

Lady Cats defeat Metro Academy in final home game



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

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

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

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

The

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

Metro

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

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

“I

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

Junior

Madilyn Melton continued her strong play with one of her best games of the

season to lead the way. Melton scored a team-high 18 points to go along with four rebounds.



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

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

“Madilyn has been playing very well these last few games,” Willer said. “We continue to look for ways to get her the ball, whether inside the paint or

on the perimeter. She has taken on the workload very well and she is working hard to try new moves and positions.

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

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

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

“We are very much looking forward to have another shot at Paola,” Willer said. “When we first played this season, our heads were all over the place. We fought hard, but lost a heartbreaker in the end. Going into tomorrow’s

game, we are feeling much more confident in the work we've put in both on and off the court to be the best team we can be. May the best team win."

LOU	13	5	16	11	-
45					
MA	8	3	9	16	
- 36					

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

Wildcats lose home finale to Metro Academy



Sophomore Maverick Rockers drives to the basket for two points after a steal Tuesday against Metro Academy at Louisburg High School.

It wasn't the way the Louisburg boys basketball team wanted to end its home season.

A victory against Metro Academy on Tuesday would have given the Wildcats a chance at hosting a first-round playoff game, but instead, they might have played their last home game of the season.

Metro Academy used a big fourth quarter run to help pull away and hand Louisburg a 54-48 loss. The Wildcats are now 8-11 on the season, and will need to beat Paola on Friday, along with some other help to be able move up the seed line for the playoffs.

"We talked about what was on the line going into this game," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "If we would have won our last two games, then we could have hosted a first round game. Not that it is completely out the window, but we are looking at a 9 or 10 seed right now."

Louisburg got out to a fast start as it outscored Metro Academy 15-5 in the first quarter and the Wildcats increased it to a 14-point advantage early in the second. It was then when the Mavericks started to gain confidence.

Metro Academy finished the first half on a 14-5 run to cut into the Louisburg lead and eventually took a small lead early in the fourth quarter.

"I thought we were really good defensively in the first quarter," Pfannenstiel said. "Some of those

things we struggled with against Bonner Springs last week, we watched those on film and we were better in that first quarter. I thought we were very disciplined, but that is a talented Metro team. I think they return four guys off of last year's team that made it tough on us last year. They have some shooters and good posts that are explosive. A lot of them are seniors and are big, physical kids. We just didn't get done and hats off to them as they made some plays."

Louisburg junior Konnor Vohs broke a tie early in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer to give the Wildcats the lead, but Metro Academy went on a 10-0 run to take a seven-point lead with 2 minutes and 30 seconds left in the game and the Wildcats weren't able to bounce back.

The Wildcats were without starting point guard Weston Guetterman, who was out with an illness, but sophomore Maverick Rockers started in his place and he, along with Vohs, helped pick up some of the scoring slack. The two players combined to score 15 points to help keep Louisburg in it.

"I thought both of them played really, really well," Pfannenstiel said. "I was pleased with everything that those guys did. They handled the ball well and took care of the ball. I think they combined for like two turnovers and that is impressive versus some kids that could really guard. They both were able to score some

points for us and ran the offense, so I was definitely pleased with that.”

Three-point shooting wasn't a problem for the Wildcats as they knocked down seven on the night and shot close to 50 percent from behind the arc. It was the inside that gave Louisburg some issues.



Junior Konnor Vohs drives on a Metro Academy defender Tuesday in Louisburg.

The Wildcats shot just 31 percent from 2-point range and they had problems finding easy baskets.

“We struggle to finish on the inside and for some reason it is hard for us to finish when we get into the paint,” Pfannenstiel said. “If you look at our 2-point percentage, it is not

what you would expect. We have to get better there. Some of it is we are taking tough, contested runners where if we make that extra pass off the drive that we could get a higher percentage shot. It is not always the guys driving the ball, it is also the guys off the ball that have to make plays too to give us some opportunities. We shot it well from the outside, but we have to finish on the inside and find ways to execute offensively.”

Junior Ben Guetterman led Louisburg in scoring with nine points and had six rebounds, while sophomore Julian Margrave had a team-high eight rebounds. Senior Garrett Rolofson also finished with six boards.

Louisburg will try and bounce back to win its regular season finale when it travels to Paola. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m., as the Wildcats try and avenge a loss to the Panthers from earlier this season.

“It shouldn’t take anything special to get us motivated to play Paola,” Pfannenstiel said. “We have a sour taste in our mouths from the last time we played them and have an opportunity to go to their place and get a win. We have played well over there the last couple of years, so I think it will be a good environment and is always a great rivalry.”

