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.

L0U 47	15	10	7	15 –
TON 56	12	18	11	15 –

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.

" T

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 questions is, can our shooting

development carry over when the lights are on and somebody in an opposing

jersey is guarding us?

" T

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.

0ne

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 Range: 1854 - 1092		Member Schools - 32 Range: 1083 - 655		Member Schools - 32 Range: 654 - 340		Member Schools - 48 Range: 324 - 168	
Wichita-East	1854		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		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 Height		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		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.		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. Carme		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
* Note: Per class						Goodland	182
Rule 5-2-2, enr	ollme	nt ties are broken by t	ising	the previous		Riley County	182
classification of			ೆ			Russell	181
crassification (June 1	(Contractive)				Council Grove	180
						Sabetha	173
						Gypsum-Southeast of Salin	e 171
						Halstead	168

2A		1A		8-Player Division	1	8-Player Division	ıII
Schools - 48 Range: 168 - 112		Schools - 28 Range: 111 - 62		Schools - 48 Range: 98 - 66		Schools - 52 Range: 66 - 29	
Cimarron	168	Whitewater-Remington	111	Herington	98	Sylvan-Lucas Unified	66
Lyons	168	Conway Springs	110	Bennington	97	Rural Vista (White City / Hope	e) 65
Wellsville	167	Horton	110	Hoxie	97	Peabody-Burns	64
Haven	166	Sedgwick	108	Yates Center	96	Bucklin	61
Hoisington	162	Arma-Northeast	106	Medicine Lodge	95	Minneola	61
Osage City	161	Brookville-Ell-Saline	106	Hill City	94	Victoria	61
Seneca-Nemaha Central	161	Richmond-Central Heights	106	Howard-West Elk	93	Caldwell	60
Fredonia	159	Wabaunsee	105	Pratt-Skyline	93	Satanta	60
Silver Lake	158	Wichita-The Independent	102	Leoti-Wichita County	90	Kensington-Thunder Ridge	59
Easton-Pleasant Ridge	156	Lyndon	99	Spearville	90	Onaga	59
Riverton	155	Sublette	99	WaKeeney-Trego Community		Downs-Lakeside	58
Neodesha	153	Ellinwood	98	Moundridge	88	Mankato-Rock Hills	58
	153	Oakley	98	Sedan	88	Coldwater-South Central	57
Norton Community		Salina-Sacred Heart	98	Cottonwood Falls-Chase Co.	84	Lebo	57
Beloit	150		98	Stockton	84	Quinter	57
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral		Uniontown	175000	Attica/Argonia	82	Beloit-St. John's/Tipton	54
Kingman	148	Johnson-Stanton County	96	** TO TO SEE THE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE S	82	Osborne	54
Eureka	147	Winchester-		Valley Falls	80	South Haven	53
Pomona-West Franklin	144	Jefferson Co. North	94	Burlingame	200000		52
Douglass	142	Inman	93	Canton-Galva	79	Wakefield	_
Kismet-Southwestern Hts.	141	Elkhart	90	Goessel	79	Hutchinson-Central Christia	
Lakin	141	Plainville	89	Meade	79	Ingalls	51
St. Marys	141	Pleasanton	86	Ness City	79	Sharon Springs-Wallace Co.	51
Hays-TMP-Marian	140	Allen-Northern Heights	85	Washington County	79	St. Francis	51
Oskaloosa	140	Blue Rapids-Valley Heights	82	Little River	78	St. Paul	51
Minneapolis	139	Smith Center	82	Shawnee-Maranatha		Claffin-Central Plains	50
Ellsworth	137	Holton-Jackson Heights	78	Christian Academy	77	Hartford	50
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mt Acad	. 135	Troy	70	Cedar Vale/ Dexter	76	Norwich	50
Rossville	135	Olpe	69	Burden-Central	75	Scandia-Pike Valley	50
Effingham-		Centralia	62	Langdon-Fairfield	75	Colony-Crest	49
Atchinson Co Comm.	130			Madison/Hamilton	75	Frankfort	49
Erie	130			Solomon	75	Melvern-MDCV	49
Hillsboro	129			Udall	74	Buffalo-Altoona Midway	48
Humboldt	129			Atwood-Rawlins County	72	Dighton	48
Mound City-Jayhawk Linn				Highland-Doniphan West	72	Hanover	47
Phillipsburg	128			La Crosse	72	Leroy-Southern Coffey Co.	47
Wathena-Riverside	127			Oswego	72	Chetopa	46
Belle Plaine	124			Kinsley	71	Logan/Palco	46
Syracuse	121			Clyde-Clifton Clyde	70	Lost Springs-Centre	46
Garden Plain	120			Oberlin-Decatur Community		Otis-Bison	46
				Rosalia-Flinthills	70	Linn	43
Ellis	119			Jetmore-Hodgeman County	69	Waverly	42
Cherokee-Southeast	118			Lincoln	69	Southern Cloud	**
Belleville-Republic County				Macksville	69	(Miltonvale / Glasco)	40
McLouth	117			Oxford	69	Stafford	40
Eskridge-Mission Valley	116			Moran-Marmaton Valley	68	Wetmore	39
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic						1 / C + 7 / C C C C C C C C C C	33
Leon-Bluestem	112			Greensburg-Kiowa County	67 67	Grainfield-	38
Marion	112			St. John-Hudson		Wheatland/Grinnell	
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan				Montezuma-South Gray	66	Randolph-Blue Valley	38
Sterling	112			Pretty Prairie	66	Kiowa-South Barber	37
						Winona-Triplains/Brewster	36
						Chase	33
						Axtell	30
						Tescott	30
						Wilson	29

