive Team.

“When you broke it down and looked at everyone, there were a lot of really good players in the league,” Louisburg coach Ben Doll said. “It was impressive to see Nate get on the first team. I was hoping Conlee could get a little better, but getting honorable mention in a tough league is a big deal.

“It is also really cool they do an all-defensive team to recognize some of the best defenders in our league, especially some who might not recognized otherwise. Brady had a great year for us in that department, and really all-around he did some great things for us.”

Parker was a big part of the Wildcat offense all season, as he not only scored, but facilitated the offense at times. He finished with a team-best 12.6 points a game and he also tallied a team-high 51 assists.

“Nate did great job throughout the season and was someone who can get on streaks,” Doll said. “When was on, he was hard to stop. Against Coffeyville and Frontenac, he really got going and he kept our team in games. Not only that, he led our team in assists. He had a great knack of getting inside and finishing, or he found guys for open shots. He really had a great year.”



As for Hovey, the Louisburg forward improved as the season went along and was third on the team in scoring with 7.2 points a game and led the Wildcats with 162 rebounds.

He became more a focal point for the Wildcats as the season went along and other teams started to take notice.

“Conlee was the guy that got the most attention about doing extra things,” Doll said. “We had other guys like Nate they had to stop, but they had to start doubling on Conlee and would do things to bracket him and take him out of the play.

His rebounding was really good as the season went along. The key to our success were getting extra opportunities and he was a big reason for that. He is definitely a football first kid, but with a little bit of work in the summer, I think he can be one of the best players in the league next year."



Hickey was one of the Wildcats' top defenders and most consistent players throughout the season. As the team's starting point guard, he had 16 steals and was third on the team with 76 rebounds.

He was also the team's second leading scorer, averaging 8.4 points a contest.

"He was huge for us all year and had a great season," Doll said. "He was our primary ball handler. He handled pressure teams tried to throw at us and did a great job with it. We put him on the best player on almost every team. He would guard different kinds of guys in different ways. He was our second leading scorer too. He was the only one that started every game and he was most consistent player."



ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE

FIRST TEAM

Cooper Carr, Baldwin, sophomore

Logan Sullivan, Eudora, senior

Kalen Streit, Bonner Springs, senior

Aiden McCullough, Ottawa, sophomore

Nathan Parker, Louisburg, senior

SECOND TEAM

Chase Bond, Spring Hill, senior

Alex Crowley, Tonganoxie, senior

Talan Torrez, Baldwin, senior

Jason Jones, Bonner Springs, sophomore

Caleb Hepner, Ottawa, junior

HONORABLE MENTION

Joey Ziembicki, Baldwin, senior

Errol Siemon, Eudora, junior

Caden Stedry, Eudora, junior

Conlee Hovey, Louisburg, junior

Owen Blaine, Ottawa, senior

Carter Hepner, Ottawa, junior

Caden Cohee, Paola, junior

ALL-DEFENSIVE TEAM

Leo Schoenberger, Baldwin, sophomore

Kalen Streit, Bonner Springs, senior

Errol Siemon, Eudora, junior

Brady Hickey, Louisburg, senior

Carter Hepner, Ottawa, junior

Eli Richmond, Paola, senior

Jordan Miller, Spring Hill, sophomore

Alex Crowley, Tonganoxie, senior

Week 12 Athlete of the Week: Conlee Hovey



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week 12 of the winter sports season, sponsored by Landmark National Bank.

CONLEE HOVEY, JUNIOR, BASKETBALL

Louisburg junior Conlee Hovey has been a force inside for the Wildcat basketball team all season and it continued this past week as the Wildcats advanced to the sub-state championship game. Hovey pulled down a team-high 12 rebounds in a sub-state win over Field Kindley on the road on Feb. 28, and then followed it up with an 11 rebound performance in the championship game against Baldwin last Saturday.

Hovey has pulled down 162 rebounds on the season in 20 games and is third on the team in scoring as he averages 7.2 points a contest. He also registered three double-doubles on the year as he helped Louisburg to a sub-state runner-up finish.

The athlete of the week award is announced every Wednesday morning during the winter season and the winner is selected by

Louisburg Sports Zone with the help of nominations from coaches.