48

MA
54

5

14

18

17 –

LOUISBURG (8-11): Ben Guetterman

3-16 2-2 9; Konnor Vohs 3-4 0-0 8; Maverick Rockers 3-5 0-0 7;
Garrett Rolofson

2-5 1-2 6; Michael Waldron 2-5 1-2 6; Charlie Peters 2-4 1-2
6; Julian Margrave

3-11 0-0 6. Totals: 18-50 5-8 48. 3-point field goals: 7,
(Vohs 2, Rolofson,
Rockers, Guetterman, Waldron, Peters)

Turnovers haunt Wildcats in loss to Bonner Springs



Louisburg junior Weston Guetterman gets on the floor for a loose ball Friday during the Wildcats' game in Bonner Springs.

BONNER SPRINGS – After a pair of wins got the Louisburg boys basketball team back on the right track, the Wildcats stumbled a bit Friday at Bonner Springs.

Louisburg, despite a late second half rally, could not complete the season sweep over Bonner Springs as the Wildcats

fell, 61-54, after defeating the Braves earlier this season. It was a loss where several things didn't go the Wildcats' way.

"We just have to find some consistency," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "Against Spring Hill we were really good defensively, and I think against Eudora we were really good offensively. This time, we were just okay on each end. I didn't think we were great defensively, especially in the first half. Our plan was to keep them out of the paint and kind of pack in our defense and make them settle for outside jumpers. We struggled early to keep them out of the paint and they had some good looks.

"We have to find some consistency, though, and our record shows that. We might be good for a couple games and then we struggle a little. We struggled a little offensively and settled for too many outside jumpers, especially in the first half."

The Wildcats, who are currently 8-10 on the season, struggled in the turnover department – which turned out to be to the detriment in the game. With the game tied at 11 going into the second quarter, Louisburg committed five turnovers that led to fast break points for Bonner Springs.

That allowed the Braves to build a lead it wouldn't give back. In all, the Wildcats committed 18 turnovers on the

night, which led to 25 Bonner Springs points.

“Turnovers hurt us for sure and those led to some run-out layups for them,” Pfannenstiel said. “We came out in a 1-3-1 defense to start the second half, and I think that worked and we did a good job rebounding, but then we would turn the ball over. That puts us down and forced us to get out of our zone, which I thought had a chance to slow them down a little bit.

“When you give up three possessions in a row on easy baskets like that it is tough. You can’t fault our defense there, it was those turnovers that led to their offense. You aren’t going to win many games if you turn the ball over that many times.”

Despite all that, the Wildcats were able to make one final run at the Braves early in the fourth quarter.

Senior Michael Waldron and sophomore Julian Margrave hit back-to-back 3-pointers to cut the Bonner lead to three. Junior Ben Guetterman then got a steal and a score to trim the Braves’ lead to 51-50.

Bonner Springs, however, would go on a 9-0 run to extend the lead back to 10 points and the Wildcats weren’t able to recover.



Senior Michael Waldron drives to the basket Friday against Bonner Springs.

Margrave and senior Garrett Rolofson each had a double-double to lead the Wildcats. Margrave finished with a team-high 17 points and 12 rebounds, while Rolofson added 11 points and 10 boards.

Guetterman also finished in double figures with 15 points. Junior Weston Guetterman had a team-high seven assists to go along with six rebounds.

“We were able to make a run there to get back in it and I was proud of the guys for that,” Pfannenstiel said. “I thought maybe we had turned the corner, but that is how basketball goes sometimes. We will do what we can to get a little more consistent because that is what it is going to take to make a run here.”

Louisburg returns to action tonight when it hosts Metro Academy in its final home game of the season. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

LOU	11	15	16	12 –
54				
BON	11	21	16	13 –
61				

LOUISBURG (8-10): Julian Margrave 6-14 3-4 17; Ben Guetterman 6-19 1-3 15; Garrett Rolofson 4-8 3-3 11; Michael Waldron 2-7 0-0 6; Weston Guetterman 2-10 0-0 5. Totals: 20-58 7-10 54. 3-point field goals: 7, (B. Guetterman 2, Waldron 2, Margrave 2, W. Guetterman 1)

Bonner Springs rallies to beat Louisburg in final

minute



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

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

Bonner Springs, however, had different ideas.

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

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

Louisburg

(7-11) held the lead from early in the second quarter until late in the fourth.

The Lady Cats built an eight-point lead on a couple different occasions,

including early in the fourth quarter, but the Braves made one final push.

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

It

was Whetstone that caused the Lady Cats the most problems. She finished with a

game-high 20 points, many of which came in the Braves' 20-point fourth quarter,

and also added 13 rebounds.

