Lane ready to lead Lady Cats as head basketball coach



Adrianne Lane was hired as the new head girls basketball coach earlier this month and will take over for Shawn Lowry, who was the head coach for the last seven seasons.

Following the resignation of head coach Shawn Lowry in early February, Adrianne Lane made her way to the bench for the Louisburg girls basketball team to fill in as an assistant coach.

As it turns out, Lane is going to stay there – but in a bigger role.

During the USD 416 Board of Education meeting on March 9, Lane was officially hired to be Louisburg's new head girls basketball coach and will replace Lowry, who spent the last seven seasons guiding the Lady Cats.

"I am very honored to be offered this position at LHS," Lane said. "The timing of this opportunity is perfect for me and my family, and I am so thankful to be asked to step into such a valued position. After coaching the seventh grade girls the past two seasons, I am super excited to get back into coaching

at the high school level again.”

Lane came to Louisburg after coaching and teaching for several years at Drexel (Mo.) High School. She served as the Drexel head girls coach from 2006 to 2012 and was able to capture a lot success.

She posted a 90-36 record during her time with the Drexel program and coached in two Missouri all-star games. Before that time, she served as a junior varsity coach during the 2003-04 season at Piper High School.

Lane has been the business teacher at Louisburg High School for three years and has spent the last two seasons as the LMS seventh-grade girls coach. She also was an assistant coach for the LHS softball team for one season.

In 2020, Lane was an assistant for interim coach Leanna Willer and Willer will return as the junior varsity coach next season.

“Being asked to help this season I do feel will benefit me in the future,” Lane said. “I got to know the girls on a coach/player level and not just teacher/student level and I believe these relationships will make the transition into next season easier. When I was asked to step in and help, I felt very honored that the assistant coaches trusted me and my basketball knowledge.”

Even though the season is still months away, Lane is excited to get started with her new team over the summer as she begins to put her fingerprints

on the program.

“I
would say my coaching style is aggressive,” Lane said. “I like to play man-to-man
defense if possible and run the court. Defenses will change depending on
the team we are playing, but every defense we run will be based on man to man
principles.

“As for offense, I feel that all offenses should be based around a team’s personnel. We will run the court on offense when we can, and we will try and be aggressive on the offensive boards. I believe in the big 4: defense, rebounding, transition and free throws. If we can do these four things, we can be successful as a team. I have high expectations for my players and I will expect them to work hard on and off the court.”

Lady Cats place three on All-Frontier League basketball team



Louisburg junior Madilyn Melton earned second team All-Frontier League honors with the team was released late last

week. She was one of three Lady Cats to be awarded recognition.

In a year that saw three teams from the same league go to the state tournament, the 2019-20 version of the Frontier League was a very difficult one.

Eudora, Piper and Baldwin all advanced to the state tournament and Piper earned a spot in the Class 4A final four. Although the Louisburg girls basketball team didn't have the season it was hoping for with an 8-13 record, the Lady Cats were still recognized by the area coaches.

Three Louisburg players were named to the All-Frontier League basketball team when it was released late last week. Junior Madilyn Melton was awarded second team honors, while juniors Alyse Moore and Brooklyn Diederich were named to the honorable mention squad.

"Given the up and down season that we had, I think we were definitely well-represented on the all-league teams," Louisburg interim coach Leanna Willer said. "The Frontier League is extremely strong, especially in girls' basketball. We have some true basketball talent in our league, and I was glad to see that other coaches and schools recognize what these three brought to the court this year.

“We are so proud of all three of these girls and we’re very excited to have all three of them returning next year. They are very deserving of this recognition.”

Melton had a big year for the Lady Cats at the forward spot as she led Louisburg in scoring at 13.3 points a game and finished with 7.1 rebounds a contest. She also averaged two steals and 1.3 blocks a game.



Junior Alyse Moore was named to the honorable mention team after leading the Lady Cats in rebounding.

“Madilyn finished the season very strong for us,” Willer said. “She was

our clear
leading scorer, but she also stepped up her rebounding and defensive game to
become very valuable on both ends of the floor. At the beginning of the season,
we were looking for her to have a big year, and I believe she expected the same
of herself.

“Madilyn
had a bit of a tough time getting to the rim toward the beginning of the year,
but she started to learn to be more physical and find ways to score. Teams
recognize that she is the player to stop when they play us, but her skill and
experience help her overcome.”

Moore
also had a strong season for Louisburg as she led the team in rebounding with
nearly eight a game to go along with nearly three steals a contest. She also averaged 8.9 points a game.



Junior Brooklyn Diederich was the team's leading 3-point shooter and was awarded honorable mention all-league status.