Previous Winners:

Week 1: Myles Vohs

Week 2: Andrew Jamison

Week 3: Nathan Parker

Week 4: Elias Pugh

Week 5: Ashton Moore

Week 6: Colin Brown

Week 7: Ashlyn Kuhlman

Week 8: Brady Hickey

Week 9: Leola Eslinger

Week 10: Colton Prettyman

Week 11: McKenna Lohse



Upset-minded Wildcats fall short to Baldwin in sub-state championship



Louisburg junior Myles Vohs dives on the floor for a loose ball Saturday against Baldwin.

BALDWIN CITY – For the first three quarters, No. 10 Louisburg had the No. 2 seed in its sights for a potential upset.

It was the final frame where Baldwin started to pull away. The Bulldogs built a 14-point lead in the fourth quarter and time ran out on the Wildcats' season in their 59-49 loss in the Class 4A sub-state championship game at Baldwin High School.

Louisburg pushed Baldwin for much of the game as it trailed by just four points at halftime and seven going into the fourth. The Wildcats couldn’t get the stops they needed down the stretch to pull off the upset.

“It is still very disappointing because I really believe that we had a chance to win the game,” Louisburg coach Ben Doll said. “We played tough the whole time and we kept it close for most of the game. We had a game plan for certain personnel and there were times we lost track of them. They hit some big shots where we weren’t supposed to go under screens. We weren’t perfect, but we kept it close the entire way and that is a really good team. They have a lot of parts that make them really good.”

Baldwin’s Cooper Carr and Joey Ziembicki did a bulk of the damage for the Bulldogs. Carr and Ziembicki each finished with 24 points and scored 48 of the team’s 59 points. Only four players scored for Baldwin on the night.



Louisburg senior Brady Hickey pulls up for a 3-pointer Saturday in the Class 4A sub-state championship game in Baldwin.

“We had a very solid game plan that we were able to stick to, but we weren’t perfect,” Doll said. “We knew Cooper was going to get his, but didn’t want to let the others get theirs and I think that is where we let down a little bit.”

The Wildcats (9-13) stayed within striking distance for most of the game, but the Bulldogs never let the lead get closer than four.

Every time Louisburg would responded with a run, the Bulldogs would stop it – many times coming on Ziembicki’s five 3-pointers.

Turnovers also haunted the Wildcats as they committed 17 for the game, which turned into 15 Baldwin points. Still, Louisburg put the pressure on for all four quarters.

Louisburg forced 15 turnovers of their own and also got several second chance opportunities with 14 offensive rebounds.

Senior Brady Hickey led Louisburg in scoring with 10 points and he also had five rebounds and three assists. Senior Nathan Parker finished nine points and three assists.



Louisburg junior Conlee Hovey goes up for a shot Saturday against Baldwin.

Junior Myles Vohs came off the bench to give the Wildcats a spark on both ends of the floor. Vohs had six points, but he also finished with a team-high seven steals and a team-best five assists.

Another junior, Conlee Hovey, controlled the boards as he pulled down a team-high 11 rebounds to go along with six points. Senior Brock Vohs finished with seven points for Louisburg.

It was also the final game for five Wildcat seniors in Hickey, Parker, Luke Hill, Brock Vohs and Jaymes Melton.

“I thanked the guys after the game and told them that I was really proud of them,” Doll said. “I would go to battle with these guys any time. The record doesn’t show what we were at the end. The boys were so close to getting to Salina. They kept growing and did what was asked of them.

“I am proud of our five seniors and we have a lot to fill in for next year. We are going to miss a lot of good minutes, scoring and defense. They are five all-around good players. We could start all five of those guys on Senior Night and we didn’t miss a beat. They will be missed for sure.”

LOU 10 14 9 16 – 49

BAL 15 13 12 19 – 59

LOUISBURG (9-13): Brady Hickey 3-9 2-4 10; Nathan Parker 4-15 0-0 9; Brock Vohs 3-5 0-0 7; Conlee Hovey 3-6 0-0 6; Myles Vohs 2-8 2-3 6; Luke Hill 2-8 0-0 5; Luke Schultz 1-2 2-2 4; Gavin Lohse 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 19-54 6-9 49. 3-point field goals: 5, (Hickey 2, Parker, Hill, B. Vohs)

Wildcats light it up from outside in sub-state win at Coffeyville



Louisburg senior Nathan Parker rises up for one of his six 3-pointers on the night Wednesday at Coffeyville-Field Kindley.

