

Louisburg girls lose to Hayden in final game of Top Gun tourney



Louisburg junior Alyse Moore pulls down a rebound during a game at Wellsville earlier last week. Moore pulled down a team-high 16 rebounds in a loss to Hayden on Saturday.

WELLSVILLE – When it was all said and done, the end result of the Top Gun Tournament was not what the Louisburg girls basketball team was hoping for.

After an overtime loss in the first round, and then a loss to Spring Hill in the consolation semifinals, Louisburg had to face a tough Topeka-Hayden team in its final game Saturday in Wellsville.

The Lady Cats took a nine-point lead at halftime, but Hayden used a second half rally to pull away for a 44-38 victory over Louisburg.

The game was tied at 10-all going into the second quarter, but Louisburg (6-6) had a big second quarter to take the halftime lead. The Lady Cats outscored Hayden 14-5 before the break and

took a 24-15 advantage.

It didn't stay that way as Hayden cut into the Lady Cat lead in the third quarter, then early in the fourth, Hayden took it back for good as it outscored Louisburg 15-7 in the final frame to pull away.

Junior Alyse Moore was all over the floor for the Lady Cats as she recorded a double-double to lead her team. Moore had 12 points to go along with 16 rebounds and three steals.

Another junior, Madilyn Melton, almost nearly had a double-double herself as she had 11 points and eight rebounds. Junior Brooklyn Diederich had six points and a team-high seven steals and seven deflections.

Neither team was able to get in a rhythm offensively as both Louisburg and Hayden shot 27 percent from the field, but Hayden was able to take advantage of some Louisburg mistakes. The Lady Cats gave up 18 points on turnovers, which turned out to be one of the differences in the game.

Louisburg will try and stop its four-game losing streak tonight when it travels to Eudora in a makeup game from earlier in the year. Varsity tipoff is scheduled for around 7:30 p.m.

It is the first of another three-game week for the Lady Cats. They will host Paola tomorrow and then

travel to Ottawa on Friday to finish out the week.

LOU	10	14	7	7 -
38				

TH	10	5	14	15
- 44				

LOUISBURG (6-6): Alyse Moore 4-11 4-7 12; Madilyn Melton 3-9 5-5 11; Brooklyn Diederich 2-8 0-1 6; Haley Cain 2-5 0-0 5; Megan Foote 1-7 0-0 2; Adyson Ross 0-0 2-2 2. Totals: 12-43 11-15 38.
3-point field goals: 3, (Diederich 2, Cain)

Slow start costs Louisburg against Spring Hill

Just a week earlier, Louisburg went on the road and handed Spring Hill a double-digit loss.

On Thursday in the consolation semifinals of the Top Gun Tournament, Spring Hill returned the favor.

Louisburg scored 10 points in the first half and struggled to overcome its slow start in a 42-25 loss to the Broncos. Spring Hill jumped out to a 22-10 halftime lead and never looked back.

Alyse Moore led the Lady Cats in scoring with eight points, while Brooklyn Diederich added five in the loss.

Megan Foote pulled down a team-high six rebounds to go along with four steals.

LOU	5	5	5	10
- 25				

SH	15	7	6	
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14 – 42

LOUISBURG: Alyse Moore 3-7 0-1 8;

Brooklyn Diederich 1-13 2-2 5; Madilyn Melton 2-5 0-2 4; Megan Foote 1-5 1-2 4;

Delaney Wright 1-6 0-3 2; Haley Cain 1-3 0-2 2. Totals: 9-42 3-9 25. 3-point field

goals: 4, (Moore 2, Diederich, Foote)

Lady Cats fall in overtime to Anderson County



Louisburg junior Megan Foote puts up a floater in the lane Tuesday during the Lady Cats' game with Anderson County at Wellsville High School.

WELLSVILLE – Louisburg didn't have much left in the tank. The same could also be said for Anderson County.

The two teams beat each other up for 32 minutes, then the game went into overtime as both squads played physical in the first round of the Top Gun Tournament on Tuesday in Wellsville.

Whether it was diving for loose balls, tough defense or fighting for rebounds, Louisburg and Anderson County left it

all on the court. Unfortunately for the Lady Cats, Anderson County made just one more play.

The Bulldogs made a free throw with 8 seconds left to break the tie and Louisburg's last second shot fell short as the Lady Cats fell 70-69. The loss sends Louisburg to the consolation semifinals where it will face off with Spring Hill at 5 p.m. today in Wellsville.

