

Bench helps Lady Cats in win over Metro Academy



Freshman Delaney Wright drives to the basket on a Metro Academy defender last Tuesday in Louisburg.

It wasn't a typical game for the Louisburg girls basketball team last Tuesday as it prepared for its next to last game of the season against rival Paola.

The Lady Cats hosted Metro Academy, an Olathe school that is not part of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, and one the team wasn't familiar with.

Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry decided to use that opportunity to go down deeper into his bench to get players some varsity time ahead of postseason play. Several Lady Cats made an impact on the game as they came away with a 46-36 win and picked up their second straight victory in the process.

Lowry subbed in five players at a time through most of the game and the Lady Cats were able to wear down Metro Academy.

"It was an opportunity for us to

look at some different lineups or rotations for postseason looks,” Lowry said. “It wasn’t our Senior Night and it was a different opponent than we are used to. It allowed us to do some different things and gave girls an opportunity to show what they can do.”

Junior Madilyn Melton was a force inside for the Lady Cats as she finished with a game-high 18 points, including an 8 for 9 performance from the free-throw line, and also had a team-high four steals.

Junior Sydni Keagle came off the bench and was second on the team in scoring, along with sophomore Brooklyn Diederich, who each finished with six points.

Freshman Delaney Wright also helped Louisburg defensively with four steals and senior Carson Buffington had a team-high seven rebounds and four assists. Juniors Erin Lemke and Ashley Moore, sophomores Madison Quinn and Megan Foote and freshman Jordan Mynsted also gave the Lady Cats good minutes

“I am extremely proud of those girls that came in off the bench,” Lowry said. “I think they were a little shell-shocked at first, but once they settled in, I thought their defense was really good, they caused turnovers, were active and did a really nice job.”

It was a back and forth game for

much of the first half, but the Lady Cats ended the second quarter strong as they went on an 11-0 run thanks to baskets from Melton, Diederich, Quinn and Mynsted to take a 27-19 halftime lead.

Metro Academy cut the Louisburg lead to one early in the fourth quarter, but the Lady Cats went on another 8-2 run to put the game away.

"As a coach, I need to see those starters or regular players show a little more intensity," Lowry said. "We have to get more intensity and that is on our captains to set the tone for us and they will do that. They have done it all year. It was a little different night and had so many distractions, but now it is time to get dialed in."

LOU	9	18	6	12
- 46				
MA	11	8	10	7 -
36				

LOUISBURG: Madilyn Melton 5-10 8-9 18; Brooklyn Diederich 2-4 0-0 6; Sydni Keagle 1-1 3-4 6; Erin Lemke 2-4 0-0 5; Jordan Mynsted 2-5 0-0 4; Delaney Wright 1-4 2-3 4; Madison Quinn 0-2 2-2 2; Carson Buffington 0-2 1-2 1. Totals: 13-45 16-20 46. 3-point field goals: 4, (Diederich 2, Keagle, Lemke)

Wildcats' rally falls short against Metro Academy



Louisburg sophomore Weston Guetterman drives to the basket during the second half of Tuesday's game with Metro Academy.

Louisburg boys basketball coach Ty Pfannenstiel was a little conflicted Tuesday following the Wildcats' game with Metro Academy.

On one hand, his team rallied from 25 points down to cut the Metro Academy lead to one late in Louisburg's 63-60 loss. Pfannenstiel was more than pleased with his team's fight.

However, as pleased as he was with how his team finished, the Louisburg coach was just as frustrated with the start as the Wildcats managed just 15 first half points and were on the verge of having a running clock in the second half.

"That was a really good comeback," Pfannenstiel said. "I wasn't sure if we should be excited that we fought all the way back or that we should be mad that we came out so flat. I think it was disappointing how we started the game, but I

thought we did a lot of nice things to get back in it and had a lot of guys that sparked us. We went with the hot hand and that group in the fourth quarter really carried us.

“We struggled to score early and sometimes our energy is sparked when we see the ball go through the hoop and sometimes it is getting the right guys on the court at the same time.”

