

Fast start propels Lady Cats to win over Anderson County



Louisburg sophomore Delaney Wright races down the floor during a fast break opportunity Friday during the Lady Cats' home opener against Anderson County.

The Louisburg girls basketball team wanted to make a good impression in its home opener Friday and the Lady Cats got everyone's attention early.

Louisburg scored the first 10 points of the game – all by junior Megan Foote – and the Lady Cats used that run to pull away for a 47-35 victory over Anderson County. It was also the third straight victory for the Lady Cats as they remained perfect on the year.

“We were excited to be able to come out and play on our home floor, have our home opener on a Friday night,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “These three games that we have had to start our schedule have been scrappy and tough and it has been good for us. We are progressing, which has been great. I thought we were better defensively this time around than we were on Tuesday. If we can keep making

this progression and keep learning and fixing our mistakes, then I like what this thing can be.”

Foote got the Lady Cats off to their blazing start as she drove to the basket three straight times, including one for a three-point play. She then knocked down a 3-pointer to put Louisburg up 10-0 and the Lady Cats were off and running.

The Lady Cats (3-0) went on to score 16 points in the first quarter and the Louisburg defense held Anderson County to 16 total points in the first half.

“We knew by looking on film that we wanted to get downhill early,” Lowry said. “I told Megan before the game that she needed to be the aggressor with the ball and she took it to heart. It was a great start for us and a great start for her and it was able to get us going.

“I thought our defense was good and our kids are getting tougher. I have challenged them after every game and they are responding. We aren’t there by any means in regards to toughness, but I like where we are going.”

Louisburg forced 34 Anderson County turnovers and the Lady Cats were able to score 22 points off those Bulldog mistakes. The Lady Cats also pulled down 20 offensive rebounds that led to 11 second chance points.

To end the first half, the Lady

Cats went on a mini 6-0 run after back-to-back baskets from junior Madilyn Melton. Then sophomore Delaney Wright had a steal and score right before the buzzer to put Louisburg up 31-16 at halftime.



Louisburg senior Haley Cain drives toward the basket Friday against Anderson County.

The Lady Cats saw their lead balloon to 17 late in the third quarter and Anderson County would get no closer than 12.

Foote led the Lady Cats in scoring with 12 points, while Melton also finished in double figures with 11 points, seven rebounds and team-high five steals. Senior Haley Cain

finished with nine points, six rebounds and four steals.

Junior Alyse Moore had eight points, a team-high 10 rebounds and four steals. Junior Brooklyn Diederich also had four steals in the win.

Louisburg will try and make it four straight wins Tuesday when it hosts Frontenac. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

“It is going to be a challenge on Tuesday with Frontenac,” Lowry said. “They are going to be physical and tough. Our next goal is to be 4-0 and that is what we are shooting for.”

LOU	16	15	11	5	-
47					
AC	10	6	9		
10 - 35					

LOUISBURG (3-0): Megan Foote 5-9 1-2 12; Madilyn Melton 5-13 1-2 11; Haley Cain 3-8 1-2 9; Alyse Moore 4-12 0-1 8; Delaney Wright 2-8 0-0 4; Brooklyn Diederich 1-15 1-4 3; Sydni Keagle 0-2 1-2 1. Totals: 20-67 5-13 47. 3-point field goals: 3, (Cain 2, Foote 1)

Turnovers haunt Wildcats in loss to Burlington



Junior Konnor Vohs steals a pass during Tuesday's road contest in Burlington. The Wildcats fell to Burlington, 72-68.

BURLINGTON – The Louisburg boys basketball team had a good idea what to expect from Burlington when they Wildcats hit the road Tuesday for their second straight away game.

However, turnovers haunted the Wildcats and it sent them to their second straight loss. Despite a late rally, Louisburg came up a couple baskets short in a 72-68 setback to Burlington.

Louisburg went up against a full-court pressure defense from Burlington, which caused the Wildcats to commit 25 turnovers. Those mistakes made it difficult to come back against a Burlington team that shot almost 47 percent for the game.

“We knew coming in that they were going to be a team that plays hard,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “They don’t have a lot of size, but they are going to be physically tough and aggressive. We are going to see teams that like to get up and challenge us. At times, I think we were able to figure it out, but it took us too long to do that.”

“In those kind of games, it comes down to one possession one way or the other and there were times where we built a lead and could have put them away with a bucket. We don’t, and then they go the other way and score. Their press was tough and we have to handle that better.”

It was a close game throughout and neither team had more than a seven-point lead. Burlington held that seven-point lead early in the third quarter, but the Wildcats made a big run to pull back in front.

Louisburg went on an 11-3 run thanks to seven points from senior Garrett Rolofson and a basket from sophomore Julian Margrave. Junior Weston Guetterman then put Louisburg in front, 43-41, with a basket and was fouled.

Rolofson then followed that up with a dunk to give Louisburg a four-point advantage late in the third. In all, Rolofson scored nine of his 11 points in the frame and the Wildcats led 49-45 going into the fourth.



Garrett Rolofson pulls up for a jumper Tuesday against Burlington. Rolofson recorded a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Burlington then came alive with a 27-point fourth quarter and took the lead back early in final frame. Junior Ben Guetterman hit a pair of 3-pointers late to try and get the Wildcats back in it, but Burlington was able to knock down its free throws to hold off Louisburg.

“We made some plays that were able to get us back in it, but those possessions are just as important as the ones in the first quarter,” Pfannenstiel said. “We have to understand that. Our point of emphasis was having better shot selection and just being patient, and when they came out with their press we just kind of forgot

about that and started firing up the first open shot and that fed right into their hand. We have to do a better job coaching and we will get better at those things.”

