

Moore's free throw lifts Louisburg to the Class 4A state semifinals



The Louisburg girls basketball team celebrates following the Lady Cats' dramatic 49-48 win over Labette County Tuesday in the Class 4A state quarterfinals.

ALTAMONT – Alyse Moore went to the free-throw line with the weight of the world on her shoulders.

Louisburg was tied with Labette County at 48-all with eight seconds remaining in the Class 4A state quarterfinal game Tuesday. Moore had a chance to send the Lady Cats to the state semifinals for the first time in school history.

"I felt confident going to the line, but I knew that I had to do it for my team," Moore said. "I had to do it for the community of Louisburg."

Moore would make 1 of 2 free throws to put the Lady Cats in front and Labette County couldn't get its last shot to fall as Louisburg advanced with a 49-48 victory on the road in Altamont.

The win automatically gave the Lady Cats their best finish in school history and they aren't done yet as they will play in the state semifinals today in Salina against McPherson.

"I am just so happy right now that it is hard to put into

words," Moore said. "I am so, so proud of my team and how hard we have worked. The things that people don't see, I think are showing off right now and I am so proud of all my teammates."

The atmosphere at Labette County High School mirrored one of a state championship contest.

In a loud gymnasium that made it difficult to think, much less talk, added another layer of difficulty in the Lady Cats' victory – one they had to rally from five points down in the fourth quarter.



(From left) Jordan Mynsted, assistant coach Leanna Willer, Megan Foote and head coach Adrienne Lane celebrate as the buzzer sounded on the Lady Cats' historic win.

"That gym was the loudest gym I have ever coached in," Louisburg coach Adrienne Lane said. "The environment was so awesome and I felt like I was in my element."

"I cannot even begin to say how proud I am of this team. They

are fighters and they do not quit, no matter the situation. I never once thought we were going to lose, because I knew the team would battle back. I felt like we finally wore Labette County out with three minutes left in the game."

It was then that the rally started.

Melton scored with under four minutes remaining to cut the Labette County lead at 42-39, then on the Lady Cats' next possession, Megan Foote tied it with a 3-pointer – her fourth of the night.

Melton answered the bell again as she scored on a reverse layup to put Louisburg up 44-42 with under two minutes remaining.

"During a game like that, you just got to do what you got to do," Melton said. "They put so much pressure on us under the goal that we had to just go for it, and had to get creative. In the moment, I did not even think about it (reverse layup). It was the open path to score.

"This game was very tough, very challenging mentally and physically. We knew that the battle was not over until the final buzzer, so we just kept fighting. The team's determination and heart shown in that game. We put it out there for all to see."



Madilyn Melton goes in for a reverse layup late in Tuesday's game against Labette County.

A Labette free throw cut the Louisburg lead to one, but with a minute left, junior Delaney Wright drove baseline and put up a runner that went in put Louisburg back up three.

"To be honest, I didn't think it was going to go in," Wright said. "Then when I saw it go in, I kinda couldn't believe it. It was a great feeling. It is hard to put into words right now what this win means to me."

Labette County knotted it up at 48 as Karsyn Stewart hit a 3-pointer in transition with 20 seconds left.

Louisburg put up a shot to try and win it with 10 seconds left, but it rimmed off and Moore was there to try and grab the rebound and was fouled – which set up her heroics.

Moore, who is shooting just 35 percent from the line on the season, went up to the charity stripe with the confidence of a 90 percent shooter. She wasn't about to let her team down.

"I wasn't surprised that she made the free throw," Lane said. "I know Alyse has struggled all year from the free-throw line, but I had faith in her. Alyse is the type of player that makes things happen and she was ready for that moment."



Louisburg senior Alyse Moore gets fouled while putting up a shot near the basket.

As many plays as the Lady Cats made down the stretch offensively, it was their defense the entire game that kept them in it.

Despite shooting just 30 percent from the field and 52 percent from the free-throw line, the Lady Cats were strong defensively as they were constantly on the floor and diving

for loose balls.

In all, Louisburg forced 20 Labette County turnovers, which led to 16 Lady Cat points and was one of the biggest differences in the game.

"Labette was really tough," Foote said. "They're physical and all-around good team. The atmosphere they created was also extremely difficult to play in. I thought we did an amazing job not letting them get to us and get us riled up. We never freaked out and we especially never gave up.

"That game just shows how important perseverance and patience is. We never once thought we were going to lose that game. Hustle and grit truly describes our team."

It was Foote who led the Lady Cats in scoring with 15 points and was one of three to score in double figures.

Junior Jordan Mynsted finished with 11 points and Melton had 10, to go along with eight rebounds.

Moore, who finished with two points, also tied a team-high with eight rebounds and had a team-best seven deflections.

Brooklyn Diederich, Delaney Wright and Foote provided strong defense from the guard spots and made things difficult on the Labette shooters.



Louisburg senior Megan Foote dives on the floor for a loose ball.

"I am overjoyed knowing I'm a part of this historic team," Foote said. "We will forever go down in history. I am not satisfied though. I think we can make even more history than we already have. I'm planning on us being the first ever basketball team to win state. My goals are set high and I know we can achieve them. We're not done yet."

The challenges only get tougher as the Lady Cats face a McPherson team that is a regular to the state tournament and ended the season as the No. 2 team in Class 4A.

The semifinal, which tips at 7 p.m. tonight at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina, could give the Lady Cats their toughest test of the season.

Still, they are looking forward to the challenge of playing on

the highest stage.

