Alyse Moore named 2021 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year



Success has seemed to follow Alyse Moore wherever she goes.

It isn’t by chance, however – Moore has made her own luck.

Whether it was helping the Louisburg girls basketball team to its best finish in school history, eclipsing the 500 rebound plateau or earning a state medal and breaking the school record in the javelin, Moore had a big year for Wildcat athletics.

Those were just some of the reasons Moore was named the 2021 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year.

“It means everything to me to be honored as the Female Athlete of the Year,” Moore said. “I am super thankful to have gotten the opportunity to be an athlete at Louisburg and it is great to be able to be rewarded for that.”

Moore began the school year as the starting outside hitter for the Louisburg volleyball team and ended as an honorable mention All-Frontier League player.

She was second on the Lady Cats with 174 kills and also played well on defense as she was second on the team with 195 digs. She also had 19 aces.



“Alyse is an extremely hard worker and was a joy to coach for four years,” former Louisburg volleyball coach Jessica Compliment said. “Her hard work and leadership paid off as a multi-sport athlete, and I enjoyed seeing her excel in each sport. She had a way of bringing out the best in her teammates and pushed herself and her teammates to be the best they could be. Alyse is very deserving of this award, and I am very happy for her.”

On the basketball court, Moore made an even bigger impact as she helped the Lady Cats to a third place finish at the Class 4A state tournament, which the program’s best finish in school history. It was also the first state appearance for the program in 47 years.

Along with eclipsing the 500 career rebound mark, Moore was also an honorable mention all-league player. She led Louisburg

in rebounding with 8.6 boards a game to go along with 7.3 points and 1.7 steals.

She also earned honorable mention all-state honors from Sports in Kansas and the Wichita Eagle.

“Alyse is very talented in several different sports, but I feel Alyse is deserving because of her hard work and effort,” Louisburg basketball coach Adrianne Lane said. “No matter what season, Alyse would work hard and contribute to her team. It was an honor coaching Alyse in basketball. She would do whatever the team needed to win and she set a great example for everyone with her effort in practice and her positive attitude.”



It was that tournament run that stuck out to Moore the most and it was a time she will never forget.

“I would have to say my all time favorite memory from this year was the Labette County game that brought us to Salina,” Moore said of the team’s state quarterfinal win. “I have never played in such a loud and fun environment and I am so lucky to have been able to have that experience and get to be in the final four with all of my best friends. I will remember that moment for the rest of my life.”

That success continued over to the javelin as Moore recorded her state straight state medal in the event as she finished fourth. In the process, Moore also broke a 20-year-old school record with a throw of 149 feet.

Next season, Moore will throw for the University of Kansas track and field team as she continues to try and improve in an event she just started trying three years ago.

“Alyse is an amazing student-athlete,” Louisburg girls track coach John Reece said. “She has a great work ethic and that carries over into competition and her leadership as a teammate. She was always willing to put in the extra time needed to make herself even better. This showed with her breaking a longtime javelin record and competing on the big stage at the state meet.

“Since having her in the classroom to now, she has held a high standard for herself and has achieved great things. She will be an asset at the next level and I expect to read about her doing great things in the future.”



Moore also made a little more history following the team's state tournament run in basketball. She became the first female athlete in school history to participate in four different state athletic events.

As as sophomore in 2019, she went to state in both softball and track. Moore has also placed at the state tournament with both the volleyball and basketball teams.

"To be able to be the first female athlete in school history to participate in the state tournament in four different sports is honestly a dream come true," Moore said. "It is an amazing opportunity to be able to compete at the state tournament even once, and to be able to do that in four different sports makes me beyond proud. I couldn't have done it without my coaches and my teammates and I can't thank them enough."

Playing in multiple sports has taught Moore different things when it came to competing and other aspects of team sports. It was a memorable four years for the recent Louisburg grad.

“Each sport is slightly different in their own way, but I love each and every one of them and I still have a tough time deciding which one was my favorite,” Moore said. “I loved the crazy celebrations on the court in volleyball. I loved the bond that you create with your teammates in basketball, and I loved the reflection of hard work and technique in track. I enjoyed each sport so much.

“I am so thankful for my time at LHS and for all of my amazing coaches and teammates. I also would like to thank my parents for motivating me every day to work hard and be a good person while doing so. I am going to miss being able to play sports in front of such a supportive community and with unbelievably great people.”

Melton helps Blue team to victory in KBCA all-star game



Madilyn Melton stands a center court with her parents, Meghan and Andy Melton, following her performance in the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Game on June 19 in Salina.

Before venturing off into the world of college basketball, Madilyn Melton had one more obligation when it came to the high school hardwood.

Melton, who graduated this past May from Louisburg High School, was selected to participate in the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association all-star game that took place in Salina.

It was an honor and experience that she won't soon forget.

"To be asked to play in the KBCA All-Star game with some of the top players was such an honor," Melton said. "To be chosen to represent my team and community and our accomplishments was truly a once in a lifetime gift. I was beyond excited and thankful to be given this opportunity."

Melton played for the Blue All-Stars and she helped them to a 101-86 victory over the Gold on June 19 at Mabee Arena on the campus of Kansas Wesleyan University.

The all-star game is made up of the best senior basketball players in the state and Melton was one of those. She was a first-team all-league selection this past season and also earned all-state honors.

"The whole experience was exciting and nerve-wracking all in one," Melton said. "On one hand I was so excited to play in the game and challenge myself, but on the other to play a game with girls you don't know and a coach you are not familiar with made me a bit nervous.

"I spent the entire day with the team. We began with practice which led to lunch together and time to just hang out and get to really know the girls. By the time the game rolled around, all my worries went away and I felt like I was playing with friends."



Louisburg's Madilyn Melton (back row, 4th from left) helped the Blue team to a victory last month in Salina.

Melton played 19 minutes for the Blue team and recorded four points, had two rebounds and an assist in the victory. Osawatomie graduate Amiah Simmons led the Blue team with a game-high 23 points.

McPherson's Grace Pyle led Gold team in scoring with 14 points and Spring Hill's Allisyn Frank had 11 points and five rebounds.