Louisburg

had a couple different opportunities to either tie the game, or take the lead

back, but either the shots wouldn't fall or the Braves forced a turnover. The

Lady Cats also struggled at the free-throw line as they were 3-for-13 for the

contest.

The

game was a back-and-forth affair early on as the lead changed hands eight times

through the early part of the second quarter, but Louisburg junior Madilyn

Melton helped build the Lady Cats' lead. She scored 14 points from the second

quarter to the early part of the fourth that helped give

Louisburg a nine-point lead at the time.



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

Melton

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

Junior Megan Foote led the Lady Cats with eight assists and had seven rebounds. Another junior, Brooklyn Diederich, had a team-high nine deflections and Foote added six. Sophomore

Delaney Wright was second on the team with four assists and had a team-high two steals.

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

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

LOU	8	12	8	11
- 39				
BON	10	6	7	20 -
43				

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

Aye provides memorable moment in Senior Night loss to Eudora



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

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

The Cardinals showed why they are one of the best teams in Class 4A as they defeated the Lady Cats, 56-33.

Despite that, the Lady Cats left the floor with a lot of smiles on their faces and there was one big reason why.

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

Aye, who has been in charge of the team's camera the last few years, had a chance to suit up for the first time.

So late in the fourth quarter, she made her way to the

scorer's table to check
in.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

trust them
wholeheartedly as they lead by example.

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

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

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

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

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

Tipoff is set for
6 p.m.

LOU	4	7	11	11
- 33				
EUD	19	12	17	8 -
56				

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

Wildcats catch fire to beat Eudora on Senior Night



Sophomore Julian Margrave gets to the basket for two of his 20 points Tuesday against Eudora. The Wildcats knocked down 13 3-pointers in their win over the Cardinals.

The Louisburg boys basketball team
picked a good time to have its best shooting night of the
season Tuesday
against Eudora.

The Wildcats, who lost to Eudora earlier in the year, returned the favor in a 64-50 victory over the Cardinals. As impressive as the win was, it was how the Wildcats did it that made all that more memorable.

Louisburg knocked down 13 3-pointers on the night – a season high – and in comparison made just eight two-pointers. The Wildcats shot nearly 50 percent from the floor and was able to hold off a late Eudora comeback in the second half to get their second straight victory.

“We played with a lot more confidence early on and we were playing free,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “The ball was going through the hoop and we were feeling pretty good about things. That is the type of offensive team that I think we can be. We have kind of struggled offensively lately in getting into a rhythm, so for us to put up 40 in the first half was big.

“In the second half, we wanted to be patient with the lead, but we still wanted to have that mentality where we are looking to score. Even though we didn’t score as well, we were still patient with the ball. My biggest concern was our defense in the second half. We have to be better defensively. Eudora was able to come back and make it tight, but for our kids to respond and extend the lead was good.”

Sophomore Julian Margrave was big in the first half for

Louisburg as he scored 16 of his 20 points in the first two quarters to help give the Wildcats a 40-21 lead at halftime. Junior Ben Guetterman also shined as he had 11 of his 16 points in the first half as well.

The Wildcats (8-9) did much of their damage from behind-the-arc early as 10 of their 13 3-pointers came in the first and second quarters.

“Sometimes you get hot and I think we are a group that can do that,” Pfannenstiel said. “Hopefully we are getting hot at the right time and we can continue that. The best thing is that they were all good shots and were in rhythm. Julian got hot there in the first half and was definitely wanting the ball. He was really good in the first half as was Ben and (Michael) Waldron. Weston shot the ball really well too.”



Senior Michael Waldron puts up a 3-point shot Tuesday against

Eudora. The Wildcats hit 13 of those in a win over Eudora.

Weston Guetterman was key for the Wildcats in the second half as Eudora made a run at the Wildcats. The Cardinals put the pressure on Louisburg as they eventually cut the lead to five midway through the fourth quarter.

Weston had the answers for Louisburg as he scored 15 of his game-high 21 points in the second half as Eudora made an effort to take away Margrave and limit his looks. He also had seven points in the final two minutes to help keep the Cardinals at arm's length.

"They were trying to pressure Julian and made it hard for him to get touches," Pfannenstiel said. "If they are going to take him away, that just means other guys are going to have to step up and Weston did that for us in the second half. He really took over when we needed someone too and hit some shots to stop some of those Eudora runs."

Defense was also a priority for the Wildcats in the first half as they held Eudora to 21 points and scored 20 points off of 13 Eudora turnovers. Ben Guetterman led the Wildcats with four steals and Michael Waldron added three.