"To play in Salina is absolutely an amazing feeling," Melton said. "For me, it is a goal we set, fought for, believed in and achieved it. To experience this with my team and especially with Megan, Alyse, and Brooklyn, who have fought for this these last 4 years beside me, is an emotion I cannot put into words. All I can say is we did it girls. We made it. We deserve to play on that court and no matter what happens, I wouldn't want to be there with anyone else."

LOU 11 12 9 17 – 49

LC 14 12 8 14 – 48

LOUISBURG (19-4): Megan Foote 4-14 3-4 15; Jordan Mynsted 5-7 1-2 11; Madilyn Melton 3-9 4-5 10; Delaney Wright 2-5 1-3 5; Brooklyn Diederich 1-6 0-0 3; Adyson Ross 1-2 0-0 2; Alyse Moore 0-7 2-7 2; Brianne Kuhlman 0-2 1-2 1. Totals: 16-52 12-23 49. 3-point field goals: 5, (Foote 4, Diederich)

Wildcats have revenge on their minds in state semifinal



The Louisburg boys basketball team hopes to celebrating some

more following tonight's state semifinal game against Augusta.

If playing for the right to go the school's first state championship game wasn't enough, the Louisburg boys basketball team has a little extra motivation in its back pocket.

The Wildcats, which faces off with Augusta in the Class 4A state semifinals at 7 p.m. tonight in Salina, will have revenge on their minds.

Back in late January, Augusta defeated Louisburg in the championship game of the Baldwin Invitational. Not only did the Orioles defeat the Wildcats, but they did it in dramatic fashion.

Augusta's Brendan Parker hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Orioles a 43-40 win and left Louisburg with a sour taste in its mouth.

"We haven't forgot it and that is only fueling the fire," senior Konnor Vohs said. "We are ready to play some basketball. The team has developed quite a bit since that game. With the Augusta loss, we began a 3-game losing streak and we were in an offensive slump. Since then our offense has been rolling and our defensive intensity has increased tremendously."

So when Louisburg found out it would be playing the Orioles in the state semifinals following the Wildcats' 62-30 quarterfinal win over Parsons on Monday, they were more than ready to face the Orioles.

It would be the second stop on the revenge tour for Louisburg. Last Friday, the Wildcats avenged a season-ending loss a year ago to Iola as they rolled the Fillies in the sub-state championship game.



To be honest you couldn't right the narrative any better. We already got our shot at Iola from last year's postseason loss and now we get the opportunity to play a team that we have already played this season and in a close game at that.

WESTON GUETTERMAN

Senior Point Guard



"To be honest, you couldn't right the narrative any better," senior Weston Guettermann said. "We already got our shot at Iola from last year's postseason loss and now we get the opportunity to play a team that we have already played this season, and in a close game at that. It will be a fun, exciting game and hopefully the outcome is different than earlier this season."

In that game in Baldwin City, Louisburg actually took a 20-15 lead at halftime in what was a defensive battle.

Augusta would eventually build a 10-point fourth quarter lead, only to see Louisburg rally back to tie the game on a Guettermann free throw with 35 seconds left.

The Orioles would hold for one shot and knocked down the 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"I'm really looking forward to playing Augusta again," junior Julian Margrave said. "They got us last time we played them with a buzzer beater and it left a very sour taste in our mouths. We know who we are and are ready to leave in all on the court this weekend."

Louisburg (17-6) has been on a tear as of late as the Wildcats have won nine of their last 10 games and have been dominant in the postseason. They have won by an average of 21 points per game.

The Wildcats know it will be a lot harder from here on out with Augusta, and possibly Class 4A state power Bishop Miege looming on the other side of the bracket.

Still, the Wildcats have developed an identity over the past month – one that plays tough defense and will never quit.

"It will be different out in Salina, obviously, but our kids are playing with a lot of confidence right now," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "We have a strong mentality on

defense. We've always said we are going to have a shot in any game if we can continue with that, I like our chances."

The winner between Louisburg and Augusta will play the winner of Bishop Miege (20-1) and Andale (18-5) at 2 p.m. on Saturday in championship game.

Melton reaches 500 rebound milestone in sub-state victory



Louisburg senior Madilyn Melton recorded her 500th career rebound last Saturday in the Lady Cats' sub-state championship victory over Fort Scott.

In the midst of all the excitement of winning a sub-state championship and becoming the first team to qualify for state in 47 years, Louisburg senior Madilyn Melton reached a milestone of her own.

Melton recorded 11 rebounds in the Lady Cats' sub-state victory over Fort Scott on Saturday and that ninth one was special.

Late in the fourth quarter, Melton pulled down her 500th career rebound, and at the time had no idea that she was even

close.

Head coach Adrianne Lane called a timeout right after it happened and her teammates let her know exactly what she had accomplished.

"Reaching a goal like 500 rebounds is a huge accomplishment," Melton said. "I play with some amazing girls and we all work hard to get those rebounds. To reach this is exciting. These type of goals are set as a freshman and we work four years to reach them."

Melton is the second Lady Cat to reach such a milestone in less than a month. In February, senior Alyse Moore reached the 500-rebound mark on the road against Shawnee Mission South.

Rebounding is a job that both players take very seriously.



Madilyn Melton is greeted by head coach Adrianne Lane and her

teammates following her 500th rebound.

“Playing with Alyse and the rest of the seniors has been an amazing journey,” Melton said. “Alyse is a gifted player and the teammate everyone should have. To share an accomplishment like this with her is quite an honor. I am thankful to play with a team that trusts us to get the job done under the goal.”