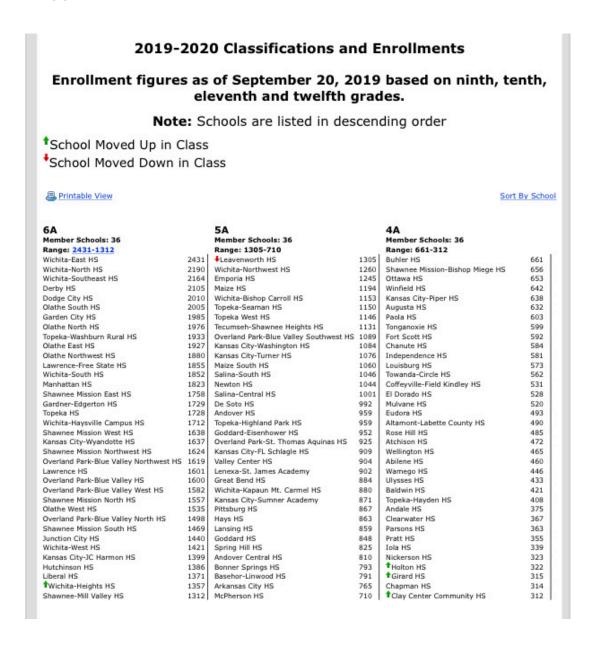


Goddard, Pittsburg and Spring Hill all saw their enrollment grow and will be moving up from 4A to 5A next year. Baldwin

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.