The Wildcats shot better than 50 percent for the game, and when they got good looks, they were able to convert.

Margrave led Louisburg with 19 points on the night to go along with five rebounds and two blocks.

Weston Guetterman had 15 points and a team-high six assists from the point guard spot. Fellow guard Ben Guetterman finished with 13 points. Rolofson finished his night with a double-double as he had 11 points and a team-high 12 rebounds and two blocks.

Louisburg will try and bounce back tonight when it hosts Anderson County in its home opener.

“They have a different look and they might be a different style than what they were last year,” Pfannenstiel said. “We will get back to working hard. There are a lot of things we have to improve on and our focus is on Anderson County for sure.”

LOU	18	11	20	19 –
68				
BUR	16	16	13	27 –
72				

LOUISBURG (0-2): Julian Margrave 7-12 5-6 19; Weston Guetterman 5-9 4-6 15; Ben Guetterman 5-9 0-0 13; Garrett

Rolofson 5-11 1-1 11; Maverick Rockers 3-3 0-0 8; Konnor Vohs 1-2 0-0 2.

Totals: 26-49 10-13 68. 3-point field goals: 6, (B. Guetterman 3, Rockers 2, W.

Guetterman 1)

Late run sparks Lady Cats in win over Burlington



Louisburg junior Megan Foote races the ball up the court during Tuesday's game at Burlington High School. The Lady Cats picked up their second straight win with a 59-46 win over Burlington.

BURLINGTON – Sometimes it takes just one play to spark a team to go on a game-clinching run, and on Tuesday in Burlington, that spark came from Megan Foote.

The Louisburg junior started what was a big run for the Lady Cats with her aggressive play on both ends of the floor. The rest of the Lady Cats fed off that as they ran away from Burlington in the fourth quarter and left with a 59-46 victory.

Foote took a charge midway through

the fourth quarter and then drove to the basket for a score that would break open a close game. Louisburg went on a 12-0 run and the Lady Cats earned their second straight win to start the season.

“Our defense was key during that run, but it really started with Megan’s aggressive attack to the basket,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “We really hadn’t been the aggressor all night, but that seemed to flip a switch mentality-wise. The next thing you know Alyse (Moore) gets a steal and scores and it turned for us. Runs like that normally start with one play and I thought Megan’s drive to the basket did that for us and then we just took off.”

Junior Alyse Moore was another catalyst on both ends of the floor for the Lady Cats. Moore finished with a game-high 22 points, several of which came off steals in transition.

Another junior, Madilyn Melton, also finished in double figures with 18 points and Foote added eight points – six of which came in the Lady Cats’ 24-point fourth quarter.

“Alyse played great and she always plays so hard,” Lowry said. “Alyse will give you every single ounce that she has and she did that again for us. It was a great performance and I thought Megan was really solid as well. She was good with the basketball for us and I thought she did a great job offensively and defensively.”



Junior Madilyn Melton weaves through the Burlington defense for a shot Tuesday.

It was a back and forth game through the first three quarters as the lead changed hands nine times and neither team could pull away. It was the type of game Lowry was expecting.

Burlington is a traditionally good program in Class 3A and the Louisburg coach wasn't expecting anything different this time around.

"This is always a tough place to play, and not to mention that their longtime coach is back now after six-year hiatus," Lowry said. "The last time we faced off against him was in my first

year and it was one of the best games I had been a part of in an 86-84 overtime win. I knew this was going to be a battle and I knew he was going to have his kids ready to go. The kids really responded well.

“The best part of it is we are 2-0 now, but there is still so much stuff we are doing to ourselves and we are going to get better at it. It is a lot nicer to be 2-0 and having those issues, instead of being 0-2.”

Early in the fourth quarter, the Lady Cats found themselves down 40-39 but then came their run. Foote scored four straight points to give Louisburg a three-point lead and then Moore had two steals that led to layups on the other end.

After another bucket from Moore and Melton, Louisburg all of a sudden found itself up 51-40 in about a three minute span. From there, the Lady Cats were able to hold on and secure a big road win.

Louisburg will try for three wins in a row Friday when it hosts Anderson County in its home opener. Tipoff is set for approximately 6 p.m.

“They are going to be good,” Lowry said. “They had young players last year that are juniors this year. They are a good group and it was a battle the first time we played them last year. It will be tough. We have a gauntlet coming up where we face a good Anderson County team, Frontenac is going to be tough and then we finish out

with Piper before the break. We are on our home court though so we are going to defend that place with everything we have.”

LOU	13	14	8	24 –
59				
BUR	14	9	13	10 –
46				

LOUISBURG (2-0): Alyse Moore 22, Madilyn Melton 18, Megan Foote 8, Brooklyn Diederich 6, Delaney Wright 3, Sydney Keagle 2. 3-point field goals: 1, (Diederich)

Wildcats come up short in season opener at Tonganoxie



Louisburg junior Weston Guetterman gets fouled while going up for a shot Friday during the Wildcats’ season opener at Tonganoxie High School.

TONGANOXIE – The Louisburg boys basketball team got off to the start it was looking for as it jumped out to an early lead over Tonganoxie in its season opener.

It all seemed to be going smoothly for the Wildcats, but the second quarter changed all that. Tonganoxie went on a run before halftime and it was the difference in Louisburg's 56-47 loss Friday at Tonganoxie High School.

In the other three frames, the two teams played about even, but the one stretch in the second proved to be too much for the Wildcats to overcome.

"You never know what you are going to get first time out," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "We have a lot of guys either first time starting or first time playing on varsity. I was proud of the way we started the game. We looked confident and we were playing with good energy. We really looked like that the whole game, but sometimes the ball goes in the hoop and sometimes it doesn't. When you look at it stat-wise, both teams were fairly comparable."

