

Lady Cats hold off Tonganoxie to win season opener



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

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

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

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

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

into the second quarter.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Young Wildcats excited for opportunity in upcoming season



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

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

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

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

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

in,”

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

“Our expectations are extremely high, not because we are just saying it, but because they’ve invested so much time into what it takes to be successful. Actions speak louder than words. We’ve had a great first two weeks of practice. Our practices have been extremely competitive because we have so much depth this year. There’s just a lot of focus with this group.”

Louisburg returns two starters from a season ago in junior point guard Weston Guetterman, along with senior wing player Michael Waldron. Fellow junior Ben Guetterman will take over the other guard spot after seeing a lot of varsity time a year ago.

Senior Garrett Rolofson will see a lot of time at the center position, while sophomore Julian Margrave will also get the start as he is one of the team’s best shooters and earned varsity playing time halfway through his freshman season.

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

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

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



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

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

Junior

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

Junior

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

“Our junior class is really deep,”

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

Louisburg

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

“I

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

One familiar face that is missing is Carson Buffington. The

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

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

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

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

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

and pride every time we take the floor.”

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

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

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

**KSHSAA releases
classifications for 2019-20**

school year



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

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

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

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

Kansas State High School Activities Association

Football Classifications and Enrollments-Descending Order 2020 & 2021

Enrollment figures are based on ninth, tenth and eleventh grades only.

Enrollment figures are as of September 20, 2019.

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

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

2A**Schools - 48****Range: 168 - 112**

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

1A**Schools - 28****Range: 111 - 62**

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

8-Player Division I**Schools - 48****Range: 98 - 66**

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

8-Player Division II**Schools - 52****Range: 66 - 29**

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



Printing Department

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

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

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

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

2019-2020 Classifications and Enrollments

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

Note: Schools are listed in descending order

- ↑ School Moved Up in Class
- ↓ School Moved Down in Class

[Printable View](#)

[Sort By School](#)

6A

Member Schools: 36

Range: **2431-1312**

Wichita-East HS
Wichita-North HS
Wichita-Southeast HS
Derby HS
Dodge City HS
Olathe South HS
Garden City HS
Olathe North HS
Topeka-Washburn Rural HS
Olathe East HS
Olathe Northwest HS
Lawrence-Free State HS
Wichita-South HS
Manhattan HS
Shawnee Mission East HS
Gardner-Edgerton HS
Topeka HS
Wichita-Haysville Campus HS
Shawnee Mission West HS
Kansas City-Wyandotte HS
Shawnee Mission Northwest HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest HS
Lawrence HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley West HS
Shawnee Mission North HS
Olathe West HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley North HS
Shawnee Mission South HS
Junction City HS
Wichita-West HS
Kansas City-JC Harmon HS
Hutchinson HS
Liberal HS
↑ Wichita-Heights HS
Shawnee-Mill Valley HS

2431 ↓ Leavenworth HS
2190 Wichita-Northwest HS
2164 Emporia HS
2105 Maize HS
2010 Wichita-Bishop Carroll HS
2005 Topeka-Seaman HS
1985 Topeka West HS
1976 Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights HS
1933 Overland Park-Blue Valley Southwest HS
1927 Kansas City-Washington HS
1880 Kansas City-Turner HS
1855 Maize South HS
1852 Salina-South HS
1823 Newton HS
1758 Salina-Central HS
1729 De Soto HS
1728 Andover HS
1712 Topeka-Highland Park HS
1638 Goddard-Eisenhower HS
1637 Overland Park-St. Thomas Aquinas HS
1624 Kansas City-FL Schlagle HS
1619 Valley Center HS
1601 Lenexa-St. James Academy
1600 Great Bend HS
1582 Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel HS
1557 Kansas City-Sumner Academy
1535 Pittsburg HS
1498 Hays HS
1469 Lansing HS
1440 Goddard HS
1421 Spring Hill HS
1399 Andover Central HS
1386 Bonner Springs HS
1371 Basehor-Linwood HS
1357 Arkansas City HS
1312 McPherson HS

4A

Member Schools: 36

Range: **661-312**

1305 Buhler HS
1260 Shawnee Mission-Bishop Miege HS
1245 Ottawa HS
1194 Winfield HS
1153 Kansas City-Piper HS
1150 Augusta HS
1146 Paola HS
1131 Tonganoxie HS
1089 Fort Scott HS
1084 Chanute HS
1076 Independence HS
1060 Louisburg HS
1046 Towanda-Circle HS
1044 Coffeyville-Field Kindley HS
1001 El Dorado HS
992 Mulvane HS
959 Eudora HS
959 Altamont-Labette County HS
952 Rose Hill HS
925 Atchison HS
909 Wellington HS
904 Abilene HS
902 Warrego HS
884 Ulysses HS
880 Baldwin HS
871 Topeka-Hayden HS
867 Andale HS
863 Clearwater HS
859 Parsons HS
848 Pratt HS
825 Iola HS
810 Nickerson HS
793 ↑ Holton HS
791 ↑ Girard HS
765 Chapman HS
710 ↑ Clay Center Community HS