"Playing a game with new teammates, brings on challenges," Melton said. "You don't know each other like you do your school teammates. You don't their next move and so it makes you have to step up even more and just play. Everyone on that court that day just loves the game and were honored to be there and be a part of something so special."

Now, Melton's focus is toward her college career as she gets ready to take the court for the Benedictine women's basketball

team later this year.

“I am super excited and ready for Benedictine,” Melton said. “This summer I have been able to play some games with the Lady Ravens and help with their high school camp. It makes it very real that I am going to do this. I am going to get to play ball in college. The team has some amazing athletes on it and I am ready for the challenge of pushing myself to rise to their level of ball. I am so thankful for this opportunity. Benedictine has given me such a gift to play ball and earn my degree at the same time.”

2021 Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Year nominees



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

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

Although I am giving out the award, I wanted the process to be

subjective, so I asked the head coaches at LHS to help me out. I asked each coach to send me nominations of who they thought exemplified the Athlete of the Year honor. They will then vote for their top 3 male and female athletes and then I will tabulate the results and determine the winner. The winner will be announced later this month.

Below are the nominees for this year's award in alphabetical order by last name. Congrats to all those who were nominated and best of luck!

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

FEMALE



Reese Johnson – Junior – Cross Country, Soccer

Junior Reese Johnson made history in a couple different sports for Louisburg this past season.

In the fall, Johnson played a big role on the girls cross country team. The Lady Cats finished third in Class 4A, as that was the first time a team had placed at state in girls cross country. Johnson also medaled 15th individually and was one of three Lady Cats to earn state medals that day.

In the spring, Johnson was one of the leaders on the girls soccer team that advanced to the Class 4-1A state final four this past season. Johnson earned second team All-Frontier League honors after she finished the season with seven goals and nine assists as the Wildcats finished fourth at state.



Alyse Moore – Senior – Volleyball, Basketball,

Track

Alyse Moore ended her senior season as one of the most accomplished athletes in Louisburg High School history. Moore is the first female athlete in school history to compete at the state level in four different sports, including both softball and track in the same season in 2019.

In the spring, Moore earned her second straight track state medal in the javelin as she finished fourth in the Class 4A meet. Earlier in the year, Moore broke a 20-year-old school record with a throw of 149 feet.

Moore was also a starter on the girls basketball team and helped the Lady Cats to their best finish in school history. Moore and the Lady Cats advanced to state for the first time in 47 years and took third overall. Individually, Moore eclipsed the 500-career rebound mark and was an honorable mention all-league player. She led the team in rebounds with 8.6 boards a game and also averaged 7.3 points and 1.7 steals.

On the volleyball court, Moore started as an outside hitter for the Lady Cats and was second on the team with 174 kills and 195 digs.



Delaney Wright – Junior – Basketball, Track

Delaney Wright ended the 2020-21 school year with a bang as she became the school's first athlete to win three state championships in track in one season.

At the Class 4A state meet in Wichita last month, Wright won state titles in the long jump, 400-meter dash and 200-meter dash. She broke her own 200 and 400 school records to reach those accomplishments. On the season, Wright set new school records in each of those events.

Wright was also a key player on the girls basketball team and helped the Lady Cats to their best finish in school history. Wright and the Lady Cats advanced to state for the first time in 47 years and took third overall at the Class 4A state tournament. Wright was one of the team' best defensive players

as she averaged two deflections and a steal per game. She was also assigned to the team’s best player.

MALE



Weston Guetterman – Senior – Football, Basketball

Weston Guetterman played big roles for both the Wildcat football and basketball teams this past season.

On the gridiron, Guetterman was the starting quarterback for Louisburg, which finished 4-3 and tied for third in the Frontier League standings. Guetterman earned honorable mention All-League honors on defense for his play in the secondary. He finished the year with 32 tackles, two interceptions, three tackles for a loss and seven batted balls. He also finished with 548 yards rushing and six touchdowns.

Guetterman was one of the team leaders on the boys basketball team that advanced to its first state championship in school history and took second at the Class 4A state tournament. He was a second-team All-Frontier League selection from the point guard spot and averaged 12.5 points, 4.3 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 2.2 steals a game. He was also an all-state selection by the Topeka Capital-Journal, Wichita Eagle and Sports in Kansas.



Cade Holtzen – Senior – Cross Country, Wrestling, Track

Cade Holtzen was a three-sport athlete this past season for Louisburg and became the first male athlete (that is known) to participate in state competitions in all three sports, in the same season.

Holtzen helped the Wildcat cross country team to qualify for state for the first time in school history as they finished third at regionals. At state, Holtzen took 56th overall in 18 minutes and 46 seconds.

On the wrestling mat, Holtzen had a year to remember as he finished his career with a 155-19 record and a third-place state finish at 132 pounds. He was a four-time state qualifier for the Wildcats and a three-time state placer. Holtzen served as the team captain this past season and currently holds eight program records, including most season victories and most career wins. He was also chosen to participate in the 2021 Metro Classic.

In the spring, Holtzen earned his second state medal of the year as he helped the 4×800-meter relay team to a third place finish. He also helped the Wildcats to their second team Class 4A state track championship in school history.



Kolby Kattau – Junior – Football, Baseball

Kolby Kattau was a two-sport athlete this past season and had a good year for both the football and baseball program.

In the spring, Kattau helped the Wildcats to their first regional championship game since 2009 as he played both first base and pitcher. Kattau finished the year with a .444 average and racked up 32 hits for the Wildcats to go along with a .560 on-base percentage. He finished with five doubles, two triples, 16 RBIs, scored 26 runs and stole nine bases. He was a first team All-Frontier League selection and was an honorable mention all-state selection by the KBCA.

On the football field, Kattau played on both sides of the ball for a team that finished with a 4-3 record and tied for third in the Frontier League. He finished with two touchdowns from

the running back spot and had 41 tackles at linebacker.



Alec Younggren – Senior – Football, Wrestling

Alec Younggren was a two-sport athlete for Louisburg as he shined on the football field and on the wrestling mat.

Younggren, who missed part of the football season with an injury, still played well-enough on the offensive and defensive lines to earn All-Frontier League honors on both sides of the ball. Younggren was named as a first-team offensive lineman and an honorable mention lineman on defense.

