

Frontier League sends proposal to KSHSAA to separate private schools



A big change to the Kansas High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) postseason could be coming sooner rather than later if a proposal, submitted by the Frontier League, passes the KSHSAA Board of Directors and its member schools.

Last month the Frontier League, led by Paola High School principal Jeff Hines and Louisburg superintendent Dr. Brian Biermann, petitioned KSHSAA to separate public and private schools into their own postseason competitions.

In order for it pass, the petition must be signed by 20 percent of the 355 member schools according to KSHSAA bi-laws. The Frontier League got the 71 needed petitions and have now submitted this to appear in front of the KSHSAA Board of Directors for vote in their Sept. 18 meeting.

The board of directors would then have to pass it by simple majority of those in attendance to

bring the proposal
to a vote from all the member schools.

“Kansas needs to catch up with
the rest of the country and get this competitive imbalance
under control in our
state,” Hines said. “The longer we wait then more students
will be negatively
impacted. We have a responsibility as educators to create the
best
opportunities possible for our students. No one can honestly
say we have
the best system possible right now. It can definitely be
improved.”

The proposal submitted by the Frontier League is the same one
the state of Texas uses that keeps the schools in their same
classification, but only separates the schools come
postseason.

Other options were discussed
before submitting the proposal, such as implementing a
multiplier on all
private schools like Missouri currently does. In fact, it is
the most popular
proposal among the schools that were surveyed by Hines last
January.

They also talked about the “Oklahoma
model” where schools are bumped up a classification based on
success for
competitive balance.

Seventy-four percent of the
schools said they would support a population multiplier, 64
percent would
support competitive balance factors and 51 percent would
support separate

divisions.

However, KSHSAA would not be able to make this change with a multiplier due to state statute K.S.A. 72-130 that states a high school association "must establish a system of classification of member high schools according to student attendance."

KSHSAA would not be able to pass a new bi-law that goes against state statute, and therefore, the Kansas State Legislature would have reword the statute to allow the association to make those changes.

The Frontier League believes the Texas model, or separate postseason divisions, does not deal with classifications. Also, this model had more support from 5A and 6A schools as neither classification would likely vote for a multiplier.

"We don't view that as a classification decision as we are not affecting classification, but KSHSAA and their lawyers view that it is," Biermann said. "5A and 6A schools that we talked to really wanted us to push for the Texas model because they don't want to play them (private schools) either. The biggest thing for me is if 5 and 6A schools don't want to play them, then why do we? As a superintendent, I am supposed to create opportunities for kids. We had four teams last year in both soccer teams, football and volleyball that all saw their season end to Bishop Miege. It is not right that we have kids and coaches that work their tails off and they don't have the opportunity to win.

"Am I all about state championships? Absolutely not. But we also know the reality of it in the current system. Winning state championships is important for

communities and is always a goal. I am not ever going to give up on this idea and neither will the Frontier League.”

The public versus private school debate has been going on for the last several years and Hines has been leading the charge since 2015 when he put together a study that displayed the disparity of state championships won by private schools.

In 2018-19, private schools won 32 percent of the state championships in Classes 5A through 1A. There are currently no private schools in 6A. Twenty-one of those 24 state titles were won by private schools in Class 4A and 5A.

That is a high number considering that out of the 355 member schools, only 27 of them are private.

The Frontier League wanted to see change, so Hines surveyed the 355 member schools late last year and presented his findings to KSHSAA in January. More than 88 percent of the schools responded, that included 22 private institutions, and 87 percent said they want the current system changed.

**Presentation of Public/Private School Survey Results
to The KSHSAA Executive Board**

January 10, 2019

Results from Survey

313 of the 355 KSHSAA Member Schools Responded – 88.2%

291 Public Schools Responded

22 Private Schools Responded

273 Member Schools voted YES to support a change in the current structure

271 Public Schools Voted Yes for Change

2 Private Schools Voted for Change

40 Member Schools voted NO to support a change in the current structure

20 Public Schools Voted No for Change

20 Private Schools Voted No for Change

87.2% voted that they want the current system changed.

	Survey Response Rate	Support Change
1A	82.9%	92.8%
2A	89.0%	84.2%
3A	98.4%	85.6%
4A	100.0%	88.9%
5A	88.8%	81.3%
6A	77.7%	82.1%
Total	88.2%	87.2%

School Superintendent Response Rate

175 School Superintendents Responded

169 out of 175 Support Change

96.6% Support Change

Principal Response Rate

182 Principals Responded

84.6% Support Change

Activities Director Response Rate

200 Activities Directors Responded

85% Support Change

Although most schools said they would support the multiplier model more, Hines and the rest of the league schools, believe it is the best way to proceed at this time.

“Our survey indicated that separate divisions was the least popular option among member schools, however as a league we feel like it is the most appropriate option,” Hines said. “A multiplier will pass through and will be our next option if this does not go through. A multiplier will impact many private schools that are not quasi sports academies that are not very successful in athletics. The separate divisions avoids this situation.”

If the proposal does pass the board of directors, KSHSAA will then put it to a vote with all 355 member schools and it must pass by a simple majority and by four of the six classes.

From there, KSHSAA executive director Bill Faflick would take it to the Kansas Legislature before change could be implemented.

“We know it won’t happen overnight,” Biermann said. “Even if this passes, nothing will change this year and probably not the following year. It could be three years out with the way football schedules take shape. We are honestly ok with that if we knew that there was light at the end of the tunnel. If this would not pass, we would turn right around and do the multiplier one.”

Despite what happens at the

upcoming board of directors meeting, Hines believes changes to the system will happen sooner rather than later.