It was a revenge win of sorts for Anderson County after they Lady Cats defeated them in Louisburg back in December.

Louisburg (6-4) appeared well on their way to a victory early on as the Lady Cats jumped out to an 8-0 lead, but Anderson County battled back and eventually took a 33-29 lead at halftime.

"Anderson County was tough and physical like that the first time," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "They have improved and their record shows they have been playing well. I think maybe when we got out to that early lead, we had some mentality stuff set in that probably shouldn't set in. The next thing you know we are in a game again and it was back and forth the whole way. We had opportunities to win and had shots at the rim that didn't go in, but that is the way it goes sometimes."

The Bulldogs built an eight-point

lead midway through the third quarter, but the Lady Cats were able to rally and eventually take the lead. Junior Megan Foote connected on four free throws and knocked down a 3-pointer with 15 seconds left in the third to bring the Lady Cats within one.

Right before the end of the quarter, Foote recorded a steal and passed it down the floor to Madilyn Melton and she laid it in for a 48-47 lead.

Anderson County took the lead back again, but Foote put together another run as she scored seven points late in the fourth quarter, including a 3-pointer to tie the game at 62 with 1 minute and 45 seconds left in the game. Foote then had a layup on the team's next possession and the Lady Cats went up 64-62 with 52 seconds remaining.



Junior Madilyn Melton lays the ball up for two points Tuesday against Anderson County.

The Bulldogs eventually tied the game on a basket with 26 seconds left and the two teams went into overtime.

In the extra period, Melton and junior Alyse Moore both scored to give Louisburg an early lead. However, with the game tied with 8 seconds left, Louisburg was called for a foul after both teams dove for a loose ball.

That sent Anderson County's Cali Foltz to the line as she made 1 of 2 free throws to give the Bulldogs the lead for good.

“I thought we started out good, but here is what we have to get away from,” Lowry said. “It can’t be me challenging the kids and then they get tough. They are going to have to collectively get together on that. In the second half, the girls just played their tails off. Every single one of them played their tails off. Both teams had zero gas left and it was just about taking shots. It was a fun overtime high school game, but obviously wish we could have gotten the win there.”

Melton led the Lady Cats in scoring with 22 points and had eight rebounds and five steals. Moore came close to a triple-double as she tallied 21 points, 13 rebounds and she had seven steals. She had 16 of those 21 points in the first half.

Foote finished the game with 15 points and five steals, while Brooklyn Diederich and Melton both led the team with 10 deflections.

Louisburg had a hard time slowing down Anderson County’s inside-outside combo of Rayna Jasper and Foltz. Jasper had a game-high 28 points and was 9-for-10 from the free-throw line, while Foltz finished with 23 points.

Sophomore Delaney Wright found herself on Jasper at the top of the Lady Cats’ zone defense and pressured her all night as Wright played the entire four quarters and overtime.

“I told Delaney if that girl doesn’t

come off the floor then you are not coming off the floor," Lowry said. "If you are tired, then she is going to be tired too and I think she stayed on the floor the entire time. I thought we played with toughness and pride out there, but it just didn't come down to one shot, it came down to a lot of little things."

Louisburg will try and bounce back today against Spring Hill and then will play for either fifth or seventh-place Saturday against Topeka-Hayden or Lansing.

LOU	14	15	19
7	4 - 69		
AC	10	23	14
18	5 - 70		

LOUISBURG (6-4): Madilyn Melton 8-17 5-9 22; Alyse Moore 8-16 5-7 21; Megan Foote 4-9 5-6 15; Delaney Wright 2-12 2-2 6; Brooklyn Diederich 2-5 0-0 5. Totals: 24-65 17-26 69. 3-point field goals: 4, (Foote 2, Diederich 1, Melton 1)

Lady Cats fall to No. 4 Baldwin at home



Louisburg junior Brooklyn Diederich puts up a 3-pointer during Saturday's home contest against Baldwin.

It was a battle of ranked teams Saturday at Louisburg High School as No. 10 Louisburg had an opportunity to knock off No. 4 Baldwin.

Unfortunately for the Lady Cats, the game didn't go as they would have hoped.

Baldwin used a big second quarter to jump out large lead and the Lady Cats weren't able to recover in a 67-46 loss to the Bulldogs.