He was a key fixture on the Wildcat offensive line that amassed more than 2,400 yards of total offense and 20 touchdowns. He also had 23 tackles on defense. Younggren was also an all-state honorable mention selection.

The Louisburg senior had an historic season in wrestling as he advanced to the 220-pound Class 4A championship match, where he finished runner-up. He finished the year with a 37-1 record and had Louisburg's highest state finish since 2012.



Braden Yows – Junior – Soccer

Louisburg junior Braden Yows was vital part of the Wildcats' best finish in school history this past season. Yows helped the Wildcats to a third place finish in the Class 4-1A state tournament.

Yows was a first-team All-Frontier League and all-state selection from his midfield spot. He broke a program record with 21 assists and also finished with seven goals on the year.

Three Wildcats earn postseason honors; Pfannenstiel named 4A Coach of the Year



Coming off its first state championship appearance in school history, and recording its best finish in the program's long tenure, the Louisburg boys basketball team knew those postseason honors would come its way.

They certainly did – athletes and coaches alike.

The Wildcats earned three All-Frontier League selections, were named to all-state teams and even had their head coach recognized.

Louisburg head coach Ty Pfannenstiel was named the Class 4A Coach of the Year by Sports in Kansas and Wichita Eagle as he guided the Wildcats to an 18-7 record and a spot in the Class 4A state championship, where they finished runner-up.

"I'm honored to win the award," Pfannenstiel said. "I'm really just happy for our boys and the success they had this season. Coach of the Year is really a team award. It takes everyone working together as a group to accomplish what we did this season, and I just did my best to get the boys prepared for

each contest. I can’t thank my assistant coaches (Drew Harding and Pete Skakal) and players enough for everything they have contributed to this program. It truly is a team effort.”



Louisburg head coach Ty Pfannenstiel was named the Class 4A Coach of the Year by Sports in Kansas.

A few of the Wildcat players were also recognized on different levels.

Junior Julian Margrave was selected to the All-Frontier League first team and was the league’s top vote getter. Margrave averaged 17.7 points a game to go along with 8.2 rebounds and 1.5 blocks a contest.

Margrave was a Class 4A all-state first team selection by the Topeka Capital-Journal and was also named to their all-class third team. He was also a 4A first team selection by the Wichita Eagle.

He was named a first-team Class 4A all-state player by Sports

in Kansas and third team in all classes.



Louisburg junior Julian Margrave was a first team all-state and All-Frontier League selection after he averaged more than 17 points and eight rebounds a game.

“Julian had another big year for us,” Pfannenstiel said. “He was a unanimous first team selection for the second year in a row. He led our team in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots. Most teams focused so much attention on stopping Julian, that things really opened up for other guys. Even when Julian would have an off night offensively, he would still end up with double figures in scoring.

“There’s a reason Julian is as good as he is, because he works really hard at it. He’s always the last one to leave the gym each night. I think he would stay there all night if I didn’t have to kick him out so I could go home and see my family. He is the definition of “gym rat.” He’s had two really good

varsity years, each year better than the year before. I'm looking forward to him making another jump again next year."

Senior point guard Weston Guetterman also received a lot of accolades as he was a second team All-Frontier League selection. Guetterman averaged 12.5 points, 4.3 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 2.2 steals a game.

Guetterman was also named to the Sports in Kansas all-state second team and was an honorable mention all-state selection by the Capital-Journal. He was selected third team all-state by the Eagle.



Louisburg senior Weston Guetterman was a second team All-Frontier League selection and also earned all-state honors.

"Weston was really good for us this year," Pfannenstiel said. "In my opinion, he was the best all-around point guard in our league. He had some big offensive nights for us, and does such

a good job of initiating our offense. His performance in the state semifinals against Augusta was incredible. He was our third leading rebounder trailing Ben by just 2 rebounds, which is astounding because he’s our point guard. He also led our team in steals and assists.

“Weston was an honorable mention as a junior, so I was glad to see our coaches put him on the second team, even though he probably deserved first team honors. It’s been a lot of fun coaching Weston during his four years and seeing him grow as a player. Weston is a great player and even a better kid.”

Senior guard Ben Guetterman was also recognized by the league coaches as he was named as an honorable mention for the second straight season.

Guetterman averaged 10.7 points, 4.4 rebounds and 1.6 steals a game for the Wildcats. He was also named as a Class 4A honorable mention by Sports in Kansas.



Louisburg senior Ben Guetterman was named to the All-Frontier League honorable mention team.

“Ben had a nice senior year,” Pfannenstiel said. “He averaged double figures in scoring for the past two seasons and was our second leading rebounder this year. Ben has had a great career. He’s a two-time honorable mention all league, which is quite an accomplishment.

“Ben had some big nights for us this season. When he was clicking offensively, we were pretty tough to beat. The second Spring Hill game comes to mind, when it was the Guetterman show there in the first half. Ben is a hard working kid. He doesn’t say a whole lot, but he was just a great leader by example. I enjoyed my four years with him.”

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL

First Team

Julian Margrave, Louisburg, junior

Trey Moala, Paola, junior

Jaron Briggs, Piper, junior

Cooper Jones, Spring Hill, senior

Rylee Beach, Tonganoxie, senior

Second Team

Trent Stimac, Bonner Springs, junior

Jaden Hamm, Eudora, sophomore

Weston Guetterman, Louisburg, senior

Noah McCullough, Ottawa, junior

Heston Robbins, Tonganoxie, senior

Honorable Mention

Colby Zimmerman, Baldwin, senior

Jayce Smith, Bonner Springs, junior

Justin Fawcett, Eudora, senior

Ty Abts, Eudora, senior

Ben Guetterman, Louisburg, senior

Jake Titus, Ottawa, sophomore

Bo Robison, Paola, senior

Dilyn Taylor-Cantu, Piper, senior

Jamie Tyson, Piper, senior

Ryan Weber, Spring Hill, senior

Blake Poje, Tonganoxie, senior

Dallas Bond, Tonganoxie, senior

Andrew Wilson, Tonganoxie, junior

Lady Cats rack up postseason honors following historic year



It was a year to remember for the Louisburg girls basketball team.