The Wildcats, which shot 32 percent for the game, didn't show that in the opening quarter as they looked crisp offensively. Weston Guetterman, Julian Margrave, Michael Waldron and Konnor Vohs each hit shots to give the Wildcats a 15-12 lead going into the second quarter.

Tonganoxie took control in the second quarter as it outscored Louisburg 18-10 before halftime and the Wildcats found themselves down, 30-25.

Baskets from Ben Guetterman and Margrave kept the Tonganoxie lead at three midway through the third quarter, but the Chieftains ended the frame on a 7-1 run to go up nine points.

It was too much to overcome for the Wildcats. Weston Guetterman made a basket to cut the Tonganoxie lead to four with three minutes left in the contest, but the Wildcats could get no closer.

“They went on a little run and they knocked down some big shots that got them the momentum and they were able to keep that lead the rest of the time,” Pfannenstiel said of Tongie’s second quarter. “We have to be able to find ways to score and not just rely on outside shots. We need to take the ball to the hoop a little bit more. We have to find a way to scrap for offensive rebounds and get some put-backs too.”

Sophomore Julian Margrave led Louisburg with a double-double as he had a team-high 15 points and 10 rebounds. He also recorded four blocks on the defensive end.



Junior Ben Guetterman lays the ball up for two points early in Friday's game against Tonganoxie.

Weston Guetterman provided a steady hand for the Wildcats at the point guard spot. Guetterman was in double figures in scoring with 14 points to go along with four rebounds and two assists.

In all, the Wildcats were able to take care of the ball as they committed just five turnovers on the night, but they just couldn't get the shots to fall.

"Weston played with confidence out

there," Pfannenstiel said. "He has the ball in his hand a little bit more this year as last year he was more off an off-guard. This is more of a natural spot for him and he does a good job of controlling the tempo of the game for us.

"I thought we did a great job of taking care of the ball and we didn't have many turnovers. We only had like (five) turnovers for the game and we normally have that in the first quarter. That has to be a record in my three years here. That was nice to see."

Louisburg will try and bounce back to get its first win tonight when it travels to face off with Burlington.

Tipoff is set for approximately 7:30 p.m.

LOU	15	10	7	15 -
47				
TON	12	18	11	15 -
56				

LOUISBURG (0-1): Julian Margrave 7-18 0-0 15; Weston Guetterman 4-10 5-10 14; Ben Guetterman 2-9 3-4 7; Michael Waldron 2-7 1-2 6; Konnor Vohs 2-6 0-0 4; Garrett Rolofson 0-1 1-2 1. Totals: 17-54 10-18 47. 3-point field goals: 3, (W. Guetterman, Waldron, Margrave)

Lady Cats hold off Tonganoxie to win season opener



Louisburg junior Alyse Moore drives to the basket last Friday during the Lady Cats' season opener in Tonganoxie. The Lady Cats held on for a seven-point win.

TONGANOXIE – The shooting numbers weren't exactly where he wanted them, and neither were the turnovers, but there was one stat where Louisburg head coach Shawn Lowry was relieved his team had the upper-hand – the scoreboard.

The Lady Cats held off a late Tonganoxie run and used a big second quarter offensively to come away with a 38-31 win over the Chieftains in their season opener Friday at Tonganoxie High School.

"It was a weird game for sure," Lowry said. "We won, but there really wasn't a lot of excitement right after the game. I think once it sinks in a little for them, they might get a little more excited that they won, especially since it was on the road in a tough place to play."

Both teams were trying to get their first-game jitters out of the way in a turnover-filled first quarter, and neither team could get into a rhythm offensively as Tonganoxie led 6-5 going

into the second quarter.

It was there where the Lady Cats were able to break the game open as they outscored the Chieftains 16-7 before halftime and took an eight-point lead into the locker room.

Junior Madilyn Melton got the Lady Cats going in the second quarter with seven consecutive points and fellow junior Megan Foote ended the half with five points of her own to help give Louisburg a 21-13 lead at halftime.

Melton carried the load for Louisburg most of the night as she led the team in three different categories. She led the Lady Cats with a team-high 15 points, seven rebounds and five steals to go along with six deflections.

Junior Brooklyn Diederich also hit a pair of 3-pointers at good times for the Lady Cats as she finished with nine points and sophomore Delaney Wright added six. Junior Alyse Moore was second on the team with four steals and Diederich had three of her own.

"Madilyn was tough and made some great plays," Lowry said. "She has put herself in a position this year where she can come in and make plays. At the same time, other players will need to step up and be prepared when teams take some things away from her. We have players that can do that. Part of it is confidence and experience, but they will get that. I thought we had some players that were pretty

tough. Brooklyn played hard and battled all night, Delaney battled her tail off as did Alyse.”



Junior Madilyn Melton scored a game-high 15 points for Louisburg to go along with seven rebounds and five steals.

Defensively, the Lady Cats (1-0) held Tonganoxie to just 20 points through three quarters and forced 27 turnovers for the game. Although Tonganoxie outrebounded Louisburg on the defensive glass, the Lady Cats were able to get 15 offensive boards and turned those into 14 second chance points.

“We played okay on defense,” Lowry said. “Film will be good for us. Once you get the first game

under your belt, I think it will help. We had some rotation stuff that I know we didn't do and rebounding too. We didn't rebound very well, and to be honest, I am not sure we deserved to be on the right side of the scoreboard. We have a lot to work on.

"Tonganoxie is a physical team, with a couple really physical players, and we have to elevate our toughness. That is something we are going to work on. We actually have a lot of stuff that we need to work on, especially with rotations and stuff like that. We were able to play a lot of players and depth was a good thing for us. It really helped us out."