COFFEYVILLE – It wasn't the ideal scenario for Louisburg in its first round sub-state game.

The No. 10 seed Wildcats had to travel more than two hours to face off with No. 7 Coffeyville-Field Kindley with its season on the line against an unfamiliar opponent.

As it turned out, Louisburg wouldn't mind going back as the Wildcats put together its best shooting performance of the season.

Louisburg shot better than 50 percent from the floor and knocked in 11 3-pointers in the Wildcats' 68-58 victory Wednesday over the Golden Tornadoes. The Wildcats now move on to the sub-state championship game Saturday at Baldwin.

“It is awesome,” Louisburg coach Ben Doll said. “There are a lot of things that were working against us, whether it was our seed or going on a long road trip, but our guys just responded. I want to play more games in this gym. We shot so well in here, and I don’t know what it was, but our guys were seeing it the entire game.”

The Wildcats (9-12) shot 51 percent for the game and a bulk of those shots came from senior guards Nathan Parker and Luke Hill.

Parker exploded with his best game of the season as he knocked in six 3-pointers and scored a game-high 29 points to go along with a team-high four assists.

As for Hill, the Wildcat guard made four 3-pointers and finished with 15 points to go along with at team-high two steals.

“I am so happy for them,” Doll said. “They are both capable of going on runs like that and they are both capable of getting hot and this is the perfect time for them to do it. We did a good job of executing and running stuff for them and they both knocked them down when it was time to hit shots.”



Luke Hill eyes one of his four 3-pointers on the night Wednesday at Field Kindley.

It was a game of runs to start as the Wildcats jumped out to a 20-12 lead after the first quarter, but struggled in the second. Field Kindley outscored the Wildcats 19-9 before halftime and actually took a two-point lead.

After halftime, the Wildcats put together one of their best quarters of the season as they scored 24 points in the third period to go up 10.

“That was the difference in the game,” Doll said. “We have had third quarters where we have come out after halftime and not adjusted very well. I think zoning them a little bit helped, but if you shoot the ball well you are going to have a great chance to win and that is what we did.

“Basketball is a game of runs and you have to limit the runs your opponent goes on and we didn’t do a good job of that in the second quarter. Later in the game, we threw the zone at

them and it worked for a while, until they started hitting shots. Then we got out of it and we were ok finding their shooters and blocking out."

The Golden Tornadoes had one little run in them as they cut the lead to five midway through the fourth quarter, but the Wildcats hit a couple key baskets and free throws down the stretch to seal the win.



Louisburg senior Brock Vohs knocks the ball away from a Field Kindley player.

Senior guard Brady Hickey joined Parker and Hill in double figures as he finished with 10 points to go along with four assists. Junior Conlee Hovey was a fixture on the boards for Louisburg as he pulled down a game-high 12 rebounds.

Louisburg will now face No. 2 Baldwin in the sub-state championship at 5 p.m. on Saturday. The Wildcats will once

again have to go on the road and face a team that has beaten them twice already this season.

“We know them very well,” Doll said. “There is an old saying, and I feel like it is true because I have been on the other side of it, is if you beat someone twice it is hard to beat them a third time because you know each other so well. They are a really good team. They have a driver in (Cooper) Carr, they have shooters and they have some bigs that are long and athletic and they alter a lot of shots. It will be a very tough game for us, but we are happy to be in this position and have a chance to go to Salina.”

LOU 20 9 24 15 – 68

COF 12 19 12 15 – 58

LOUISBURG (9-12): Nathan Parker 8-14 7-8 29; Luke Hill 5-8 1-2 15; Brady Hickey 4-8 1-2 10; Luke Schultz 3-4 0-0 6; Brock Vohs 1-2 2-4 4; Conlee Hovey 1-3 0-0 2; Gavin Lohse 0-1 2-2 2. Totals: 22-43 13-18 68. 3-point field goals: 11, (Parker 6, Hill 4, Hickey)

Wildcats fall to Harrisonville on Senior Night to end regular season



Louisburg senior Nathan Parker drives to the basket for two of his game-high 18 points last Thursday against Harrisonville.

In what started out as a night of celebration for the Louisburg basketball team, turned into one of disappointment.

The Wildcats hosted Harrisonville for Senior Night on Thursday, in what was also their regular season finale. Despite a solid start, Louisburg came up short in a 57-52 loss.