They have certainly done that as the Lady Cats are onto the Class 4A state semifinals and both players have been big reasons why.

“I am super proud of her,” Moore said. “It is pretty cool to think that between us we have more than a 1,000 rebounds together. It was cool to see her reaction when she came off the floor. She has earned this and I am so proud of her accomplishment.”

No one appreciates the ability to rebound more than the head coach.

“Rebounding is a huge part of our game, we hit the boards hard on offense and defense as a team,” Lane said. “Having two seniors reach the 500 rebound milestone this year shows how hard we work to rebound. Madilyn pulling down 500 career rebounds is so exciting and I am so proud of her.”

Wildcats roll Parsons in quarters as they prepare to

make more history



Junior Julian Margrave hi-fives teammate Ben Guetterman (22) towards the end of the Wildcats' 62-30 win over Parsons on Monday in the Class 4A state quarterfinals at Louisburg High School.

It has been 73 years since the Louisburg boys basketball team placed third at a state tournament.

In 1948, the Wildcats took third place overall, which is considered the best finish in school history and also took fourth in 1979. Those are the only two times a Wildcat team has placed at state.

This year's version of the Wildcats have duplicated that feat, and have the chance to better it, following their 62-30 state quarterfinal win Monday over Parsons.

For the first time in school history, Louisburg hosted the Class 4A state quarterfinal and the victory moves them to the state semifinals starting Thursday in Salina.

"Not many teams have made it up in the state column banner in the LHS gym," senior Konnor Vohs said. "Our success is among very few and we are very thankful for the chance to be the third team to make it this far. The feeling is beyond imaginable and we look forward to taking Louisburg to its first state championship in basketball history."

The Wildcats will have to win one more game to get there as Louisburg, which earned the No. 3 seed, will face off with No.

2 Augusta at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina.

The winner of that game will face the winner of No. 1 Bishop Miege and No. 4 McPherson at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the championship.

"It feels good to be a final four team in Kansas," junior Julian Margrave said. "All our hard work is definitely paying off and people are starting to take notice of who we are."



Louisburg senior Weston Guetterman battles for a rebound Monday against Parsons. Guetterman tied for a team-high 11

rebounds in the contest.

Parsons got a first-hand look at a Wildcat team that has now won nine out of its last 10 games and has been dominant in the postseason.

Louisburg, which took 23-16 halftime lead, broke the game open in the second half as it outscored the Vikings, 39-14, in the final two quarters to cruise into the semifinals.

It started on the defensive end of the floor for Louisburg as the Wildcats held Parsons to just 24 percent shooting and forced 15 turnovers. They also out-rebounded the Vikings, 39-20.

"Defense was our focus to start the game," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "We kind of challenged them to hold Parsons to single digits each quarter. You know you say that and hope that it can be done, but then you go out and do it and it is just a great testament to our players.

"I think we held them to 8, 8, 5 and 9, so you know we did we did a good job defensively. We want to make things tough for them and to contest their shots. Their shooters didn't get many open shots and we didn't let them get to the paint. It was a good effort all-around."



Junior Michael Seuferling gets to the basket for two points Monday against Parsons.

Margrave and senior Ben Guetterman got the Wildcat offense going in the third. Guetterman knocked down a 3-pointer to open the second half and Margrave followed with a run of his own.

With the Wildcats up 10, Margrave scored six straight points, including two on a breakaway dunk after a steal. Louisburg ended the quarter on a 12-4 run.

Senior Dawson Barnes and junior Michael Seuferling combined to score the first eight points of the fourth quarter to help the

Wildcats pull away.

"I think that we played a good all-around game," Louisburg senior Weston Guetterman said. "Everyone played a great game and we all played to our roles and it lead to us pulling away there in the second half.

"Our defense has really come on this season. Our mentality is that we can always control how our defense plays so if we have an off-night offensively we feel like we will still have a good shot to win because of our defense."

Margrave led the Wildcats with a double-double with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Ben Guetterman also scored in double figures with 13 points, six rebounds and a team-high three steals.

Seuferling finished with eight points, while Weston Guetterman had a big night at the point guard spot with 11 rebounds and a team-high seven assists to go along with five points.

Vohs was second on the team with four assists, including one where he saved the ball from going out of bounds and found an open teammate for an easy score.



Louisburg senior Konnor Vohs saves the ball from going out of bounds and finds an open teammate for a score in the first half of Monday's state quarterfinal game.

"Going into the game, the whole team was pumped and ready to play," Vohs said. "We were confident in the game plan and we came out and executed. I think we played aggressive which allowed us to take a lead. The second half just brought more energy that allowed us to feed off of and let us get the win."

Now Louisburg will focus on trying to get to the school's first state championship. The Kansas State High School Activities Association will not play third place games this year, and instead will award the loser of each semifinal a third place trophy.

However, that is not what the Wildcats want.

"It is nice to know that we have already at least tied the best finish in school history, but we aren't satisfied with third," Weston Guetterman said. "Especially since there isn't

a third place game, we want to advance to the championship and play for a title."

LOU 14 9 16 23 – 62

PAR 8 8 5 9 – 30

LOUISBURG (17-6): Julian Margrave 8-14 2-3 20; Ben Guetterman 4-12 3-4 13; Michael Seuferling 4-4 0-0 8; Dawson Barnes 3-4 0-0 6; Weston Guetterman 2-9 1-2 5; Maverick Rockers 2-4 0-0 5; Mack Newell 1-1 0-0 3; Konnor Vohs 1-3 0-0 2. Totals: 25-53 6-9 62. 3-point field goals: 6, (B. Guetterman 2, Margrave 2, Rockers, Newell)

Week 12 Athlete of the Week: Ben Guetterman



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week twelve of the winter sports season.