Senior Garrett Rolofson puts up a shot over a Eudora defender Tuesday at home.

Ben Guetterman finished with a team-high eight rebounds and Garrett Rolofson added two blocks.

It was also Senior Night for Louisburg and the Wildcats honored seniors Waldron, Rolofson and Noah Bell prior to the contest. The crowd was fired up early as all three seniors started and Bell, who is better known as Roll Tide, scored his first-ever varsity basket to begin the game.

The Wildcats used that momentum to build a big lead over the Cardinals and they never looked

back.

“Roll Tide was fired up,” Pfannenstiel said. “I have never seen a kid take the court with that big of a smile on his face. It was just ear to ear. He was excited for his opportunity and he was able to get himself a bucket. It was good for him and it was fun to see.



Senior Noah Bell, a.k.a Roll Tide, makes his first varsity basket to begin Tuesday’s game against Eudora.

“Michael has played really well defensively, especially the last two games for sure. We put him on their best players and I think he really loves that role. He has done a good job of keeping of their best scorers frustrated. Rolo has just been solid for us all year and has been our most consistent defender and rebounder. He guards the other team’s best big and he is really playing good basketball for us right now.”

The Wildcats will try and make it three straight wins tonight as they travel to Bonner Springs for Frontier League matchup. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

LOU	18	22	7	17 –
64				
EUD	10	11	15	14 –
50				

LOUISBURG (8-9): Weston Guetterman 6-11 5-8 64; Julian Margrave 7-10 2-2 20; Ben Guetterman 5-11 2-2 16; Michael Waldron 1-4 0-0 3; Garrett Rolofson 1-3 0-1 2; Noah Bell 1-4 0-0 2. Totals: 21-44 9-13 64. 3-point field goals: 13, (W. Guetterman 4, B. Guetterman 4, Margrave 4, Waldron 1)

Lady Cats fall to Spring Hill on homecoming



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

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

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

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

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

Frank provided a lot of those points in the second half where the

Broncos outscored the Lady Cats, 25-12, after Louisburg trailed by just one point at halftime.

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

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

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



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

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

Spring Hill held just one a point lead going into halftime, but the

Broncos pulled away and eventually built a 15-point lead in the fourth quarter to pull away.

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

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

LOU	12	6	6	7 -
31				
SH	12	7	12	13
- 44				

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

Wildcats get revenge win over Spring Hill



Louisburg senior Garrett Rolofson puts up a shot over a couple Spring Hill defenders Friday during the Wildcats' homecoming win over the Broncos.

It had been a rough stretch for the Louisburg boys basketball team as of late as the Wildcats had lost four of their last five games heading into Friday's game against Spring Hill.

One of those four losses were to the Broncos and the Wildcats, at the time, didn't look like themselves.

All that changed last Friday as Louisburg got a 44-34 revenge win over Spring Hill on homecoming to help put the Wildcats back on the right track.

It all started on the defensive end for the Wildcats as they held Spring Hill to 30 percent from the floor.

They were also able to take away Spring Hill guard Cooper Jones and held one of the team's top scorers to just two points.

“Our focus was to play with energy and toughness and I thought our kids played really, really well,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “Defensively, we wanted to harass them, especially (Cooper Jones and Alex Johnson) because they run a lot of their stuff through them. Our goal was to frustrate those guys and to hold Jones to two points is an accomplishment for our kids. That was our plan going in and I thought our kids executed that really well.”

It certainly wasn't easy for the Wildcats (7-9) as they found themselves down for much of the first half, but did have a one-point lead going into halftime.

Sophomore Maverick Rockers hit a 3-pointer late in the first quarter to give the Wildcats a one-point lead. In the second quarter, Michael Waldron knocked down a 3-pointer and Julian Margrave hit a bucket late to help Louisburg to a 23-22 halftime advantage.

Margrave and Ben Guetterman came up with big baskets at the right time for Louisburg in the second half as the two players provided much of the offense in the final two quarters. Margrave scored a game-high 21 points and pulled down six rebounds, while Guetterman also scored in double figures with 10.

“We had good possessions at the right time,” Pfannenstiel said. “The kids are progressing offensively and I want us to be patient. When we were in the halfcourt, we had

good shot selection, but we needed to be aggressive when it comes to driving the ball. That was definitely big for us and Julian and Ben really hit some big shots for us down the stretch.”



Ben Guetterman gets fouled by a Spring Hill player Friday. Guetterman finished in double figures with 10 points.

The Wildcats also had to deal with a little bit of foul trouble in the first half as starting point guard Weston Guetterman had two fouls in the first quarter, but the Wildcat bench was able to provide crucial minutes to help keep their team in the game.