The Lady Cats placed third at the Class 4A tournament, made it to state for the first time in 47 years and recorded the best finish in school history.

With all that success comes a lot of accolades, and about a month after that successful run ended, they started to pour in for several Lady Cats.

Shortly after the state tournament, the all-league team was announced and Louisburg earned five spots on the team – which was the most in the Frontier League. The Lady Cats finished second in the league standings, one game behind champion Piper.

“I was very surprised how well our team was represented with all-league nominations,” Louisburg coach Adrianne Lane said. “Our league is very tough and we have several good 4A and 5A teams. That being said, I do think playing in such a tough league made us better and ready for the postseason.”

Senior Madilyn Melton earned several postseason honors for the Lady Cats, including a spot on the All-Frontier League first team.

Melton led the Lady Cats in scoring with 10.9 points a game and was second on the team in rebounding at 6.5. She also led the team with 2 blocks a contest.



Madilyn Melton was a first-team All-Frontier League selection after leading the Lady Cats in scoring.

She was also named to the Sports in Kansas Class 4A all-state first team, and was named second team by the Topeka-Capital

Journal and third team by the Wichita Eagle.

“Madilyn had a huge season and she was a consistent player for our team,” Lane said. “We could always count on her to score, but I was most impressed with her help-side defense and rebounding ability.

“She played a huge role on both ends of the court for us. She ended her career with 990 points, which is now the most points a female basketball player has every scored at LHS.”

Louisburg had two selections on the all-league second team in senior Megan Foote and junior Jordan Mynsted.



Junior Jordan Mynsted was named to the all-Frontier League second team.

Mynsted was second on the team in scoring with 10.8 points a contest and had 4.4 rebounds a game.

As for Foote, she averaged 8.6 points a game and 4.3 rebounds. She also had a team-best 2.6 steals a contest.

Foote earned honorable mention all-state honors from the Capital-Journal, Wichita Eagle and Sports in Kansas, while Mynsted was an also an honorable mention selection by Sports in Kansas.

“Megan was great on both sides of the ball this year,” Lane said. “Some games we had her guard the other team’s best player and she stepped up and worked really hard. Other games she was our leading scorer, her 3-point shot was hot this season, and other teams had to know where she was.



Senior Megan Foote was named to the All-Frontier League second team and earned numerous all-state honors.

“Jordan is a natural scorer, she gave our team a spark when she came in the game. She was instant offense in most games

and her presence was always felt by the other team. They had to adjust their defense to be able to guard her.”

Seniors Alyse Moore and Brooklyn Diederich were honorable mention all-league selections as both played big roles for the Lady Cats.

Moore led Louisburg in rebounding with 8.6 boards a game to go along with 7.3 points and 1.7 steals.

She also earned honorable mention all-state honors from Sports in Kansas and the Wichita Eagle



Louisburg senior Alyse Moore was named as an all-league and all-state honorable mention.

As for Diederich, she averaged 5.1 points a contest and was one off the team’s best on-ball defenders. She was named an all-state honorable mention by Sports in Kansas.

“Alyse is an amazing team player,” Lane said. “She will do whatever it takes for us to win and be successful. Her rebounding and hustle helped our team be successful this season. Alyse averaged 8.6 rebounds this season, which led the Frontier League.

“Brooklyn is all hustle; her effort and hard work were felt by the team the entire season. She did a lot of really good things away from the basketball, she is always in the right position and always willing to step and help if needed. She was on the floor more than she wasn’t.”



Senior Brooklyn Diederich was an all-league and all-state honorable mention selection for Louisburg.

The postseason honors didn’t stop there as Lane was named as a finalist for the Class 4A Girls Coach of the Year by Sports in Kansas. That honor eventually went to Bishop Miege’s Terry

English.

In all, Lane led Louisburg to a 19-5 record on a year, a third place finish at state, the best finish in school history and second place in the Frontier League.

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE GIRLS BASKETBALL

First Team

Riley Smith, Baldwin, junior

Harper Schreiner, Eudora, junior

Madilyn Melton, Louisburg, senior

Evelyn Vazquez, Piper, senior

Alli Frank, Spring Hill, senior

Second Team

Jenna Harvey, Baldwin, senior

Mariyah Noel, Bonner Springs, sophomore

Jordan Mynsted, Louisburg, junior

Megan Foote, Louisburg, senior

Jessica Thomas, Piper, senior

Honorable Mention

Wren VanCleave, Bonner Springs, sophomore

Jayla Pierce, Eudora, senior

Brooklyn Diederich, Louisburg, senior

Alyse Moore, Louisburg, senior

Sofia Ficken, Ottawa, junior

Kirsten Evans, Ottawa, junior

Kate Ediger, Paola, junior

Dakiah Yates, Paola, junior

Jennifer Guilbeaux, Piper, senior

Jenna Weber, Spring Hill, sophomore

Cate Milory, Spring Hill, junior

Morgan Brusven, Tonganoxie, senior

Raegan Seba, Tonganoxie, junior

Wildcats take second at state for best finish in school history



The Louisburg boys basketball team raises the Class 4A state runner-up trophy Saturday following it loss to Bishop Miege at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina.

SALINA – The result of the state championship game is not what the Louisburg boys basketball team will focus on several years from now.

The fact that the 2020-21 Wildcats recorded the best finish in school history, will be more than enough for them to fondly reminisce about.

Louisburg, which played in its first-ever state championship game Saturday in Salina, fell to state power Bishop Miege, 94-40. As disappointing as the result was, many of the Wildcats were looking bigger picture.

“We will forever live in history with this senior class and with this team,” Senior Weston Guetterman said. “Until someone wins it at least, we are going to be the bar that everyone looks to. It is a proud moment for all of us.”

Bishop Miege, which won its sixth state title, was the heavily favored team coming in. The Stags lost just one game all year – to Blue Valley Northwest – and defeated Class 6A state champion Blue Valley North earlier in the season.

The Stags featured a roster of college bound players and brought a 7-footer off the bench.

“It means a lot that we made history,” junior Julian Margrave said. “Even though we wanted the championship, and I wouldn’t say that we were satisfied with second, but we are pretty happy with what we got. We have all put in a lot of hard work, but we just ran up against a tough team.