3A Member Schools: 64		2A Member Schools: 64		1A Member Schools: 117	
Range: 305-172	1995	Range: 171-109	167	Range: 108-14	
Garnett-Anderson County HS Concordia HS	305	Mound City-Jayhawk Linn H5 Oskaloosa H5	171	Stockton HS Elbing-Berean Academy	108
Wichita-Trinity Academy	303	Belle Plaine HS	170	Little River HS	105
Kansas City-Bishop Ward HS	300	Rossville HS	169	Meade HS	103
Osawatomie HS	296 296	Elisworth HS	168	Ness City HS Washington County HS	103
St. George-Rock Creek HS	294	◆Wathena-Riverside HS	164	Udall HS	102
Saxter Springs HS	286	Conway Springs HS	160	♣Goessel HS	101
Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail HS toyt-Royal Valley HS	286 283	Belleville-Republic County HS Garden Plain HS	158	Valley Falls HS Oswego HS	101
lugoton HS	280	Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic HS	158	Burden-Central HS	97
lesston HS	279	Cherokee-Southeast HS	157	Troy HS	97
rontenac HS feriden-Jefferson West HS	276	Eskridge-Mission Valley HS Arma-Northeast HS	156	Macksville HS Atwood-Rawlins County HS	96 95
liawatha HS	273	Hillsboro HS	155	Rosalia-Flinthills HS	95
ialena HS	270	Olathe-Heritage Christian Academy	155	La Crosse HS	94
aCygne-Prairie View HS lolcomb HS	270 266	Ellis HS Syracuse HS	154	Solomon HS Burlingame HS	93
farysville HS	266	McLouth HS	152	Lincoln HS	92
Vichita Collegiate HS	266	Whitewater-Remington HS	152	Oberlin-Decatur Community HS	91
cott Community HS	265 263	Horton HS Sterling HS	150	Oxford HS St. John-Hudson HS	91
aney Valley HS indsborg-Smoky Valley HS	263	Marion HS	146	Clyde-Clifton Clyde HS	90
olby HS	262	Leon-Bluestern HS	144	Jetmore-Hodgeman County HS	90
urlington HS	260	Wichita-The Independent HS	142	Peabody-Burns HS	90
erry-Lecompton HS oodland HS	252 246	Richmond-Central Heights HS Sedowick HS	141	Kinsley HS Langdon-Fairfield HS	89
fellsville HS	243	Alma-Wabaunsee HS	139	Highland-Doniphan West HS	87
arned HS	242	Brookville-Ell-Saline HS	139	Olpe HS	87
ussell HS heney HS	239	Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan HS Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian HS	139	Centralia HS Montezuma-South Gray HS	86
abetha HS	238	Praine Village-Kansas Oty Christian HS Medicine Lodge HS	136	Montezuma-South Gray HS Moran-Marmaton Valley HS	86
lley County HS	231	Lawrence-Bishop Seabury Academy	132	Greensburg-Klowa County HS	85
ouncil Grove HS	229	Salina-Sacred Heart HS	131	Wichita-Classical School Of Wichita	83
herryvale HS ypsum-Southeast of Saline HS	225	Winchester-Jefferson County North HS Bennington HS	130	Onaga HS Caldwell HS	82 80
elstead HS	221	Johnson-Stanton County HS	128	Lebo HS	79
aven HS	220	Lyndon HS	127	Minneola HS	79
iverton HS redonia HS	214	Oakley HS Plainville HS	127	Bucklin HS Pretty Prairie HS	78 78
yons HS	213	Sublette HS	127	Sylvan-Lucas Unified HS	78
ilver Lake HS	213	Inman HS	126	Norwich HS	77
eloit HS eneca-Nemaha Central HS	212	Yates Center HS Ellimecod HS	126	Victoria HS Coldwater-South Central HS	77 76
eneca-Nemaha Central PG imarron HS	207	Pratt-Skyline HS	123	Mankato-Rock Hills HS	76
oisington HS	205	Wakeeney-Trego Community HS	122	Satanta HS	76
orton Community HS	204	Uniontown HS	120	Kensington-Thunder Ridge HS	75
sage City HS aston-Pleasant Ridge HS	204	Herington HS Smith Center HS	119	Osborne HS Madison HS	75 74
ingman HS	202	Pleasanton HS	118	Dexter HS	72
esdesha HS	200	Elkhart HS	117	Hanover HS	71
nthony/Harper-Chaparral HS omona-West Franklin HS	199 192	*Hill City HS Hoxie HS	117	Burrton HS Hutchinson-Central Christian HS	70 69
ismet-Southwestern Heights HS	190	Allen-Northern Heights HS	115	St. Francis HS	69
ureka HS	188	Howard-West Elk HS	115	Ingels HS	68
Lakin HS tchison-Maur Hill-Mount Academy	185	Sedan HS Cottonwood Falls-Chase County HS	114	McPherson-Elyria Christian HS Downs-Lakeside HS	68
Inneapolis HS	184	Holton-Jackson Heights HS	113	Wakefield HS	67
ays-Thomas More Prep-Marian HS	182	Canton-Galva HS	112	Hartford HS	66
t. Marys HS	182	Blue Rapids-Valley Heights HS Moundridge HS	110	Quinter HS	66
ouglass HS Effingham-Atchison Co Community HS	178	Shawnee-Maranatha Christian Academy	110	Dighton HS Frankfort HS	65
Humboldt HS	174	Leoti-Wichita County HS	109	Melvern-Marais Des Cygnes Valley HS	65
hillipsburg HS	172	*Spearville HS	109	St. Paul HS	65
				Claffin-Central Plains HS Colony-Crest HS	63
				Randolph-Blue Valley HS	63
				Scandia-Pike Valley HS	63
				Lost Springs-Centre HS South Haven HS	62
				Rexford-Golden Plains HS	61
				Chetopa HS	60
				Sharon Springs-Wallace County HS Buffalo-Altoona Midway HS	60 59
				Leroy-Southern Coffey County HS	58
				Otis-Bison HS	58
				Grainfield-Wheatland/Grinnell HS	57
				Stafford HS Ashland HS	57 56
				Linn HS	56
				Tribune-Greeley County HS	55
				Beloit-St. John's HS Waverly HS	54
				Waverly HS Wetmore HS	51
				Attice HS	50
				Deerfield HS	49
				Argonia HS Cunningham HS	48 48
				Kiowa-South Barber HS	48
				Rolla HS	46
				Moscow HS Axtell HS	45
				Bird City-Cheylin HS	42
				Chase HS	42
				Hope HS	42
				Cedar Vale HS Rozel-Pawnee Heights HS	40
				Tescott HS	40
				Wichita-Central Christian Academy	40
				Almena-Northern Valley HS	39
				White City HS Logan HS	39
				Wilson HS	35
				Fowler HS	32
				Natoma HS Ransom-Western Plains HS	30
				Weskan HS	29
				Brewster HS	28
				Palco HS	28
				Glasco HS Longton-Elk Valley HS	27
				government with the	-
				Hamilton HS	25