"There were times we competed with good energy and effort, but we didn't execute as well as we could have," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "You have to credit Baldwin for their defensive pressure and the toughness they played with."

Louisburg (6-3) got off to a good start as it took an 11-8 lead early as junior Madilyn Melton scored the team's first six points, followed by a 3-pointer from Brooklyn Diederich and a basket from Megan Foote.

From there, Baldwin was able to take over as it went on an 11-2 run to go up six and then expanded its lead to 33-20 at halftime. The Bulldogs grew their lead to 18 points at the end of the third quarter.

Baldwin

made it tough for Louisburg to defend as the Bulldogs knocked down nine

3-pointers and also used their size inside to score 32 points in the paint.

“Baldwin

definitely shot the ball well and complimented that with some strong inside

play.” Lowry said. “It challenged us with several defensive rotations and also

caused us issues with defending their penetration.”

Melton

found a lot of success for the Lady Cats as she scored a team-high 16 points to

go along with a team-high eight rebounds and three blocks.

Sophomore Jordan

Mynsted was next in scoring with seven points and Diederich finished with six.

Louisburg

will try and bounce back today when it travels to Wellsville for the Top Gun

Tournament. The Lady Cats will tip off at 6:30 p.m. against Anderson County and

will also play Thursday and Friday nights.

“Our kids

are staying the course and working hard in practice to prepare for the games

ahead,” Lowry said. “Games like this provide us good experience and lessons for

the stretch run that is ahead of us.”

LOU	11	9	9	17
- 46				

BAL	12	21	14	20 -
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LOUISBURG

(6-3): Madilyn Melton 6-15 4-8 16; Jordan Mynsted 3-5 1-1 7;
 Brooklyn Diederich
 2-5 0-0 6; Delaney Wright 2-9 1-2 5; Megan Foote 1-3 2-3 4;
 Haley Cain 1-5 2-2
 4; Emma Lohse 1-1 0-0 2; Brianne Kuhlman 0-0 1-2 1; Alyse
 Moore 0-3 1-2 1.
 Totals: 16-48 12-20 46. 3-point field goals: 2, (Diederich 2)

Lady Cats bounce back with league win at Spring Hill



Louisburg sophomore Delaney Wright dives on the floor for a loose ball Wednesday during the Lady Cats' win at Spring Hill High School.

SPRING HILL – Fresh off just its second setback of the season, the Louisburg girls basketball team wanted to make sure one loss didn't turn into two.

Thanks to a big second half, the Lady Cats prevented that from happening.

Louisburg scored 32 points in the second half, including a 17-

point fourth quarter and pulled away from Spring Hill, 56-42, on Wednesday at Spring Hill High School. It was a big road victory the Lady Cats were looking for as they improved to 6-2 on the season and 3-1 in Frontier League play.

“Spring Hill is a good team and they are well-coached,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “The stuff they had prepared for us after they played a lot of games was really good. We always talk a lot about how we will respond to adversity, and not just in basketball, but in life as well.

“This was about them learning how to deal with when things don’t go your way. You can either dust yourself off and get up, or you can lay down. This group really took that to heart getting ready for this game and really all three levels did that. They all had great games and I was really proud of their effort.”

The Lady Cats faced a full-court pressure defense the entire night, but they were able to make their way through it and convert on the offensive end. If Louisburg didn’t score, it was able to draw a foul as it had 33 attempts at the free-throw line.

“We handled it better and Spring Hill has some athletes on their side as well,” Lowry said. “We did a pretty good job of handling their pressure for the most part and we were aggressive after we broke it. It wasn’t enough for us to just break it, we wanted to go score as well.”

Score they did.

Louisburg took a 24-16 halftime lead, but came out in the third quarter on a mission. The Lady Cats opened the second half on a 12-2 run to build a 16-point lead thanks to 3-pointers from Brooklyn Diederich and Megan Foote, along with a pair of baskets from Madilyn Melton and free throws from Alyse Moore.

Spring Hill eventually whittled Louisburg's lead to five late in the third quarter, but the Lady Cats responded again in the fourth. Moore scored nine of the team's 17 points in the frame as the Lady Cats built up its double digit lead and never looked back.

Moore led all scorers with 18 points and had five rebounds to go along with four steals. Melton also finished in double figures with 14 points and seven rebounds.



Louisburg junior Alyse Moore puts up a shot over two Spring Hill defenders on Wednesday.