Louisburg will try and make it two wins in a row tonight when the Lady Cats travel to Burlington. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

LOU	5	16	9	8	-
38					
TON	6	7	6	12	
- 31					

LOUISBURG (1-0): Madilyn Melton 5-13 4-7 15; Brooklyn Diederich 2-12 3-6 9; Delaney Wright 2-7 2-5 6; Megan Foote 2-5 1-2 5; Alyse Moore 1-5 0-2 2. Totals: 12-49 10-22 38. 3-point field goals: 3, (Diederich 2, Melton)

Young Wildcats excited for opportunity in upcoming season



Senior Michael Waldron is one of two returning starters for the Louisburg boys basketball team this season. The Wildcats open play tomorrow in Tonganoxie.

Whenever you play in one of the state's most difficult leagues, including one that features the defending state champion, the season is always going to be a challenging one.

Louisburg is well-aware of that fact, but it doesn't make it any easier when it has to replace its leading scorer from a season ago. The Wildcats had to say goodbye to four seniors, all who played big roles on last season's team that finished with a 9-11 record.

The Wildcats may be young in age, but head coach Ty Pfannenstiel is excited for what he has coming back as they enter the 2019-20 season.

"I'm very proud of this group of kids for the work that they've put

in,”

Pfannenstiel said. “We had our best off-season yet. Our summer weight room and basketball workout attendance was outstanding top to bottom. We have guys that look a lot different this year because they have really developed.

“Our

expectations are extremely high, not because we are just saying it, but because they’ve invested so much time into what it takes to be successful.

Actions speak louder than words. We’ve had a great first two weeks of practice.

Our practices have been extremely competitive because we have so much depth

this year. There’s just a lot of focus with this group.”

Louisburg returns two

starters from a season ago in junior point guard Weston Guetterman, along with

senior wing player Michael Waldron. Fellow junior Ben Guetterman will take over

the other guard spot after seeing a lot of varsity time a year ago.

Senior Garrett Rolofson

will see a lot of time at the center position, while sophomore Julian Margrave will

also get the start as he is one of the team’s best shooters and earned varsity

playing time halfway through his freshman season.

“We lost a lot of experience with last year’s group, but that’s what almost every program experiences,” Pfannenstiel said. “We return two starters from last year. Weston was a starting guard for us last year and will be our point guard

this year. Michael was a starter by the end of the year last year and we will expect big things from him this year. Garrett had a great summer and will be a big factor for us inside and on the glass.

“Ben gave us some quality minutes last year and we hope the varsity experience he gained will give him confidence this year. Julian saw significant varsity time last year which is uncommon for a freshman. We expect him to take another step forward this year as a sophomore.”



Junior Weston Guetterman returns to lead the Wildcats at the point guard spot this season.

Even with that, the Wildcats still have a lot depth on their bench.

Junior

Konnor Vohs and sophomore Maverick Rockers will see time at the guard spot, while juniors Connor Koesser and Charlie Peters will compete for time in the post. Juniors Andy Hupp and Dawson Barnes could also see at both the guard and forward spots.

Junior

Trevin Lohse, along with sophomores Michael Seuferling, Carson Kern and Isaac Guetterman, will also compete for varsity time this season.

“Our junior class is really deep,”

Pfannenstiel said. “I think they all have an opportunity to see time this year. It really is going to come down to who is making an impact in practice and playing well in the JV games.”

Louisburg

begins its season Friday when it travels to Tonganoxie in Frontier League play – a league that features a returning state champion in Piper and another state qualifier in Bonner Springs. The Wildcats know their schedule will be a challenge all season, but they are looking forward to the task ahead.

“I

think the Frontier League is always going to be tough,” Pfannenstiel said. “Every night is going to demand your best. We finished in the middle of the pack last year in the league. We obviously want to be in the top tier of the

Frontier League this year. If you finish in the top tier in this league, you've had a heck of a season. We are going to take it one game at a time. There will be no looking ahead on the schedule. Right now, we are focused on Tonganoxie."

No matter what transpires, Pfannenstiel is proud of the work his team has put in to get to this point. Whether it was workouts in the summer, or through the first three weeks of practice, he has seen them grow since the end of last season.

"This team is extremely coachable," he said. "They pick up on things really quick. We are so much farther ahead than we've ever been in my three years. I think we have a chance to be effective offensively. We should be able to score from all five positions on the court. Our off-season shooting workouts have developed our kids into scorers. We want our kids to be confident shooting the ball and the only way to gain that confidence is to see the ball go through the hoop. Now the question is, can our shooting development carry over when the lights are on and somebody in an opposing jersey is guarding us?"

"I think we have to make the biggest strides defensively. We lost some tough,

physical kids from last year's team, so we are going to have to develop an attitude on the defensive side of the ball and on the boards. The main thing that I like about this group is, not only are they good ball players, but they are even better kids. I am so proud for these kids to represent this school and this community."

Lady Cats bring back experience as they gear up for new season



All-Frontier League player Madilyn Melton will look to lead the Lady Cats this season after she had a team-high 14 points a game a year ago. Louisburg opens its season Friday in Tonganoxie.

Coming off a 10-win season and a win shy of the sub-state championship game, the Louisburg girls basketball team is hoping to take a step forward in 2019-20 and there will be several returning faces to help make that happen.

The Lady Cats return six players, who either started, or played significant minutes from a season ago and it begins with junior Madilyn Melton. The Louisburg forward was an all-league honorable mention selection last season after she led Louisburg in scoring with 14 points a game to go along with six rebounds.

“Madilyn had a strong season last year and has put herself in a position to have a great season this year,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “As good a player that Madilyn has the potential to be, she is all about her team and teammates, which was evidenced by being voted one of the team captains.”