As
for Diederich, she finished the season with an average of 6 points a game and a
team-high 29 3-pointerse, but she also led the Lady Cats on defense. She
recorded a team-high 5.7 deflections and 1.7 steals a game.

"Alyse
is the type of player who gives 100 percent effort, 100 percent of the time,"
Willer said. "She goes full speed and refuses to give less. She would run
through a brick wall for her teammates only to get back up and do it again. On
the court, Alyse is physical and leads the team in rebounds

and steals. Her speed and physicality allowed us to play the type of defense we wanted and additionally, Alyse was our second leading scorer this season – a huge asset on both offense and defense.

"Brooklyn is one of those girls that just has a nose for the ball. She may be small, but she covers more court than anyone else and leads the team in deflections. If there's a chance, Brooklyn will get a hand on the ball. Brooklyn plays like the energizer bunny – she just doesn't quit. She was our third leading scorer and a person we want out there on the floor. We know she will play smart, give the effort that we need, and take care of the basketball."

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE GIRLS BASKETBALL

First Team

Evelyn Vazquez, Piper, junior

Harper Schreiner, Eudora, sophomore

Alli Frank, Spring Hill, junior

Josie Boyle, Baldwin, senior

Riley Hiebert, Eudora, senior

Trinity McDow, Paola, senior

Kim Whetstone, Bonner Springs, senior

Second Team

Grace Barnes, Piper, senior

Ayreona Carter, Piper, senior

Madilyn Melton, Louisburg, junior

Anna Burnett, Baldwin, senior

Reagan Hiebert, Eudora, senior

Honorable Mention

Lauren Gray, Tonganoxie, senior

Sophia Ficken, Ottawa, sophomore

Kirsten Evans, Ottawa, sophomore

Jenna Harvey, Baldwin, junior

Kate Ediger, Paola, sophomore

Alyse Moore, Louisburg, junior

Brooklyn Diederich, Louisburg, junior

Inspired effort nearly gives Lady Cats upset of Baldwin



Louisburg senior Haley Cain goes up for a jumper during the team's game with Baldwin on Tuesday at Baldwin High School.

BALDWIN CITY – When it was all said and done, the Louisburg girls basketball walked off the court for the final time this season following a 44-32 loss to Baldwin Tuesday in the Class 4A sub-state semifinals.

There was obvious disappointment for the Lady Cats following the defeat, but the setback didn't deter from what was one of their best performances of the season – especially on the defensive end of the floor.

Louisburg held Baldwin to 28 percent from the floor and forced 19 turnovers as it was a tight game until the final minute.

Baldwin would go on to defeat No. 4 Labette County on Friday in the sub-state championship and the Bulldogs will join fellow Frontier League members Eudora and Piper in the state tournament this week.

"We are so proud of these girls and how they showed tremendous resilience

throughout that game," Louisburg coach Leanna Willer said. "It would have been easy for the girls to see themselves as underdogs and let the game get away from them, but they fought every step of the way. I believe it showed everyone just how much heart and soul this team can play with when we truly play together."

The Lady Cats (8-13) got up on the Bulldogs early as they took a 10-6 lead at the end of the first quarter thanks to a 3-pointer from Brooklyn Diederich and a basket from Madilyn Melton in the final minute to give them some momentum.

Louisburg's offense cooled in the second quarter as it managed three points, but the Lady Cats still found themselves down just five at halftime – thanks in part to their defense. Louisburg was active defensively as they recorded 33 deflections to go along with 12 steals and four blocks in the game.

"Our defensive effort was huge," Willer said. "We are not a team that tends to score a lot of points, so maintaining a strong defense and holding the other team to a low score was ideal. We had all kinds of players making big plays – getting steals, deflections, applying ball pressure, fronting their post, etc. It was a solid team effort and we worked really well together. Communication stepped up as well, and that energy carried us through our comeback in

the fourth quarter.”

That comeback seemed to give the Lady Cats, who were the No. 12 seed coming into the tournament, a chance for an upset and a spot in the championship game.

Down 23-18 going into the fourth quarter, junior Alyse Moore hit a pair of free throw and Melton connected on a basket to cut the lead to one. Baldwin knocked down a shot to go back up three, but after a Delaney Wright made free throw, junior Megan Foote knocked down a 3-pointer to give Louisburg a 26-25 lead midway through the frame.



The Louisburg girls basketball team leaps off the bench after Megan Foote hit a 3-pointer to give the Lady Cats the lead in the fourth quarter.

Unfortunately for the Lady Cats, Baldwin answered with a 3-pointer of its

own to take the lead back. The Bulldogs would go on to make 12 of 14 free throws down the stretch to ice the game and the Lady Cats didn’t have a chance to catch up.