“We need them to be more for us and for them to demand it more and I thought they did some good things for us,” Lowry said of Moore and Melton. “We are going to look to them, but they have to put themselves into a position where we can get them the basketball. They can both be finishers and be tough to defend in the low post and they are getting better at it.”

Diederich added eight points in the winning effort with a team-high five assists and five steals, while Foote also had eight points, seven rebounds and four assists to help lead the Lady Cats.

On defense, the Lady Cats were active as they forced 30 turnovers and were able to score 20 points off those Spring Hill mistakes. They also recorded 20 steals.

"I liked what I saw from some of the younger kids," Lowry said. "I thought Delaney Wright and Adyson Ross were solid. The older girls are pretty good about their rotations, but I thought those two were pretty active. Alyse is always all over the place.

"Overall, the girls were just really together and they played for each other. They knew it was an important one to bounce back from what happened against Frontenac. We learned a lot about ourselves."

Louisburg will try and make it back-to-back league victories when it hosts Baldwin at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday in a make-up contest. Junior varsity will play at 1 p.m.

It will be the start of what is a busy two weeks for the Lady Cats as they will see plenty of tests come their way.

"We are going to have gauntlet coming up and it starts with Baldwin," Lowry said. "Then we turn around and play three tournament games the next week and then we play

Monday, Tuesday and Friday the following week. All of those games will be against great teams, but this is where we want to be. It is the meat of the season and tournament week is always a fun time.

“We are looking forward to Baldwin as well with it being a girls only night and all the teams get to play in the main gym. Our girls are looking forward to the challenge.”

LOU	10	14	15	17	-
56					
SH	7	9	17	9	
- 42					

LOUISBURG (6-2): Alyse Moore 5-9 8-14 18; Madilyn Melton 6-9 2-3 14; Brooklyn Diederich 3-9 0-2 8; Megan Foote 2-8 3-6 8; Delaney Wright 1-4 3-4 6; Haley Cain 0-4 2-4 2. Totals: 17-45 18-33 56. 3-point field goals: 4, (Diederich 2, Wright, Foote)

Louisburg girls lose defensive battle to Frontenac



Junior Megan Foote goes up for a shot during a game earlier this season. The Louisburg girls fell short at home Saturday against Frontenac, 50-45.

The Louisburg and Frontenac girls basketball teams came into Saturday's game wanting to do the same thing – put pressure on the opponent.

It worked on both ends as the two teams combined to force more than 50 turnovers in what was a chaotic contest at Louisburg High School. In the end, Frontenac made just a few more plays.

Despite a late run in the fourth quarter, Louisburg came up short in a 50-45 loss to the Raiders and it is just the second setback for the Lady Cats this season.

Louisburg (5-2) jumped out in front to start the game as it took a 16-11 lead to begin the second quarter.

Unfortunately, the Lady Cats had problems scoring against the Frontenac defense in the next two frames.

Frontenac held Louisburg to a combined 12 points in the second and third quarters and took a 42-28 lead. The Lady Cats didn't give up as they scored 17 points in the fourth quarter.

Junior Madilyn Melton scored the first four points, junior Megan Foote made a 3-pointer late and junior Alyse Moore scored nine points down the stretch. Moore drove the lane, scored and was fouled to cut the Frontenac lead to two with just seconds left.

Louisburg, however, could get no closer as Frontenac converted at the free-throw line in the final seconds to secure the win.

Moore led the Lady Cats as she recorded a double-double with 16 points and 12 rebounds to go along with a team-high three steals. Melton also finished with a double-double as she had 13 points, 10 rebounds and three steals.

Junior Brooklyn Diederich was in double figures with 10 points and a team-high eight deflections. Senior Haley Cain added eight rebounds in the loss.

Louisburg will try and get back on track tonight when it travels to Spring Hill for Frontier League matchup. Tipoff is set for approximately 7:30 p.m.

LOU	16	5	7	17
- 45				
FRON	11	13	18	8 - 50

LOUISBURG (5-2): Alyse Moore 6-14 4-7 16; Madilyn Melton 5-7 3-4 13; Brooklyn Diederich 4-16 0-0 10; Megan Foote 1-6 1-4 4; Delaney Wright 1-6 0-0 2. Totals: 17-58 8-17 45. 3-point field goals: 3, (Diederich 2, Foote)

Lady Cats catch fire in win over Bonner Springs



Junior Madilyn Melton drives past a Bonner Springs defender Tuesday during the Lady Cats' 52-34 win over the Braves.