“I am now confident something will get done,” Hines said. “I think it will ultimately take a multiplier to get something done. If the separate divisions fails then we will propose a multiplier for the spring board of directors meeting.”

A lot of obstacles are still in the way for change to happen, whether it has to deal with state statues or member votes, but none of the schools in the nine-member Frontier League are going to stop until they see a more even playing field.

“I am very proud of the Frontier League, and even though we compete against each other, we are very unified on this,” Biermann said. “It is about fairness and equality and I am tired of having my kids at Louisburg High School not having the same opportunity as some others. The throttle is down and it is going to stay down.”

**Harding excited for
opportunity with Pitt State
basketball**



Grant Harding drives to the basket during his senior season with Louisburg in 2017. Harding committed to play basketball at Pittsburg State after two years with the Hesston College program.

When Grant Harding signed with Hesston College to play basketball more than two years ago, he hoped to use it as a stepping stone to something bigger.

Harding certainly made the most of his opportunity in his two years with the Larks and it paid off in a big way.

The 2017 Louisburg graduate was offered a spot on the Pittsburg State University basketball team and Harding jumped at the opportunity when he committed to the team in May.

“I am very excited to have the opportunity to play Division II basketball,” Harding said. “The competition at this level is incredible and being able to compete with some great athletes is something that I really look forward to.

“The decision to go to Pitt State was an easy one once I visited and got the chance to meet coach (Kim) Anderson and experience what an athlete at Pitt is all about.”

Harding, who will enter Pitt State as a junior both

athletically and academically, will have the opportunity to play for an experienced head coach. Anderson was previously the head coach at the University of Missouri and he also won a Division II national championship at the University of Central Missouri before that.

Anderson is currently in his second year with the Gorilla program and Harding is excited to be a part of what Anderson is trying to build down at Pitt.

“Coach Anderson has plans for me to further develop my game in these next two years,” Harding said. “I am expected to come in and compete for playing time and impact the team any way I can. He likes how I am a versatile player and views me as a mismatch at different positions.

“I just have a ton of respect for Coach Anderson and all he has accomplished during his coach career. I believe there is something special happening with Pitt State basketball under his leadership. Pitt State has great facilities for all their athletes and they have a really unique teaching program and coaching experience opportunities.”

Harding had good final season at Hesston as the Larks competed in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference. In 28 games, Harding averaged 14 points a contest to go along with seven rebounds a game as a guard/forward.

He believes his time with the

Hesston program was pivotal in his career and he is thankful for what he learned in the last two years.

“I had a great experience at Hesston,” Harding said. “Off the court, I grew tremendously and met some lifelong friends. On the court, I got a lot of experience at the college level and played against some tough competition. Coach (Dustin) Galyon really prepares his players for the next step both on and off the court.”

Harding, who was an all-league player for the Wildcats and helped Louisburg to its last state appearance in 2017, is ready to see how his basketball journey ends at Pitt State.

“My goals for next year are to continue on a good path towards graduation in on time with good grades, and to just be the best teammate I can be. I just want to be someone who competes and works hard every day and see where that takes my final years of playing basketball.”

Stiles, Lohse, Burk and Bowes

to be inducted into LHS Hall of Fame



Dennis Stiles (top left), John Lohse (top right), Jason Burk (bottom left) and Krystal (Bowes) Grojean will be inducted into the Louisburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame this fall.

It has been 11 years since Louisburg High School had inducted a class into its athletic hall of fame, but the wait for a new class is finally over.

The USD 416 Endowment Association, which oversees the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame, has announced a new 4-member class. Dennis Stiles (Class of 1969), John Lohse (1995), Jason Burk (1999) and Krystal (Bowes) Grojean (2001) were the top four vote getters in this year's hall of fame voting and will be honored in an induction ceremony sometime this fall.

“Louisburg has a history of great athletes,” said Damon Dennis, a USD 416 Endowment Association board member. “We had a good cross-section of both young and older voters this year that really took their job seriously. The four athletes chosen represent several generations of former Wildcats and each one were dominant in their particular era and sports. The Endowment Association is excited to get the Hall of Fame going again and plan on some big things in the future.”

More than two dozen voters, that includes current members of the hall of fame, long-time Louisburg residents, teachers and

coaches, voted on the class in June. Each voter was asked to submit their top four choices for the hall and votes were then tabulated.

To be eligible for the hall of fame, the inductee must wait at least 10 years following graduation to be nominated.

The last class that was inducted was in 2008 and Dennis, and the rest of the Endowment Association, is committed to making this a yearly occurrence moving forward.

Here

are the accomplishments of each of the newest hall of fame inductees. Look for

more information on an induction ceremony in the coming weeks.



Dennis Stiles

Dennis Stiles – Class of 1969 – Football, Basketball, Track

Stiles

lettered 4 years in football and

track and 3 years in basketball. His senior year he was named all-league and

all-state in football and was co-captain on the Wildcat team that finished the

year 4-4.

As sophomore, he played on the varsity basketball team which was 12-0 in league play, finished the year 19-3 and were district champions. He earned honorable mention all-state honors his sophomore and junior seasons and was second-team all-state his senior year. Stiles was at one time the school's career scoring leader.

Stiles competed at the state track meet as a junior and senior where he placed fourth in the discus his senior year. He previously held school records in the discus and triple jump. He also received a football scholarship to Kansas State University.