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 statue 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."

Ιf

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 his 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 $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

works hard every day and see where that takes my final years of playing

basketball."

Stiles, Lohse, Burk and Bowes

to be inducted into LHS Hall of Fame



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

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

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

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

More than two dozen voters, that includes current members of the hall of fame, long-time Louisburg residents, teachers and coaches, voted on the class in June. Each voter was asked to submit their top four choices for the hall and votes were then tabulated.

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

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

Here

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

more information on an induction ceremony in the coming weeks.



Dennis Stiles

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

Stiles

lettered 4 years in football and

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

all-state in football and was co-captain on the Wildcat team that finished the $\ensuremath{\mbox{}}$

year 4-4.

As sophomore, he played on the varsity basketball team which was 12-0 in

league play, finished the year 19-3 and were district champions. He earned

honorable mention all-state honors his sophomore and junior seasons and was

second-team all-state his senior year. Stiles was at one time the school's

career scoring leader.

Stiles competed at the state

track meet as a junior and senior where he placed fourth in the discus his

senior year. He previously held school records in the discus and triple jump.

He also received a football scholarship to Kansas State University.



John Lohse

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

Lohse lettered all four years in baseball and was selected to represent

Kansas in the all-star baseball classic his senior year. He was an all-league

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

He had a .510 average his junior and senior seasons with 10 home runs his

junior year and 12 more his senior season.

In football, Lohse was a 3-year letterwinner. He was an allleague wide

receiver his junior and senior seasons. In his senior year, he had 850 yards

receiving and 11 touchdowns and was later selected to represent Kansas in the

Metro Classic All-Star Game.

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

Post-graduation, Lohse attended Pittsburg State on a baseball scholarship and played on the Gorilla team for four years. He was selected to

the all-MIAA team his sophomore and junior seasons before injuring his shoulder

his senior year. He had a .315 average his junior and senior seasons. In his

first collegiate at-bat his freshman year, Lohse hit a gamewinning grand slam

to give Pitt State its first win over Missouri Southern in five years.