“We’ll give credit where credit is due – Baldwin was extremely good from the free-throw line that night, especially during the fourth quarter,” Willer said. “Fouling was the only way for us to stop the clock toward the end, and they were just solid – we couldn’t catch a break. We always say that free throws win games, and Baldwin’s girls did an excellent job.”

Melton scored a bulk of the Lady Cats’ points as she finished with a team-high 18 points to go along with nine rebounds and two steals. Diederich was next on the team in scoring with six points, but was also active defensively with a team-high 11 deflections and Foote also had 10 of her own. Both players also had three steals.

Moore was second on the team with seven rebounds, while Wright had five deflections, a steal and a block.

Although, the Lady Cats came up short, Willer was excited to see her team’s effort in what was team’s most important game of the year.

“This season has definitely been a roller coaster filled with many

ups and downs," she said. "It's been an emotional ride for all of us, but I
think we finally saw during that last game how truly special this team could
be. We battled through so many tough moments and I believe we are all stronger
for it. It has been a truly unforgettable year that I won't soon forget. I am so
proud of the determination our team had to finish out the season strong."

LOU	**10**	**3**	**5**	**14 – 32**
BAL	**6**	**12**	**5**	**21 – 44**

LOUISBURG (8-13): Madilyn Melton
6-14 6-9 18; Brooklyn Diederich 2-10 0-0 6; Alyse Moore 1-6 2-2 4; Megan Foote
1-3 0-0 3; Delaney Wright 0-6 1-2 1. Totals: 10-46 9-14 32. 3-point field
goals: 3, (Diederich 2, Foote)

Lady Cats fall to Paola in regular season finale



Sophomore Delaney Wright goes up for a shot against Paola during a game earlier this season. The Lady Cats fell to the Panthers on Friday, 46-35.

PAOLA – After losing in the final seconds last time it squared off with Paola, the Louisburg girls basketball team was hoping to return the favor when the Lady Cats traveled to Paola.

Unfortunately, a slow start cost the Lady Cats and they weren't able to recover in a 46-35 loss Friday to the Panthers and they ended their regular season with an 8-12 record. Despite a rough first quarter, Louisburg went on to outscore Paola in the next two frames as it continued to try and chip away at the lead.

"I feel like the girls played very hard, and they fought until the end," coach Leanna Willer said. "We were very proud of the team and how we battled. We never hung our heads or gave up whatsoever."

Paola jumped out to a big lead as it outscored Louisburg 15-5 in the opening quarter and the Lady Cats tried to battle back. Louisburg leaned on junior Madilyn Melton to help get them there.

Melton scored a game-high 16 points to go along with six rebounds in the loss, including an 8-for-11 performance from the free-throw line.

Junior Megan Foote had a team-high five steals to go along with five rebounds and junior

Alyse Moore had a team-high eight boards. Another junior, Brooklyn Diederich, had a team-best four assists.

The Lady Cat defense also improved in the second half as it held Paola to 20 points in the final two quarters. Trinity McDow led Paola in scoring with 19 points and Brayden Hanf also scored in double figures with 12.

“Without that 10 point spread in the first quarter, we are looking at a very different ball game,” Willer said. “From that point on, we played pretty much even with them, and we actually won the second and third quarters. We definitely saw a lot of positives in that game.

“First of all, I think Madilyn played a great game for us – she got to the rim and the free throw line, which is exactly what we needed from her. I think our defense stepped up in the second half and took them out of their element. Delaney Wright played a huge role in that as she guarded McDow and limited her touches in the second half. I also think we did a much better job moving the ball around on offense and being patient on that end of the floor. It took us a bit to settle into it, but once we did, we started getting the looks we wanted and creating more opportunities for success.”

Louisburg

is hoping some of those positives carry over into the postseason. The Lady
Cats, who are ranked No. 12 in the Class 4A East playoffs, will travel to No. 5
Baldwin tonight for the sub-state semifinals. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

The winner of that game will play
the winner of No. 4 Labette County and No. 13 Atchison on Friday evening for
the sub-state championship.

“We are very excited heading into sub-state, and it’s always nice
to start the postseason with a clean slate,” Willer said. ‘Wins, losses, record
– none of that matters now. Each team comes in at 0-0 and anything can happen.
We are geared up and ready to go for what will inevitably be a tough battle. It’s
now or never.”