John Lohse

John Lohse – Class of 1995 – Football, Basketball and Baseball

Lohse lettered all four years in baseball and was selected to represent Kansas in the all-star baseball classic his senior year. He was an all-league

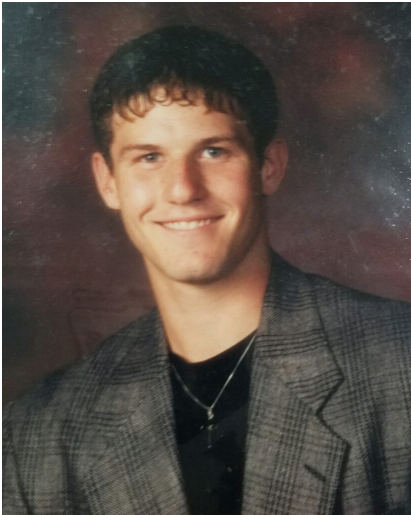
pitcher and centerfielder for the Wildcats his sophomore through senior years.

He had a .510 average his junior and senior seasons with 10 home runs his junior year and 12 more his senior season.

In football, Lohse was a 3-year letterwinner. He was an all-league wide receiver his junior and senior seasons. In his senior year, he had 850 yards receiving and 11 touchdowns and was later selected to represent Kansas in the Metro Classic All-Star Game.

Lohse was also a 3-year letterwinner in basketball and was an all-league selection his junior and senior seasons. He averaged a double-double his junior and senior years.

Post-graduation, Lohse attended Pittsburg State on a baseball scholarship and played on the Gorilla team for four years. He was selected to the all-MIAA team his sophomore and junior seasons before injuring his shoulder his senior year. He had a .315 average his junior and senior seasons. In his first collegiate at-bat his freshman year, Lohse hit a game-winning grand slam to give Pitt State its first win over Missouri Southern in five years.



Jason Burk

Jason Burk – Class of 1999 – Track and Football

Burk was a 4-year letterwinner for the Louisburg track and field team and qualified for state in all four years in four events. He accumulated 12 state medals, 16 regional track medals and 14 Frontier League medals. Burk was selected to the Kansas City All-Metro track team in 1998 and 1999.

During his senior season, Burk was a state champion in both the triple and long jump. He won the triple jump with a leap 48 feet and the long jump with a mark of 22-5. He also finished fifth in the 100-meter dash and sixth in the high jump. As a junior, Burk won a state championship in the triple jump with mark of 46 feet and won three more state medals. He took second long jump, fourth in the 100 dash and sixth in the 200 dash. As a sophomore, Burk won state medals in the triple jump (second), long jump (fourth)

and 4×100 relay

(third). He was a member of the 4×100 team that took second at state as a freshman in 1996.

At one time, Burk held seven school records. He currently holds school records in the triple jump, high jump and long jump. Burk holds the school record for most points in a season with 326.

Burk also played football, where he was a part of bi-district, district and regional championship teams.



Krystal (Bowes) Grojean

Krystal (Bowes) Grojean – Class of 2001 – Volleyball, Basketball, Track

Bowes was a 4-year letterwinner in track before she was offered a scholarship on the Wichita State track and field team.

In her senior season at Louisburg, Bowes earned three state medals, including a second-place finish in the javelin with a throw of 145-10. She was also third in the discus with a toss of 126-9 and fifth in the shot put at 37-5. As a sophomore and junior, she finished sixth in the discus at state. In all, Bowes racked up five state medals in her high school career before moving on to Wichita State. She is the current Louisburg record holder in the javelin (146-10) and discus (137-11).

At Wichita State, she earned academic All-American honors and was a team captain all four years. Bowes was a two-time NCAA national qualifier and finished fifth in the javelin and was second in the Missouri Valley Conference in 2006. In 2004, Bowes took first in the MVC in the javelin and fourth in the discus. In 2003, she won the Missouri Valley Conference discus title, was second in the javelin and fourth in the hammer throw. Bowes was also a member two Shocker teams that won conference titles.

In volleyball and basketball at LHS, Bowes was a 3-year letterwinner in each sport and earned first-team all-Frontier League honors each season.

Current members of the LHS Hall of Fame

Class of 2005:

Tom
Stevens – 1934 – Track and Field (High Jump)

1947/48

Undefeated Football Teams

Richard

Meiers – 1949 – Basketball/Football

Don

Meek – 1965-1998 – Coach/Administrator

Larry

Harding – 1976-1994 – Volleyball/Golf Coach

Amy

Dodson Goode – 1986 – Volleyball/Basketball

Class of 2006:

Jim

Wells – 1936 – Track and Field (Pole Vault)/Football

Doug

Eaton – 1971 – Wrestling

Sue

Truman Apple – 1974 – Track and Field/Volleyball/Basketball

Mike

Meek – 1985- Football/Wrestling/Track and Field

Jamie

Waite – 1991 – Track and Field (Pole Vault)/Football/Basketball

Class of 2007

Alan

Taylor – 1949 – Football

Tim

Dozier – 1987 – Wrestling/Football

Beth

Dodson Dixon – 1989 – Volleyball/Basketball

Jeff

Lohse – 1991 – Baseball/Football/Basketball

Class of 2008

Greg

Kahmann – 1987 – Baseball/Football/Basketball

Mark

Buckingham – 1994 – Basketball

Buffington named 2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year



Not many athletes had the opportunity to experience the success Carson Buffington did during the 2018-19 school year.

Buffington found herself in two state championship matches and was a team captain in all three seasons. The 2019 Louisburg High School graduate played at a high level in all

the sports she competed in and did so with the respect of her teammates of coaches.

Those are just a few of the reasons why Buffington was chosen as the 2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year.

The award, which is in its second year, is to recognize an outstanding LHS student athlete. Louisburg Sports Zone asked the head coaches at LHS to submit nominations and those nominations were then organized and submitted back to the coaches for a vote.