That led to a big second half on both sides of the floor for Louisburg, especially on the defensive end, as it held Spring Hill to just 12 points in the final two quarters.

"We had some kids step up for us and it was a good team effort, even with some guys getting in foul trouble,"

Pfannenstiel said. "Michael Seuferling played very good defense, as did Konnor

Vohs and Maverick Rockers. All those guys really helped with Weston being out

with two fouls. The main thing was that our defense was really good. We always

preach that our defense has to be good every night. It was a slow it down and

grind it out win."

Louisburg will try to make it back-to-back wins tonight when it hosts Eudora for Senior Night. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

LOU	13	10	9	12	-
44					

SH	12	10	6	6	
- 34					

LOUISBURG (7-9): Julian Margrave 7-16 6-7 21; Ben Guetterman 3-11 4-4 10; Michael Waldron 2-6 0-0 5; Garrett Rolofson 2-3 0-0 4; Maverick Rockers 1-1 0-0 3; Weston Guetterman 0-3 1-3 1.
Totals: 15-44 11-14 44. 3-point field goals: 3, (Rockers, Waldron, Margrave)

Rough second half sinks Wildcats against No. 6 Ottawa



Louisburg senior Garrett Rolofson battles for a rebound last Friday during the Wildcats' game against Ottawa at Ottawa High School.

OTTAWA – The Louisburg boys basketball team knew it had a difficult challenge on its hands Friday when it had to travel to face off with No. 6 Ottawa.

The Cyclones are considered one of the top teams in Class 4A, but after the first half was over, the Wildcats were within just one point of the Cyclones when the third quarter began.

It was then the Cyclones took off.

Ottawa scored 39 second half points and the Wildcats couldn't keep pace as they fell 60-38 at Ottawa High School. It was the second straight loss for Louisburg.

"Ottawa got off to a good start in the second half," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "They were able to get

to the lane a lot easier and we weren't as good on help-side defense and they have some kids who can really play. They were able to drive and kick it out and they hit more shots in the second half, obviously.

"We have to start better than we did. We got down seven and then I think that led to some unforced turnovers where we tried to do too much. Defensively we struggled in the second half and we aren't going to be able to win many games giving up 40 points in a half."

It was a back-and-forth first half as the two teams traded leads on a couple different occasions. Late in the first quarter, Louisburg took an 11-10 lead on a 3-pointer from Julian Margrave and a putback from Garrett Rolofson.



Sophomore Michael Seuferling puts up a shot Friday against Ottawa.

The Wildcats also took a 20-19 advantage late in the first half on a drive from Weston Guetterman, but trailed 21-20 at halftime. Louisburg was also able to slow down Ottawa big man Kobe Johnson to help keep the game close.

“Defensively we were really good in the first half,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “Our help-side defense was good and we knew we were going to need that against Johnson as he is a tough player to guard. He has a lot of varsity experience and he is as physical of kid as we are going to play against this year. We did a good job on him, but overall our intensity was good.

“We weren’t great by any means offensively in the first half, but we were able to hang in there. We were efficient, but we have to be able to put two halves together.”

Ottawa opened the second half on an 11-0 run and scored 24 points in the third quarter to distance itself from Louisburg.

Margrave led the Wildcats in scoring with 16 points, including a dunk, and had six rebounds, while Weston Guetterman finished with nine points on the night. Rolofson recorded a team-high 10 rebounds.

Louisburg will try and bounce back this Friday when it hosts Spring Hill for homecoming. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

LOU	11	9	9	9 –
38				
OTT	13	8	24	15 –
60				

LOUISBURG (6-9): Julian Margrave

6-17 16; Weston Guetterman 2-4 5-6 9; Garrett Rolofson 3-10
0-0 6; Ben

Guetterman 1-8 0-0 3; Michael Waldron 1-3 0-0 2; Charlie
Peters 1-1 0-0 2.

Totals: 14-49 5-6 38. 3-point field goals: 5, (Margrave 4, B.
Guetterman)

Lady Cats snap losing skid with road win over Ottawa



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

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

They decided to take all that frustration out on Friday.

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

at Ottawa High School.

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

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

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

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

“We did a much better job of moving on the flight of the ball instead of reacting, and I think we realized how much that helps us stay active and engaged. Our rebounding also improved from earlier in the week, which was nice to see as we emphasized it during practice.”



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

Louisburg sophomore Delaney Wright got the Lady Cats started strong with five straight points to start the game and junior Brooklyn

Diederich ended the first quarter with five points of her own to give them a 12-3 lead.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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