The Wildcat underclassmen gave the team the spark they were looking for as several of them made big baskets down the stretch to get Louisburg back in it.

Junior Michael Waldron led the Wildcats in scoring with 14 points, including four 3-pointers, as he keyed the Wildcat comeback along with a few others. Freshman Julian Margrave came off the bench to also finish in double figures with 13.

Madden Rutherford was able to help the Wildcats on both sides of the ball as he finished with eight points and had team-highs in rebounds (eight) and assists (four). Sophomores Ben Guetterman and Weston Guetterman added seven and six points, respectively.

Early in the contest, the Wildcats weren't able to get in a rhythm offensively and Metro Academy took advantage.

Metro knocked down eight 3-pointers in the contest, many of those coming in the first half, and took a 32-15 halftime lead.

“We were standing around and watching, not crashing the board and not moving without the ball,” Pfannenstiel said. “I thought we were better in the second half. The gym

was completely quiet early on and we didn't do a good job of communicating early. There were times where I didn't know what offense we were in because the guards weren't getting us set up. It was a weird start to it that is for sure, but those things add up."

The Wildcats will try and end their regular season on a good night tonight when they host Paola. It is also Senior Night for Louisburg as the Wildcats will honor Brayden Gage, Noah Hill, Dylan DeShazer and Kohl Vogel for their time with the program.

"Our kids always get up for the Paola game and they are going to be excited," Pfannenstiel said. "Winning this game is important because we want to send our seniors out on a good note, but also to have some momentum going into sub-state. We want to enter the postseason with as much confidence as we can."

LOU	9	6	19	26
- 60				
MA	20	12	16	15 -
63				

LOUISBURG (8-11): Michael Waldron 4-8 2-2 14; Julian Margrave 6-11 0-0 13; Madden Rutherford 2-6 3-3 8; Ben Guetterman 2-4 3-3 7; Weston Guetterman 1-4 4-5 6; Kohl Vogel 2-12 0-0 4; Brayden Gage 2-4 0-0 4; Noah Hill 1-1 2-4 4. Totals: 20-54 14-17 60. 3-point

field goals: 6, (Waldron 4, Rutherford, Margrave)

Wildcats get off to good start, but fall to state-ranked Bonner Springs



Louisburg senior Kohl Vogel splits the Bonner Springs defense to put up a shot Thursday during the Wildcats' game in Louisburg.

The Louisburg boys basketball team knew it was going to be a difficult task Thursday when the Wildcats hosted Bonner Springs, the No. 4-ranked team in Class 5A.

As it turned out, the Wildcats were up for the challenge and even took a lead into the second quarter.

Unfortunately for Louisburg, Bonner Springs' speed and athleticism won out in the long run.

The Braves scored 48 points in the second and third quarters as they downed Louisburg, 69-49, but the Wildcats showed a lot of fight down the stretch despite being down

double-digits in the fourth quarter.

“I think we did some good things, especially in the first half, before they were able to stretch the lead out a little bit,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “We got out of our triangle-and-2 and tried to give them a little different look, but those kids just really know how to score. They play really well and move without the ball and find the weaknesses in your defense.

“I thought our kids executed really well and made it tough on them, especially early on. We were playing against some really quick guards and really good athletes, so there were a lot of good things we could take away from this.”

Louisburg (8-10) slowed the game down in the first quarter and eventually built a 12-10 lead going into the second period before the Braves outscored the Wildcats 48-22 in the next two quarters.

The Wildcats had a tough time containing the Braves' trio of Alan Watson, Keyon Thomas and Rishaud Dockery.

Watson led all scorers with 23 points, while Thomas and Dockery scored 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Bonner Springs scored 29 points off Wildcat turnovers and were able to score a lot of points in transition.

Louisburg senior Kohl Vogel led

the Wildcats in scoring with 11 points and sophomore Ben Guetterman also scored in double figures with 10. Freshman Julian Margrave and junior Madden Rutherford added eight and seven points, respectively.