Melton will be joined in the starting lineup by senior Haley Cain, who has given the Lady Cats several big minutes in the post the last two years. Cain has played four years on the varsity level and her playing time has increased each season.

Junior Alyse Moore is another returning starter for Louisburg and will provide some big minutes on the wing and defensively. Another junior, Brooklyn Diederich, saw her minutes grow as the season went on a year ago as she gave the Lady Cats an outside scoring threat and a defensive presence.

To start the year, the Lady Cats will be looking to a pair of freshmen to earn that fifth spot as both Adyson Ross and Brianne Kuhlman are competing to crack the starting lineup.

Senior Sydni Keagle, along with juniors Megan Foote, Madi Quinn, and sophomores

Delaney Wright and Jordan Mynsted will all see playing time off the bench.

“With these first couple weeks of practice, I’m encouraged that our defense can be one of our strengths this season along with the fact that we return several players with game experience from last year,”

Lowry said. “We also have some really good competition amongst players which provides us depth at most positions and the ability to have different lineups.”



Senior Haley Cain is one of two returning seniors to the Louisburg squad. Cain is in her fourth season as a member of the varsity team.

One

familiar face that is missing is Carson Buffington. The

Louisburg graduate played four years on the varsity level, was considered one the best rebounders in the Frontier League and did a little bit of everything for the Lady Cats.

So, when the first day of practice arrived, it was obviously a little different than what was considered normal.

“Carson’s leadership and toughness was so important for our team these last four years and it was definitely an adjustment for me not having her every day in practice,” Lowry said. “With that said, we have several players that are now sophomores, juniors and seniors that are really developing into strong leaders and have carried on that work ethic and toughness.”

Louisburg will get to showcase its new squad Friday when it travels to Tonganoxie for its season opener and Lowry knows every game in and out of the Frontier League is going to be a challenge.

“The Frontier League will again have some of the very best teams in the state.” Lowry said. “In addition to a very strong league, we will have the opportunity to play some very good teams in our non-conference and tournament schedule. With this said, I trust in our players to compete with great effort, toughness

and pride every time we take the floor.”

Since the first day of practice started in mid-November, and even before that with preseason conditioning, the Lady Cats have been working to make themselves better and Lowry believes that is a great start to what he hopes is a successful season.

“Our expectations are first a foremost to be great representatives of the Lady Cats Basketball program, Louisburg High School and the Louisburg community,” Lowry said. “We expect to compete with character, respect and sportsmanship and because of the commitment and hard work the girls have given we expect to compete with great energy, toughness and success.

“The girls are working very hard in preparing for the upcoming season. Our returning players and team captains have been great at fostering an environment that is very competitive and positive with their work and attitudes.”

**KSHSAA releases
classifications for 2019-20**

school year



The Kansas State High School Activities Association released its classifications for the 2019-20 school year, along with the football classifications for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons.

There were a few changes in both areas, but more so on the football side.

Football classifications are determined based on enrollment figures in ninth, 10th and 11th grade. Louisburg is still in 4A with 432 students and is toward the lower half of the classification.

Entering Class 4A beginning in the 2020 school year will be St. James Academy, Lansing and Great Bend, who have all moved down from Class 5A. Wamego also made the jump back in from Class 3A.

Kansas State High School Activities Association

Football Classifications and Enrollments-Descending Order 2020 & 2021

*Enrollment figures are based on ninth, tenth and eleventh grades only.
Enrollment figures are as of September 20, 2019.*

6A		5A		4A		3A	
Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 48	
Range: 1854 - 1092		Range: 1083 - 655		Range: 654 - 340		Range: 324 - 168	
Wichita-East	1854	Liberal	1083	Lansing	654	Baldwin	324
Wichita-North	1691	Hutchinson	1049	Great Bend	651	Topeka-Hayden	314
Wichita-Southeast	1662	Wichita-Heights	1045	Lenexa-St. James Academy	649	Parsons	286
Derby	1638	Shawnee-Mill Valley	982	Bonner Springs	640	Andale	279
Garden City	1560	Leavenworth	977	Arkansas City	620	Pratt	275
Dodge City	1533	Wichita-Northwest	970	Andover Central	608	Clearwater	266
Olathe South	1503	Emporia	949	Basehor-Linwood	587	Iola	256
Olathe East	1477	Kansas City-Turner	902	McPherson	535	Girard	252
Olathe North	1469	Wichita-Bishop Carroll	890	Kansas City-Piper	518	Nickerson	252
Topeka-Washburn Rural	1449	Topeka West	882	Ottawa	507	Clay Center Community	247
Wichita-South	1438	Topeka-Seaman	881	Buhler	497	Holton	242
Lawrence-Free State	1411	Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights	876	SM-Bishop Miege	493	Concordia	241
Manhattan	1402	Maize	871	Augusta	491	Kansas City-Bishop Ward	240
Topeka	1364	Kansas City-Washington	850	Winfield	472	Garnett-Anderson County	234
Olathe Northwest	1356	Maize South	842	Tonganoxie	471	Chapman	224
Kansas City-Wyandotte	1355	OP-Blue Valley Southwest	811	Independence	461	St. George-Rock Creek	224
SM East	1353	Salina-South	800	Chanute	452	Baxter Springs	223
Gardner-Edgerton	1325	Newton	788	Paola	447	Osawatomie	221
Haysville Campus	1297	De Soto	758	Fort Scott	434	Columbus	220
SM West	1277	Salina-Central	758	Louisburg	432	Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail	217
SM Northwest	1266	Topeka-Highland Park	757	Towanda-Circle	429	Wichita-Trinity Academy	217
Olathe West	1256	Andover	733	Coffeyville-Field Kindley	409	Hoyt-Royal Valley	216
OP-Blue Valley Northwest	1233	Goddard-Eisenhower	725	El Dorado	400	Hugoton	216
SM North	1226	Valley Center	699	Eudora	391	LaCygne-Prairie View	214
Lawrence	1221	Kansas City-Sumner Acad.	698	Rose Hill	381	Hiawatha	213
OP-Blue Valley	1182	OP-St. Thomas Aquinas	693	Altamont-Labette County	377	Frontenac	211
OP-Blue Valley West	1182	Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel	693	Mulvane	375	Meriden-Jefferson West	211
Junction City	1136	Pittsburg	691	Atchison	355	Holcomb	210
Wichita-West	1129	Hays	687	Abilene	352	Burlington	203
Kansas City-JC Harmon	1110	Kansas City-FL Schlagle	687	Wamego	351	Hesston	202
SM South	1106	Spring Hill	668	Wellington	345	Colby	201
OP-Blue Valley North	1092	Goddard	655	Ulysses	340	Wichita Collegiate	201
						Lindsborg-Smoky Valley	200
						Galena	199
						Scott Community	198
						Caney Valley	192
						Perry-Lecompton	192
						Larned	188
						Cherryvale	186
						Marysville	183
						Cheney	182
						Goodland	182
						Riley County	182
						Russell	181
						Council Grove	180
						Sabetha	173
						Gypsum-Southeast of Saline	171
						Halstead	168