LOU	**5**	**12**	**9**	**9 – 35**
PAO	**15**	**11**	**8**	**12 – 46**

LOUISBURG (8-12): Madilyn Melton
4-10 8-11 16; Brooklyn Diederich 2-6 0-0 5; Delaney Wright 2-7 0-1 4; Alyse
Moore 1-6 1-6 3; Megan Foote 0-3 3-6 3; Brianne Kuhlman 1-1 0-0 2; Haley Cain
1-6 0-2 2. Totals: 11-39 12-26 35. 3-point field goals: 1, (Diederich)

Lady Cats defeat Metro Academy in final home game



Louisburg junior Madilyn Melton goes to the basket for two points Tuesday during the Lady Cats' home game against Metro Academy.

It had been a couple weeks since the Louisburg girls basketball team was able to find the win column, but the Lady Cats picked a good time for that to happen again.

Louisburg hosted Metro Academy on Tuesday in its home finale and the Lady Cats were able to snap a losing streak with a 45-36 victory over the Mavericks. The Lady Cats picked up a big win heading into its final regular season game with Paola.

"Tuesday's win was much needed," coach Leanna Willer said. "We have been working really hard to continue to get better every day, so it was nice to see that get rewarded on the scoreboard Tuesday night. It wasn't always pretty, and we are definitely working on cleaning things up a bit at practice

this week, but it
felt good to be back on the positive side of the outcome.”

The
Lady Cats (8-11) used its defense to come out on top as they held Metro Academy
to just 11 first half points and forced 18 total turnovers. Louisburg was able
to turn those mistakes into 17 points, which turned out to be vital in its
nine-point win.

Metro
Academy came alive offensively in the fourth quarter with 16 points, but the
Lady Cats built enough of a lead to win comfortably.

Junior Brooklyn Diederich led the Lady Cat defense with nine deflections and three steals, while junior Megan Foote had five deflections and two steals. Sophomore Delaney Wright also caused a lot of pressure at the front of that pressure defense.

“I
thought our defense started out really strong, especially during the first
half,” Willer said. “We kept them out of an offensive rhythm and made them
uncomfortable with our full court pressure. I think our defense got a
little tired toward the end, and we allowed them to come back and score
more points than we would have hoped, but we have been working hard on defense
and rebounding all week long to keep improving. Our defensive pressure converts
into offensive energy and points, so it’s always great to start off that way.”

Junior
Madilyn Melton continued her strong play with one of her best games of the
season to lead the way. Melton scored a team-high 18 points to go along with
four rebounds.



Louisburg junior Brooklyn Diederich drives to the basket on a Metro Academy defender Tuesday.

Fellow
junior Alyse Moore also scored in double figures with 10 points and senior
Haley Cain had a team-high six rebounds in the win. However, it all started on
the inside with Melton.

“Madilyn

has been playing very well these last few games," Willer said. "We continue to look for ways to get her the ball, whether inside the paint or on the perimeter. She has taken on the workload very well and she is working hard to try new moves and positions.

"Madilyn has also done a much better job of recognizing when she needs to take the ball to the rack and when she should kick it back out to a teammate – this opens a lot of things up for the rest of the team and creates more opportunities for our offense to be successful."

The Lady Cats' offense got kick-started in the second half. Louisburg built a double-figure lead to start the third quarter on a 3-pointer from senior Sydni Keagle and then built a 14-point advantage going into the fourth to all but seal the win.

Louisburg will try and finish out its season with two straight wins Friday when it travels to Paola for its regular season finale. The Panthers beat the Lady Cats earlier in the year on a last-second shot and Louisburg is hoping for a revenge win of its own.

"We are very much looking forward to have another shot at Paola," Willer said. "When

we first played this season, our heads were all over the place. We fought hard,
but lost a heartbreaker in the end. Going into tomorrow’s game, we are feeling
much more confident in the work we’ve put in both on and off the court to be
the best team we can be. May the best team win.”

LOU	**13**	**5**	**16**	**11 — 45**
MA	**8**	**3**	**9**	**16 — 36**

LOUISBURG (8-11): Madilyn Melton
7-11 3-3 18; Alyse Moore 3-9 4-8 10; Megan Foote 1-1 3-5 6; Delaney Wright 1-5
0-0 3; Haley Cain 1-3 0-0 3; Sydni Keagle 1-2 0-0 2; Brooklyn Diederich 1-9 0-0
2. Totals: 15-40 10-16 45. 3-point field goals: 5, (Wright, Cain, Melton,
Keagle, Foote)

Bonner Springs rallies to beat Louisburg in final minute



Junior Alyse Moore puts up a runner in the lane Friday during the Lady Cats' game with Bonner Springs at Bonner Springs High School.

BONNER SPRINGS – The Louisburg girls basketball team was within minutes of picking up a road win and snapping a mini losing streak.

Bonner Springs, however, had different ideas.