Ben Guetterman, Senior, Boys Basketball

Louisburg senior Ben Guetterman had a big week last week and Monday for the Wildcat boys basketball team as he helped them to a sub-state championship and state quarterfinal victory. In

the sub-state championship against Iola and the state quarterfinal against Parsons, Guetterman combined to score 25 points and had 11 rebounds to go along with a team-high seven steals during that stretch. He also finished with seven points and seven rebounds in a sub-state semifinal win over Paola.

On the season, Guetterman is third on the team in scoring as he is averaging 11 points a game and is second on the team in rebounding with nearly five a game.

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

Lady Cats end 47-year state drought with sub-state championship



Louisburg seniors (from left) Alyse Moore, Brooklyn Diederich, Megan Foote and Madilyn Melton hoist the Class 4A sub-state championship trophy Saturday following the Lady Cats' 51-27 win over Fort Scott.

Back in middle school, six future Louisburg girls basketball players wrote down their basketball goals on a note card.

Their coaches at the time, Jim Foote and Andy Wright, asked them to set goals for themselves and what they wanted to accomplish on the basketball court.

It was an overwhelming majority – they all either wanted to make it to state or win a state title. State was always their goal.

So following their 51-27 win over Fort Scott in the Class 4A sub-state championship game Saturday, Foote dusted off those cards and showed them to the girls.

It was a blast from the past of sorts. For the last six or seven years, they wanted to be the ones to break the program's long state drought.

So when seniors Megan Foote, Brooklyn Diederich, Alyse Moore, Madilyn Melton and juniors Delaney Wright and Jordan Mynsted read those cards, there was an obvious sense of achievement.

"It has been our goal for as long as I can remember," senior Megan Foote said. "I can't stop smiling. I'm so proud of this team. We have been through so much together, and to be able to win sub-state is a huge accomplishment."



Seniors Megan Foote, Madilyn Melton, Alyse Moore and Brooklyn Diederich were all smiles late in Saturday's sub-state championship game.

Yes, in anti-climatic fashion, the Lady Cats became the first team since 1974 to earn a state bid and ended the program's 47 year absence. Years of hard work led to this moment.

"We wanted nothing more than to get our year on that (state) board," Melton said. "With a year like the one we have had, it

is a great feeling to know we have brought excitement into the school and community. Breaking the drought is a great achievement. Many great players have come before us and I feel like we won it for them."

In a year where the Lady Cats didn't even practice as a full team until after their first game, they rallied to put together one of the best season's in school history as they moved their record to 18-4 after their victory Saturday.

Three of those losses have come at the hands of a Class 6A program, two Class 5A teams and a ranked 3A squad in Nemaha Central. They did all this under a first-year head coach in Adrienne Lane.

"I am so proud to be a part of this team," Lane said. "The girls are fighters and they deserve to make history. It has been so much fun seeing the girls come together this season. We have overcome several obstacles, but this team's perseverance has taken us to where we are."



Junior Delaney Wright locks down on a Fort Scott player Saturday at Louisburg High School.

The Lady Cats have persevered and battled to get to this point, but it has been their defense in the last couple of months that has helped them get to where they are and it showed again Saturday.

Louisburg held Fort Scott to just 21 percent shooting and forced 15 turnovers. It is that kind of pressure that has put the Lady Cats in this position.

"I think our defense is the key to us winning most of our games," Diederich said. "We all give 110 percent when we are on defense and we are always hustling."

"It is a super exciting feeling to go to state. We have always had this goal from day one to go to state. So, finally achieving this goal was a huge accomplishment."

The Lady Cats held Fort Scott to single digit scoring in each of the four quarters, including a five-point fourth that helped Louisburg pull away.

"Man, this team is good at defense," Lane said. "I love coaching teams that battle and play hard like this group. No matter what team we are playing I feel that we have someone on our team that can guard the other team's best player.

"A big part of our success on the defensive side of the ball is the way we help each other, and box out. This shows how unselfish the girls are. They are willing to step and help and box out in all situations."



Junior Jordan Mynsted goes up for two of her team-high 12 points Saturday.

Both Moore and Mynsted almost had double-doubles to help lead Louisburg. Mynsted finished with 12 points and nine rebounds,

while Moore had nine points and 10 rebounds.

However, it was Melton that achieved a big milestone for the Lady Cats. She joined Moore as she recorded her 500th career rebound in the fourth quarter.

Melton finished with a team-high 11 rebounds and had seven points and two blocks.

Foote added eight points to go along with a team-high six deflections and four steals. Moore and Wright led Louisburg with three assists each.



Sophomore Brianne Kuhlman puts up a shot in the lane Saturday against Fort Scott.

"I am honestly super proud of my team," Moore said. "It's amazing to be able to say that we made history in Louisburg and that we can make our community proud, especially our

school and just represent them well."

Now the Lady Cats will try for the best finish in school history tonight when they travel to Labette County (19-2) for the Class 4A state quarterfinals. A win would give them the best finish in school history and they are looking forward to the challenge.

"It will be a tough week for sure, but I believe we're ready," Foote said. "Right after the game on Saturday, we scheduled a film session for the next day. We take it one game at a time. Once one game is over, we move on to the next. Obviously we're very excited and hyped up, but I think that'll make us even better because we have something to prove.