The Wildcats have two final games remaining before postseason basketball arrives. Louisburg will host Metro Academy at 6:30 p.m. tonight before ending the regular season at home against Paola for Senior Night.

Pfannenstiel believes this game, along with the Wildcats' win over Eudora before that, will give his team some confidence heading into an important part of their season.

"We played a complete game against Eudora earlier in the week, but this was a different speed and style of game," he said. "But we needed a game like this as a toughness factor because you have to be strong with the ball and be quick and look ahead. If we can play with that same fight and intensity in these next two games, I think we will be in good shape."

LOU	12	14	8	15	-
49					
BON	10	26	22	11	-
69					

LOUISBURG (8-10): Kohl Vogel 5-10 0-0 11; Ben Guetterman 3-7 2-2 10; Julian Margrave 3-4 0-0 8; Madden Rutherford 3-4 0-1 7; Dylan DeShazer 2-4 1-4 5; Michael Waldron 1-5 1-3

3; Weston

Guetterman 1-3 0-0 2; Noah Hill 0-1 2-4 2; Brayden Gage 0-3
1-2 1. Totals:
18-42 7-16 49. 3-point field goals: 6, (B. Guetterman 2,
Margrave 2, Vogel,
Rutherford)

Defense carries Lady Cats in win over Bonner Springs



Louisburg senior guard Kennia Hankinson pushes the ball up the floor Thursday during the Lady Cats' game with Bonner Springs in Louisburg.

It was a frustrating first half for both Louisburg and Bonner Springs on Thursday at Louisburg High School.

The two teams combined for just 16 points offensively, and neither squad could get in any kind of rhythm.

As for the second half, Louisburg was able to work out its kinks on offense and still made it difficult on Bonner Springs. The Lady Cats scored 35 points in the second half and rolled to a 47-21 win as they got a nice victory heading into their final

week of the season.

“They were playing hard and our defense set the tone for us,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “Our defense can be really good and we are able to make adjustments out of it. I am not sure this group knows how good they can be if they can clean up some things like finishing at the rim, free throws and some discipline things like with our passing. They will grind it out and work their tails off defensively, but we have to get more offense out of our defense.”

Louisburg held Bonner Springs to just four first half points, and while the Braves were able to score a bit more in the second half, the Lady Cats’ defense still set the tone and it started with junior Haley Cain.

Cain had the assignment of shadowing Bonner Springs forward Kim Whetstone, who is the Braves’ main scoring threat on the inside. Cain and the Lady Cats held Whetstone to just three points and made it difficult for the Braves to score.

“I have to give credit to Haley for that,” Lowry said. “I had her shadow (Whetstone) most of the night and she did a good job of being physical with her and moving her out of place. Haley has been that good defensively all year for us. Sometimes it won’t show up on the stat sheet, but what she does is really good for our

team.”

The Lady Cats (8-10) took a 12-4 lead into halftime and struggled offensively with leading scorer Madilyn Melton in foul trouble for most of the first half with three fouls.

Louisburg picked it up in the second half and it started with senior Carson Buffington, who was all over the floor for the Lady Cats. Buffington was one rebound and three steals away from recording a triple-double as she affected the game on both sides of the floor.

Buffington finished the game with a team-high in points (16) and rebounds (nine). Defensively, she was a force as well with 10 deflections that led to seven steals.

“This is what she has been since she came here as a freshman,” Lowry said of Buffington. “No one will out work her and no one will be tougher than she is. She will be that way until she walks off that floor in her last game.”

Melton came back from foul trouble in the second half to finish with 15 points and junior Sydni Keagle came off the bench to finish with seven. Keagle gave the Lady Cats’ some nice minutes with Melton on the bench in the first half.

“Our defense will hold us together, even if we have one or two players go out with foul trouble,” Lowry said. “I thought Sydni did a nice job for us coming off the bench and again she

plugs right in and defensively she knows where she needs to be and offensively she gave us a boost too.”

