

Wildcats hang with state-ranked Ottawa, but come up short



Louisburg junior Madden Rutherford puts up a shot over an Ottawa defender Friday during the Wildcats' homecoming game.

The Louisburg boys basketball team needed to play one of its better games of the season Friday when it hosted state-ranked Ottawa for homecoming.

Ottawa was ranked No. 6 in Class 4A coming into the game and the Wildcats had a big challenge on their hands. As it turned out, Louisburg was more than ready for the Cyclones.

The Wildcats stayed within striking distance for much of the game, and even trailed by just three points with under two minutes left, but couldn't get that key shot to go down in a 61-49 loss.

"I was definitely proud with the way our guys fought and battled and pretty good Ottawa team," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "This was a game we can definitely learn things from and get better. It seemed like we just couldn't get that big shot to fall to get the lead there late, and I know some of the guys are frustrated,

but we did some good things out there.”

Louisburg (7-8) found itself down six points at the end of the first quarter and the Wildcats lit it up from behind the arch in the second quarter to cut into the Cyclone lead even more.

Louisburg knocked down four 3-pointers in the frame, including three from Michael Waldron, who finished with a team-high nine points.

Freshman Julian Margrave also came off the bench to knock down a 3-pointer and senior Noah Hill had a couple big makes under the basket.



Senior Dylan DeShazer puts up a shot and gets fouled Friday against Ottawa.

“Michael had a really good game for us and probably one of his best ones,” Pfannenstiel said. “He had a really great night shooting the ball and did some nice things. Michael, along with Ben Guetterman, and now Julian, have given us some consistent perimeter shooting and hopefully some others will be able to step up in that area as well.”

The Wildcats, which trailed 29-24 at halftime, hung around in the second half and threatened the Cyclones late in the game when senior Brayden Gage knocked down a 3-pointer with 1 minute and 45 seconds left in the game to cut the Ottawa lead to 3.

Louisburg had a chance to tie the game following that possession, but couldn't get the shots to fall. The Wildcats got good opportunities most of the night thanks to a patient offense.

“We have been much more patient when we get into an offensive set and that is something that we needed to work on because sometimes we have gotten out of control,” Pfannenstiel said. “But it was almost to a fault that we didn't run enough. Ottawa is kind of a big, lumbering team and we should have gotten more run outs and we should have emphasized it more. If we can get back to pushing the ball a little more, it will add a dimension to our team.”

Defense was another reason the Wildcats were able to hang around as they switched from a zone defense to a

man, which gave the Cyclones a different look. Louisburg was able to force 14 Ottawa turnovers, which led to some run outs, but the Wildcats missed a few easy attempts in the first half.

“We got down early and they had a great plan against our 1-3-1 and they did some things that we haven’t seen yet,” Pfannenstiel said. “They were able to throw it over the top and find a weakness in that zone. I was just proud of the way we battled back and we were right there. I think we missed three easy layups in the first half and you can’t do that stuff. That would have been huge going into halftime with a lead.

“I was a little worried at halftime because our energy didn’t seem right, but we picked it up in the second half we were more aggressive playing man and we were concerned about how effective we would be in it. I think we proved that we can be confident in it.”

Senior Dylan DeShazer tied Waldron with a team-best nine points, while Hill and senior Kohl Vogel added eight points each in the loss.

Louisburg returns to action Friday for its final regular season road game when it travels to Spring Hill. Tipoff has been moved up to 6:45 p.m.

LOU **8** **16** **14** **11 –**
49

OTT
61

14

15

15

17 -

LOUISBURG (7-8): Dylan DeShazer 4
1-1 9; Michael Waldron 3 0-0 9; Kohl Vogel 3 0-0 8; Noah Hill
3 2-3 8; Julian
Margrave 2 0-0 5; Madden Rutherford 2 0-0 4; Ben Guetterman 1
1-1 3; Brayden
Gage 1 0-0 3. Totals: 19 4-5 49. 3-point field goals: 7,
(Waldron 3, Vogel 2,
Gage, Margrave)

LOUISBURG RALLIES TO BEAT BALDWIN

For more than half of the game,
the Louisburg boys basketball team was trying to play catch-up
after a bad
start against Baldwin last Thursday.

The Wildcats gave up 21 points in the first quarter and were
in a big hole early. Louisburg didn't let that bad start get
them down as the Wildcats battled back to take the lead in the
third quarter and eventually pulled away for a 71-61 win in
Baldwin City.

Louisburg trailed 21-11 after the
first quarter, but the Wildcat offense picked up as it scored
25 points in the
second and trailed by just four at halftime.