The Braves closed the game with 10 straight points and handed the Lady Cats a 43-39 loss Friday at Bonner Springs High School. It was the third straight loss for the Lady Cats as they head into the final week of the regular season.

"It was a tough loss for sure," coach Leanna Willer said. "We were ahead the whole game, but just couldn't finish it out as a team in those final minutes. We were all disappointed, especially because we knew that was a winnable game for us. However, we'll give credit to Bonner Springs – they fought back hard to come out on top in the end."

Louisburg (7-11) held the lead from early in the second quarter until

late in the fourth.
The Lady Cats built an eight-point lead on a couple different occasions,
including early in the fourth quarter, but the Braves made one final push.

After Louisburg senior Haley Cain scored on an offensive rebound to put the Lady Cats up 38-31, Bonner Springs finished the game on a 12-1 run. The Braves tied the game with 58 seconds remaining and then took the lead a few moments later on a basket from Kim Whetstone.

It
was Whetstone that caused the Lady Cats the most problems. She finished with a
game-high 20 points, many of which came in the Braves' 20-point fourth quarter,
and also added 13 rebounds.

Louisburg
had a couple different opportunities to either tie the game, or take the lead
back, but either the shots wouldn't fall or the Braves forced a turnover. The
Lady Cats also struggled at the free-throw line as they were 3-for-13 for the
contest.

The
game was a back-and-forth affair early on as the lead changed hands eight times
through the early part of the second quarter, but Louisburg junior Madilyn
Melton helped build the Lady Cats' lead. She scored 14 points from the second
quarter to the early part of the fourth that helped give Louisburg a nine-point
lead at the time.



Freshman Adyson Ross pulls up for a jumper Friday against Bonner Springs.

Melton
finished with a team-high 16 points to go along with eight rebounds and three
blocked shots. Junior Alyse Moore was next on the team in scoring with seven
points and six rebounds.

Junior Megan Foote led the Lady Cats with eight assists and had seven rebounds. Another junior, Brooklyn Diederich, had a team-high nine deflections and Foote added six. Sophomore Delaney Wright was second on the team with four assists and had a team-high two steals.

“I thought we did a much better job offensively being patient and moving the ball around to get the looks we wanted,” Willer said. “I think we also saw a glimpse of the potential that this team truly has to be great. We are so close to flipping that switch and being a really great team. At this point, we’re our own worst enemy. If we can figure out how to take care of things on our end and play as a team, we’ll be tough to beat.”

Louisburg will try and bounce back tonight when it hosts Metro Academy in its final home game. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

LOU	**8**	**12**	**8**	**11 – 39**
BON	**10**	**6**	**7**	**20 – 43**

LOUISBURG (7-11): Madilyn Melton 8-13 0-4 16; Alyse Moore 3-11 0-2 7; Brooklyn Diederich 2-8 0-0 6; Megan Foote 1-5 2-4 5; Haley Cain 1-3 0-0 2; Adyson Ross 1-1 0-0 2; Delaney Wright 0-5 1-3 1. Totals: 16-49 3-13 39. 3-point field goals: 4, (Diederich 2, Moore, Foote)

Aye provides memorable moment in Senior Night loss to Eudora



Louisburg senior Shayla Aye makes her first varsity basket as her teammates look on during Tuesday's game against Eudora. Aye, who serves as the team's manager, suited up for the first time on Senior Night.

If you are a Louisburg fan, the game itself between the Lady Cats and No. 4-ranked Eudora didn't leave a lot to cheer about.

The Cardinals showed why they are one of the best teams in Class 4A as they defeated the Lady Cats, 56-33.
Despite that, the Lady Cats left the floor with a lot of smiles on their faces and there was one big reason why.

Tuesday was Senior Night for the Lady Cats as they honored senior players Haley Cain and Sydni Keagle, along with manager Shayla Aye.

Aye, who has been in charge of the team's camera the last few years, had a chance to suit up for the first time.
So late in the fourth quarter, she made her way to the

scorer’s table to check in.

What came after was something many of the Lady Cat players will never forget.

Aye stole the ball and dribbled down the court in the game’s final seconds, and after a couple missed shots, scored her first varsity basket as the LHS gymnasium erupted.

“Shayla has to be one of the most positive people on the planet,” coach Leanna Willer said. “She smiles constantly and brings such a positive energy and light into any room. We have absolutely loved having Shayla be part of our program over the years, and she earned her right to put on that uniform for senior night.

“At the end of the game, we were going to do whatever we could to get Shayla the ball and the opportunity to score. It was truly an incredible moment, and I’m so glad we got to share it together. Shout out to the Eudora coaching staff and players – they were true class acts and cheered for her just as much as we did.”