Louisburg will try and make it two wins in a row tonight when it hosts Metro Academy for a 5 p.m. tipoff.

LOU	4	8	14	21
– 47				
BON	2	2	7	10
– 21				

LOUISBURG (8-10): Carson Buffington, 5-10 5-5 16; Madilyn Melton 5-8 5-7 15; Sydni Keagle 2-4 2-5 7; Alyse Moore 2-11 0-0 4; Jordan Mynsted 0-0 2-3 2; Kennia Hankinson 1-10 0-0 2; Ashley Moore 0-0 1-4 1. Totals: 15-56 15-25 47. 3-point field goals: 2, (Buffington, Keagle).

Wildcats get first win over Eudora in nearly a decade



Louisburg senior Brayden Gage glides to the basket for two

points Tuesday during the Wildcats' home win Tuesday over Eudora.

For the better part of a decade, the Louisburg boys basketball team has found zero success against Eudora.

Wins have been impossible to come by against the Cardinals and that included Louisburg's 28-point loss to Eudora earlier in the season.

Mission impossible became possible for the Wildcats.

Louisburg held Eudora to just four points in the third quarter and put together an consistent offensive effort in its 49-39 victory Tuesday at Louisburg High School. The win improved the Wildcats' record to 8-9 on the season and left for a happy locker room when it was all over.

"For us to lose the way we did against them the first time, we got it put on us pretty good, so it was a great win for sure," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "Obviously they are missing their key guy, but they are still a really good team. Their bigs are tough inside and they get really good position and are well-coached. It was important for us to get a win and it was a signature win that our program needed. Our kids are excited, for sure. That was a good basketball game."

It was a back and forth first half that ended with a three-point Louisburg lead at halftime after senior Kohl

Vogel knocked down a 3-pointer and freshman Julian Margrave made two free throws.

Louisburg's defense stepped it up in the third quarter as it held the Cardinals' offense in check and Vogel stepped up on the offensive end. Vogel scored five straight points and sophomore Ben Guetterman knocked down a 3-pointer to give Louisburg a nine-point lead.

Senior Brayden Gage made a runner in the lane late in the period, and Margrave knocked down a 3-pointer to put Louisburg up 12 going into the fourth quarter.

Vogel was a spark offensively for the Wildcats as he finished with a game-high 18 points and seven rebounds, while Margrave was next with eight points. Senior Dylan DeShazer and Gage each added seven points.

Junior Madden Rutherford also finished with seven rebounds and a team-high four assists.

"Kohl is our consistent offensive threat, for sure," Pfannenstiel said. "He just finds ways to slash and score. I thought he was really good. We need him to score 16 to 20 points a game for us to be successful. The guys did a good job of getting the ball to him. We went back to wanting to push the ball a little bit more and I think that helps us out. I think that is Kohl's game is getting out in transition."

Eudora made things interesting in the fourth quarter as it cut the Wildcat lead to six and Louisburg had to call a couple different timeouts during that stretch. Louisburg would

knock down its free throws in the final minutes as Gage converted a 3-point play and sophomore Weston Guetterman also hit a bucket to seal the win.

“It is almost like we got a little lead and then we started to relax a little bit,” Pfannenstiel said. “We have to learn play with a lead and the reason we got that lead to begin with was because we are disciplined fundamentally. I was proud of the way we responded because there have been times where things have gone downhill and they have continued to go downhill.”

Louisburg returns to action tonight when it host Bonner Springs in what is its first of three straight games at home to end the season. The game was moved from Friday due to weather concerns. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

LOU	10	14	13	12	-
49					
EUD	11	10	4	14	-
39					

LOUISBURG (8-9): Kohl Vogel 7-11 1-1 18; Julian Margrave 2-2 2-2 8; Brayden Gage 3-4 1-1 7; Dylan DeShazer 2-5 2-2 7; Ben Guetterman 1-5 0-0 3; Weston Guetterman 1-3 0-2 2; Noah Hill 1-2 0-0 2; Madden Rutherford 0-3 2-4 2. Totals: 17-37 8-12 49. 3-point field goals: 7, (Vogel 3, Margrave 2, DeShazer, B. Guetterman)

Lady Cats fall to Eudora in home contest



Louisburg's (from left) Brooklyn Diederich, Haley Cain and Madilyn Melton try and trap a Eudora player for a steal Tuesday in Louisburg.