The coaches then submitted their top three choices and the number of votes were added up, which decided the winner.

Buffington began her memorable senior year on the volleyball court as she helped the Lady Cats to a state runner-up finish for the second consecutive season. She was an outside hitter on the 2018 squad, which was a position she had to learn on the fly.

She spent the last two seasons as the team's starting setter and Buffington made the move to the front line – which gave her team the best chance to win.

Along with her state runner-up finish, Buffington also earned second team All-Frontier League honors and was named to the Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches Association Senior All-Star match.

“Carson was a great leader again this

past season and played a vital role on the team,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “She handled transitioning to a new position with a lot of grace and was bound and determined to learn the ins/outs of being a hitter, than a setter. She previously ran our offense as the setter for two years. But as with each new season, new players are added to the mix and the possibility of changing positions/rosters arises.



(From left) Louisburg girls assistant soccer coach Michael Pickman, Louisburg head volleyball coach Jessica Compliment, Carson Buffington, Louisburg head girls basketball coach Shawn Lowry and Louisburg head girls soccer coach Kyle Conley

“I was very proud of how she ‘handed’ over the reins of the offense to two freshmen and how she encouraged and pushed them every day in practice. She was a great role model. Carson added a lot of emotional energy when we needed it and made huge plays at important times throughout matches.”

Buffington was also a big part of the Lady Cat basketball team this past season, despite finishing short of a state tournament. She earned all-league and all-state honorable mention honors after she averaged eight points, seven rebounds and three steals per game.

She currently holds a school record with 864 career rebounds and was an all-league player for her entire four year stint with the Louisburg basketball team.

“Carson is one of the hardest working players that I have worked with coaching basketball, boys or girls,” Louisburg girls basketball coach Shawn Lowry said. “She never took a day off and always led by example. Carson was relentless as a player and was always the first one on the floor for a loose ball. As good an athlete, she is an even better young woman with great character, integrity, unselfishness and passion.”

Buffington might have had her most successful season, both team-wise and individually, in the spring as the Wildcats’ starting goalkeeper on the Louisburg girls’ soccer team.

For the second year in a row, the Wildcats were the Class 4-1A state runner-up and Buffington was a big reason why. She started all 20 games and set school records in shutouts (13), saves in a season (115), goals against average (.952) and wins (17).

With all that success, Buffington was named the Class 4-1A Goalkeeper of the Year by the Kansas Soccer Coaches

Association.

“Carson in her first year as the starting goalkeeper was unbelievable,” Louisburg girls soccer coach Kyle Conley said. “She kept us in a lot of games and even won us a few. Carson is in her third year ever playing soccer as well. She started her sophomore year and has grown so much. She is a gifted three sport athlete and it shows in her ability to play goalkeeper. She has a fantastic attitude and work ethic.”

2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Year nominees



For the past three 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 second 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. In the next week, I will announce this year's recipients.

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!

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



CARSON BUFFINGTON – SENIOR – BASKETBALL, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL

Carson was a 3-time letter winner in her senior season and was named as a team captain in volleyball, basketball and soccer.

In volleyball, Buffington earned second team All-Frontier League honors as she helped lead the Lady Cats to a Class 4A state runner-up performance. She also moved from her starting setter position to the outside hitter spot and had a lot of success for the Lady Cats as she tallied 130 kills in her new position. With all that success, Buffington was also selected to the Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches Association Senior All-Star Match.

Buffington also wrapped up a strong career for the Louisburg basketball team as she averaged eight points and seven rebounds to go along with three steals a contest. She was named as a Frontier League honorable mention this past season, and she also was selected as an all-state honorable mention.

In girls soccer, Buffington was the starting goalie for Louisburg in all 20 games. She posted 13 shutouts, which is a school record and had a .952 goals against average, which is also a school record. Buffington had 90 saves on the season that ended as a Class 4-1A state runner up for the second consecutive year. For her efforts, she was also selected second team All-Frontier League. Buffington was also named first team all-state goalie and was named Goalkeeper of the Year.



ANNA DIXON – SENIOR – VOLLEYBALL

Anna wrapped up her fourth volleyball season as a varsity starter for the Lady Cats and guided Louisburg to its second consecutive Class 4A-state runner-up finish.

Dixon, who is currently with the Kansas State volleyball team, ended her senior season with 584 kills and had a hitting percentage of .260. She also added 325 digs, 50 aces and 42 blocks as she played all six rotations. With those lofty numbers, Dixon earned several big time honors in her final season.

She was selected as an All-Frontier League first team player and was also named to the 4A State All-Tournament Team. Those honors continued as she was named the Kansas Volleyball Coaches Association Class 4A Player of the Year and earned a spot on KVA All-State First Team.

Following the season, Dixon was also named as an Under-Armour All-American also earned MaxPreps/American Volleyball Coaches Association Player of the Week honors.



ALYSE MOORE – SOPHOMORE – BASKETBALL, SOFTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD

Alyse is a 3-sport varsity letter-winner this past year as she earned letters for the basketball, softball and track and field teams. This past spring season, Moore went to state in two different sports and became the first Wildcat athlete in recent memory to do so.

In her first season in track and field, Moore threw the javelin for the Lady Cats and went on to become regional champion as she

eclipsed her personal best throw by almost 25 feet in just her third competition of the season. The following week, she medaled fourth at the Class 4A state tournament with a personal best throw of 131 feet and 9 inches.

Moore was also the starting shortstop for the Lady Cats as she helped Louisburg to its first regional championship since 2014.

During the basketball season, Moore was a starter for the Lady Cats and averaged six points, five rebounds and three steals a game.