“It was exciting and I think we were ready to going into the game against Miege. We know who they are, but we felt good about ourselves. We were ready for a dogfight.”

Louisburg, which faced off with 6A teams in Shawnee Mission East and Shawnee Mission South earlier in the year, had yet to see a team with the talent that Bishop Miege sported.

“It was nice that we were able to schedule Shawnee Mission East and Shawnee Mission South, and that was huge for us and see the speed of the game,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel

said. “That kind of competition was good for us, but Miege is on a whole other level. They have big guys and bring a 7-footer off the bench. They are quick and have guards that can shoot. We needed them to have an off night and they were just playing really well.

“I don’t think I’ve coached against a team that has had a 7-footer, much less brought one off the bench. He seemed taller than that too. They have quite the collection of talent there at Miege.”



Louisburg senior Weston Guetterman tries to dribble around a Miege defender Saturday in Salina.

Bishop Miege came out of the gates strong as the Stags outscored the Wildcats 27-13 in the first quarter and took a 48-23 halftime advantage.

The Wildcats, which struggled against Miege’s length, recorded six points in the third quarter.

The Stags’ 94 total points was the most points scored by a team in the state championship game, in any class, in the history of the state tournament.

Miege topped the previous best of 92 points by Blue Valley North in the 1997 Class 5A title game.

“We played a couple 6A teams, but this was nothing like that,” Guetterman said. “They have kids who are ranked among the best in the country, and we knew it would be a tall task, but we left it all out there. It just didn’t turn out how we wanted it to.”



Louisburg senior Andy Hupp puts up a shot during the Class 4A state championship game Saturday in Salina.

Margrave led Louisburg in scoring with 15 points and six rebounds and Guetterman also scored in double figures with 10 points.

As tough as the loss was to take, the Wildcats still had plenty to celebrate.

“I feel so good for these kids,” Pfannenstiel said. “They have earned it and have earned every accolade that they have now. Through all their work in the offseason and during the season, it was just a lot of fun. I don’t think I have ever had this

much fun coaching. It is not just because of the run that we've had, but it is fun to show up to your job every day when you have good kids."

One the thing the loss did mean was the final game for seniors Andy Hupp, Dawson Barnes, Ben Guetterman, Konnor Vohs and Weston Guetterman.

"They were all key components," Pfannenstiel said. "They were all important. Dawson and Hupp – those guys are undersized post players that can play great defense. They are very unselfish players and they just work hard and were exactly what we needed.

"Konnor has had a heck of a year. He is Mr. Energy. He is a calm, cool kid and stepped up and knocked down some big free throws for us in the semifinals. He brings a lot of intensity for us. Ben can do a lot of things, and offensively when he gets hot, he really sparks us. He was good defensively and rebounding the ball. Weston was our motor and he could really make us go offensively. When his shot is falling, our offense really goes and they are all just great kids. They do everything the right way."



Members of the state runner-up Louisburg boys basketball team are (front row, from left) Konnor Vohs, Michael Seuferling, Maverick Rockers, Isaac Guetterman, Cade Gassman; (back row) assistant coach Drew Harding, Colyer Wingfield, Andy Hupp, assistant coach Pete Skakal, Ben Guetterman, Dawson Barnes, Julian Margrave, Mack Newell, Weston Guetterman and head coach Ty Pfannenstiel.

Many of those seniors even got their chance to live out an opportunity they had been dreaming of since they were in elementary school.

“I couldn’t have written it any better,” Weston said. “One more win would have been nice, but we have been dreaming about this since we were in the third grade. Me, Konnor and Ben were at Wea and we always talked about how we were going to go down to Louisburg and win state. We were one game away, but I am just grateful for the opportunity.”

LOU 13 10 6 11 – 40

BM 27 21 22 24 – 94

LOUISBURG (18-7): Julian Margrave 6-18 1-1 15; Weston Guetterman 4-9 0-0 10; Ben Guetterman 3-8 0-0 7; Michael Seuferling 1-5 2-2 4; Andy Hupp 1-2 0-0 2; Konnor Vohs 0-4 2-2 2. 3-point field goals: 5, (Margrave 2, W. Guetterman 2, B. Guetterman)

Week 13 Athlete of the Week: Konnor Vohs



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week 13 of the winter sports season, sponsored by Edward Jones- Craig Holtzen.

Konnor Vohs, Senior, Boys Basketball

Louisburg senior Konnor Vohs came up with several big plays this past week to help the Wildcats to their first state championship, but none were bigger than with nine seconds left in the state semifinals against Augusta last Thursday. Louisburg held a 3-point lead, but Vohs stepped to the free-throw line for two shots and knocked them both down to seal the victory for the Wildcats.

Vohs, who has been one of the team’s best defenders all

season, did the same last week. He helped the Wildcats to two wins, including a state quarterfinal victory over Parsons and the win over Augusta to put Louisburg into the championship game. The Wildcats finished second in Class 4A, which is their best finish in school history.

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: Jordan Mynsted

Week 2: Julian Margrave

Week 3: Alec Younggren

Week 4: Megan Foote

Week 5: Madilyn Melton

Week 6: Michael Seuferling

Week 7: Cade Holtzen

Week 8: Ryan Owens

Week 9: Aiden Barker

Week 10: Weston Guetterman

Week 11: Alyse Moore

Weel 12: Ben Guetterman

Loss in state semifinals gives Lady Cats best finish in school history



The Louisburg girls basketball team hoists the Class 4A third-place state trophy Friday following their state semifinal loss to McPherson at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina.

SALINA – The tears were abundant following Louisburg's loss to McPherson on Friday in the Class 4A state semifinal game.

The Lady Cats saw their season come to an end after their 58-46 loss to the Bullpups in Salina, but as hard as the finality of it was to take, they know what is the bigger picture.

Before the game even started, Louisburg already wrapped up its best finish in program history and became the first Lady Cat team to place at state as it finished third.

A season that finished with a 19-5 record and a third place state trophy, is one that will always be remembered in Louisburg history.