The last time the Louisburg girls basketball team squared off with Eudora, the Lady Cats walked off the court after a 23-point loss.

It was a different game Tuesday when Louisburg hosted Eudora in its first of four straight home contests. The Lady Cats trailed by just six points early in the fourth quarter and were within striking distance of the No. 9-ranked team in the state.

Instead, foul trouble and turnovers hampered the Lady Cats in their comeback effort as they fell 49-39 and are now 7-10 on the season.

"We have to find ways to finish plays," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "Defensively we are doing a good job, but we are killing ourselves right now with turnovers, not finishing

and those are things that are on us. No one is doing that stuff to us, we are doing it to ourselves.

“The good things is, those are things we can fix, but it just about the focus and discipline to be able to do it. This group wants to do the right thing, but it is just understanding and getting execution part right.”

Louisburg trailed just 13-12 after a back-and-forth first quarter and was down 24-19 despite seniors Carson Buffington and Kennia Hankinson picking up three fouls. Buffington would go on to pick up her fourth in the third quarter and the Lady Cats managed just five points in the third.

The Lady Cats committed 24 turnovers against the Eudora zone defense and also sent the Cardinals to the free-throw line 30 times as they converted 19 of them. Louisburg made it to the line just seven times.

Eudora’s Riley Hiebert caused Louisburg problems all night as she finished with a game-high 22 points. Harper Schreiner added 13 and Reagan Hiebert added 11 in the win. The three Eudora players combined for 46 of the team’s 49 points.

“We did a fairly good job at times against the zone,” Lowry said. “Eudora has some nice players that present some issues, in particular with their outside shooting. We didn’t contain on the drive

Louisburg just couldn't sustain it.

Spring Hill went on a big run to start the fourth quarter and the Lady Cats couldn't recover in a 53-44 loss to the Broncos at Spring Hill High School.

"We talk about the first few minutes of that third quarter being some of the most important of the game," Lowry said. "It kinda sets the tone and I thought the girls really took that to heart. I thought our leadership was really good and they were talking to each other out there and flying around. Once we get to that position, we need to find a way to take it to the next level."

Louisburg (7-9) held a 36-35 lead late in the third quarter, but Spring Hill went on a 15-3 run in the fourth thanks to five Wildcat turnovers that turned into baskets on the other end. For the game, Spring Hill scored 20 points off the Louisburg mistakes.

Neither team shot well from the field, as Louisburg shot 26 percent for the game and Spring Hill made 32 percent of its shots. At the free-throw line, the Lady Cats were just 12 of 23.

"I sure like our group of kids and I really enjoy coaching them," Lowry said. "They give so much and they play together and are so unselfish. For them, I am not sure they realize the team

that they can be if we can have that mentality that we can finish at the rim and be disciplined about making our free throws. It is those two things that is the gap for us right now and those are two of the easier parts of the game. The kids are playing hard, the defensive effort is really good and they are rebounding the ball for the most part, so we need to get some of those other things cleaned up.”

Sophomore Madilyn Melton gave the Lady Cats a big boost inside as she finished with a team-high 18 points and nine rebounds. Fellow sophomore Alyse Moore also chipped in nine points and eight boards.

Senior Carson Buffington also had a big night on the glass with a team-high 14 rebounds and finished with seven points.

After a back-and-forth first quarter, Spring Hill started to pull away and actually led by 11 points late in the first half. That is when the Lady Cats made their move as they outscored Spring Hill 19-9 in the third quarter and took the lead on two different occasions thanks to baskets from Melton and Moore.