It was the Wildcat defense that
rose to the occasion in the second half as it held Baldwin to
just five points
in the third quarter and forced 19 turnovers for the game.
Louisburg turned
those 19 turnovers into 24 points, which was key in its
comeback.

Kohl Vogel led the Wildcats in

scoring with 14 points and the Louisburg senior also finished with five assists. Sophomore Weston Guetterman and senior Dylan DeShazer each finished in double figures with 11, while DeShazer also had a team-high seven rebounds.

Senior guard Brayden Gage also had a strong game with nine points and six assists. Fellow senior Noah Hill finished the game with seven points, five rebounds and five assists as nine different Wildcats scored in the game.

LOU	11	25	14	21	-
71					
BAL	21	19	5	16	
- 61					

LOUISBURG: Kohl Vogel 5-12 4-6 14;
Weston Guetterman 4-9 2-3 11; Dylan DeShazer 4-7 3-3 11;
Brayden Gage 2-5 4-9
9; Ben Guetterman 2-6 2-2 10; Noah Hill 3-6 1-3 7; Michael
Waldron 2-2 0-0 5;
Julian Margrave 2-2 0-0 4; Madden Rutherford 1-5 0-0 2.
Totals: 25-54 16-26 71.
3-point field goals: 5, (B. Guetterman 2, W. Guetterman, Gage,
Waldron)

Lady Cats get big win at home

over Ottawa



Louisburg sophomores Madilyn Melton (left) and Alyse Moore team up to trap an Ottawa player Friday during the Lady Cats' 54-16 win over the Cyclones.

It had been a rough couple of weeks for the Louisburg girls basketball team as the Lady Cats had lost five of their last six games going into Friday's homecoming game with Ottawa.

As it turned out, a home game was just what the Lady Cats needed.

Louisburg jumped on Ottawa from the start behind a strong defensive effort and rolled to a 54-16 win over the Cyclones. The Lady Cats forced 34 Ottawa turnovers, several of which, turned into easy baskets on the other end.

"Anytime you can hold a team to 16 points for the game, that is a good defensive effort," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "Sure we still had some breakdowns, but that is a good defensive effort.

"Ottawa has some young players that are going to be around for the next 2-3 years and are going to be good basketball players. It is part of their learning process now, kind of like some

of the stuff we have been through.”

The Lady Cats (7-8) also had one of their better games offensively as they shot 45 percent from the field and held Ottawa to just 16 percent from the field. Louisburg was also able to find success from the outside with six 3-pointers.



Louisburg junior Haley Cain puts up a shot Friday against Ottawa.

Louisburg made a statement early as it outscored Ottawa 17-5 in the first quarter and never looked back.

“Defense is creating offense for us and that was a big part of our success,” Lowry said. “We were also able to hit some nice shots on the perimeter and I think we are getting more confidence

there. We did a lot of shooting in practice and I think our free throw shooting improved as well.”

Sophomore Brooklyn Diederich had a strong game offensively as she finished with a team-high 14 points, including a pair of 3-pointers. Defensively, she was also all over the floor and led the team with five deflections and three steals.

Senior Carson Buffington also scored in double figures with 12 points and a team-high seven rebounds.

Sophomore Madilyn Melton also added 10 points and finished with five deflections and two steals on defense.

Louisburg will try for some revenge on Friday when it competes in its final road game of the season against

Spring Hill and the Lady Cats will have some extra practice time to get ready.

Earlier in the season, the Lady Cats watched Spring Hill comeback from an

18-point deficit to steal a win and Louisburg is hoping to do the same this time around.

“It is an interesting time of the season, but it gives us a chance to work on some fundamental stuff and then get

ready to play our last away game of the season against Spring Hill,” Lowry

said. “The girls like playing Spring Hill and they have a lot of friends on

that team and they are excited to play them, especially after giving up an

18-point lead.”

LOU	17	10	14	13	–
54					
OTT	5	5	6	0	
– 16					

LOUISBURG: (7-8): Brooklyn

Diederich 5-7 2-2 14; Carson Buffington 4-8 2-3 12; Madilyn Melton 4-7 2-3 10;

Alyse Moore 3-5 0-0 6; Haley Cain 1-3 1-2 4; Kennia Hankinson 1-7 0-0 3; Megan

Foote 0-1 3-5 3; Jordan Mynsted 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 19-42 10-15 54. 3-point

field goals: 6, (Buffington 2, Diederich 2, Hankinson, Cain)

Lady Cats' rally comes up short against Paola



Louisburg sophomore Brooklyn Diederich pressures the ball during the second half of Tuesday's game at Paola. The Lady Cats fell in a close game, 56-54.