It was also a chance to recognize Cain and Keagle for their efforts with the program and both players were honored following the game along with their parents. Both players started the game for the Lady Cats and Aye was named as an honorable starter.



Louisburg senior Sydni Keagle (left) battles for the opening tip Tuesday against Eudora.

"It's difficult to even put into words what Haley and Sydni have meant to this program," Willer said. "They have been awesome leaders, and are incredible young women. Although roles have changed for each of them over the years, they are completely unselfish and have been willing to do whatever is best for the team. These two are true team players and their teammates

trust them wholeheartedly as they lead by example.

“There is no hiding the fact that they are not leading the team in points, rebounds, or even minutes, but they make the biggest impact when it comes to the intangibles. We can always count on them to give their all and hold teammates accountable while being the glue holding our team together. Personally, I do not know what I would have done without these two this year. They will be greatly missed next year.”

As for the game itself, Eudora took control of the game early as it scored the game’s first 15 points and took a 31-11 halftime lead.

It was a closer game in the second half and Louisburg (7-10) found a little more of a rhythm offensively, but the Cardinals scored 17 points in the third quarter to all but seal the win.

Junior Madilyn Melton led Louisburg in scoring with 14 points, while sophomore Delaney Wright and junior Alyse Moore each finished with seven. Moore also had a team-high seven rebounds and three steals. Cain also had six rebounds to help lead the Lady Cats and Keagle had four.

Louisburg will try and bounce back tonight when it travels to Bonner Springs for a league game.

Tipoff is set for
6 p.m.

LOU	**4**	**7**	**11**	**11 – 33**
EUD	**19**	**12**	**17**	**8 – 56**

LOUISBURG (7-10): Madilyn Melton
6-7 2-2 14; Delaney Wright 2-8 1-2 7; Alyse Moore 2-4 3-5 7; Brooklyn Diederich
1-5 0-0 2; Shayla Aye 1-6 0-0 2. Totals: 12-39 6-9 33. 3-point field goals: 3,
(Wright 2, Diederich)

Lady Cats fall to Spring Hill on homecoming



Louisburg senior Haley Cain reaches out to catch a pass near the basket Friday against Spring Hill at Louisburg High School.

The Louisburg girls basketball
team was hoping the third time was the charm Friday against Spring Hill.

The Lady Cats, who have already split a pair of games with the Broncos earlier this season, had a chance to win that deciding third game at home during homecoming. Unfortunately, Louisburg wasn't able to slow down Spring Hill, especially in the second half, as the Lady Cats fell, 44-31.

"Our girls competed hard and gave a great effort," Louisburg interim coach Leanna Willer said. "Unfortunately, we weren't able to convert much of our effort into points. We were getting the opportunities we wanted, but we are going to have to continue working on finishing those plays."

Spring Hill junior Alli Frank gave the Lady Cats problems much of the night as she accounted for more than half of her team's points. Frank finished with a game-high 23 points and also pulled down seven rebounds.

Frank provided a lot of those points in the second half where the Broncos outscored the Lady Cats, 25-12, after Louisburg trailed by just one point at halftime.

Louisburg (7-9), which found itself tied 12-all at the end of the first quarter, saw it offensive production start to dwindle. The Lady Cats had trouble scoring over the Spring Hill zone defense as they packed it in and they weren't able to score inside.

"Spring

Hill’s defense is definitely tough,” Willer said. “They pack into the lane
very well and collapse on any ball that gets inside. We knew this would be the
case and looked to score from the outside to open up some opportunities for our
bigs in the lane.”

The
Lady Cats knocked down just two 3-pointers on the night, so it made it
difficult for them to get the looks they were wanting inside.



Junior Madilyn Melton goes up for a rebound Friday against Spring Hill.

Junior Madilyn Melton tried to create on the inside for Louisburg and scored a team-high 13 points to go along with nine rebounds, four steals and three blocks. Junior Alyse Moore pulled down a team-high 10 rebounds and also tied Melton with four steals.

Spring Hill held just one a point lead going into halftime, but the Broncos pulled away and eventually built a 15-point lead in the fourth quarter to pull away.

Louisburg will face another tough opponent tonight as it hosts No. 4 Eudora on Senior Night as the Lady Cats honor senior players Haley Cain and Sydni Keagle. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

“We are focusing on one possession at a time, within one game at a time, starting with Eudora tonight,” Willer said. “Each day at practice is a clean slate and brand new opportunity to put in the work to get better. We all know that we have had our ups and downs this season, but none of that really matters when we step out onto the floor. The score will always start at 0-0 and we will have to earn everything we get. We are looking to finish this regular season on a high note headed into sub-state.”