Harrisonville used a big second quarter to take the lead and it never relinquished it, despite a late Louisburg rally that cut the deficit to two late in the contest.

“We played hard,” Louisburg coach Ben Doll said. “I have never doubted that and Harrisonville is a very good team that has 20 wins on the year. We knew it was going to be a tough game, but it was one where we thought we could go toe-to-toe with them.

There were just a few moments in the game where we couldn’t get stops and we were just trading buckets. I think we lost the game in about the middle portion where all that was going on.”

The game was tied at 9-all after the first quarter, but Harrisonville scored 19 points in the second and went into halftime with a seven-point lead.

Harrisonville got out to the lead thanks to its performance from the outside. It knocked down nine 3-pointers for the game, with seven of those coming in the first half.

Louisburg also struggled from the free-throw line as it converted just 13 of 24 attempts for the game.

“They hit a lot of threes and we didn’t convert at the free-throw line,” Doll said. “ That just isn’t going to cut it. We left a lot of points on the table. You have to make free throws when you are in close games and the guys know that. We have to do a better job of that.”

Harrisonville stretched its lead out early in the fourth quarter, before the Wildcats went on a little rally of their own.



Louisburg senior Brock Vohs goes up for a shot against Harrisonville on Thursday.

It started on a basket from Conlee Hovey and was fouled. Hovey missed the free throw, but got the rebound and put back to make it a four-point possession.

Brady Hickey knocked in a free throw to make it six-point contest, then Hovey scored again under the basket on an assist from Brock Vohs. Harrisonville took the lead back to six, but Nathan Parker knocked down a 3-pointer from the corner to make it a one possession game late.

Harrisonville was then called for a technical foul, and Parker hit 1 of 2 free throws to make it 53-51. The Wildcats got the ball back with a chance to tie or take the lead.

The Wildcats attacked the basket, but the shot rimmed off and Harrisonville got the rebound. It went on to make its free throws and sealed the win.

It was the final home game for seniors Nathan Parker, Brady Hickey, Brock Vohs, Jaymes Melton and Luke Hill. The five players and their parents were honored before the game.

All five started the game for the Wildcats and got them out to a 7-0 lead.

“They are going to be an extra special group for me with this being my first year here,” Doll said. “It was easy to start all five of those guys because all of them have been such good contributors and such hard workers. We actually started the game really well.

“This is what this part of the season is about too is to keep these guys playing and hopefully we can get them five more games here and not end it too early. They are going to do a lot of great things in their life, but this will be the only time that people will pay to watch you play basketball, so you need to enjoy that.”

Parker had a big game for the Wildcats as he scored a game-high 18 points, including four 3-pointers. Hovey almost finished with a double-double as he added eight points and a team-high nine rebounds.

Hickey added seven points and a team-high four assists

Louisburg (8-12) earned the No. 10 seed in the Class 4A sub-state tournament and will make the trip to No. 7 Coffeyville-Field Kindley (14-6) on Wednesday for a 6 p.m. tipoff.

“I told the guys we just have to move on from this real quick,” Doll said. “This is going to be like any basketball tournament, it is all about the matchups. We wish we could be hosting a home game and have a better seed, but it is do or die now. This is what we showed up in the summer for, and all the work we put in throughout the year, is for this moment. Now hopefully we can play far into March.”

LOU 9 12 13 18 – 52

HAR 9 19 13 16 – 57

LOUISBURG (8-12): Nathan Parker 5-12 4-7 18; Conlee Hovey 4-8 0-1 8; Brady Hickey 2-6 2-6 7; Luke Schultz 1-3 2-2 5; Luke Hill 1-3 2-2 5; Brock Vohs 1-4 1-2 3; Myles Vohs 1-5 0-0 2; Gavin Lohse 0-1 2-4 2; Jaymes Melton 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 16-43 13-24 52. 3-point field goals: 7, (Parker 4, Schultz, Hill, Hickey)

Wildcats roll Paola in final league contest

PAOLA – Louisburg got a chance to hand its rival a loss on its Senior Night and the Wildcats took full advantage.

Louisburg made the short journey to Paola last Tuesday and the Wildcats spoiled the Panthers’ special night as the Wildcats used a big second half to pull away for a 46-29 win over the Panthers.

The last time the two teams met, the Wildcats forced a running clock and held the Panthers (0-20) scoreless in the second

half. It was a much different game this time around as Louisburg held just a two-point lead at halftime.