"We are focused and coming into practice to compete. Labette is a talented team and has a great atmosphere to play in. I believe we play better on the road as well. We are 100 percent focused and we will be using the momentum from Saturday to our advantage."



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 Adrienne Lane, Sierra Hahn, Jordan Mynsted, Delaney Wright, Emma Prettyman, Brianne Kuhlman, Emma Lohse, Adyson Ross, Delanie Tally and assistant coach Leanna Willer.

Labette County is an experienced postseason team that has been to state five of the last seven seasons. Louisburg has spent the last two days trying to prepare for a team they haven't seen before, but it is excited for the opportunity.

"Labette County is a solid team and they have experience playing in the state tournament," Lane said. "That being said, I think the girls are ready for the challenge and I think we will show up and play hard. I feel that some of our best games of the season were played on the road, so the girls will be mentally ready. It will be a fun day for the girls, and we plan to enjoy it and battle every possession."

LOU 13 16 7 15 – 51

FS 6 8 8 5 – 27

LOUISBURG (18-4): Jordan Mynsted 4-9 3-3 12; Alyse Moore 3-9 3-3 9; Megan Foote 1-5 5-6 8; Madilyn Melton 3-6 1-2 7; Brooklyn Diederich 2-8 0-0 5; Adyson Ross 2-4 0-0 4; Emma Lohse 1-2 0-0 2; Delanie Tally 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 18-55 12-16 51. 3-point field goals: 3, (Diederich, Mynsted, Foote)

OPINION: History on the hardwood leaves lasting memories for Louisburg



Members of the Louisburg sub-state champion basketball teams are (front row, from left) Emma Lohse, Maverick Rockers, Sierra Hahn, Cade Gassman, Brooklyn Diederich, Isaac Guetterman, Delanie Tally, Michael Seuferling; (middle row) Andy Hupp, Delaney Wright, Ben Guetterman, Megan Foote, Konnor Vohs, Brianne Kuhlman, Weston Guetterman, Adyson Ross; (back row) Emma Prettyman, Julian Margrave, Jordan Mynsted, Mack Newell, Alyse Moore, Colyer Wingfield, Madilyn Melton and Dawson Barnes.

Almost a year ago I was sitting at the first round of the Big 12 tournament, excited for my favorite time of the year –

March Madness.

Life has changed a lot since then.

I still vividly remember a phone call from my wife while watching hoops from the now T-Mobile Center. There was a lot of worry in her voice.

She had no idea why people were fighting over toilet paper in Price Chopper. Why were they panicking over something they had no idea what it was yet? It wasn't food or water for heaven's sake!

The next day was even more puzzling. Tournaments across the country were cancelled. State high school events were stopped in their tracks and never finished.

Even worse news came as spring sports were later cancelled and were people were forced to shelter in their homes. We more or less become a ghost country.

A year later, our lives are completely changed. We are having to do things differently, be more cautious and for some, outlook on every day life is incomparable to what we had before.

One thing that has risen back is March Madness and Louisburg is right in the thick of it all.

In a year where they have been challenges with practices and playing games due to COVID-19, both the Wildcat boys and girls basketball teams have put together one of the best seasons in school history.

It was an incredible weekend at Louisburg High School as the boys won their first sub-state title since 2017 on Friday. The girls earned a state berth for the first time since 1974 – breaking a 47 year drought – on Saturday.



The Louisburg boys are onto their first state tournament since 2017.

Both teams are currently ranked in the top five in the state and are one of eight teams left standing in Class 4A. It is something that has never been done in school history.

That is a feat among itself, but do it in these challenging times says a lot about the players and coaches of both programs.

Boys head coach Ty Pfannenstiel and girls head coach Adriianne Lane have done a great job keeping their players focused and limiting distractions throughout the season.

For the girls team, though, it didn't start out that smoothly.

Many members of the Lady Cats were forced to quarantine when practice began in November and they didn't have their complete

team on the court until the first game in early December. They never got a chance to practice together as team before that season opener against Tonganoxie.

Despite that, they won their first eight games and ended the season with an 16-4 record and finished second in a tough Frontier League.



The Louisburg girls basketball team broke a 47-year state drought Saturday against Fort Scott.

They are now onto the state tournament for the first time since 1974 – the second year of the girls state basketball.

As for the boys, they have faced an up and down season of their own, but the Wildcats have to put together a strong finish to a year that put them as the No. 2 team in the state rankings.

Louisburg has won eight of its last nine games, with the Wildcats' only loss coming to state ranked Shawnee Mission South, a Class 6A program.

Both teams are loaded with talent, but the one thing the two have in common is a strong senior class. In most years, seniors provide leadership and it is evident on both sides.



Louisburg head coach Ty Pfannenstiel poses with his seniors following the Class 4A sub-state championship.

Weston Guetterman, Ben Guetterman, Konnor Vohs, Andy Hupp and Dawson Barnes have all played vital roles on this year's boys team. Add in juniors Julian Margrave – who is the team's leading scorer – Michael Seuferling and Maverick Rockers and the Wildcats have a solid rotation that stacks up with some of the best in the state.

For the girls, Madilyn Melton, Megan Foote, Brooklyn Diederich and Alyse Moore have played basketball together since the seventh grade when they recorded a perfect season for LMS. Many of them have played basketball since they were little and have a deep love for the game.

It shows on the court as those four girls, along with juniors Delaney Wright, Jordan Mynsted and sophomores Brianne Kuhlman

and Adyson Ross, play with a reckless abandon – especially on the defensive end of the floor.