LOU	**12**	**6**	**6**	**7 – 31**
SH	**12**	**7**	**12**	**13 – 44**

LOUISBURG (7-9): Madilyn Melton
5-10 2-3 13; Alyse Moore 1-5 4-9 6; Brooklyn Diederich 2-10 0-0 5; Adyson Ross
2-3 1-2 5; Haley Cain 1-2 0-0 2. Totals: 11-43 7-14 31. 3-point field goals: 2,
(Diederich, Melton)

Lady Cats snap losing skid with road win over Ottawa



Sophomore Delaney Wright drives past an Ottawa defender Friday during the Lady Cats' win over the Cyclones.

OTTAWA – It had been awhile since
the Louisburg girls basketball team had tasted victory and the Lady Cats were
becoming more and more frustrated.

They decided to take all that
frustration out on Friday.

Louisburg held Ottawa to just seven first half points and the Lady Cats ran away with it from the opening tip as they snapped their six-game losing streak with a 41-24 win over the Cyclones at Ottawa High School.

“It was so much fun to see the girls smiling and having fun out on the court together, and it was even better to come out on top,” interim coach Leanna Willer said. “We all just had a great time as a team. Even when mistakes were made, no one got down on themselves and we were able to maintain a high energy throughout the entire game.”

The Lady Cats (7-8) were able to pull away thanks to their defense as they held Ottawa to just 18 percent from the field and forced 23 turnovers in the process.

Freshman Adyson Ross, who started in place of Megan Foote and was out with an illness, led the team with three steals. Junior Alyse Moore and senior Haley Cain both added two steals each. Those Cyclone mistakes led to 18 points off turnovers.

“Our defense definitely set the tone for us coming out,” Willer said. “It’s always nice to have some defensive plays that turn into offensive or transition points, and we were able to get our hands on a lot of balls and keep them out of a rhythm on offense.

“We did a much better job of moving on the flight of the ball instead of reacting, and I think we realized how much that

helps us stay active
and engaged. Our rebounding also improved from earlier in the week, which was
nice to see as we emphasized it during practice.”



Louisburg freshman Adyson Ross pulls down a rebound Friday against Ottawa.

Louisburg sophomore Delaney Wright got the Lady Cats started strong with five straight points to start the game and junior Brooklyn
Diederich ended the first quarter with five points of her own to give them a
12-3 lead.

The Lady Cats did much of the same in the second quarter as they
outscored the Cyclones 13-4 and led 25-7 at halftime.

Diederich led Louisburg in scoring with 10 points and also had a
team-high six deflections. Junior Madilyn Melton also had nine points in the
win to go along with three blocks.

Moore finished with a team-high seven rebounds, while Wright had
seven points and a team-best three assists.

Louisburg will try for back-to-back wins Friday when it hosts Spring Hill for homecoming. Willer believes this game can give the team
confidence going into the final stretch of the season.

“This game was a huge step for us in terms of confidence and team chemistry,” Willer said. “We are really looking forward to practices
focused on ourselves and doing the little things right for the remainder of the
season. Our main goal is to focus on one game at a time, not worrying about the
rest. We want to take care of business by playing our best game.”

LOU	**12**	**13**	**6**	**10 — 41**
OTT	**3**	**4**	**8**	**9 — 24**

LOUISBURG (7-8): Brooklyn
Diederich 4-8 0-0 10; Madilyn Melton 4-6 1-1 9; Delaney Wright 2-6 2-7 7; Haley
Cain 1-3 2-2 5; Alyse Moore 1-5 2-5 4; Adyson Ross 1-2 0-0 2; Jordan Mynsted
0-1 2-4 2; Sydni Keagle 0-0 2-4 2. Totals: 13-33 11-23 41. 3-point field goals:
4, (Diederich 2, Wright, Cain)

Lady Cats lose in final seconds to Paola



Senior Brooklyn Diederich releases a shot between two Paola defenders Tuesday at Louisburg High School.

It wasn't the best start to the week for the Louisburg girls basketball team that began with the resignation of their coach and was followed up with a road loss to Eudora on the same day.

Despite all that, the Lady Cats found themselves up on rival Paola with just seconds to play on their home floor Tuesday. Instead, the Panthers made their week just a little bit worse.

Paola's Brayden Hanf knocked down a go-ahead 3-pointer with just 1.2 seconds left to hand Louisburg a 39-38 loss.
Despite all the struggles, the Lady Cats are keeping a positive frame of mind.