TRINITY MOORE – JUNIOR – CROSS COUNTRY, SOCCER

Trinity is 2-sport letter-winner for Louisburg this past year as she had state performances in both cross country and soccer.

During the fall, Moore was the top runner on the Louisburg

girls cross country team as she helped the Lady Cats to a regional runner-up finish and qualified for state as a team for the first time in school history. Moore medaled fourth at the Class 4A state meet in Wamego and currently holds the school record for the fastest time in program history. She also earned first-team All-Frontier League honors for her third place finish at the league meet.

In soccer, Moore was a starter on the Wildcat team that recently finished as the Class 4-1A state runner-up for the second consecutive year. At the midfield spot, she finished the season with 12 goals and six assists and was also named to the All-Frontier League first team.



DELANEY WRIGHT – FRESHMAN – BASKETBALL, CROSS

COUNTRY, TRACK AND FIELD

Delaney is a 3-sport letter-winner as she took part in cross country, basketball and track and field and competed at the state level in two of those.

Wright found most of her success in track and field as she earned four medals at the Class 4A Kansas State Track and Field Championships in Wichita this past month. She medaled in the long jump, 400-meter-dash, 200-meter dash and as a member of the 4×400-relay.

During the regional meet, Wright broke two school records (long jump, 400 dash) and earned a regional and Frontier League title in the long jump. She also earned a medal in the long jump at the Kansas Relays earlier in the season.

In cross country, Wright was a member of the Louisburg team that finished as a Class 4A regional runner-up and qualified for the state meet as a team for the first time in school history. In basketball, Wright saw playing time at the varsity level as a freshman at different points throughout the season.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



BLUE CAPLINGER – SENIOR – BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WRESTLING

Blue is a 4-sport letter-winner in football, wrestling, baseball and track and field and competed at the state level in two of the sports.

In football, Caplinger was an All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball as he was named to the first team defense as a defensive back and second team offense as a multi-purpose player. On defense, Caplinger, who helped Louisburg to a 10-1 record and a regional championship, had 31 tackles from the safety spot and also had two tackles for a loss, two fumble

recoveries and an interception. Offensively, he had 544 total yards and six touchdowns.

On the wrestling mat, Caplinger was a regional champion at 170 pounds and finished his season with a 33-5 record. The Louisburg senior fell one match short of state medal with a 2-2 record at the Class 4A state tournament. He currently holds the school record for most career reversals (72) and most career escapes (86). Following the season, he was also named to the KWCA Academic All-State first team.

Caplinger split time between baseball and track and field in the spring. Although he spent time as a reserve and pinch-runner on the baseball team, Caplinger found a lot of success on the track.

He qualified for state as a member of two relays. Caplinger was a member of the 4×400 relay team that won the Class 4A state championship in 3 minutes and 25 seconds. Caplinger also helped the 4×100 relay to a fifth place finish and went on to garner two state medals.

Caplinger will join the Benedictine football team this fall.



AUSTIN MOORE – SENIOR – FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WRESTLING

Austin is a 3-sport letter winner in football, wrestling and track and field and was among the state's best in two of the sports.

Moore thrived on the football field for the Wildcats as he helped Louisburg to a 10-1 record and a regional championship. Moore was a first team All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball and was the league's leading vote-getter. He went on to rack up all-state awards as the Louisburg senior earned Class 4A first team all-state honors as a running back from the Topeka Capital-Journal and the Kansas Football Coaches Association. Moore was also named as a Class 4A first team all-state linebacker from the Wichita Eagle.

When the season was all said and done, Moore tallied 1,554 total yards from the running back spot, including 1,428 yards on the ground, and had 21 touchdowns before he broke his collarbone during the regional championship game.

With those numbers, he was named the Kansas Small Class Player of the Year by 810 Varsity and was All-Purpose Player of the Year by Kpreps.com. Earlier this year, Moore was also named to the Kansas Shrine Bowl roster.

On the wrestling mat, Moore missed more than half of the season with his broken collarbone, but came back in a big way. Moore won his first 14 matches when coming back at 220 pounds, which included a regional championship. He went on to earn his first state medal as he finished fourth at the Class 4A state tournament with a 3-2 record. He was also named to the KWCA Academic All-State first team.

During the spring, he was a member of the Louisburg track and field team and threw the javelin for the Wildcats. He was also on the throwers relay that ranked Top 5 nationally at one point in the season.

Moore will join the Kansas State football team this fall.



KIEFER TUCKER – SENIOR – FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WEIGHTLIFTING

Kiefer is a 2-sport letter winner in football and track and field and also went to state competition in two activities.

Tucker was a presence on the line of scrimmage for the Louisburg football team as he was a first team All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball and helped the Wildcats to a 10-1 record and a regional championship.

The Louisburg senior was among on the leaders on the offensive line as he helped pave the way for more than 3,500 yards of total offense. On defense, Tucker recorded 55 tackles from the defensive end spot, including three tackles for a loss, three forced fumbles, a fumble recovery and a sack. Those numbers helped earn him honorable mention all-

state honors and was also named to the all-state team by the Kansas Football Coaches Association.

The honors kept coming for Tucker as he was recently selected to participate in the Kansas Shrine Bowl.

During the winter, Tucker was a member of the Louisburg powerlifting team and certainly made his mark there as well. Tucker won the Class 4A state championship in the 220-pound class and broke a 24-year-old record in the bench press with a lift of 375 pounds.

In track and field, Tucker qualified for state for the first time in the discus. He finished as a regional runner-up and went on to take ninth at the Class 4A state meet in Wichita, just one spot away from earning a state medal.