Louisburg seniors (from left) Megan Foote, Alyse Moore, Madilyn Melton and Brooklyn Diederich embrace after winning the sub-state championship.

Folks, this type of stuff doesn't happen every year when it comes to state basketball – unless your name is Bishop Miege or McPherson. For a school to put two teams in the state tournament is a remarkable story.

School history had already been made, but there is much more to be had.

If the boys win tonight, the Wildcats will – at worst – tie for the best finish in program history when Louisburg took third in 1948.

As for the girls, well if they haven't already accomplished enough to break a long state drought, a win over Labette County on Tuesday would give the Lady Cats the best finish in school history for a program that began in the early 70s.



Louisburg girls coach Adrianne Lane crosses out 1974 and writes 2021 to mark the end of the Lady Cats' state drought. Louisburg already made history in the fall when the girls cross country and boys soccer team each finished third at state and had the best season in its program's tenure.

So, why not them?

Wildcat fans, for those of you who haven't joined the hype train yet, there is still plenty of room. Find yourself a voucher and come out and support both teams as they both try to accomplish something that is unprecedented for Louisburg athletics.

Enjoy these teams while we have them – they don't come around

often.

STATE BOUND: Wildcats cruise to first sub-state title since 2017



The Louisburg boys basketball team hoists the Class 4A sub-state championship trophy Friday following its win over Iola.

A year ago, with its season on the line, the Louisburg boys basketball team came out slow against Iola and the Fillies ended the Wildcats' season in the sub-state semifinals.

It was a heartbreakin loss to many on the team as the Wildcats rallied to score 32 points in the fourth quarter, only to fall in overtime.

Fast forward to the present and Louisburg had the opportunity to exact revenge against Iola – this time in the sub-state championship.

There was no slow start this time around.

Louisburg's defense frustrated Iola for much of the game as it held the Fillies to nine first half points and the Wildcats cruised to a 57-32 sub-state championship victory Friday in Louisburg.

"We needed no other motivation because we knew from last year that this was the game we wanted," Louisburg junior Julian Margrave said. "Weston (Guetterman) and I were talking before the season started about wanting to see them again and we finally got it. We proved that we are a state team."

The Wildcats, who are currently ranked No. 2 in Class 4A, earned their first state berth since 2017 and there are plenty of family connections between the two teams.

Ben and Isaac Guetterman's brother, Sam, played on the 2017 squad, as did Michael Seuferling's brother, Alex. The Guetterman's and Seuferling's are also distant cousins.

"Earning a state berth is great and I have always wanted to do this ever since I saw my brother (Sam) go in 2017," Ben said. "I have waited four years for this and we have all put in a lot of hard work. To go to state and have a winning record like we do feels awesome. There are lots of memories being made right now."



Ben Guetterman skies for a rebound with an Iola player Friday in Louisburg.

To go back even further in Wildcat lore, Konnor Vohs' dad, Kevin, was the starting point guard for the 1999 state team. His uncle, Rob, was a starter on the Wildcats' 1991 state team.

"It's something else," Konnor said. "He (Kevin) talks about it all the time and I need to live up to that I guess. I'm wearing No. 11, same as him, and it's just huge and it's sweet to be able to share something like that with him. It's a pretty awesome feeling."

The Wildcats (16-6) played like a family in the sub-state tournament as they defeated a good Paola team in the semifinals and then exacted revenged with a 25-point win Friday.

"Our kids really enjoy being around each other and we played our best by just playing unselfish basketball," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "They've really bought into the defensive side of it because that's something that all five guys on the court have to buy into for you to be successful."

Louisburg had no problem on that end of the floor as the Wildcats held Iola to just 32 percent shooting and forced 16 turnovers. Those Iola mistakes turned into 14 Louisburg points and were just one of the many reasons the Wildcats were successful.

The Wildcats held the Fillies to nine first half points and held them to single digits for three of the four quarters.

"We played great as a team and it carried over from our defensive performance the game before," Weston Guetterman said. "To hold both Paola and Iola to single digits in the first half is a nice accomplishment. I feel like we did a good job defending their best offensive player and it was a good night."



Louisburg junior Julian Margrave puts up a shot in the lane during the first half of Friday's sub-state championship game.

Their defense allowed them to get some rhythm offensively early on.

Louisburg scored 18 first quarter points, 11 of those coming from Margrave who scored the final seven of the quarter. Two of those points brought the crowd to its feet when Weston Guetterman threw an alley-oop to Margrave, who dunked it home.

"We've had that play in all season and we have been just been looking for the right time," Weston said. "There was just a little time on the clock and just felt it was a good time to take a chance on it and it ended up working out. It gave everyone energy, the crowd went wild and we fed off that and it carried with us the rest of the game."

The game was almost out of reach at halftime as the Wildcats

took a 32-9 advantage. The Fillies cut the Louisburg lead to 20 on a couple different occasions, but could get no closer.

Margrave led Louisburg with a team-high 16 points to go along with seven rebounds and three blocks. Ben Guetterman also scored in double figures with 12 points, five boards and a team-high four steals.

Weston Guetterman nearly had a double-double with nine points and a team-high seven assists. Michael Seuferling had seven points and six rebounds.



Louisburg junior Michael Seuferling drives to the basket

during the Wildcats' 25-point win over Iola.

"It's been a quite awhile since we've been there (state) and being a senior and having some seasons where we didn't get too many wins, this is huge," Vohs said. "We have a hell of a team this year and we are ready for the next one."