From the opening tip, it was obvious that the night was going to belong to the Louisburg girls basketball team.

On Tuesday against Bonner Springs, the Lady Cats scored 14 of the first 16 points and used that start to roll the Braves, 52-34, at Louisburg High School.

In what was one of their best shooting nights of the young season, mixed in with good defense, the No. 10-ranked Lady Cats were able to move their record to 5-1 on the season.

"Bonner is young, athletic and their coach does a really good job with his girls, but I am also proud of the way we responded against that," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "There were times where it was really physical and I thought that we responded well to that and I thought our confidence was good too. At some point, this

group is going to have to start believing what they can be this year.”

The Lady Cats certainly believed Tuesday as they shot 44 percent from floor and knocked down a season-high eight 3-pointers, despite only going 4-for-14 from the free-throw line. Louisburg came out strong as it opened the game on a 14-2 run.

Bonner Springs made a run back to cut it to a two-point advantage to start the second quarter, but the Lady Cats ended the first half on an 8-2 spurt to take a 25-17 halftime lead. The Braves would get no closer.

Madilyn Melton led the Lady Cats in scoring as the Louisburg junior finished with a team-high 12 points and seven rebounds, to go along with six deflections and three steals. Juniors Alyse Moore and Megan Foote added nine points in the win.



Brooklyn Diederich goes in for a layup Tuesday against Bonner Springs at Louisburg High School.

Senior Haley Cain came off the bench to also score nine points, all of which came from behind the 3-point line. Cain also had a team-high four assists.

“I think it is credit to the girls putting in the work,” Lowry said of his team’s offensive success. “They are staying after practice and coming in on the weekends on their own and shooting. This is a group that can be a good shooting team.

“I really thought Haley came off the bench and gave us a nice spark and it was great leadership from her. I am really proud of what she did.”

Louisburg also shined defensively

at times as it shut down Bonner Springs' inside game and forced 26 turnovers thanks to the Lady Cats' aggressive zone defense. Those turnovers turned into 25 points for the Lady Cats as they made it difficult for the Braves.

"We didn't slow them down much inside at the beginning, but we made some adjustments and that really helped," Lowry said. "I have to give credit to the girls because they responded to the adjustments what we needed to make. They were communicating with each other and talking on defense. That really was the difference. I made some adjustments, but it was them talking that was the biggest part of that."

The schedule will get a lot tougher for the Lady Cats beginning tomorrow. It will be a battle of ranked teams as No. 10 Louisburg hosts No. 4 Baldwin (7-1) at 6 p.m. Friday in a Frontier League matchup.

Louisburg will then turnaround Saturday to host Frontenac in a makeup contest. Tipoff for that game is set for 4:30 p.m.

"We want to be 6-1 after Friday and we have to play a good Baldwin team on our home floor," Lowry said. "We are excited to play that game and that is the mentality that this group has right now."

"Baldwin is a fantastic team from

coaching to players, and top to bottom they have such a great program. It is going to be extremely hard and we are going to have to prepare with that in mind. We can't even think about Saturday's game against Frontenac and we have to be all in with Baldwin on Friday."

LOU	17	8	19	8 -
52				
BON	12	5	12	5 -
34				

LOUISBURG (5-1): Madilyn Melton 5-8 2-6 12; Haley Cain 3-7 0-0 9; Alyse Moore 3-7 1-2 9; Megan Foote 4-7 0-2 9; Delaney Wright 2-4 0-2 5; Brooklyn Diederich 2-10 0-0 5; Sydni Keagle 1-1 0-0 2; Jordan Mynsted 0-0 1-2 1. Totals: 20-46 4-14 52. 3-point field goals: 8, (Cain 3, Moore 2, Wright, Diederich, Foote)

Lady Cats roll Turner in first game of new year



Freshman guard Adyson Ross drives to the basket during the

Lady Cats' road game Tuesday against Turner.

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – In its first game of the new year, the Louisburg girls basketball team couldn't have asked for a better start to 2020.

The Lady Cats used a stingy defense and a deep bench to help them to a 72-18 victory over Turner on Tuesday at Turner High School. The win moves Louisburg's record to 4-1 on the year as it currently holds the No. 10 ranking in Class 4A.

"We worked hard over break and everyone is in the same boat," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "You have to get back to where you were before break and it is crazy. You have to get that mentality back and we focused on toughness drills, worked on a lot of defensive stuff and I thought we took care of business. Offensively we have some stuff to clean up, but overall it was a good night."