PAOLA – The Louisburg girls

basketball team had a never-give-up attitude Tuesday when it hit the road to

face off with rival Paola.

That attitude was never more evident than when the Lady Cats found themselves down 16 points early in the third quarter. Some teams might have given up at that point, but Louisburg reached down for something a little extra.

Louisburg rallied from that deficit to take a one-point late in the fourth quarter, but didn't have enough to hold on in its 56-54 loss to the Panthers – a game in which Louisburg outscored Paola by 10 in the second half.

“I am extremely proud of them,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “But we have talked about this for some time now that we have to play hard for the entire time. It can't just be when we feel like we have to get back in it, we have to do that throughout the game and they are capable of doing it. With some of these young kids, I think we are hopeful that some of that is going to click for them, or at least we are hopeful that it will.”

Defense played a vital part of the in the Lady Cats' rally as they employed a frantic press and an active zone defense that forced the Panthers into several turnovers – 23 for the game to be exact.

Louisburg (6-8) turned those mistakes into 14 points on the other end as they gradually

crept back in the game. Sophomore Brooklyn Diederich led the charge defensively for Louisburg as she played at the top of zone and created a lot of havoc.

“We didn’t scheme anything different, it was just an intensity level issue,” Lowry said. “If they can play with that same intensity, then that defense can look that good all the time. I have to give Brooklyn Diederich a lot of credit. We put her up at the top and she really set the tone for us. I think other girls fed off of what she did and a lot of credit to her in that second half.”

However, the downfall for the Lady Cats was at the free-throw line. Louisburg converted just 9 of 26 attempts, including several empty trips to the line late in the game.

Down two points, Louisburg missed six straight at one time in the final minute, but got the offensive rebound each time to give itself more chances.



The Louisburg bench including (from left) assistant Leanna Willer, head coach Shawn Lowry, Megan Foote and Kennia Hankinson celebrate a big play Tuesday in Paola.

“That is just heart,” Lowry said of the team’s offensive rebounds. “We have talked about how free throws will have a chance to win us a game and this was a great example of one. At the same time, it didn’t come down to just missing those free throws, it was everything we did up to that point. Even after missing those, we gave ourselves opportunity after opportunity to get right back in it.”

Sophomore Madilyn Melton once again led the Lady Cats in scoring with 20 points to go along with six rebounds and four steals. Senior Kennia Hankinson had her best scoring game of the season as she finished with 14 points, including four 3-pointers.

Senior Carson Buffington had a team-high 10 rebounds to go along with seven points and sophomore Alyse Moore had eight points and three steals.

Louisburg trailed 32-20 at halftime and then saw its deficit expand to 16 a few minutes into the second half. The Lady Cats eventually cut the deficit to six on six straight points from Moore, then to start the fourth quarter, Hankinson scored five quick points to make it a two-point game before fouling out.

The Lady Cats eventually took a 46-45 lead on a 3-pointer from Diederich with 2 minutes and 50 seconds left in the game, before Paola ballooned its lead back to five at one point. Another basket by Moore with 48 seconds left cut the Paola lead to two, but the Lady Cats weren't able to cash in at the free-throw line and Paola was able to hold on.

Louisburg will try and get back on track today when it hosts Ottawa for homecoming. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

LOU	11	9	12	22 -
54				
PAO	15	17	8	16 -
56				

LOUISBURG (6-8): Madilyn Melton 7-19 5-12 20; Kennia Hankinson 5-8 0-0 14; Alyse Moore 4-6 0-6 8; Carson Buffington 2-10 2-2 7; Brooklyn Diederich 1-4 0-0 3; Sydni Keagle 0-0 1-2 1; Megan Foote 0-3 1-2 1. Totals: 19-50 9-26 54. 3-point field goals: 7, (Hankinson 4, Buffington, Diederich, Melton)

Wildcats get big road win against rival Paola



Louisburg senior Kohl Vogel pulls up for a shot in the lane Tuesday against Paola at Paola High School. Vogel scored a game-high 18 points in the win.

PAOLA – The Louisburg boys basketball team needed a win in the worst way as the Wildcats had dropped five of their last six games heading into Tuesday’s contest with Paola.

If the Wildcats were to get back on the right track, they were going to have to get a win on their rival’s home floor.

Louisburg was more than up for the task. The Wildcat defense held Paola to just 11 second half points and got its second win of 2019 with a 46-33 victory over the Panthers.

“It was exactly what we needed,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “Obviously both sides are going to get up for this game and it is always very emotional and high energy. It was a defensive struggle and both teams played really tough defense, and to hold them to 33 is important for us. It is

nice to get us off that losing streak where we were one for our last six. Hopefully we can build off this.”