Jason Burk

Jason Burk - Class of 1999 - Track and Football

Burk was a 4-year letterwinner for the Louisburg track and field team

and qualified for state in all four years in four events. He accumulated 12

state medals, 16 regional track medals and 14 Frontier League medals. Burk was

selected to the Kansas City All-Metro track team in 1998 and 1999.

During his senior season, Burk was a state champion in both the triple

and long jump. He won the triple jump with a leap 48 feet and the long jump

with a mark of 22-5. He also finished fifth in the 100-meter dash and sixth in

the high jump. As a junior, Burk won a state championship in the triple jump

with mark of 46 feet and won three more state medals. He took second long jump,

fourth in the 100 dash and sixth in the 200 dash. As a sophomore, Burk won

state medals in the triple jump (second), long jump (fourth)

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

At one time, Burk held seven school records. He currently holds school

records in the triple jump, high jump and long jump. Burk holds the school

record for most points in a season with 326.

Burk also played football, where he was a part of bi-district, district

and regional championship teams.



Krystal (Bowes) Grojean

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

Bowes was a 4-year letterwinner in track before she was offered a

scholarship on the Wichita State track and field team.

In her senior season at Louisburg, Bowes earned three state medals,

including a second-place finish in the javelin with a throw of 145-10. She was

also third in the discus with a toss of 126-9 and fifth in the shot put at

37-5. As a sophomore and junior, she finished sixth in the discus at state. In

all, Bowes racked up five state medals in her high school career before moving

on to Wichita State. She is the current Louisburg record holder in the javelin

(146-10) and discus (137-11).

At Wichita State, she earned academic All-American honors and was a

team captain all four years. Bowes was a two-time NCAA national qualifier and

finished fifth in the javelin and was second in the Missouri Valley Conference

in 2006. In 2004, Bowes took first in the MVC in the javelin and fourth in the

discus. In 2003, she won the Missouri Valley Conference discus title, was

second in the javelin and fourth in the hammer throw. Bowes was also a member

two Shocker teams that won conference titles.

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

Current members of the LHS Hall of Fame

Class of 2005:

Tom

Stevens - 1934 - Track and Field (High Jump)