That next one for the Wildcats will be a tough test as they will host Parsons at 6 p.m. on Monday for the state quarterfinals. The Vikings have now qualified for the state tournament four years in a row.

"We just have to stay focused," Margrave said. "Some people might go out and celebrate, but I'm not. I just want to stay humble and be ready to go for Monday. I know Parsons is a good team, but we have to be ready."

As much as the Wildcats are happy to earn the school's 13th state appearance, there is much more they want to accomplish.

A victory over Parsons would be just the third time in school history that the Wildcats would be guaranteed a place at state. Louisburg placed fourth in 1979 and third in 1948.



Members of the sub-state championship team are (front row, from left): Isaac Guetterman, Colyer Wingfield, Cade Gassman, Mack Newell; (back row) assistant coach Drew Harding, Konnor Vohs, assistant Pete Skakal, Michael Seuferling, Dawson Barnes, Andy Hupp, Julian Margrave, Maverick Rockers, Ben Guetterman, Weston Guetterman, head coach Ty Pfannenstiel and managers Sydney Thornton and Aiyana Penca.

The Class 4A final four will be held on Friday and Saturday in Salina.

"Honestly, right now I am just excited for the next game," Weston said. "We are not done here and we want to win the next one. We have bigger goals for ourselves. The feeling gets better and better every time we win."

LOU 18 14 10 15 – 57

IOLA 5 4 14 9 – 32

LOUISBURG (16-6): Julian Margrave 5-11 3-4 16; Ben Guetterman 5-11 0-1 12; Weston Guetterman 3-5 3-3 9; Michael Seuferling

1-5 5-6 7; Maverick Rockers 1-3 2-2 5; Konnor Vohs 1-1 0-0 3; Andy Hupp 1-6 1-2 3; Dawson Barnes 1-2 0-0 2. Totals: 18-48 14-18 57. 3-point field goals: 7, (Margrave 3, B. Guetterman 2, Rockers, Vohs)

Lady Cats outlast Ottawa to reach sub-state championship



Members of the Louisburg girls basketball team celebrate Wednesday's sub-state semifinal win over Ottawa.

With its season on the line, the Louisburg girls basketball team had to find a way to gut out a win against a physical Ottawa team.

The same two teams had a close matchup about a month ago, and it was much of the same Wednesday in the Class 4A sub-state semifinals.

In a game that featured a fair amount of free throws, the Lady Cats were able to overcome a slow start and pull away for a 44-34 victory over the Cyclones. It puts Louisburg in the sub-state championship Saturday against Fort Scott.

"We are extremely excited to make the finals of substate," senior Megan Foote said. "We are very grateful for the opportunity to compete every day and every chance we get to

play. I can't express how proud I am of our team for the fight and focus we give everyday. I believe our team played very well on Wednesday.

"Of course we had our ups and downs, like every team does, but we never gave up. We were on edge at the start of the game but we finally settled down and started playing our game. Once we adjusted to their offense and press, we were good to go."



Senior Brooklyn Diederich locks down on defense against Ottawa on Wednesday.

Ottawa made things difficult on Louisburg early as the Cyclones pressed the Lady Cats for much of the game and didn't allow them to get into a flow offensively.

It worked for awhile as Ottawa took a 10-7 lead into the second quarter, but the Lady Cats outscored the Cyclones 13-5 the rest of the first half and took a 20-15 lead at halftime.

Louisburg's defense came up big as it forced 26 Cyclone turnovers, which led to 20 points. The Lady Cats took an eight-point lead into the fourth quarter, but the Cyclones didn't go away.

Ottawa (8-13) tied the game at 30 midway through the quarter, but the Lady Cats came up big at the free-throw line. Louisburg scored 12 of its final 14 points from the line as Ottawa tried to get back in the game.



Senior Madilyn Melton goes up for a basket over an Ottawa defender Wednesday.

“Our free throw shooting is what sealed the win for us,”

Louisburg coach Adrianne Lane said. "Making 15 total in the 4th quarter was a huge accomplishment and I felt the girls went to the line with confidence."

The Lady Cats ended the game on a 14-4 run to earn a spot in the sub-state title game.

"Ottawa is a very well-rounded and good team," Foote said. "Their record definitely doesn't show how good they really are. They're a very physical team filled with athletes. Their offense is tough to guard with all the picks and cutting that they do as well. They have very talented players who are fast and know where the ball is at all times. They're a well coached team, that I believe will be dangerous in upcoming years. It was a tough battle to the end, but we pulled through and that is what matters most."

The game was physical from the start as both team had a high number of fouls, which resulted in a combined 49 free throws between the two teams.

Senior Alyse Moore played a big role in the Wildcats' victory as she scored a team-high nine points and also pulled down 14 rebounds. Foote finished with eight points and four rebounds.

Sophomore Brianne Kuhlman finished with seven points all coming from the free-throw line. Those free throws were important as six of them came late in the fourth quarter.

Louisburg also got good play from its bench as sophomore Adyson Ross provided some key minutes. Ross also hit a big 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter to put the Lady Cats up by eight points at the time.



Sophomore Adyson Ross pushes the ball up the floor in the second half of Wednesday's sub-state semifinal game.

Today, the Lady Cats will try and make history as they host No. 3 seed Fort Scott at 3 p.m. in the sub-state finals. A victory would give Louisburg its first state berth since 1974.

"The girls are so excited to play in the sub-state championship," Lane said. "We are going into the game with the mindset of winning, we are going to do everything we have to do to win."