Defensively, the Wildcats were the aggressor as they forced 28 turnovers – many of those coming in the second half – and took advantage of the Panther mistakes. Louisburg scored 24 points off Paola turnovers and was a big reason for its second half surge.

It was a surge the Wildcats needed to make as they trailed Paola, 22-21, at halftime and they had to look for a way to jump start their offense.

“We were a little more aggressive,” Pfannenstiel said of his defense. “Sometimes we just sit back in our 2-3 zone and Paola’s offense looked a lot more comfortable versus that than our 1-3-1. Obviously our defense sparked our offense getting layups and run-outs and that was big for our energy level. It wasn’t that we weren’t playing hard, but we were just going through the motions and never got anything going.”



Senior Noah Hill goes up for two points Tuesday against Paola.

Senior Kohl Vogel led the Wildcats in scoring with 18 points and it was Vogel who helped get this team going late in the third quarter when he scored six straight points. Vogel made a runner to put Louisburg up three, then had a steal and score and then followed it up with another basket 15 seconds later on a steal by Madden Rutherford.

Rutherford recorded a team-high seven rebounds and senior Brayden Gage led Louisburg with four assists and four steals. Senior Dylan DeShazer was second on the team in scoring with eight and fellow senior Noah Hill had seven.

Vogel added six more points to begin the fourth quarter to put Louisburg up 13 points with five minutes left in the game and the Wildcats were able to hold on for the big win.

"We have been in quite a few games this year, and to be able to execute and finish the game was big and we needed that," Pfannenstiel said. "I thought we played well for four quarters and I knew it was going to take a complete game to get a win and we did pretty well."

Louisburg will try and continue its winning ways tonight when it hosts Ottawa, the No. 6 team in Class 4A, for homecoming. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

LOU	12	9	12	13 -
46				
PAO	11	11	7	4 -
33				

LOUISBURG (6-7): Kohl Vogel 8-14 2-2 18; Dylan DeShazer 3-4 1-3 8; Noah Hill 3-5 1-3 7; Ben Guetterman 2-5 1-2 6; Michael Waldron 2-2 0-0 5; Madden Rutherford 1-4 0-0 2.
Totals: 19-40 5-11
46. 3-point field goals: 3, (Guetterman, Waldron, DeShazer)

Lady Cats finish sixth at Top Gun tournament



Louisburg senior Carson Buffington knocks in a 3-pointer Friday during the Lady Cats' consolation semifinal game against Anderson County at Wellsville High School.

WELLSVILLE – It may not have been the finish the Louisburg girls basketball team wanted Saturday during the Top Gun Tournament at Wellsville High School, but the Lady Cats still had plenty of positives to build off of in their final two games.

Louisburg lost to Topeka Hayden in the fifth-place game Saturday, 48-34, and was a game that was much closer than the score indicated. The Lady Cats trimmed the Hayden lead to just six with 3 minutes and 46 seconds to play, but Hayden converted from the free-throw line to seal the win.

This was after a big win for Louisburg as it knocked off Anderson County, 64-46, in the consolation semifinals Friday, thanks in part again to its defense. Louisburg fell to Wellsville, 60-28, to open tournament play Thursday.

“With the exception of Thursday’s game versus Wellsville, I thought our defensive effort was good and helped

set the tone for our play in the tournament,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “It’s great for our team when our defense can create offense and intensity for us because we’re flying around and getting on the floor for loose balls. With that said we have to continue improving at scoring the basketball when we have opportunities at the rim.”

Offensively, the Lady Cats got good performances from sophomore Madilyn Melton and senior Kennia Hankinson against Hayden as the two players combined for 28 of the team’s 34 points.

Melton scored a game-high 17 points, including a 10-for-11 performance from the free-throw line. Hankinson added 11 points, including three 3-pointers that helped keep the game close.

Louisburg also had to battle Hayden’s size inside, including forward Brooklyn Hunter. Hunter scored a team-high 13 points, but was shadowed the entire game by junior Haley Cain.

“I thought our defensive game plan with Hayden was good and Haley Cain battled her tail off against their good post player,” Lowry said. “We had our opportunities late in the game but just couldn’t finish some plays.”



Junior Sydni Keagle goes up for a steal Friday against Anderson County.

Against Anderson County, the Lady Cats used their defense to spark their offense as they scored 24 and 19 points in the second and third quarter, respectively.

Louisburg (6-7) took a 10-4 lead at the end of the first quarter, but widened its lead to 13 points at halftime and 17 points going into the final period.

Melton again had another big game for Louisburg as she finished with 20 points and was one of three Lady Cats to score in double figures. Cain had a big night with 12 points and Buffington added 10 points in the win.