** Note: Per classification Rule 5-2-2, enrollment ties are broken by using the previous classification cycle count.*

2A

Schools - 48	
Range: 168 - 112	
Cimarron	168
Lyons	168
Welleville	167
Haven	166
Hoisington	162
Osage City	161
Seneca-Nemaha Central	161
Fredonia	159
Silver Lake	158
Easton-Pleasant Ridge	156
Riverton	155
Neodesha	153
Norton Community	153
Beloit	150
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral	148
Kingman	148
Eureka	147
Pomona-West Franklin	144
Douglass	142
Kismet-Southwestern Hts.	141
Lakin	141
St. Marys	141
Hays-TMP-Marian	140
Oskaloosa	140
Minneapolis	139
Ellsworth	137
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mt Acad.	135
Rossville	135
Effingham- Atchinson Co Comm.	130
Erie	130
Hillsboro	129
Humboldt	129
Mound City-Jayhawk Linn	128
Phillipsburg	128
Wathena-Riverside	127
Belle Plaine	124
Syracuse	121
Garden Plain	120
Ellis	119
Cherokee-Southeast	118
Belleville-Republic County	117
McLouth	117
Eskridge-Mission Valley	116
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic	116
Leon-Bluestem	112
Marion	112
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan	112
Sterling	112

1A

Schools - 28	
Range: 111 - 62	
Whitewater-Remington	111
Conway Springs	110
Horton	110
Sedgwick	108
Arma-Northeast	106
Brookville-Eli-Saline	106
Richmond-Central Heights	106
Wabaunsee	105
Wichita-The Independent	102
Lyndon	99
Sublette	99
Ellinwood	98
Oakley	98
Salina-Sacred Heart	98
Uniontown	98
Johnson-Stanton County	96
Winchester- Jefferson Co. North	94
Inman	93
Elkhart	90
Plainville	89
Pleasanton	86
Allen-Northern Heights	85
Blue Rapids-Valley Heights	82
Smith Center	82
Holton-Jackson Heights	78
Troy	70
Olpe	69
Centralia	62

8-Player Division I

Schools - 48	
Range: 98 - 66	
Herington	98
Bennington	97
Hoxie	97
Yates Center	96
Medicine Lodge	95
Hill City	94
Howard-West Elk	93
Pratt-Skyline	93
Leoti-Wichita County	90
Spearville	90
WaKeeney-Trego Community	89
Moundridge	88
Sedan	88
Cottonwood Falls-Chase Co.	84
Stockton	84
Attica/Argonia	82
Valley Falls	82
Burlingame	80
Canton-Galva	79
Goessel	79
Meade	79
Ness City	79
Washington County	79
Little River	78
Shawnee-Maranaatha Christian Academy	77
Cedar Vale/Dexter	76
Burden-Central	75
Langdon-Fairfield	75
Madison/Hamilton	75
Solomon	75
Udall	74
Atwood-Rawlins County	72
Highland-Doniphan West	72
La Crosse	72
Oswego	72
Kinsley	71
Clyde-Clifton Clyde	70
Oberlin-Decatur Community	70
Rosalia-Flinthills	70
Jetmore-Hodgeman County	69
Lincoln	69
Macksville	69
Oxford	69
Moran-Marmaton Valley	68
Greensburg-Kiowa County	67
St. John-Hudson	67
Montezuma-South Gray	66
Pretty Prairie	66

8-Player Division II

Schools - 52	
Range: 66 - 29	
Sylvan-Lucas Unified	66
Rural Vista (<i>White City/Hope</i>)	65
Peabody-Burns	64
Bucklin	61
Minneola	61
Victoria	61
Caldwell	60
Satanta	60
Kensington-Thunder Ridge	59
Onaga	59
Downs-Lakeside	58
Mankato-Rock Hills	58
Coldwater-South Central	57
Lebo	57
Quinter	57
Beloit-St. John's/Tipton	54
Osborne	54
South Haven	53
Wakefield	52
Hutchinson-Central Christian	51
Ingalls	51
Sharon Springs-Wallace Co.	51
St. Francis	51
St. Paul	51
Clafin-Central Plains	50
Hartford	50
Norwich	50
Scandia-Pike Valley	50
Colony-Crest	49
Frankfort	49
Melvern-MDCV	49
Buffalo-Altoona Midway	48
Dighton	48
Hanover	47
Leroy-Southern Coffey Co.	47
Chetopa	46
Logan/Palco	46
Lost Springs-Centre	46
Otis-Bison	46
Linn	43
Waverly	42
Southern Cloud (<i>Miltonvale/Glasco</i>)	40
Stafford	40
Wetmore	39
Grainfield- Wheatland/Grinnell	38
Randolph-Blue Valley	38
Kiowa-South Barber	37
Winona-Triplains/Brewster	36
Chase	33
Axtell	30
Tescott	30
Wilson	29



Printing Department

Goddard, Pittsburg and Spring Hill all saw their enrollment grow and will be moving up from 4A to 5A next year. Baldwin

saw their enrollment decline and will move down to Class 3A in football the next two years.