"It means the world to me to finish third at state," senior Megan Foote said. "Obviously it wasn't how we wanted to finish, but that's okay. I'm still beyond proud of this group and the accomplishments we have made. We are the best girls basketball team in Louisburg history. I'd say to be a part of that, is pretty awesome. I'm honored."

For the last three quarters of the game, Louisburg actually outscored McPherson 43-37, but it was the first quarter that the Lady Cats weren't able to overcome.

McPherson scored the first 15 points of the first quarter and took a 21-3 lead going into the second period.



Louisburg senior Madilyn Melton goes up for two of her 21 points Friday against McPherson.

"The girls were excited and nervous going out in the first quarter," Louisburg coach Adrianne Lane said. "They had never experienced a game like this before, or a venue. McPherson started out on fire, so that didn't help our nerves

either.”

Bullpup senior, and Pittsburg State commit, Grace Pyle scored 13 of her team-high 21 points in the first quarter and she was tough for the Lady Cats to stop early on.

“We were all very nervous going into that game,” senior Brooklyn Diederich said. “We have never experienced anything like that atmosphere. We knew that McPherson was a solid team, especially with them having the 5A player of the year (Pyle) from the last season on their team. We beat McPherson in the last three quarters. So if we weren’t as nervous the first quarter, I think we could have won.”

Louisburg senior Madilyn Melton helped bring the Lady Cats back as she scored nine of her team-high 21 points in the second quarter and a pair of free throws from Foote trimmed McPherson’s lead to 31-22 at halftime.

The Lady Cats went on another run to begin the third quarter. Louisburg was down 35-24, but Melton made back-to-back baskets, and junior Jordan Mynsted made one of her own to trim the McPherson lead to just five

“I knew the girls were not going to give up,” Lane said. “Once we started running our press breaker and offense, we did a great job getting back into the game. They found their rhythm and battled each possession to get us within five points.

“I think we surprised McPherson when we came back and I did feel the momentum turn in our direction in the third quarter. The 20-point lead was too much for us to overcome.”



Louisburg junior Delaney Wright saves a ball from going out of bounds as she files over the top of McPherson's Grace Pyle on Friday in Salina.

McPherson put the game away early in the fourth quarter as it went on a 10-4 run to build its lead back up to 16.

"I think there were a lot of nerves before the game just because none of us had ever been in that position before and it kind of showed in the first quarter," senior Alyse Moore said. "Once we started to realize that we were there for a reason, I think everyone trusted in one another and we just started to chip away at getting ourselves back in a good position.

"I am so proud of my team and how hard that we worked to get ourselves back within five. "I think it says a lot about our character and the fight that each and every one of us has."

Melton led Louisburg in scoring with 21 points in her final game as a Lady Cat. She also finished with a team-high seven rebounds and four blocks.

Moore was close to a double-double with eight points and seven rebounds. Sophomore Adyson Ross and Mynsted finished with seven and six points, respectively.

As the final buzzer sounded, reality began to set it for many of the Lady Cat players and their coach.

“This season has been so much fun for me,” Lane said. “It has been an honor coaching this team and I feel so blessed to be given the opportunity; not only coaching these young ladies, but I have loved getting to know them outside of the classroom.

“Seeing the seniors’ season come to an end was very sad. They welcomed me this year and I will miss them greatly. I really wish I could have coached them for more than one year, but I know all four of the seniors will do great things with their lives and I wish them the best.”

Melton, Moore, Diederich and Foote all played their final game as a Lady Cat player as all four have been a big part of the Louisburg program throughout their four-year career.



Members of the third place Louisburg girls basketball team are (front row, from left) Delanie Tally, Brianne Kuhlman, Emma Lohse, Adyson Ross, Sierra Hahn; (back row) assistant coaches Leanna Willer, Nick Chapman, Emma Prettyman, Delaney Wright, Jordan Mynsted, Madilyn Melton, Brooklyn Diederich, Megan Foote, Alyse Moore and head coach Adrianne Lane.

“This season exceeded my expectations and was by far the best season out of the four years that I have been here,” Moore said. “The way that Coach Lane stepped up and had as much success as she did in just one season is incredible and I am so thankful for all of her hard work and dedication. All of the coaches and my teammates made this season amazing and I will never forget it.

“It was heartbreaking when the reality hit me that my Wildcat career would be over, but at the same time I couldn’t be more happy to end it on that note and with that team. It makes me so proud knowing that everything that we had been working for came true. I am going to miss it so much, but I am beyond thankful that I got to go out on such a high note.”

LOU 3 19 12 12 – 46

MCP 21 10 12 15 – 58

LOUISBURG (19-5): Madilyn Melton 7-9 6-6 21; Alyse Moore 4-6 1-2 8; Adyson Ross 3-4 0-0 7; Jordan Mynsted 3-7 0-0 6; Brooklyn Diederich 1-5 0-0 2; Megan Foote 0-3 2-2 2. Totals: 18-37 8-9 46. 3-point field goals: 2, (Melton, Ross)

Wildcats onto the state championship with close win over Augusta



The Louisburg basketball team celebrates following its 58-55 Class 4A state semifinal victory over Augusta on Thursday at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina. The Wildcats will play in their first ever state championship on Saturday.

SALINA – When they were done in the locker room following their 58-55 state semifinal win over Augusta, the Louisburg boys raced to the concourse of the Tony's Pizza Events Center.

It was there where they met a very large fan club that let out a roar that could be heard throughout the arena.

The victory put the Wildcats in the Class 4A state championship for the first time in school history and there

was plenty to celebrate Thursday night in Salina.

“It hasn’t sunk in yet,” Louisburg senior Weston Guetterman said of playing in the title game. “You walk out into the arena and it is just huge. It hits when you get out there. Right now we are just playing basketball and it will probably hit us afterward. Right now, we are just living in the moment.”

Guetterman and the Wildcats lived well against the Orioles as the senior point guard came up huge for the Wildcats when they needed him most.

He opened the game with nine points in the first quarter to help give Louisburg a seven-point lead at the end of the quarter. Then, when the Wildcats trailed in the fourth and Guetterman was saddled with four fouls, he rose to the occasion again.



Weston Guetterman was all smiles after the buzzer sounded in Thursday's state semifinal win over Augusta.