It didn't go quite as well to start the tournament as the Lady Cats had trouble scoring against a Wellsville team that was tough defensively. Louisburg trailed 24-6 at the end of the first quarter, and after a better second period, went scoreless in the third quarter and sealed its fate.

Following the tournament, Top Gun officials released their awards and Buffington earned a spot on the tournament's all-academic team.

Louisburg will try and bounce back this week with a pair of wins as it travels to Paola tonight for a rivalry matchup and then will host Ottawa on Friday for homecoming.

LOU	3	11	5	15
- 34				

HAY	11	8	12	17 -
48				

LOUISBURG (6-7): Madilyn Melton 3 10-11 17; Kennia Hankinson 3 2-2 11; Carson Buffington 0 2-4 2; Alyse Moore 0 2-8 2; Haley Cain 1 0-0 2. Totals: 7 16-25 34. 3-point field goals: 4, (Hankinson 3, Melton)

LOU	10	24	19	11 -
64				

AC	4	17	13	12
- 46				

LOUISBURG: Madilyn Melton 7 6-8 20; Haley Cain 5 2-2 12; Carson Buffington 4 0-0 10; Megan

Foote 3 0-0 7;

Brooklyn Diederich 2 0-0 5; Kennia Hankinson 1 2-4 4; Alyse Moore 2 0-2 4;

Madison Quinn 1 0-0 2. Totals: 25 10-16 64. 3-point field goals: 4, (Buffington 2, Diederich, Foote)

LOU	6	15	0	7 -
28				

WEL	24	13	17	6 - 60
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LOUISBURG: Madilyn Melton 4 0-2 8;

Carson Buffington 2 0-0 6; Jordan Mynsted 2 0-0 5; Brooklyn Diederich 2 1-2 5;

Haley Cain 1 0-0 3; Megan Foote 0 1-4 1. Totals: 11 1-9 28. 3-point field

goals: 4, (Buffington 2, Mynsted, Cain)

Shooting woes hurt Wildcats in loss to Spring Hill



Louisburg sophomore Ben Guetterman tries to drive to the basket Friday during the Wildcats' home game against Spring Hill.

The opportunity to get a big home win for the Louisburg boys

basketball team was laid out for the Wildcats to take.

Louisburg had just gone on a run to take a five-point lead going into the fourth quarter Friday against Spring Hill. The momentum was all the side of the Wildcats, but unfortunately for Louisburg, the final period was all Spring Hill.

The Wildcats struggled offensively in the fourth quarter and the Broncos took advantage as they handed Louisburg a 50-43 loss.

For much of the game, the Wildcat defense was the difference as they forced 16 Spring Hill turnovers, including several that came off a full-court press. Offensively, however, Louisburg managed just six points in the final eight minutes and Spring Hill mounted the comeback.

“Spring Hill turned the ball over quite a bit and I think we had a lot to do with that,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “Our slow-down press kind of caused them some problems and we made them uncomfortable. We have to be able to execute off that. We had the lead going into the fourth and we always tend to have one of those bad quarters where we score in the single digits and you are not going to win many games when you have quarters like that.”

Louisburg struggled shooting the ball for much of the night as it shot just 29 percent from the

field, and
outside of senior Kohl Vogel, who finished with a game-high 18
points, the
Wildcats didn't have anyone else score in double figures.

Junior Michael Waldron and sophomore
Ben Guetterman each finished with eight points, and both
connected on 3-pointers
at big moments in the game.

"I thought Waldron and Ben shot
the ball well for us, but overall we were like 4-20 from 3-
point range,"
Pfannenstiel said. "If we are going to shoot that many, then
we better start
hitting some and we need to figure out if we are shooters or
not. If not, then
we have to find other ways to put the ball in the basket. You
have to step up
and make plays in games like this and they just made more than
we did,
especially in the fourth."



Junior Michael Waldron passes the ball ahead to teammate Kohl Vogel for a fast break opportunity Friday against Spring Hill. Spring Hill took a 17-10 lead at the end of the first quarter, but the Wildcats battled back to trim the Bronco lead just one at halftime. Louisburg then went on a 7-1 run to end the third to grab a 37-32 advantage.

Vogel scored a basket and two free throws during that run, while Guetterman hit a 3-pointer to give the Wildcats some momentum.

The Wildcats, however, had a hard time containing Spring Hill's Brennan Feedback. The Bronco senior hit several big shots as he scored a game-high 20 points and also had 15

rebounds.