Defensively, the Lady Cats shined as they used their 1-3-1 pressure defense to force several Turner turnovers, which led to easy baskets in transition. Louisburg racked up 47 points in the first half and held the Golden Bears to just nine.

Junior Brooklyn Diederich had a big scoring night for the Lady Cats with a game-high 15 points, including three 3-pointers. Juniors Alyse Moore and Madilyn Melton also finished in double figures with 12 points and sophomores Delaney Wright and

Jordan Mynsted added nine.



Sophomore Jordan Mynsted goes up for two points Tuesday against Turner.

Lowry shuffled five players in and out of the game at different times throughout the contest, which allowed several younger players to see varsity minutes. Freshman guards Brianne

Kuhlman, Adyson Ross and Emma Lohse all saw playing time and each found the scoring column.

“It was nice to be able to rotate a lot of kids,” Lowry said. “I thought the freshmen, like Adyson, Brianne and Emma, all did a real nice job tonight. It is these kinds of situations where we can get them some experience that will help them down the road past this season. For it being our first game out of break, and being on the road, I think it was good for us.”

The schedule will get quite a bit tougher for the Lady Cats and it starts tonight when they travel to No. 7 Eudora. The Cardinals have been going through some transition as their head coach, Richard Ebel, was relieved of his duties before the holiday break and they currently have a new coaching staff.

Despite the changes, the Lady Cats know it will be a difficult challenge on the road in Frontier League play.

“Eudora is fantastic and they have one of the best point guards around,” Lowry said. “They are dealing with some stuff right now, but I think they are going to be ready to play. It will be tough for them, but I know they will be ready.”

“We have a tough four-game stretch coming up too. We have Eudora, but then we get three games at home, with Bonner

Springs, Baldwin and Frontenac and Baldwin and Frontenac are back-to-back nights. It is a gauntlet, but that is the time of year we are in and it is time to play. We have 80 percent of our games left to play and 60 percent of our practices are done. It is about improving and getting better and we are going to be a different team between now and the end of the season. We have a lot of growth left to happen.”

LOU	20	27	15	10 –
72				
TUR	5	4	4	5
– 18				

LOUISBURG (4-1): Brooklyn Diederich 15, Alyse Moore 12, Madilyn Melton 12, Delaney Wright 9, Jordan Mynsted 9, Brianne Kuhlman 6, Adyson Ross 5, Megan Foote 2, Emma Lohse 2.
Totals: 27 12-22 72. 3-point field goals: 6, (Diederich 3, Wright 2, Ross)

Piper uses quick start to hand Lady Cats their first loss



Louisburg junior Alyse Moore goes up for a basket Friday during the Lady Cats' final game of 2019 against Piper at Louisburg High School.

It would have been easy for the Louisburg girls basketball team to realize Friday was just not its night.

The Lady Cats found themselves down 10 points in the first three minutes of the game against Piper, the No. 2 team in Class 4A and defending state runner-up. Trying to get back in the game against one of the best teams in the state was going to be a tough task.

Louisburg was up for the challenge as the Lady Cats rallied to keep the game close, before Piper used a big fourth quarter to hand Louisburg its first loss of the season, 47-29, at Louisburg High School.

Piper opened the game on a 10-0 run to put the Lady Cats on their heels, but they were able to respond and trailed just 16-10 at the end of the first quarter. From there, Louisburg was able to stay within striking distance, but would get no closer.

“Two things are going to happen in

that situation – you are either going to stand up for yourself or you are just going to quit and lay down,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “The character of our team is they are going to fight. We really battled the entire game, but it is just some things that we are doing to ourselves. If we can clean those things up, I like what this team can be.”

The Lady Cats struggled on the offensive end of the floor as they shot 27 percent from the field, but they hurt themselves on the free-throw line as they went 10-for-24.

It was tough to get good looks at the basket most of the night against a tough Piper defense that applied full-court pressure for part of the contest.



Senior Haley Cain dribbles into the lane Friday during the Lady Cats' contest with Piper.

"We are not that far away," Lowry said. "The things we have been talking to the girls about time after time is finishing plays at the rim, free-throw shooting and we really hurt ourselves with those two things. Piper is obviously an extremely talented team, with extremely talented players.