In the rest of the sports, not much changed with regards to Class 4A for this year.

Enrollment figures for all grades in Louisburg this year is 573, which puts the school in the upper half of Class 4A. The biggest school is Buhler with 661 and Bishop Miege is the second biggest at 656 and Ottawa is third at 653.

2019-2020 Classifications and Enrollments					
Enrollment figures as of September 20, 2019 based on ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades.					
Note: Schools are listed in descending order					
School Moved Up in Class School Moved Down in Class					
Printable View		Sort By School			
6A	5A	4A			
Member Schools: 36	Member Schools: 36	Member Schools: 36			
Range: 2431-1312	Range: 1305-710	Range: 661-312			
Wichita-East HS	2431 Leavenworth HS	1305	Buhler HS		661
Wichita-North HS	2190	1260	Shawnee Mission-Bishop Miege HS		656
Wichita-Southeast HS	2164	1245	Ottawa HS		653
Derby HS	2105	1194	Winfield HS		642
Dodge City HS	2010	1153	Kansas City-Piper HS		638
Olathe South HS	2005	1150	Augusta HS		632
Garden City HS	1985	1146	Paola HS		603
Olathe North HS	1976	1131	Tonganoxie HS		599
Topeka-Washburn Rural HS	1933	1089	Fort Scott HS		592
Olathe East HS	1927	1084	Chanute HS		584
Olathe Northwest HS	1880	1076	Independence HS		581
Lawrence-Free State HS	1855	1060	Louisburg HS		573
Wichita-South HS	1852	1046	Towanda-Circle HS		562
Manhattan HS	1823	1044	Coffeyville-Field Kindley HS		531
Shawnee Mission East HS	1758	1001	El Dorado HS		528
Gardner-Edgerton HS	1729	992	Mulvane HS		520
Topeka HS	1728	959	Eudora HS		493
Wichita-Haysville Campus HS	1712	959	Altamont-Labelle County HS		490
Shawnee Mission West HS	1638	952	Rose Hill HS		485
Kansas City-Wyandotte HS	1637	925	Atchison HS		472
Shawnee Mission Northwest HS	1624	909	Wellington HS		465
Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest HS	1619	904	Abilene HS		460
Lawrence HS	1601	902	Warrego HS		446
Overland Park-Blue Valley HS	1600	884	Ulysses HS		433
Overland Park-Blue Valley West HS	1582	880	Baldwin HS		421
Shawnee Mission North HS	1557	871	Topeka-Hayden HS		408
Olathe West HS	1535	867	Andale HS		375
Overland Park-Blue Valley North HS	1498	863	Clearwater HS		367
Shawnee Mission South HS	1469	859	Parsons HS		363
Junction City HS	1440	848	Pratt HS		355
Wichita-West HS	1421	825	Iola HS		339
Kansas City-JC Harmon HS	1399	810	Nickerson HS		323
Hutchinson HS	1386	793	Holton HS		322
Liberal HS	1371	791	Girard HS		315
Wichita-Heights HS	1357	765	Chapman HS		314
Shawnee-Mill Valley HS	1312	710	Clay Center Community HS		312
	McPherson HS				

3A**Member Schools: 64****Range: 305-172**

†Garnett-Anderson County HS	305
Concordia HS	303
†Wichita-Trinity Academy	303
Kansas City-Bishop Ward HS	300
Columbus HS	296
†Osawatomie HS	296
St. George-Rock Creek HS	294
Baxter Springs HS	286
Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail HS	286
Hoyt-Royal Valley HS	283
Hugoton HS	280
Hesston HS	279
Frontenac HS	276
Meriden-Jefferson West HS	275
Hiawatha HS	273
Galena HS	270
LaCygne-Prairie View HS	270
Holcomb HS	266
Marysville HS	266
Wichita Collegiate HS	266
Scott Community HS	265
Caney Valley HS	263
Lindsborg-Smoky Valley HS	263
Colby HS	262
Burlington HS	260
Perry-Leocompton HS	252
Goodland HS	246
Wellsville HS	243
Larned HS	242
Russell HS	239
Cheney HS	238
Sabetha HS	237
Riley County HS	231
Council Grove HS	229
Cherryvale HS	225
Gypsum-Southeast of Saline HS	223
Halstead HS	221
Haven HS	220
Riverton HS	214
Fredonia HS	213
Lyons HS	213
Silver Lake HS	213
Beloit HS	212
Seneca-Nemaha Central HS	210
Cimarron HS	207
Hosington HS	205
Norton Community HS	204
Osage City HS	204
Easton-Pleasant Ridge HS	203
Kingman HS	202
Neodesha HS	200
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral HS	199
Pomona-West Franklin HS	192
Kismet-Southwestern Heights HS	190
Eureka HS	188
†Lakin HS	185
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mount Academy	184
Minneapolis HS	184
Hays-Thomas More Prep-Marian HS	182
St. Marys HS	182
Douglass HS	178
†Effingham-Atchison Co Community HS	174
†Humboldt HS	174
Phillipsburg HS	172