“Feedback made some great plays for them as well and we needed to take away his opportunities and eliminate their best players,” Pfannenstiel said. “We took care of the ball well. We had some bad turnovers, but 10 turnovers is by far our least of the season and I thought that was a positive. We were patient on offense, but we have to find ways to score and shoot the ball better from the outside.”

Louisburg will try and bounce back today when it travels to Paola in what is the first of three games this week.

The Wildcats will also to travel to Baldwin on Wednesday before hosting Ottawa on Friday for homecoming.

“The good thing about basketball is you don’t have to wait long to get right back on the court,” Pfannenstiel said. “We have a busy week coming with three games this week and playing Paola is always a big game for our players and we played them well there last year. Hopefully we can turn things around.”

LOU	10	12	15	6 –
43				
SH	17	6	9	
18 – 50				

LOUISBURG (5-7): Kohl Vogel 6-15 6-6 18; Ben Guetterman 3-5 0-0 8; Michael Waldron 3-7 0-0 8; Noah Hill 2-4 0-0 4; Madden Rutherford 1-8 1-4 3; Dylan DeShazer 1-9 0-2 2.

Totals: 16-55 7-12

43. 3-point field goals: 4, (Guetterman 2, Waldron 2)

Wildcats fall to Wellsville in fifth-place game



Louisburg senior Dylan DeShazer puts up a shot during the Baldwin Invitational last week at Baldwin High School.

BALDWIN CITY – For three of the four quarters, the Louisburg boys basketball team actually bested Wellsville on Friday during the fifth-place game of the Baldwin Invitational.

It was the third quarter, however, that helped send the Wildcats home with a loss.

Louisburg scored just four points in the third quarter, and despite a furious rally in the fourth, the Wildcats couldn't make the comeback in the 64-53 loss to the Eagles at Baldwin High School.

“We knew Wellsville was going to be a tough test for us,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said.

“They are a very patient and disciplined team. They shot the ball really well coming out after halftime and only missed three shots in the third quarter. We were really bad offensively.”

Wellsville outscored Louisburg 21-4 in the third period after the Wildcats trailed by just one point at halftime.

Louisburg outscored Wellsville 24-17 in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough.

Kohl Vogel had another big game for the Wildcats with a team-high 14 points, while fellow senior Brayden Gage added 12 points and senior Dylan DeShazer added nine.

The Wildcats (5-6) had a tough time containing the Wellsville dynamic duo of Jackson Dwyer and Zach Vance. The two players each finished with 22 points and combined for 44 of the Eagles' 64 points.

“I was proud of how we fought back in the fourth quarter,” Pfannenstiel said. “We were able to cut their lead to seven points in the fourth, but they hit a couple more big shots that proved too much to overcome. If you take away the third quarter, we played pretty well. But obviously you have to play well for all four quarters and we just didn't do that I think there is a lot to be learned from this game and hopefully we can come back and be more consistent.”

Louisburg will try and get back on track Friday when it hosts Spring Hill. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

LOU	13	12	4	24 –
53				
WEL	15	11	21	17 –
64				

LOUISBURG (5-6): Kohl Vogel 5-9 3-4 14; Brayden Gage 4-8 3-6 12; Dylan DeShazer 4-5 1-2 9; Noah Hill 3-4 1-1 7; Madden Rutherford 2-7 1-2 6; Weston Guetterman 1-5 1-1 3; Michael Waldron 1-3 0-0 2. Totals: 20-43 10-16 53. 3-point field goals: 3, (Vogel, Gage, Rutherford)

Big quarter not enough for Lady Cats in loss to Spring Hill



Louisburg sophomore Alyse Moore drives to the basket Friday during the Lady Cats' game with Spring Hill on Friday at Louisburg High School.

The Louisburg girls basketball team put together its best quarter of the season Friday against Spring Hill and the Lady Cats staked themselves a big lead going into halftime.

Unfortunately for Louisburg, Spring Hill came out of halftime and turned the tables on the Lady Cats.

The Lady Cats saw an 18-point lead slowly whittle away and Spring Hill recorded a big comeback as it handed Louisburg a 63-59 loss at Louisburg High School.

“This is the type of game that shows the potential that this team is capable of being,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “We are by far what we are going to be by the end of February, which I am excited about. I know how hard the girls are going to work from here on out and they get an opportunity to show how they will respond. They are disappointed, but at the same time they are not going to let this get them down.”

Louisburg (5-5) trailed by five points going into the second quarter, which is where the Lady Cats created a lot of distance between themselves and the Broncos. They outscored Spring Hill 27-4 in the period and ended up taking a 34-16 halftime lead.

Defense keyed the Lady Cats in the second quarter as they used a full-court press to frustrate Spring Hill and

forced nine turnovers in the frame. That defense turned into instant offense as Spring Hill battled foul problems.