“We knew this was a game they wanted to get, especially with it being their Senior Night, so we knew we were going to get their best shot and we did,” Louisburg coach Ben Doll said. “They are still playing hard to their credit and we played well enough to get a win.”



Louisburg senior Brady Hickey drives to the basket last week against Paola.

Louisburg junior Myles Vohs got the Wildcats out to a good start as he knocked down a pair of 3-pointers to put the Wildcats up 11-4. Paola battled back and trimmed Louisburg’s lead to 21-19 lead at halftime.

The Wildcats ramped it up defensively as they held the Panthers to just 10 second half points, including a 14-4 run

in the fourth quarter to put the game out of reach.

“Our goal in this game was to do better against a zone if they threw one at us because we have struggled with that a lot this year,” Doll said. “At the same time, I knew if we got out and pressed them that we could get them to turn over the ball. We didn’t do a very good job of that early, but in the fourth quarter we did a really good job of playing free and loose. We forced a lot of turnovers and that is what got us the win. Plus we hit free throws too and that helped a lot.”

On defense, the Wildcats forced 12 turnovers on the night and turned those into 14 points on the other end.

Senior Nathan Parker led Louisburg in scoring with 13 points, while Hickey added nine points and a team-high Sven rebounds in the win. Junior Conlee Hovey also pulled down seven rebounds, while junior Luke Schultz finished with a team-best four assists.

LOU 11 10 11 14 – 46

PAO 8 11 6 4 – 29

LOUISBURG: Nathan Parker 4-8 2-2 13; Brady Hickey 4-11 1-2 9; Myles Vohs 2-5 0-0 6; Luke Schultz 0-4 6-8 6; Brock Vohs 2-6 2-3 6; Conlee Hovey 2-4 1-2 5; Jaymes Melton 0-0 1-2 1. Totals: 14-40 13-19 46. 3-point field goals: 5, (Parker 3, Vohs 2)

Wildcats’ rally falls short

in home loss to Eudora



Louisburg senior Luke Hill pulls up for a shot in the lane last Tuesday against Eudora.

Louisburg had one of its better shooting nights of the season last Tuesday at home against Eudora.

The Wildcats shot nearly 50 percent from the floor, hit six 3-ponters and outrebounded the Cardinals on both ends of the floor. Louisburg had a lot of things in its favor.

Turnovers, on the other hand, was the one aspect that haunted the Wildcats as they committed 17 mistakes, which led to 28 Eudora points in what was a 52-49 loss to the Cardinals.

“We’ve had bad turnovers at the wrong time all season and we have just struggled to finish games and take care of the

ball," Louisburg coach Ben Doll said. "Throughout the game we didn't do a good enough job on their best player and they got to the foul line. There were other times where we were too focused on him and another player was able to slip in for an easy basket. We are right there in almost every game against good teams, but the timing of these turnovers are just killing us."

Along with the turnovers, the Wildcats had a tough time slowing Eudora's Logan Sullivan. The Cardinal senior finished with a game-high 27 points, including going 9-for-10 from the free-throw line.

Eudora controlled the game for much of the first three quarters, but the Wildcats started to chip away at the Cardinal lead. With a minute remaining in the third, the Wildcats trailed 44-38 but Luke Schultz hit a basket inside to make it a four-point game.

Then to start the fourth, senior Brady Hickey drove to the basket for two more. After a Eudora basket, Louisburg senior Myles Vohs made it a two-point game again on a lay-up.

The Wildcats took the lead on a 3-pointer by senior Luke Hill and were up 47-46 with 4:45 left in the game. It stayed that way until the 1:50 mark, when Eudora scored on a back door play to grab the lead back.

Louisburg committed two turnovers on back-to-back possessions late and the Cardinals took care of business from the free-throw line to secure the win.

"We have had enough of these games where we get down and we almost always come back," Louisburg coach Ben Doll said. "The heart is there and we do enough to get ourselves ready to win a game. We always battle back and that is just who we are right now and it is good to always see them fight."



Louisburg junior Gavin Lohse goes up for a shot and gets fouled last week against Eudora.

Senior Nathan Parker led the Wildcats in scoring with 12 points and was the lone player in double figures. Junior Conlee Hovey had nine points and a team-high eight rebounds, while Hickey also finished with nine.