2A**Member Schools: 64****Range: 171-109**

Mound City-Jayhawk Linn HS	171
Oskaloosa HS	171
†Belle Plaine HS	170
Rossville HS	169
Elsworth HS	168
†Erie HS	166
†Wathena-Riverside HS	164
Conway Springs HS	160
Belleville-Republic County HS	158
Garden Plain HS	158
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic HS	158
Cherokee-Southeast HS	157
Eskridge-Mission Valley HS	156
Arma-Northeast HS	155
Hillsboro HS	155
Olathe-Heritage Christian Academy	155
Ellis HS	154
Syracuse HS	153
McLouth HS	152
Whitewater-Remington HS	152
Horton HS	150
Sterling HS	147
Marion HS	146
Leon-Bluestem HS	144
Wichita-The Independent HS	142
Richmond-Central Heights HS	141
Sedgewick HS	140
Alma-Wabaunsee HS	139
Brookville-El-Saline HS	139
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan HS	139
Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian HS	136
Medicine Lodge HS	134
Lawrence-Bishop Seabury Academy	132
Salina-Sacred Heart HS	131
Winchester-Jefferson County North HS	130
Bernington HS	128
Johnson-Stanton County HS	128
Lyndon HS	127
Oakley HS	127
Plainville HS	127
Sublette HS	127
Inman HS	126
Yates Center HS	126
Elinwood HS	124
Pratt-Skyline HS	123
WaKeeney-Trego Community HS	122
Uniontown HS	120
Herington HS	119
Smith Center HS	119
Pleasanton HS	118
Elkhart HS	117
†Hill City HS	117
Hoxie HS	116
Allen-Northern Heights HS	115
Howard-West Elk HS	115
†Sedan HS	114
†Cottonwood Falls-Chase County HS	113
Holton-Jackson Heights HS	113
Canton-Galva HS	112
Blue Rapids-Valley Heights HS	110
†Moundridge HS	110
Shawnee-Maranatha Christian Academy	110
Leoti-Wichita County HS	109
†Spearville HS	109

1A**Member Schools: 117****Range: 108-14**

Stockton HS	108
Elbing-Berean Academy	105
Little River HS	105
†Meade HS	103
†Ness City HS	103
Washington County HS	103
Udall HS	102
†Goessel HS	101
Valley Falls HS	101
†Oswego HS	98
Burdens-Central HS	97
Troy HS	97
Macksville HS	96
Atwood-Rawlins County HS	95
Rosalie-Flinthills HS	95
La Crosse HS	94
Solomon HS	93
Burlingame HS	92
Lincoln HS	92
†Oberlin-Decatur Community HS	91
Oxford HS	91
St. John-Hudson HS	91
Clyde-Clifton Clyde HS	90
Jetmore-Hodgeman County HS	90
Peabody-Burns HS	90
Kinsley HS	89
Langdon-Fairfield HS	89
Highland-Doniphan West HS	87
Olpe HS	87
Centralia HS	86
Montezuma-South Gray HS	86
Moran-Marmaton Valley HS	86
Greensburg-Kiowa County HS	85
Wichita-Classical School Of Wichita	83
Onaga HS	82
Caldwell HS	80
Lebo HS	79
Minnesota HS	79
Bucklin HS	78
Pretty Prairie HS	78
Sylvan-Lucas Unified HS	78
Norwich HS	77
Victoria HS	77
Coldwater-South Central HS	76
Mankato-Rock Hills HS	76
Satanta HS	76
Kensington-Thunder Ridge HS	75
Osborne HS	75
Madison HS	74
Dexter HS	72
Hanover HS	71
Burton HS	70
Hutchinson-Central Christian HS	69
St. Francis HS	69
Ingalls HS	68
McPherson-Elyria Christian HS	68
Downs-Lakeside HS	67
Wakefield HS	67
Hartford HS	66
Quinter HS	66
Dighton HS	65
Frankfort HS	65
Melvorn-Marais Des Cygnes Valley HS	65
St. Paul HS	65
Clafin-Central Plains HS	64
Colony-Crest HS	63
Randolph-Blue Valley HS	63
Scandia-Pike Valley HS	63
Lost Springs-Centre HS	62
South Haven HS	62
Rexford-Golden Plains HS	61
Chetopa HS	60
Sharon Springs-Wallace County HS	60
Buffalo-Altoona Midway HS	59
Leroy-Southern Coffey County HS	58
Otis-Bison HS	58
Grainfield-Wheatland/Grinnell HS	57
Stafford HS	57
Ashland HS	56
Linn HS	56
Tribune-Greeley County HS	55
Beloit-St. John's HS	54
Waverly HS	54
Wellmore HS	51
Attica HS	50
Deerfield HS	49
Argonia HS	48
Cunningham HS	48
Kiowa-South Barber HS	48
Rolla HS	46
Moscow HS	45
Axtell HS	42
Bird City-Cheylin HS	42
Chase HS	42
Hope HS	42
Cedar Vale HS	40
Rozel-Pawnee Heights HS	40
Tescott HS	40
Wichita-Central Christian Academy	40
Almena-Northern Valley HS	39
White City HS	39
Logan HS	38
Wilson HS	35
Fowler HS	32
Natoma HS	30
Ransom-Western Plains HS	29
Weskan HS	29
Brewster HS	28
Palco HS	28
Glasco HS	27
Longton-Elk Valley HS	26
Hamilton HS	25
Miltonvale HS	22

Three schools will make the move up to Class 4A this year. Clay Center, Girard and Holton all saw their enrollment increase and will come back to 4A, while Osawatomie, Anderson County and Wichita-Trinity Academy will move out of 4A to 3A this year.

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.”