Those foul problems sent the Lady Cats to the free-throw line – a lot – and they converted. Louisburg made 30 of 47 free throws for the game and they attacked the basket on the Bronco defense. The Lady Cats made more free throws than they had points (19) in their last loss to Baldwin.

“Whether we were up 18 or up 2, I just loved how our kids battled and how they are together in this,” Lowry said.

“We can learn a lot from this game and we are going to get better from it. Just look at how big a jump we made from our last game from a shooting perspective, from a free-throw shooting perspective and it is just because they were focused and ready to go. We just have to make sure that our defensive effort and discipline is for an entire game and not just the first part.”

The second half was a different story for Louisburg. The Broncos outscored the Lady Cats 25-9 in the third period to cut the Louisburg lead to just two, before taking the lead back for good with four-and-a-half minutes left in the game.



Louisburg sophomore Megan Foote gets on the floor for a loose ball Friday against Spring Hill.

Louisburg also had some foul trouble of its own as the team's leading scorer, Madilyn Melton, fouled out midway through the fourth quarter.

The Lady Cats made several runs at the Broncos as Megan Foote cut the Spring Hill lead to one on a 3-pointer with just over a minute left. Louisburg also got a basket from Carson Buffington and a free throw from freshman Delaney Wright with 42 seconds remaining, but still trailed the Broncos by one.

Spring Hill made a free throw with under 30 seconds left to make it a two-point game, but

Buffington missed a 3-pointer with under 10 seconds left and Spring Hill was able to ice the game at the free-throw line.

Buffington led Louisburg in scoring with 18 points and also tied for a team-high with six steals and had five rebounds. Melton was next with 17 points, while Foote also finished in double figures with 10. Foote and sophomore Alyse Moore had six and five steals, respectively.

Louisburg will try and bounce back this week in a challenging Top Gun Tournament at Wellsville High School. The Lady Cats, the No. 6 seed, will face Wellsville at 6:45 p.m., today.

“It is loaded and it is a good one,” Lowry said “We are excited to go play and we will get to play the host team to kick it off. There are some great teams like Baldwin, Spring Hill and Nemaha Central is an undefeated No. 1-ranked team in 3A. Then you have a team like Hayden there, whose record isn’t great, but they play in a tough league and are a solid team. It will be a lot of fun.”

LOU	7	27	9	16
- 59				
SH	12	4	25	22
- 63				

LOUISBURG (5-5): Carson Buffington 3-6 11-12 18; Madilyn Melton 4-6 9-14 17; Megan Foote 2-4 5-6

10; Alyse Moore

3-4 2-9 9; Haley Cain 1-6 1-2 3; Sydni Keagle 0-0 1-2 1;
Delaney Wright 0-0 1-2

1. Totals: 13-30 30-47 59. 3-point field goals: 3,
(Buffington, Moore, Foote)

Wildcats bounce back to beat Bishop Ward at Baldwin Invite



Louisburg senior Brayden Gage gets to the basket for two points Thursday during the consolation semifinal game of the Baldwin Invitational against Bishop Ward. The Wildcats won 58-40.

BALDWIN CITY – Coming off a difficult loss to begin the Baldwin Invitational, the Louisburg boys basketball team needed to make amends quickly.

The Wildcats were on a three-game losing skid going into Thursday's consolation semifinal against Bishop Ward and they wanted get things back on track in this tournament before heading back into Frontier League play.

Louisburg got the win it was looking for as the Wildcats

downed Bishop Ward, 58-40, behind a big second half in which they outscored the Cyclones 37-23.

“We were just more patient on offense and we were getting better shots,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “I thought we worked the offense a lot better than we did in our first game here. The first half wasn’t pretty because shots just weren’t falling, but we were taking good shots. The second half our defense really sparked our offense and I thought we were a lot better defensively and it got us going.”

It was a balanced effort from the Wildcats as two players scored in double figures and eight different players found the scoring column.

Senior Noah Hill had a big night with a team-high 12 points before having to leave the game in the second half due to an injury. Senior guard Brayden Gage also picked it up as he finished with 11.



Louisburg senior Noah Hill gets on the floor for a loose ball Thursday against Bishop Ward.

Sophomore guard Weston Guetterman added eight points in the win, while senior Kohl Vogel finished with seven.

Junior Michael Waldron added a pair of 3-pointers to the cause and freshman

Julian Margrave came off the bench to score his first varsity points as he finished with six.