Tucker will join the Emporia State football team this fall.

DeShazer excited for opportunity with Avila basketball



Louisburg senior Dylan DeShazer will continue his basketball

career next season at Avila University as he signed a letter of intent with the Eagles on April 3.

Dylan DeShazer has been playing basketball for most of his young life, and with college in his near-future, he wasn't ready to leave it behind just yet.

In fact, playing collegiate basketball has always been a goal of DeShazer's and he found the perfect opportunity for him. On April 3, DeShazer made his decision known in front of family and friends during a signing ceremony at Louisburg High School.

DeShazer signed his letter of intent to play basketball at Avila University and he is excited to take the next step in his journey with the Eagle program.

"It is definitely a big step," DeShazer said. "It is a little scary, but it is exciting too because I get a chance to go to a different place, meet new people and do what I love, which is playing basketball.

"Playing college basketball has been a big goal for me for a long time. Now that it is actually happening, it is just awesome. It really is an undecribeable feeling and am looking forward to getting started.

The Louisburg senior started most of the season for the Wildcat program and averaged eight points and five rebounds in 22 minutes a contest. DeShazer, who stands at 6 feet, 5 inches, played

a lot under the basket for the Wildcats and will have a similar role next season with Avila.

“They see me as a big man that can play in and out, but mostly working inside,” DeShazer said. “He said he really wants someone that will work hard and go all out for the team and I think that I am that person.”



Dylan DeShazer recently signed his letter of intent to play basketball at Avila University. Sitting next to Dylan are his parents Dennis DeShazer and Amy Goode. Standing (from left) is Louisburg head coach Ty Pfannenstiel and Avila head coach Bill Sloan.

Avila is an NAIA program in Kansas City, Mo., and is currently a member of the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference. Although the Eagles struggled last season, DeShazer is excited for the opportunity to fit in with the program, and the school.

“I did like how small and convenient it was,” he said. “They definitely have a good program and I have watched them for a while. They have a friendly environment and something I wanted to be a part of.”

“I just want to get comfortable and get to know people. I would like to get a good amount of playing time, but really I want to just go and improve my skills.”

DeShazer had his best game of the season in the Wildcats’ final game of the year in the sub-state tournament as he scored a game-high 16 points and pulled down seven rebounds against Anderson County.

He was a part of a Louisburg senior class that helped turn around a program that had two wins a year ago and helped the Wildcats to a 9-12 record. DeShazer’s four years with the program was a special time for him.

“It really hasn’t sunk in yet,” DeShazer said of his high school career coming to a close.

“I can’t even remember all these experiences the last four years because I have had so many, but the stuff I do remember will stick with me forever. It was a good experience for sure.”

Vogel earns honorable mention all-league honors



Louisburg senior Kohl Vogel was selected to the All-Frontier League team recently after leading the Wildcats in scoring with 14 points per game.

The Frontier League provided a lot of challenges throughout the season and the Louisburg boys basketball team was well aware of its difficulties.

Louisburg had to navigate through some rough waters that included the eventual Class 4A state champion in Piper and another Class 5A state qualifier in Bonner Springs. Still, a few Wildcat players left impressions on the league coaches, including one in particular.

Senior Kohl Vogel, Louisburg's leading scorer, was the lone Wildcat to earn all-league honors as he was selected to the honorable mention team.

Piper and Bonner Springs led the way with six of the league's top 10 players, and Piper led all league schools with five selections overall.

“The Frontier League was loaded with talent this year, so I knew it was going to be very competitive on the all-league voting,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “When you add three extra teams to the league (Piper, Bonner Springs and Tonganoxie), that narrows down the number of post season honors. Piper and Bonner alone had 6 players on the first and second team, so that goes to show you how tough it was going to be to land on that list. Kohl missed out on second team by one vote.”

Vogel was a big part of the Wildcats’ offense as he led the team with nearly 14 points per game. The Louisburg senior also played well defensively as he finished with a team-high 2.2 steals a game to go along with four rebounds.

“I really thought Kohl had a good enough season to receive a second team honor, but it just didn’t quite work out,” Pfannenstiel said. “He should be very proud of his honorable mention honor. Kohl had a great year for us. He started off the year very hot, having some big time scoring games.

“Kohl was a big spark for us both offensively and defensively. He definitely led us offensively, but was great for us defensively as well. His aggressiveness at the top of our press and zone really gave teams trouble. I was very proud of Kohl’s effort this year. He’s got a motor on the basketball court that doesn’t stop.”

Bonner Springs led the way with two first team selections in seniors Keyon Thomas and A.J. Watson. Spring Hill senior Brennen Feedback, Ottawa junior Koby Johnson and Piper sophomore Tamar Bates rounded out the first team.

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL

FIRST TEAM

Keyon Thomas, Bonner Springs,
senior

Brennen Feedback, Spring Hill,
senior

Koby Johnson, Ottawa, junior

Tamar Bates, Piper, sophomore

A.J. Watson, Bonner Springs,
senior

SECOND TEAM

Trey Bates, Piper, senior

Rock Jerome, Eudora, senior

Brandan Jackson, Piper, senior

Nasjon Porter, Bonner Springs,
senior

Dallas Bond, Tonganoxie, sophomore

HONORABLE MENTION

Braijon Barnes, Piper, senior

Jayden Pierce, Eudora, senior

Jayson Brown, Ottawa, junior

John Frakes, Spring Hill, senior

Hayden Robbins, Tonganoxie, senior

Ty Shelley, Piper, junior

Kohl Vogel, Louisburg, senior

Seth Richmond, Paola, senior

Buffington, Melton named all-league honorable mention



Louisburg senior Carson Buffington was named to the All-Frontier League team for the fourth consecutive season.