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1947/48
Undefeated Football Teams
Richard
Meiers - 1949 - Basketball/Football
Don
Meek - 1965-1998 - Coach/Administrator
Larry
Harding - 1976-1994 - Volleyball/Golf Coach
Amy
Dodson Goode - 1986 - Volleyball/Basketball
                        Class of 2006:
Jim
Wells - 1936 - Track and Field (Pole Vault)/Football
Doug
Eaton - 1971 - Wrestling
Sue
Truman Apple - 1974 - Track and Field/Volleyball/Basketball
Mike
Meek - 1985- Football/Wrestling/Track and Field
Jamie
                             Track
                                              Field
Waite
               1991
                                       and
                                                        (Pole
Vault)/Football/Basketball
                        Class of 2007
Alan
Taylor - 1949 - Football
```

Tim

Dozier - 1987 - Wrestling/Football

Beth

Dodson Dixon - 1989 - Volleyball/Basketball

Jeff

Lohse - 1991 - Baseball/Football/Basketball

Class of 2008

Greg

Kahmann - 1987 - Baseball/Football/Basketball

Mark

Buckingham — 1994 — Basketball

Buffington named 2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year



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

Buffington found herself in two state championship matches and was a team captain in all three seasons. The 2019

Louisburg High School graduate played at a high level in all

the sports she

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

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

The award, which is in its second

year, is to recognize an outstanding LHS student athlete. Louisburg Sports Zone

asked the head coaches at LHS to submit nominations and those nominations were

then organized and submitted back to the coaches for a vote.

The coaches then submitted their

top three choices and the number of votes were added up, which decided the

winner.

Buffington began her memorable senior

year on the volleyball court as she helped the Lady Cats to a state runner-up

finish for the second consecutive season. She was an outside hitter on the 2018

squad, which was a position she had to learn on the fly.

She spent the last two seasons as

the team's starting setter and Buffington made the move to the front line —

which gave her team the best chance to win.

Along with her state runner-up

finish, Buffington also earned second team All-Frontier League honors and was

named to the Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches Association Senior All-Star match.

"Carson was a great leader again this

past season and played a vital role on the team," Louisburg coach Jessica

Compliment said. "She handled transitioning to a new position with a lot of

grace and was bound and determined to learn the ins/outs of being a hitter,

than a setter. She previously ran our offense as the setter for two years. But

as with each new season, new players are added to the mix and the possibility

of changing positions/rosters arises.



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

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

Buffington was also a big part of the

Lady Cat basketball team this past season, despite finishing short of a state

tournament. She earned all-league and all-state honorable mention honors after

she averaged eight points, seven rebounds and three steals per game.

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

"Carson is one of the hardest working players that I have worked with coaching basketball, boys or girls," Louisburg girls

basketball coach Shawn Lowry said. "She never took a day off and always led by

example. Carson was relentless as a player and was always the first one on

the floor for a loose ball. As good an athlete, she is an even better

young woman with great character, integrity, unselfishness and passion."

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

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

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

Association.

"Carson in her first year as the starting

goalkeeper was unbelievable," Louisburg girls soccer coach Kyle Conley said. "She

kept us in a lot of games and even won us a few. Carson is in her third year ever playing

soccer as well. She started her sophomore year and has grown so much. She is a

gifted three sport athlete and it shows in her ability to play goalkeeper. She

has a fantastic attitude and work ethic."

2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Year nominees



For the past three years, Louisburg Sports Zone has given out Athlete of the Week awards during each of the three sports seasons. I do it to recognize special athletic achievements and to highlight the athletes.

For the second straight year, Louisburg Sports Zone will be handing out an Athlete of the Year honor to a male and female athlete at Louisburg High School. I wanted the opportunity to recognize those who exemplify what it means to be an "athlete."

Although I am giving out the award, I wanted the process to be subjective, so I asked the head coaches at LHS to help me out. I asked each coach to send me nominations of who they thought exemplified the Athlete of the Year honor. They will then vote for their top 3 male and female athletes and then I will tabulate the results and determine the winner. In the next week, I will announce this year's recipients.

Below are the nominees for this year's award in alphabetical order by last name. Congrats to all those who were nominated and best of luck!

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



CARSON BUFFINGTON — SENIOR — BASKETBALL, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL

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

In volleyball, Buffington earned second team All-Frontier League honors as she helped lead the Lady Cats to a Class 4A state runner-up

performance. She also moved from her starting setter position to the outside

hitter spot and had a lot of success for the Lady Cats as she tallied 130 kills

in her new position. With all that success, Buffington was also selected to the

Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches Association Senior All-Star Match.

Buffington also wrapped up a strong career for the Louisburg basketball team as she averaged eight points and seven rebounds to go along

with three steals a contest. She was named as a Frontier League honorable