"Of course this was a tough loss for the girls, no one likes losing a rivalry game," Louisburg interim coach Leanna Willer said. "After how hard they battled, losing on a shot in the final seconds felt

like getting
punched in the gut. That being said, I think the girls are already looking
forward to playing them again in a couple of weeks on Paola's home floor. They
came to practice Wednesday morning ready to put in work and get better together."

On Monday, the Lady Cats were informed their head coach, Shawn Lowry, turned in his resignation and Willer will lead the varsity squad
for the rest of the season. It was a shock to a lot of the players.

Although it has still not worn off for some of them, they are all trying to move forward and finish the season on a positive note.

"This is not a natural or easy transition for anyone, and we all
know that we have a tough road ahead," Willer said. "It's tough to lose such an
amazing coach in Coach Lowry. Over the last couple of years I have learned so
much, not only about basketball, but leading and coaching in general as he took
it upon himself to take both me and coach (Nick) Chapman under his wing. He
cares so deeply for each of the girls in the program (past, present, and
future), and that is what makes it so difficult to see him go.

"We have a wide range of emotions about the situation on our team right now, but I have been impressed with how much they want to move
forward, play for each other, and finish out the season strong. As a team, we

are excited to be able to have the chance to practice together and figure some
things out about ourselves. We will all make mistakes, but we will make them
giving 100 percent effort and dedication.”

Louisburg (6-8) got out to a good start as the Lady Cats took a
17-9 lead at the end of the first quarter, and although Paola whittled away at
it, they were still on top 22-19 at halftime.

It was a close game the rest of the way and Paola took a 36-33 lead early in the fourth quarter. The Lady Cats came right back as Delaney
Wright knocked down a jumper to cut it to one, then Alyse Moore hit a 3-pointer
with 3 minutes and 45 seconds left to give Louisburg a 38-36 lead.



Senior Haley Cain puts up a shot during the Lady Cats' game with Paola on Tuesday.

The score stayed that way till the end when the Panthers found Hanf in the right corner on an inbound pass and her 3-pointer rolled in to give
Paola a one-point lead with 1.2 seconds left.

Louisburg had one final opportunity as Moore heaved the ball down the floor and found an open Brooklyn Diederich behind the 3-point line.
Diederich squared up for the shot, but Paola's Macaela Garrett quickly got over
to her to knock the ball away as time expired.

“I am so proud of how the girls responded after the Eudora game on Monday,” Willer said. “It would have been easy to hang their heads and let Paola come get an easy win, but our team showed up ready to fight. I think that was pretty apparent with our energy in that first quarter. The girls played a great game and fought for each opportunity they got. Our shots weren’t always falling, but we were getting good looks just like we wanted. We even gave ourselves a chance in that last 1.2 seconds on an incredible throw from Alyse, which is all we could have hoped for in that situation.

“Naturally, we would like to clean up a few things as well. We need to take better care of the basketball and rebound, but we played from the heart and took pride in the fact that we are Louisburg.”

Madilyn Melton led Louisburg in scoring with 12 points to go along with five rebounds. Moore also scored in double figures with 10 points and pulled down nine rebounds.

Wright led the Lady Cats defensively as she recorded a team-high six steals and also had five rebounds.

The Lady Cats will try and bounce back tonight when they travel to

Ottawa for
another Frontier League matchup. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

LOU	**17**	**5**	**11**	**5 – 38**
PAO	**9**	**10**	**12**	**8 – 39**

LOUISBURG (6-8): Madilyn Melton
5-10 2-3 12; Alyse Moore 3-9 2-2 10; Brooklyn Diederich 3-9 0-0 8; Delaney
Wright 2-10 0-0 4; Haley Cain 1-3 0-0 2; Adyson Ross 1-3 0-0 2. Totals: 15-46
4-5 38. 3-point field goals: 4, (Diederich 2, Moore 2)

Lady Cats fall to No. 6 Eudora

It wasn’t going to be easy when
Louisburg traveled to Eudora – a team that is currently ranked No. 6 in Class
4A.

The Cardinals certainly didn’t
make it easy on them as they defeated Louisburg, 47-17, on Monday at Eudora High
School.

Madilyn Melton had eight points and
eight rebounds to lead Louisburg.

Eudora took a 19-5 lead at the end
of the first quarter and led 29-9 to halftime to pull away from the Lady Cats.

LOU	**5**	**4**	**5**	**3 – 17**
EUD	**18**	**10**	**16**	**2 – 47**

LOUISBURG: Madilyn Melton 3-6 2-4
8; Alyse Moore 2-8 1-2 5; Brooklyn Diederich 1-2 0-0 3; Megan
Foote 0-1 1-2 1.
Totals: 6-26 4-8 17. 3-point field goals: 1, (Diederich)