Hill added eight in the loss to go along with the go-ahead 3-pointer in the fourth quarter.

“Luke did a good job, and hit a big shot there,” Doll said. “I think Nate, Luke and Brady all hit threes for us. We had some guys knock down some big shots for us.

“I think teams are really focused on Conlee right now and I think that will open some shooters up on the perimeter and we took advantage of some of that. Conlee has earned himself enough respect that he is drawing a lot of attention and it

was good to see our shooters knock some shots down.”

Louisburg has two games remaining in the regular season and the Wildcats will travel to Paola on Tuesday before returning home Thursday against Harrisonville on Senior Night.

LOU 10 14 16 9 – 49

EUD 15 12 17 8 – 52

LOUISBURG (7-11): Nathan Parker 3-6 3-3 12; Conlee Hovey 4-5 1-2 9; Brady Hickey 4-10 0-0 9; Luke Hill 3-7 0-0 8; Luke Schultz 2-3 2-2 6; Myles Vohs 1-3 0-0 2; Jaymes Melton 1-1 0-0 2; Gavin Lohse 0-1 1-2 1. Totals: 18-37 7-9 49. 3-point field goals: 6, (Parker 3, Hill 2, Hickey)

Late 3-pointer sinks Wildcats’ hopes in loss to Spring Hill



Louisburg senior Brock Vohs gets fouled going up for a shot

Friday against Spring Hill.

The meetings between the Louisburg and Spring Hill boys basketball teams has had their fair share of drama this season.

It started last month when the Wildcats went on to road to beat Spring Hill in overtime. During the Wildcats' homecoming game last Friday, there were more late game heroics.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, those heroics came from the Spring Hill side.

Spring Hill's Chase Bond knocked down a 3-pointer with 10 seconds left in the game and the Broncos handed Louisburg a 44-42 loss.

The Wildcats had one final attempt to tie it up. Louisburg senior Nathan Parker put up a 3-point shot with three seconds left, and appeared to be fouled, but no call was made and the game was over.

"The end of the game was pretty upsetting, especially when Nate got clobbered and they didn't call a foul," Louisburg coach Ben Doll said. "But every coach knows, and I know, that there was a lot of stuff earlier in the game that we could have done a better job at, like taking care of the basketball. Turnovers are always something we come back to and say this is why we lost because we turn the ball over too much and at the wrong time."

Before those two plays, the Wildcats found themselves down a point, but with a minute left Luke Hill passed the ball inside to Conlee Hovey who scored to give the Wildcats the lead.



Senior Jaymes Melton goes up for a basket Friday against Spring Hill.

Hovey had a big night for the Wildcats inside as he finished with a team-high 12 points to go along with 11 rebounds and three blocked shots.

“The guys executed that play perfectly,” Doll said. “Conlee was so good and he should have had more touches and we are trying to get him the ball more. Got the bucket, got them to miss and then we just didn’t take care of the ball after that. But if we take care of business earlier in the game, it should have never been that tight.”

Turnovers hurt the Wildcats at different times as they committed 16 for the game, but they did the job on the glass as they outrebounded Spring Hill by 11.

Louisburg got out to a good start as it took an 11-8 lead at

the end of the first quarter, but the Broncos went on a 13-6 run in the second half to take four-point lead at halftime.

The Wildcats trailed 28-22 in the third quarter, but went on a mini 9-2 run. It started on a basket by Hovey and was followed up by a 3-pointer from Hickey.

Hickey added with a pair of free throws to make it a one point game and then another Hovey basket put Louisburg in front. Spring Hill eventually held the lead until a minute left in the fourth.

Hickey was second on the team with nine points and four rebounds. Junior Myles Vohs had eight points and a pair of steals.

The Wildcats will try and get back on the winning track tonight as they host Eudora. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

“We beat (Spring Hill) earlier in the year and I feel that we are a better team than we were before,” Doll said. “We are at that point now where we are looking at sub-state standings. We move on to Eudora and hopefully we can play well.”