"The message to our girls was when we got down big early, was to settle down and to compete and they did that. We have a lot of progress left to do, both individually and as a team, but I sure like our kids and I like what the rest of the season can look like for us."

Junior Megan Foote paced the Lady Cats with a team-high 12 points, while junior Madilyn Melton finished with seven points and five rebounds. Junior Alyse Moore pulled down a team-high 11 rebounds and senior Haley Cain also had five boards.

Piper took an 11-point halftime lead and the Pirates were able to build on it into the fourth quarter as they used a 9-2 run to pull away from the Lady Cats.

Louisburg, which is 3-1 going into the holiday break, saw a lot of positives to begin its season. The Lady Cats also realize they will be competing in several difficult games in the Frontier League when they resume play in early January.

"We wanted to be 4-0, but we like where we are at," Lowry said. "We would have liked to have that other game before break with the Frontenac game being postponed, but we are going to take some days off here, regroup and get back after it. This group has high expectations for themselves and you have to love that.

"This league is fantastic and what a great league to compete in. When we come back from break we will face a very good Eudora team, Baldwin is tough, Paola is strong again this year, Spring Hill is good and I think the league is going to be a race this year. I don't think that anyone is going to run away with it. Piper is out to a good lead, but I think it will be competitive till the end."

The Lady Cats will continue their season on Jan. 7 when they travel to Turner. Louisburg will

then go to Eudora
on Jan. 10 to start up league play.

LOU 29	10	7	9	3 –
PIP 47	16	12	10	9 –

LOUISBURG (3-1): Megan Foote 5-7
0-0 12; Madilyn Melton 1-6 5-12 7; Haley Cain 1-7 1-2 4; Alyse
Moore 0-3 3-7 3;
Delaney Wright 1-1 0-0 2; Brianne Kuhlman 0-0 1-2 1. Totals:
8-30 10-24 29.
3-point field goals: 3, (Foote 2, Cain 1)

Fast start propels Lady Cats to win over Anderson County



Louisburg sophomore Delaney Wright races down the floor during a fast break opportunity Friday during the Lady Cats' home opener against Anderson County.

The Louisburg girls basketball team wanted to make a good impression in its home opener Friday and the Lady Cats got everyone's attention early.

Louisburg scored the first 10 points of the game – all by junior Megan Foote – and the Lady Cats used that run to pull away for a 47-35 victory over Anderson County. It was also the third straight victory for the Lady Cats as they remained perfect on the year.

“We were excited to be able to come out and play on our home floor, have our home opener on a Friday night,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “These three games that we have had to start our schedule have been scrappy and tough and it has been good for us. We are progressing, which has been great. I thought we were better defensively this time around than we were on Tuesday. If we can keep making this progression and keep learning and fixing our mistakes, then I like what this thing can be.”

Foote got the Lady Cats off to their blazing start as she drove to the basket three straight times, including one for a three-point play. She then knocked down a 3-pointer to put Louisburg up 10-0 and the Lady Cats were off and running.

The Lady Cats (3-0) went on to score 16 points in the first quarter and the Louisburg defense held Anderson County to 16 total points in the first half.

“We knew by looking on film that we wanted to get downhill early,” Lowry said. “I told Megan before the game that she needed to be the aggressor with the ball and she took it

to heart. It was a great start for us and a great start for her and it was able to get us going.

“I thought our defense was good and our kids are getting tougher. I have challenged them after every game and they are responding. We aren’t there by any means in regards to toughness, but I like where we are going.”

Louisburg forced 34 Anderson County turnovers and the Lady Cats were able to score 22 points off those Bulldog mistakes. The Lady Cats also pulled down 20 offensive rebounds that led to 11 second chance points.

To end the first half, the Lady Cats went on a mini 6-0 run after back-to-back baskets from junior Madilyn Melton. Then sophomore Delaney Wright had a steal and score right before the buzzer to put Louisburg up 31-16 at halftime.



Louisburg senior Haley Cain drives toward the basket Friday against Anderson County.

The Lady Cats saw their lead balloon to 17 late in the third quarter and Anderson County would get no closer than 12.

Foote led the Lady Cats in scoring with 12 points, while Melton also finished in double figures with 11 points, seven rebounds and team-high five steals. Senior Haley Cain finished with nine points, six rebounds and four steals.

Junior Alyse Moore had eight points, a team-high 10 rebounds and four steals. Junior Brooklyn Diederich also

had four steals in the win.