In a league that featured the state runner-up, the third-place finisher in Class 4A and another state tournament qualifier, the Louisburg girls basketball schedule was a difficult one.

The Frontier League provided a lot of difficult competition for the Lady Cats as they finished their season with a 10-11 record. Despite that, the league coaches recognized a

pair of Louisburg
players for postseason honors.

The All-Frontier League team was
released earlier this week and Louisburg senior Carson
Buffington and sophomore
Madilyn Melton were both honorable mention selections.

“I
think like most of the coaches, I would like to have had more
of our players
recognized and in higher positions,” Louisburg coach Shawn
Lowry said. “I
thought we had some girls that deserved recognition based on
the scope of their
work and the things they did for our team. With that said, I
understand that
there were a lot of really good players in our league.

“Both
of these girls, along with all of their teammates, are great
representatives of
our program, school and community. We all couldn’t be more
proud of this group
of girls and we are very thankful to have shared in this
journey with them.”

For
Buffington, this was the fourth consecutive season that she
was recognized with
an all-league selection. In 21 games, Buffington was second on
the team with
eight points a game and also averaged seven rebounds, which
led the Lady Cats,
to go along with 3.2 steals a contest.

“It’s hard to express just how good Carson was for
her team this year,” Lowry said. “It wasn’t just on game

nights, but every day in practice with how she competed and her great leadership. She never took a day off and always led by example. Carson is one of the hardest working players that I have worked with coaching basketball – boys or girls.

“She was relentless as a player and was always the first one on the floor for a loose ball. She is fantastic example for all the younger girls in Louisburg about the level of commitment and determination that is required to be successful on and off the court.”



Louisburg sophomore Madilyn Melton led the Lady Cats in scoring at 14 points a game and was named an all-league honorable mention.

Melton earned her first all-league honor for the Lady Cats as the

Louisburg sophomore led the team in scoring with 14 points and six rebounds per game.

“Madilyn has committed herself and puts in a great deal of work to improve as a player for her team,” Lowry said. “Not only that, she does so many of those things we talk about when it comes to effort, character, being unselfish and she does it all with great pride. What was most impressive about Madilyn this season was her growth as a leader that she earned through her hard work and unselfishness.”

Piper (state runner-up), Baldwin (third-place finisher) and Eudora (state qualifier) led the league with three selections each, while Piper had two first-team selections in Ryan Cobbins and Ali Vigil. Baldwin also had two first team honorees in Kayla Kurtz and Macey Frost, while Eudora’s Riley Hiebert was also named to the first team.

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE GIRLS BASKETBALL

FIRST TEAM

Ryan Cobbins, Piper, senior

Ali Vigil, Piper, junior

Kayla Kurtz, Baldwin, senior

Riley Hiebert, Eudora, junior

Macey Frost, Baldwin, senior

SECOND TEAM

Bella Todd, Spring Hill, senior

Lauren Delker, Spring Hill, senior

Kate Ogle, Baldwin, senior

Harper Schreiner, Eudora, freshman

Evelyn Vazquez, Piper, sophomore

HONORABLE MENTION

Carson Buffington, Louisburg,
senior

Hallie Hoffine, Bonner Springs,
senior

Reagan Hiebert, Eudora, junior

Madilyn Melton, Louisburg,
sophomore

Brayden Hanf, Paola, junior

Anna Soetaert, Tonganoxie, senior

Lady Cats can't slow down Parsons' Taylor in season-

ending loss



Louisburg senior Carson Buffington drives toward the basket on Parsons' Nena Taylor on Thursday during the Class 4A sub-state semifinal at Parsons High School.

PARSONS – Going into Thursday's Class 4A sub-state semifinal game, the Louisburg girls basketball team knew if it was going to leave Parsons with a win, the Lady Cats were going to have to slow down the Vikings' best player – Nena Taylor.

As much as the Lady Cats tried, there was no slowing Taylor and her Vikings teammates.

Mixed in with a slow start offensively, Louisburg had a tough time containing Taylor as Parsons handed the Lady Cats a 50-44 loss and ended their season one game short of a sub-state championship.

"The one thing that is great about it is that they are so disappointed," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "They didn't want to be done. It says a lot about this group that they wanted to play together for another game. They are disappointed, but at the same time they are disappointed for the right reasons. It hurts for sure."

Offensively, Louisburg struggled to get going as it scored two points in the first quarter before picking up the pace that led to a 22-point fourth quarter as it tried to rally. The rally, unfortunately for the Lady Cats, came up short thanks to Taylor.

The Lady Cats had a tough time keeping Taylor out of the lane as she scored a bulk of her game-high 34 points around the basket or at the free-throw line. She also added 12 rebounds to her line for the double-double.

“She is a great player and will be a good player again next year,” Lowry said of Taylor. “She is really talented.

We tried to do some different things with her and I thought the girls battled better in the second half with her, but she is going to do what she does.”



Lady Cat sophomore Brooklyn Diederich puts up a runner at the buzzer Thursday in Parsons.

Louisburg stayed within striking distance of Parsons for much of the game and trailed by just six points early in the third thanks to back-to-back 3-pointers from senior Kennia Hankinson.

Next, it was Taylor's turn to answer as she went on a 10-0 run on her own and eventually helped give Parsons a 15-point cushion heading into the fourth quarter.

The Lady Cats chipped away at the Parsons lead and eventually cut it to six with 30 seconds left after a couple baskets from sophomore Madilyn Melton, but Louisburg could get no closer.