LOU 11 6 15 10 – 42

SH 8 13 13 10 – 44

LOUISBURG (7-10): Conlee Hovey 6-7 0-0 12; Brady Hickey 2-7 3-4 9; Myles Vohs 3-5 2-2 8; Nathan Parker 2-6 0-0 6; Jaymes Melton 2-2 0-0 4; Luke Hill 0-5 1-2 1; Luke Schultz 0-3 1-2 1; Brock Vohs 0-0 0-0 1. Totals: 15-35 8-12 42. 3-point field goals: 4, (Parker 2, Hickey 2)

Wildcats rally for road victory over Tonganoxie



Louisburg junior Luke Schultz pulls up for shot Tuesday on the road at Tonganoxie. The Wildcats got a 45-40 victory over the Chieftains.

TONGANOXIE – The Louisburg boys basketball team likes a little bit of a challenge.

In many of their wins this season, the Wildcats have found themselves playing catch-up. Not exactly the ideal place to be and they found themselves in that same spot early in Tuesday's game at Tonganoxie.

"Coach (Barry) O'Brien said before the game that digging ourselves out of hole is seems to be all we know," Louisburg head coach Ben Doll joked. "We just set ourselves up that way, we dig out and luckily this team keeps fighting and is good at doing that."

The Wildcats did it once again against the Chieftains. Louisburg rallied from an early 10-point deficit and held on for a 45-40 victory, which snapped a two-game losing skid.

“It was a good win,” Doll said. “This league is just tough, especially when you go on the road. We knew it was going to be tough considering it was a two-point game the last time we played. We knew Tongie was going to play tough and we are in that part of the season where everyone is fighting for position and sub-state.”

Louisburg (7-9) found itself down 14-4 to start the game, before the Wildcats started to battle back. They cut the Chieftain lead to just one early in the the third quarter, only to see Tonganoxie stretch it back out to eight.

Down 28-20, the Wildcats put together one big run to take control of the game. Louisburg outscored Tonganoxie 19-4, which lasted into the fourth quarter and took a 39-32 advantage with three minutes left in the game.



Louisburg junior Myles Vohs lays the ball in for two on

Tuesday in Tonganoxie.

To start the run, Myles Vohs got a layup in transition, Luke Schultz knocked in a free throw and then Schultz hit a 3-pointer to give them a 31-28 lead late in the third.

Senior Brady Hickey made it a 33-30 contest with a runner in the lane. After a Tongie basket made it a one point game, Schultz got an offensive rebound and put back to make it 35-32.

Senior Brock Vohs then added two straight baskets to push the Louisburg lead to 39-32. Tonganoxie cut the lead to one with one minute remaining, but Hickey drove in for a layup and was fouled with 13 seconds left.

Hickey missed the free throw, but Schultz tapped the miss out for an extra possession for Louisburg. Luke Hill went on to make two free throws to put the game away.

Hovey was big on the inside for Louisburg as he finished with a double-double. He led the Wildcats with 10 points and 14 rebounds, while Brock Vohs finished with nine points.

Schultz and Hickey each finished with seven points and Myles Vohs took on the point guard duties for most of the second half to help run the offense.

It was performances from several different players that helped the Wildcats leave with a big road win.

“We had big rebounds from Conlee throughout the game,” Doll said. “Luke Hill played really good defense on their guy that was shooting a lot, and shut him down late in the game. Then Luke Schultz got a big tap out for us that was just as huge as an offensive rebound. It wasn’t about scoring points, it was about doing the little things it took to win.

“Myles played some really good defense as well and did a good job running the offense. We are figuring people’s roles and

they are figuring them out a lot better. Brady has been a consistent guys for us and hopefully we can get Gavin (Lohse) back on Friday. Understanding roles and being healthy is what you need with four games to go and March right around the corner.”

Louisburg will try for back-to-back wins tonight as the Wildcats host Spring Hill for homecoming. It is a rematch of what was a Louisburg overtime victory earlier in the season.

“It will be a tough one,” Doll said. “Just like Tongie, I think they will come in confident because of what happened last time. That was another game where we had to dig ourselves out of a hole. Nothing is easy down the stretch, but I think we are a much better team right now than when we played last.”

LOU 5 10 16 14 – 45

TON 14 5 11 10 – 40

LOUISBURG (7-9): Conlee Hovey 5-11 0-0 10; Brock Vohs 4-5 1-3 9; Brady Hickey 3-5 0-1 7; Luke Schultz 2-4 2-6 7; Nathan Parker 1-5 2-2 4; Myles Vohs 2-7 0-1 4; Luke Hill 1-4 2-2 4. Totals: 18-41 7-15 45. 3-point field goals: 2, (Hickey, Schultz)