He hit a 3-pointer midway through the fourth quarter to give Louisburg a 51-48 lead and then hit a pair of free throws to put the Wildcats up four with about a minute left.

Guetterman finished with a game-high 21 points and also had a team-high six steals and four assists as he played well on both ends of the floor.

"He played amazing," junior Julian Margrave said. "Weston showed up when it was needed and hit some incredible shots that I knew he could hit. He just showed up and we really needed him."

Margrave also came up big for the Wildcats as he scored 23 points and had eight rebounds. The Louisburg junior led the Wildcats back when they were down 46-44 with under four

minutes in the game.

He scored five straight points, including converting an old-fashioned 3-point play after an assist from Konnor Vohs after an Augusta turnover.

“We really had to dig in,” Margrave said. “It was a really good change by coaches Pfannenstiel, Harding and Skakal to tell us to focus up. It was now or never in that moment and we didn’t want our season to end right there. We wanted to play for the championship.”



Louisburg junior Julian Margrave defends Augusta’s Ely Wilcox

on Thursday in Salina.

Augusta didn’t go away late as the Orioles tried to chip away at the Wildcat lead with several late baskets. Louisburg, however, answered each time at the free-throw line.

Weston Guetterman hit two, Ben Guetterman hit one to keep it at three, and then Vohs hit the biggest ones of the game.

With nine seconds left, the Louisburg senior sank two free throws to all but seal the win for the Wildcats and give them their best finish in school history – no matter what happens Saturday.

“They were huge,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “Konnor is a calm, cool kid. I had great confidence in him. He doesn’t get too high, he doesn’t get too low and he is a perfect guy to step up there and knock those down. His defense and energy was good as well and was big all night for us.”



Louisburg senior Konnor Vohs drives the lane during Thursday's state semifinal game. Vohs hit two free throws late to seal the win for Louisburg.

The Wildcats (18-6) changed the game on the defensive end as they forced 11 Augusta turnovers and turned those into 16 points. Louisburg committed just four turnovers and took care of the ball on offense.

Louisburg also focused on slowing down Augusta's Ely Wilcox, who hurt the Wildcats in January in the first matchup on the inside. They held Wilcox to just five points as he also sat out part of the first half in foul trouble.

"It was very similar to the last game we played them at Baldwin," Pfannenstiel said. "They came back and stretched out a lead on us, and luckily it wasn't as bad as that night. For our kids to battle like they did, it took some stops defensively, and we really had to stop Wilcox and we did a

great job on him. It was a great team effort.”

Louisburg will have to take their defense to another level Saturday as its faces the No. 1 team in Class 4A, Bishop Miege. The two teams will square off at 2 p.m. tomorrow for the state championship.

The Stags have won three state titles in the last five years and were among the final four teams left at the state tournament last season before it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We will take a look at Miege,” Pfannenstiel said. “I haven’t thought or prepared for them because all my focus was on Augusta. We will do what we can to get a good game plan for Saturday. Our kids are looking forward to it.”

LOU 18 13 10 17 – 58

AUG 11 16 14 14 – 55

LOUISBURG (18-6): Julian Margrave 9-15 3-4 23; Weston Guetterman 8-14 2-2 21; Michael Seuferling 2-5 2-3 6; Konnor Vohs 1-4 2-2 4; Ben Guetterman 1-5 1-4 4. Totals: 21-43 10-15 58. 3-point field goals: 6, (W. Guetterman 3, Margrave 2, B. Guetterman)

Despite being 47 years a part, 1974 and 2021 teams have one thing in common –

chemistry



The 1974 Louisburg girls basketball team was the last team to make it state before this season. Pictured above from the 1974 team is coach Betty Walters, Rhonda Howard and Renea Brady.

This year's version of the Louisburg girls basketball team broke a 47-year drought last week when the Lady Cats captured a sub-state title.

It was a time of celebration and achievement as the Lady Cats finally made their way back to the state tournament. It caught the attention of many around town, including those who can relate to what those girls are feeling.

Members of the 1974 Louisburg team, which was the last team to qualify for state, know exactly what emotions they are going through right now.

"What I remember most about the honor of going to state and participating in the tournament was the camaraderie and fun we enjoyed together," Terry (Raney) Shockey said. "Win or lose we were truly a proud group of girls always supporting each other and each individual's skill for what they brought to the game.

"Looking back this time was integral in our greater life lesson of growing up and was the foundation to our close friendships that we still have and enjoy even today."