Louisburg will try and make it four straight wins Tuesday when it hosts Frontenac. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

“It is going to be a challenge on Tuesday with Frontenac,” Lowry said. “They are going to be physical and tough.

Our next goal is to be 4-0 and that is what we are shooting for.”

LOU	16	15	11	5 –
47				
AC	10	6	9	
10 – 35				

LOUISBURG (3-0): Megan Foote 5-9 1-2 12; Madilyn Melton 5-13 1-2 11; Haley Cain 3-8 1-2 9; Alyse Moore 4-12 0-1 8; Delaney Wright 2-8 0-0 4; Brooklyn Diederich 1-15 1-4 3; Sydni Keagle 0-2 1-2 1. Totals: 20-67 5-13 47. 3-point field goals: 3, (Cain 2, Foote 1)

Late run sparks Lady Cats in win over Burlington



Louisburg junior Megan Foote races the ball up the court during Tuesday's game at Burlington High School. The Lady Cats picked up their second straight win with a 59-46 win over Burlington.

BURLINGTON – Sometimes it takes just one play to spark a team to go on a game-clinching run, and on Tuesday in Burlington, that spark came from Megan Foote.

The Louisburg junior started what was a big run for the Lady Cats with her aggressive play on both ends of the floor. The rest of the Lady Cats fed off that as they ran away from Burlington in the fourth quarter and left with a 59-46 victory.

Foote took a charge midway through the fourth quarter and then drove to the basket for a score that would break open a close game. Louisburg went on a 12-0 run and the Lady Cats earned their second straight win to start the season.

“Our defense was key during that run, but it really started with Megan’s aggressive attack to the basket,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “We really hadn’t been the aggressor all night, but that seemed to flip a switch mentality-wise. The next thing you know Alyse (Moore) gets a steal and scores and it turned for us. Runs like that normally start with one play and I thought Megan’s drive to the basket did that for us and then we just took off.”

Junior Alyse Moore was another catalyst on both ends of the floor for the Lady Cats. Moore finished with a game-high 22 points, several of which came off steals in transition.

Another junior, Madilyn Melton, also finished in double figures with 18 points and Foote added eight points – six of which came in the Lady Cats' 24-point fourth quarter.

"Alyse played great and she always plays so hard," Lowry said. "Alyse will give you every single ounce that she has and she did that again for us. It was a great performance and I thought Megan was really solid as well. She was good with the basketball for us and I thought she did a great job offensively and defensively."



Junior Madilyn Melton weaves through the Burlington defense for a shot Tuesday.

It was a back and forth game through the first three quarters as the lead changed hands nine times and neither team could pull away. It was the type of game Lowry was expecting.

Burlington is a traditionally good program in Class 3A and the Louisburg coach wasn't expecting anything different this time around.

"This is always a tough place to play, and not to mention that their longtime coach is back now after six-year hiatus," Lowry said. "The last time we faced off against him was in my first

year and it was one of the best games I had been a part of in an 86-84 overtime win. I knew this was going to be a battle and I knew he was going to have his kids ready to go. The kids really responded well.

“The best part of it is we are 2-0 now, but there is still so much stuff we are doing to ourselves and we are going to get better at it. It is a lot nicer to be 2-0 and having those issues, instead of being 0-2.”

Early in the fourth quarter, the Lady Cats found themselves down 40-39 but then came their run. Foote scored four straight points to give Louisburg a three-point lead and then Moore had two steals that led to layups on the other end.

After another bucket from Moore and Melton, Louisburg all of a sudden found itself up 51-40 in about a three minute span. From there, the Lady Cats were able to hold on and secure a big road win.

Louisburg will try for three wins in a row Friday when it hosts Anderson County in its home opener. Tipoff is set for approximately 6 p.m.

“They are going to be good,” Lowry said. “They had young players last year that are juniors this year. They are a good group and it was a battle the first time we played them last year. It will be tough. We have a gauntlet coming up where we face a good Anderson County team, Frontenac is going to be tough and then we finish out

with Piper before the break. We are on our home court though so we are going to defend that place with everything we have.”

LOU	13	14	8	24 -
59				
BUR	14	9	13	10 -
46				

LOUISBURG (2-0): Alyse Moore 22, Madilyn Melton 18, Megan Foote 8, Brooklyn Diederich 6, Delaney Wright 3, Sydni Keagle 2. 3-point field goals: 1, (Diederich)