mention this past season, and she also was selected as an allstate honorable mention.

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



ANNA DIXON — SENIOR — VOLLEYBALL

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

Dixon, who is currently with the Kansas State volleyball team, ended her senior season with 584 kills and had a hitting percentage of

.260. She also added 325 digs, 50 aces and 42 blocks as she played all six

rotations. With those lofty numbers, Dixon earned several big time honors in

her final season.

She was selected as an All-Frontier League first team player and was also named to the 4A State All-Tournament Team. Those honors continued

as she was named the Kansas Volleyball Coaches Association Class 4A Player of the

Year and earned a spot on KVA All-State First Team.

Following the season, Dixon was also named as an Under-Armour All-American also earned MaxPreps/American Volleyball Coaches

Association Player of the Week honors.



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

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

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

eclipsed her personal best throw by almost 25 feet in just her third

competition of the season. The following week, she medaled fourth at the Class

4A state tournament with a personal best throw of 131 feet and 9 inches.

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

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



TRINITY MOORE - JUNIOR - CROSS COUNTRY, SOCCER

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

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

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

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



DELANEY WRIGHT - FRESHMAN - BASKETBALL, CROSS

COUNTRY, TRACK AND FIELD

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

Wright found most of her success in track and field as she earned four medals at the Class 4A Kansas State Track and Field Championships

in Wichita this past month. She medaled in the long jump, 400-meter-dash,

200-meter dash and as a member of the 4×400-relay.

During the regional meet, Wright broke two school records (long jump, 400 dash) and earned a regional and Frontier League title in the

long jump. She also earned a medal in the long jump at the Kansas Relays

earlier in the season.

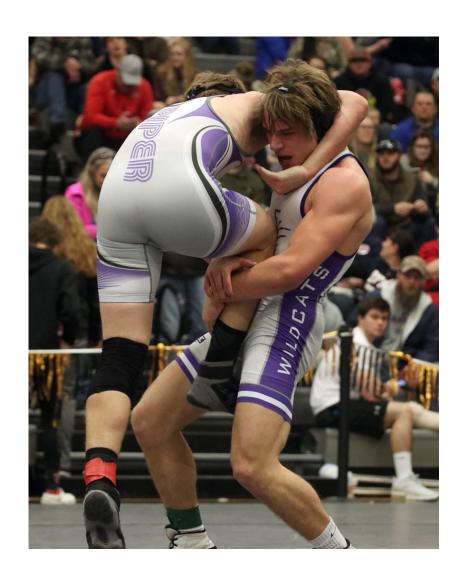
In cross country, Wright was a member of the Louisburg team that finished as a Class 4A regional runner-up and qualified for the state meet

as a team for the first time in school history. In basketball, Wright saw

playing time at the varsity level as a freshman at different points throughout

the season.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



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

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

In football, Caplinger was an All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball as he was named to the first team defense as a defensive

back and second team offense as a multi-purpose player. On defense, Caplinger,

who helped Louisburg to a 10-1 record and a regional championship, had 31

tackles from the safety spot and also had two tackles for a loss, two fumble

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

On the wrestling mat, Caplinger was a regional champion at 170 pounds and finished his season with a 33-5 record. The Louisburg senior

fell one match short of state medal with a 2-2 record at the Class 4A state

tournament. He currently holds the school record for most career reversals (72)

and most career escapes (86). Following the season, he was also named to the

KWCA Academic All-State first team.

Caplinger split time between baseball and track and field in the spring. Although he spent time as a reserve and pinchrunner on the

baseball team, Caplinger found a lot of success on the track.

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

Caplinger will join the Benedictine football team this fall.



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

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

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

When the season was all said and done, Moore tallied 1,554 total yards from the running back spot, including 1,428 yards on the ground,

and had 21 touchdowns before he broke his collarbone during the regional

championship game.

With those numbers, he was named the Kansas Small Class Player of the Year by 810 Varsity and was All-Purpose Player of the Year by

Kpreps.com. Earlier this year, Moore was also named to the Kansas Shrine Bowl roster.

On the wrestling mat, Moore missed more than half of the season with his broken collarbone, but came back in a big way. Moore won his

first 14 matches when coming back at 220 pounds, which included a regional

championship. He went on to earn his first state medal as he finished fourth at

the Class 4A state tournament with a 3-2 record. He was also named to the KWCA

Academic All-State first team.

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

Moore will join the Kansas State football team this fall.



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

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

Tucker was a presence on the line of scrimmage for the Louisburg football team as he was a first team All-Frontier League player on

both sides of the ball and helped the Wildcats to a 10-1 record and a regional championship.

The Louisburg senior was among on the leaders on the offensive line as he helped pave the way for more than 3,500 yards of total

offense. On defense, Tucker recorded 55 tackles from the defensive end spot,

including three tackles for a loss, three forced fumbles, a fumble recovery and

a sack. Those numbers helped earn him honorable mention all-

state honors and was

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

The honors kept coming for Tucker as he was recently selected to participate in

the Kansas Shrine Bowl.

During the winter, Tucker was a member of the Louisburg powerlifting team and certainly made his mark there as well. Tucker won the Class

4A state championship in the 220-pound class and broke a 24-year-old record in

the bench press with a lift of 375 pounds.

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

Tucker will join the Emporia State football team this fall.