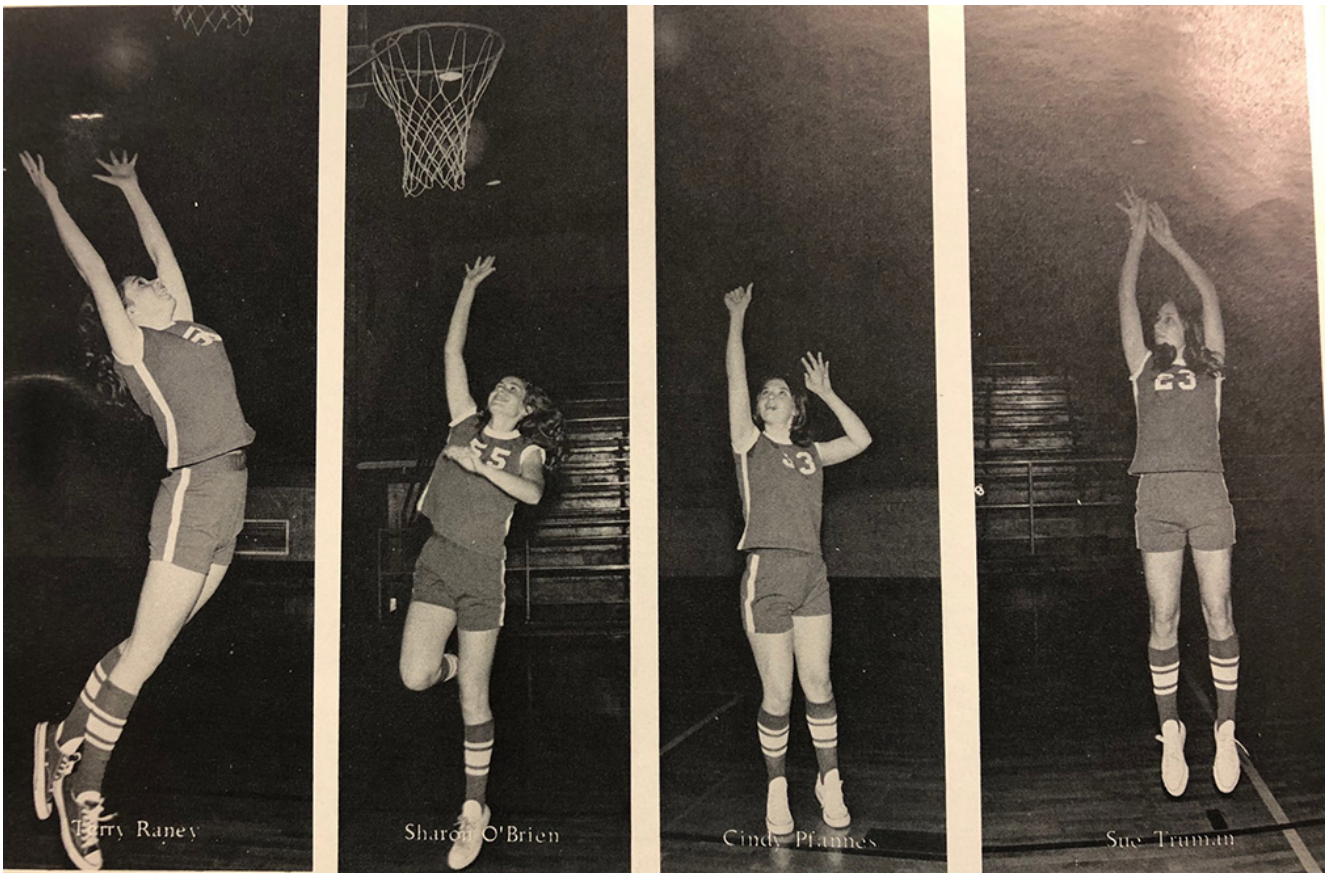
It is a strikingly similar description to the 2021 version of the Lady Cats. Throughout the season, they had each other

backs and that helped them to just four losses on the season and a spot in the Class 4A state semifinals.

At one time, Louisburg was considered a regular at the state tournament.

The tournament, which started in 1973 for girls, was in its early stages when players like Sue (Truman) Apple, Rhonda (Howard) Kerr and Shockey made their debut and Louisburg qualified those first two years.

At that time, the opportunity for girls wasn't like what it is now. Treatment for girls sports didn't seem like a priority.



Terry Raney, Sharon O'Brien, Cindy Pfannes and Sue Truman all played major roles on the last Lady Cat team to qualify for state.

The 1974 season was just the third year of girls organized sports in Louisburg.

Still, the chance to attend a state tournament was an honor for those Lady Cats 47 years ago.

In the postseason, the Lady Cats defeated Humboldt in the Class 2A sub-state finals, before falling to Centralia, 47-27, in the first round of state in Hays.

“We had a great work ethic and our team just seemed to gel,” Kerr said. “We were all great friends and still are. We have gotten together pretty regular over the years. I remember leaving and having a great send off! Our community was so supportive and proud of us. We even had a full page ad in the paper supporting us.”

Along with with those three, players like Renea (Brady) Hammett, Sharon (O’Brien) Brady, Debbie (Roberts) Stahl, Amy Qualizza, Therese Blanchon, Cindy (Pfannes) Laliberte and Eva Phillips helped the Lady Cats to a state appearance.

They were led by coach Betty Walters, who was in her first year of teaching at the time. Not only did she coach basketball, but she was also the school’s lone coach in volleyball and girls track.

Walters did it all and found success in everything that she touched.

“Betty was a good coach and she worked us hard and got good results,” Apple said. “She was just out of college, so we were her first coaching job. She was our one and only coach for volleyball, basketball, and track. She took us to state in all three sports.”



The 1974 team poses with their postseason trophies.

Girls sports were obviously treated different back in the early 70s. The players wore the same uniform for volleyball, basketball and track and were forced to sacrifice for gym time, whether that meant practicing at 6 a.m. or waiting to practice at 7 at night to get access to a facility.

“We didn’t have the support that the girls have now,” Apple

said. “We had our parents and that was about all – no students, pep band or anything like that.”

Girls basketball, and all sports in Louisburg, are drastically different 47 years later, but the thing that makes the 1974 and 2021 teams successful is still the same.

“I am so very proud and happy for this year’s team accomplishments,” Shockey said. “What I love about team sports is the very essence of what they stand for –a team. Players, coaches, parents and fans must be there for the winning combination.”

The Lady Cats definitely have that winning combination this year as they are led by four seniors in Alyse Moore, Megan Foote, Brooklyn Diederich and Madilyn Melton. Throw in juniors Delaney Wright and Jordan Mynsted, Sierra Hahn and sophomores Brianne Kuhlman, Adyson Ross, Delanie Tally, Emma Prettyman and Emma Lohse and Louisburg has put together a team that made school history.

They also have a coach, in Adrianne Lane, who has helped the girls stay focused and in just her first year on the job.



Members of the Louisburg sub-state championship team are (front row, from left) manager Mackenzie Hill, Alyse Moore, Brooklyn Diederich, Megan Foote, Madilyn Melton and assistant coach Nick Chapman; (back row) head coach Adrianne Lane, Sierra Hahn, Jordan Mynsted, Delaney Wright, Emma Prettyman, Brianne Kuhlman, Emma Lohse, Adyson Ross, Delanie Tally and assistant coach Leanna Willer.

Even with all that success, it is the memories that will remain for all those players according to Kerr.

“Hearing another team qualified for state brought back a lot of great memories,” Kerr said. “I have not gotten to watch the current team much, but it sounds like they are a very strong. They are the best of the best and have represented Louisburg wonderfully. I am so proud of them and I wish them the best and to please enjoy the moment.

“I spoke with a couple of my teammates and we were reminiscing and each of them each said it was so much fun and an adventure. I love those girls and we are still great friends.”

As I’m sure this year’s Lady Cats will be….some 47 years down the road.