Melton led the Lady Cats in scoring with 19 points and also had a team-high seven rebounds. Hankinson was next with nine points and senior Carson Buffington had seven points, five rebounds, six deflections and four steals in her final game.



Louisburg senior Kennia Hankinson drives past a Parsons defender Thursday during the Class 4A sub-state tournament.

Sophomore Alyse Moore had a team-high seven steals to lead the Lady Cats on defense and also had six rebounds and five points. Junior Haley Cain had a team-high five assists to go along with six rebounds.

“I knew they were going to continue to battle,” Lowry said of his team’s rally. “What is great about it is we have younger players that are battling their tails off and they are going to be hungry coming back next year. I also can’t say enough about our leadership. I can’t say enough about our captains Carson and Haley, and even our younger players are starting to be leaders now like Alyse, Madilyn and Brooklyn (Diederich). They turned into great leaders right in front of

Wildcats' season comes to close with loss to Anderson County



Louisburg senior Dylan DeShazer goes up for a shot Wednesday during the Class 4A sub-state semifinal game at Anderson County High School. DeShazer scored a team-high 16 points in the Wildcats' 57-35 loss to Anderson County.

GARNETT – After a close first half during Wednesday's Class 4A sub-state semifinal, the Louisburg boys basketball team was just 16 minutes from a shot at the sub-state championship game.

Louisburg, the No. 13 seed, trailed No. 4 Anderson County by just one point at halftime, but the second half provided a much different story – one that wasn't a happy ending for Louisburg.

The Wildcats scored just 10 second half points and watched as Anderson County ended their season with a 57-35 loss at Anderson County High School.

Much of the game was decided from behind the 3-point line where the Bulldogs thrived with a 9-for-16 performance and the Wildcats were just 2-for-18 and shot just 30 percent for the game.

“That was the difference in the game,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “It was just a cold night for us.

We shot too many 3’s probably in the first half and should have looked to get

the ball inside more. It wasn’t that they went on a big, fast run, it was just

more methodical and we just couldn’t find a way to score. They just slowly

stretched their lead and that is how the game goes sometimes.”

The two teams were involved in a close game back in December when the Wildcats traveled to Garnett and lost an 80-74 game in overtime.

Louisburg did better defensively this time around, but the Wildcats couldn’t get the offense to follow suit. Louisburg trailed 26-25 at halftime, but Anderson County knocked down several shots in the third quarter that led to a 19-6 run.

The Wildcats (9-12) had a tough time containing Anderson County senior Justin Rockers as he knocked down three

3-pointers during that stretch and made six overall. Rockers also scored a

game-high 20 points and was one of three Bulldogs to score in double figures.

“Our guys were confident coming into the game and we knew this was a great opportunity for us,” Pfannenstiel said. “We were excited about coming back to Anderson County because we knew we had a shot. If we said going in that we would hold them to 57 points, I thought we would win because they are a high-flying team that really pushes the ball. We controlled the tempo for a while, but we just couldn’t score, especially in the second half.

“I was frustrated the very first

possession because our game plan was to know where (Carter Powelson) and (Kass Allnutt) are and also know where (Rockers) is because if he gets his feet set he is going to hit it. We let Rockers get a wide open look on the first possession of the game and he knocked it down. He had a big night and we knew he was capable of that. Despite that, we played good enough defensively but we just couldn't score."



Louisburg senior Kohl Vogel drives to the basket Wednesday against Anderson County.

Louisburg senior Dylan DeShazer didn't have a problem scoring as he put together one of his best efforts of the

season. DeShazer finished with a game-high 16 points to go along with seven rebounds and was the lone Wildcat to score in double figures.

Senior Brayden Gage was next on the team in scoring with six points and junior Madden Rutherford led the Wildcats with nine rebounds.

“Dylan was really good,” Pfannenstiel said. “He was tough in there and he was really smooth and confident shooting the ball. He had a big game for us and he almost single-handedly kept us in the game there in the first half. Every time they went on a little run he made some big shots and I was proud of him.”

Although the Wildcats saw their season come to a close, they saw a big improvement from a year ago, including in the win column as they jumped from two last season to nine this year.

It also marked the final game for Wildcat seniors Kohl Vogel, Noah Hill, Gage and DeShazer and Pfannenstiel appreciates what they gave to the program.

“I was very proud of what we have done,” he said. “Our league was just incredible this year. When you add Piper and Bonner Springs, two of the best teams in the state, that just added to our schedule. The Frontier League is just a beast night in and night out. We thought we could get a winning record, which was our goal, but we were close to getting there.

Wins and losses aren't the only deciding factor in moving our program forward.

"I told our kids that it starts during the summer with all the workouts that they did. We did shooting workouts five days a week for the first month-and-a-half of summer because we need to develop as shooters. I knew it would be popular at first, but figured numbers would drop off as the summer went on, but every day I flipped on the lights and there were 20 dudes there waiting on me. That got me excited because I knew they cared about getting better and they had all bought in. The work ethic and leadership that these seniors displayed is going to carry on for a long time, a lot more than the wins and losses."

LOU	10	15	6	4 -
35				
AC	13	13	19	12
- 57				

LOUISBURG (9-12): Dylan DeShazer

7-11 2-4 16; Brayden Gage 2-4 2-2 6; Kohl Vogel 2-11 0-2 4;

Ben Guetterman 1-5

0-0 3; Michael Waldron 1-4 0-0 3; Julian Margrave 1-3 0-0 2;

Weston Guetterman

0-4 1-2 1. Totals: 14-47 5-10 35. 3-point field goals: 2, (B.

Guetterman,

Waldron)