Louisburg defeated Fort Scott 58-24 earlier this season, but the Lady Cats know it will be a tougher game this time around.

"Words cannot describe how happy I am that our team is one step away from state," Foote said. "We have not been to state in 47 years. That has been our goal since being little kids, to break that streak. The energy and connection this team has

right now is unmatched and we truly are ready. We are coming into Saturday with level heads and knowing that it will be a tough battle."

LOU 7 13 7 17 – 44

OTT 10 5 4 15 – 34

LOUISBURG (17-4): Alyse Moore 3-4 3-10 9; Megan Foote 2-7 3-3 8; Brianne Kuhlman 0-3 7-9 7; Brooklyn Diederich 2-7 1-2 6; Adyson Ross 1-2 2-2 5; Madilyn Melton 2-9 1-2 5; Delaney Wright 0-4 2-2 2; Jordan Mynsted 1-6 0-0 2. Totals: 11-42 19-30 44. 3-point field goals: 3, (Ross, Diederich, Foote)

Big first half helps Louisburg to semifinal win over Paola



Louisburg senior Konnor Vohs pulls up for a 3-pointer Tuesday against Paola during the Class 4A sub-state semifinals in Louisburg.

For the first half anyway, Louisburg was playing some of its basketball at the right time.

The Wildcats jumped out to an 18-point halftime lead over rival Paola on Tuesday in the Class 4A sub-state semifinals.

The next two quarters seemed more like a formality the way Louisburg had dominated the first half.

As it turned out, it was much more than a formality as Paola, with its season on the line, charged to cut the Louisburg lead to just four. Still, the Wildcats were able to make plays down the stretch and pull away for a 51-44 victory.

"We came out with a lot of energy and played great defense," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "We pride ourselves on our defense and the first half we executed our defensive game plan and we were playing hard. To hold a team to single digits at halftime is pretty good, and most of the time you are happy if you do that in a quarter. To hold them to eight in the first half was a big accomplishment.

"It was a good thing we got a good lead because they made a run in the second half. It was kind of a reverse for us in the second half as we struggled offensively and we couldn't get stops on defense."

The one constant for the Wildcats was their aggressiveness on the boards, which turned out to be a big difference in the game. Louisburg outrebounded Paola by 14.



Dawson Barnes gets on the floor for a loose ball and passes it off to teammate Weston Guetterman on Tuesday.

Along with its strong defense in the first half, the Wildcats were able to jump out to a 26-8 halftime lead on their rival.

“We just made a point to box out their two big guys and we had the mentality that we were going to go get every rebound,” senior Weston Guetterman said. “We played great pressure defense. With our season on the line, you have to play tough all four quarters. Obviously, we let them back in it a little bit, but we were able to finish strong.

“I was proud of the way we finished and we found a way to win, which is all that matters. Whether it is by 30 or 2, you just have to find a way.”

Louisburg was able to snap Paola’s big rally in the second half with several crucial plays down the stretch.

Paola went on a 15-0 run to get back in the game, a run that

started in the third quarter and ended midway through the fourth. The Panthers cut the Wildcat lead to four, but Louisburg junior Julian Margrave stopped the run with a jumper.



Louisburg junior Michael Seuferling drives on Paola's Bo Robison on Tuesday during the sub-state semifinals.

The Wildcats kept it a six-point advantage on a floater in the lane from senior Konnor Vohs. After a basket from Paola's Trey Moala, junior Michael Seuferling calmly knocked down two free throws to keep the Panthers at arm's length.

Free throws from Margrave and Weston Guetterman, along with a basket from Seuferling, pushed the Louisburg lead to double digits and the Wildcats were able to hold on.

"Our kids played hard and it got to a point where we needed to make some plays," Pfannenstiel said. "We had a lot of kids

make plays for us down the stretch. Konnor's little floater in the lane was really big and I was happy with how we played defensively overall. At this point in the season, we are going to get everyone's best shot, no matter what the score is. Everyone is fighting for their seasons and it is all about surviving and advancing."

Margrave led the Wildcats in scoring with 16 points to go along with eight rebounds. Weston Guetterman also scored in double figures with 10 points, but also had six rebounds, four assists and three steals.



Maverick Rockers, Andy Hupp and Dawson Barnes leap off the bench following the Wildcats' victory over Paola.

Senior Ben Guetterman also had seven points and seven rebounds in the win.

Louisburg (15-6) will now try to advance to the state

tournament for the first time since 2017 when the Wildcats will host No. 2 seed Iola (13-7) at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Iola ended the Wildcats' season a year ago in the sub-state semifinals, despite a 32-point fourth quarter rally from Louisburg that forced overtime. Louisburg hopes it doesn't have to resort to such heroics this time around.

"We want Iola and we wanted to see them again before we graduate and that was part of our motivation for this game," Weston said, "We mainly wanted to win because we haven't won a playoff game yet in high school.

"I am pumped for it. If we come out and play like we did here, I think we have a good chance."

LOU 12 14 13 12 – 51

PAO 4 4 17 19 – 44

LOUISBURG (15-6): Julian Margrave 6-11 3-4 16; Weston Guetterman 4-11 2-6 10; Ben Guetterman 2-8 2-2 7; Michael Seuferling 2-6 2-2 6; Konnor Vohs 2-2 1-2 6; Dawson Barnes 2-3 0-0 4; Andy Hupp 1-2 0-0 2. Totals: 19-43 10-16 51. 3-point field goals: 3, (Vohs, B. Guetterman, Margrave)