661
656
653
642
638
632
603
599
592
584
581
573
562
531
528
520
493
490
485
472
465
460
446
433
421
408
375
367
363
355
339
323
322
315
314
312

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Frontier League sends proposal to KSHSAA to separate private schools



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

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

In order for it pass, the petition must be signed by 20 percent of the 355 member schools

according to KSHSAA

bi-laws. The Frontier League got the 71 needed petitions and have now submitted

this to appear in front of the KSHSAA Board of Directors for vote in their

Sept. 18 meeting.

The board of directors would then

have to pass it by simple majority of those in attendance to bring the proposal

to a vote from all the member schools.

“Kansas needs to catch up with

the rest of the country and get this competitive imbalance under control in our

state,” Hines said. “The longer we wait then more students will be negatively

impacted. We have a responsibility as educators to create the best

opportunities possible for our students. No one can honestly say we have

the best system possible right now. It can definitely be improved.”

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

Other options were discussed

before submitting the proposal, such as implementing a multiplier on all

private schools like Missouri currently does. In fact, it is the most popular

proposal among the schools that were surveyed by Hines last January.

They also talked about the “Oklahoma

model” where schools are bumped up a classification based on success for competitive balance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Despite what happens at the

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Harding, who will enter Pitt State as a junior both

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

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

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

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

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

He believes his time with the

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

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

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

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

Stiles, Lohse, Burk and Bowes

to be inducted into LHS Hall of Fame



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here

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

more information on an induction ceremony in the coming weeks.



Dennis Stiles

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

Stiles

lettered 4 years in football and

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

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

year 4-4.

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

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



John Lohse

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

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

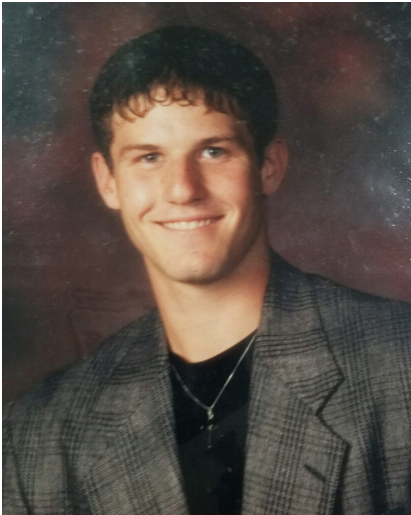
pitcher and centerfielder for the Wildcats his sophomore through senior years.

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

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

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

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



Jason Burk

Jason Burk – Class of 1999 – Track and Football

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

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

and 4×100 relay

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

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

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



Krystal (Bowes) Grojean

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

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

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

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

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

Current members of the LHS Hall of Fame

Class of 2005:

Tom

Stevens – 1934 – Track and Field (High Jump)

1947/48

Undefeated Football Teams

Richard

Meiers – 1949 – Basketball/Football

Don

Meek – 1965-1998 – Coach/Administrator

Larry

Harding – 1976-1994 – Volleyball/Golf Coach

Amy

Dodson Goode – 1986 – Volleyball/Basketball

Class of 2006:

Jim

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

Doug

Eaton – 1971 – Wrestling

Sue

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

Mike

Meek – 1985- Football/Wrestling/Track and Field

Jamie

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

Class of 2007

Alan

Taylor – 1949 – Football

Tim

Dozier – 1987 – Wrestling/Football

Beth

Dodson Dixon – 1989 – Volleyball/Basketball

Jeff

Lohse – 1991 – Baseball/Football/Basketball

Class of 2008

Greg

Kahmann – 1987 – Baseball/Football/Basketball

Mark

Buckingham – 1994 – Basketball

Buffington named 2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Carson was a great leader again this

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Association.

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

2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Year nominees



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

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

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

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

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



CARSON BUFFINGTON – SENIOR – BASKETBALL, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL

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

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

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

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



ANNA DIXON – SENIOR – VOLLEYBALL

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



TRINITY MOORE – JUNIOR – CROSS COUNTRY, SOCCER

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

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

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

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



DELANEY WRIGHT – FRESHMAN – BASKETBALL, CROSS

COUNTRY, TRACK AND FIELD

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

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

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

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

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

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

earlier in the season.

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

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

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

the season.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Caplinger will join the Benedictine football team this fall.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moore will join the Kansas State football team this fall.



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

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

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

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

state honors and was also named to the all-state team by the Kansas Football Coaches Association. The honors kept coming for Tucker as he was recently selected to participate in the Kansas Shrine Bowl.

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

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

Tucker will join the Emporia State football team this fall.

DeShazer excited for opportunity with Avila basketball



Louisburg senior Dylan DeShazer will continue his basketball

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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