Louisburg had its chances in the fourth, but were just 3 for 11 in the final period from the free-throw line and the Lady Cats weren't able to catch back up.

Lauren Delker led Spring Hill in scoring with 14 points and Alli Frank finished with 10. Bella Todd was also big for Spring Hill with eight points and 13 rebounds.

The Lady Cats return home for the final four games of the season starting Tuesday when they host Eudora.

Louisburg will then face off with Bonner Springs at home Friday.

“Eudora is going to be a really good basketball team that we see on Tuesday, and Bonner has some really good players on Friday and it will be tough,” Lowry said. “But I think this group is going to respond in these last four games and I am excited to get back on the court with them.”

LOU	10	7	19	8 –
44				
SH	12	16	9	16
– 53				

LOUISBURG (7-9): Madilyn Melton 7-14 4-6 18; Alyse Moore 3-7 2-2 9; Carson Buffington 1-7 4-6 7; Kennia Hankinson 2-15 1-5 6; Haley Cain 1-2 0-0 3; Megan Foote 0-3 1-4 1. Totals: 14-55 12-23 44. 3-point field goals: 4, (Buffington, Hankinson, Cain, Moore)

Cold shooting sinks Louisburg in road loss to Spring Hill



Louisburg sophomore Ben Guetterman puts up a shot over a couple Spring Hill defenders Friday during the Wildcats' game at Spring Hill High School.

SPRING HILL – Friday's game with Spring Hill was one the Louisburg boys basketball team would quickly like to forget.

Offense for the Wildcats was limited, and despite a solid defensive effort, Louisburg couldn't get the road win it was looking for in a 48-25 loss to the Broncos at Spring Hill High School.

The Wildcats (7-9) put themselves in a big hole early on as Louisburg went scoreless in the second quarter and were outscored 27-5 in the second and third quarters. Louisburg had a difficult time against Spring Hill's length as it couldn't get a good shot against the Broncos' zone defense.

"Spring Hill took us out of rhythm a little bit," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "I knew they had that zone in their pocket and I am surprised they didn't use it the first

time we played them. That is the first time a team we have played has primarily went zone against us. We have seen it a few times here and there, but with their length, they were able to cause some problems for us. We were pretty passive against it, we didn't pass really well out of it and we didn't catch ready to shoot.

"To not score at all in the second quarter just really took us out of it and never really allowed us to get back in it. We have to find ways to score no matter what someone is playing against us and we just didn't have it this time. Defensively I thought we played alright and holding them under 50 is about where we want to be. We have to be able to put the ball in the bucket."

It was a competitive game after the first quarter as Louisburg trailed just 12-9, but Spring Hill outscored the Wildcats 10-0 in the second quarter and 17-5 in the third to pull away.

Louisburg had a tough time containing Spring Hill senior Brennen Feedback as he recorded a double-double with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

"He is just consistent," Pfannenstiel said of Feedback. "In all the games I have coached against him he has probably been around the 15-20 point mark each time. He is a consistent player and he has a lot of energy and bounce. He is a great player and he is tough to stop."

Wildcat senior Kohl Vogel led

Louisburg in scoring with 10 points, but was the lone Wildcat to reach double figures.

The Wildcats return to action Tuesday when they host Eudora for their first of four straight home games before the start of the postseason. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

“We will get home and face a couple good teams in Eudora and Bonner Springs this week,” Pfannenstiel said. “It will be great to play in front of our fans again and hopefully we can get a little momentum going.”

LOU	9	0	5	11
- 25				
SH	12	10	17	9 -
48				

LOUISBURG (7-9): Kohl Vogel 4-9 0-1 10; Dylan DeShazer 2-4 0-1 4; Weston Guetterman 1-3 1-2 3; Brayden Gage 1-4 0-1 2; Noah Hill 1-5 0-0 2; Ben Guetterman 1-7 0-0 2; Madden Rutherford 1-2 0-0 2. Totals: 11-41 1-5 25. 3-point field goals: 2, (Vogel 2)

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	14	15	15	17 –
61				

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.”