“It was good to see a bunch a different guys contribute and not just rely on one or two guys,” Pfannenstiel said. “I thought we moved the ball around well, especially in the second half, and more guys were able to contribute for us. We were able to

play a few extra
guys as well, which I think will allow us to play even harder
moving forward.”

The Wildcats (5-5) found themselves
in close battle with the Cyclones in the first half as they
led just 21-17 at
halftime. Louisburg was able to overcome some turnovers
problems in the second half
as it got key baskets down the stretch to pull away.

Louisburg will try and finish the
Baldwin tournament with a two straight wins tonight when it
faces off with Wellsville
at 7 p.m., in the fifth-place game.

“We want to get a on a roll here
and it was nice to be able to break that three-game losing
streak we were on,”
Pfannenstiel said. “Hopefully we can get some momentum going
heading back into
league play. Wellsville is a very disciplined team and a very
patient team.
They play incredibly hard and they play smart, so we are going
to have to play
a very good game if we want to be able to win.”

LOU	11	10	19	18 –
58				
BW	10	7	13	10 –
40				

LOUISBURG (5-5): Noah Hill 5 2-3
12; Brayden Gage 5 0-0 11; Weston Guetterman 4 0-2 8; Kohl
Vogel 3 1-2 7;
Michael Waldron 2 0-0 6; Julian Margrave 2 1-1 6; Dylan
DeShazer 1 3-4 5;
Madden Rutherford 1 1-2 3. Totals: 23 8-14 58. 3-point field

goals: 4, (Waldron
2, Gage, Margrave)

WILDCATS COME UP SHORT AGAINST HARMON

Louisburg couldn't have asked for a better start to the Baldwin Invitational on Tuesday as it opened with Harmon.

The Wildcats went on a run to start the first quarter and jumped out to a double-digit lead. Unfortunately, Louisburg wasn't able to keep its momentum as it fell to Harmon, 51-45.

Louisburg jumped out to a 16-2 lead in the first quarter, but took a step back in the second quarter to allow Harmon to get back into the game. Despite a back-and-forth third quarter, Harmon used a 15-8 run in the fourth to seal the win.

"It was a tough loss," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "I thought we played pretty well for three quarters, but got a little bit out of sorts offensively in the fourth quarter. We just turned the ball over way too many times and that has been our Achilles heel."

Senior Kohl Vogel tried to keep the Wildcats in the game as he finished with a team-high 22 points and had six rebounds. Senior Dylan DeShazer just missed double figures with nine points, but also had a team-high seven rebounds.

LOU 16 6 15 8 -
45

HAR 2 18 16 15 –
51

LOUISBURG: Kohl Vogel 10-18 0-1
22; Dylan DeShazer 3-12 2-2 9; Brayden Gage 1-5 3-4 6; Weston
Guetterman 1-5
2-2 4; Madden Rutherford 2-4 0-1 4. Totals: 17-48 7-12 45. 3-
point field goals:
4, (Vogel 2, Gage, DeShazer)

Lady Cats fall to state-ranked Baldwin



Louisburg guard Megan Foote tries to dribble past a Baldwin defender Wednesday during the Lady Cats' road contest at Baldwin. Louisburg fell 49-19.

BALDWIN CITY – Going on the road against a state-ranked team is usually a difficult task and it was just that Wednesday for the Louisburg girls basketball team.

The Lady Cats ventured to No. 5-ranked Baldwin for a makeup of game that was postponed last week. Louisburg fell 49-19 to move its record to 5-4 on the season.

It was close game early as both

teams struggled to find their footing in the first quarter and the Lady Cats trailed just 6-3 going into the second quarter.

Baldwin eventually got into a rhythm and pulled away as it knocked down several outside shots to score 20 points in the second period and took a 26-7 halftime lead. From there, the Bulldogs were able to pull away and not look back.

Louisburg had just three players score in the contest. Sophomore Madilyn Melton led the way with seven points and nine rebounds, while fellow sophomore Megan Foote had seven points and six rebounds.

Senior Carson Buffington finished with five points and seven rebounds. Junior Haley Cain was second on the team in rebounding with eight.

The Lady Cats will compete in the Top Gun Tournament in Wellsville beginning Tuesday. Louisburg is the No. 6 seed and will play No. 3 Wellsville at 6:45 p.m.

Tonight, the Lady Cats will play at home for the first time in 2019 as it hosts Spring Hill for a Frontier League matchup. Tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m.

LOU	3	4	8	4
- 19				
BAL	6	20	16	7 -
49				

LOUISBURG (5-4): Madilyn Melton 2-6 3-6 7; Megan Foote 1-7 5-6 7; Carson Buffington 1-7 2-6 5. Totals: 4-35 10-24 19. 3-point field goals: 1, (Buffington)