

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 practice time."

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.”

Vogel earns honorable mention all-league honors



Louisburg senior Kohl Vogel was selected to the All-Frontier League team recently after leading the Wildcats in scoring with 14 points per game.

The Frontier League provided a lot of challenges throughout the season and the Louisburg boys basketball team was well aware of its difficulties.

Louisburg had to navigate through some rough waters that included the eventual Class 4A state champion in Piper and another Class 5A state qualifier in Bonner Springs. Still, a few Wildcat players left impressions on the league coaches, including one in particular.

Senior Kohl Vogel, Louisburg's leading scorer, was the lone Wildcat to earn all-league honors as he was selected to the honorable mention team.

Piper and Bonner Springs led the way with six of the league's top 10 players, and Piper led all league schools with five selections overall.

"The Frontier League was loaded with talent this year, so I knew it was going to be very competitive on the all-league voting," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "When you add three extra teams to the league (Piper, Bonner Springs and Tonganoxie), that narrows down the

number of post season honors. Piper and Bonner alone had 6 players on the first and second team, so that goes to show you how tough it was going to be to land on that list. Kohl missed out on second team by one vote."

Vogel was a big part of the Wildcats' offense as he led the team with nearly 14 points per game. The Louisburg senior also played well defensively as he finished with a team-high 2.2 steals a game to go along with four rebounds.

"I really thought Kohl had a good enough season to receive a second team honor, but it just didn't quite work out," Pfannenstiel said. "He should be very proud of his honorable mention honor. Kohl had a great year for us. He started off the year very hot, having some big time scoring games.

"Kohl was a big spark for us both offensively and defensively. He definitely led us offensively, but was great for us defensively as well. His aggressiveness at the top of our press and zone really gave teams trouble. I was very proud of Kohl's effort this year. He's got a motor on the basketball court that doesn't stop."

Bonner Springs led the way with two first team selections in seniors Keyon Thomas and A.J. Watson. Spring Hill senior Brennen Feeback, Ottawa junior Koby Johnson and Piper sophomore Tamar Bates rounded out the first team.

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL

FIRST TEAM

Keyon Thomas, Bonner Springs,
senior

Brennen Feedback, Spring Hill,
senior

Koby Johnson, Ottawa, junior

Tamar Bates, Piper, sophomore

A.J. Watson, Bonner Springs,
senior

SECOND TEAM

Trey Bates, Piper, senior

Rock Jerome, Eudora, senior

Brandan Jackson, Piper, senior

Nasjon Porter, Bonner Springs,
senior

Dallas Bond, Tonganoxie, sophomore

HONORABLE MENTION

Braijon Barnes, Piper, senior

Jayden Pierce, Eudora, senior

Jayson Brown, Ottawa, junior

John Frakes, Spring Hill, senior

Hayden Robbins, Tonganoxie, senior

Ty Shelley, Piper, junior

Kohl Vogel, Louisburg, senior

Seth Richmond, Paola, senior

Buffington, Melton named all-league honorable mention



Louisburg senior Carson Buffington was named to the All-Frontier League team for the fourth consecutive season.

In a league that featured the state runner-up, the third-place finisher in Class 4A and another state tournament qualifier, the Louisburg girls basketball schedule was a difficult one.

The Frontier League provided a lot of difficult competition for the Lady Cats as they finished their season with a 10-11 record. Despite that, the league coaches recognized a pair of Louisburg players for postseason honors.

The All-Frontier League team was released earlier this week and Louisburg senior Carson Buffington and sophomore Madilyn Melton were both honorable mention selections.

“I think like most of the coaches, I would like to have had more of our players recognized and in higher positions,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “I thought we had some girls that deserved recognition based on the scope of their work and the things they did for our team. With that said, I understand that there were a lot of really good players in our league.

“Both of these girls, along with all of their teammates, are great representatives of our program, school and community. We all couldn’t be more proud of this group of girls and we are very thankful to have shared in this journey with them.”

For Buffington, this was the fourth consecutive season that she was recognized with an all-league selection. In 21 games, Buffington was second on the team with eight points a game and also averaged seven rebounds, which led the Lady Cats, to go along with 3.2 steals a contest.

“It’s hard to express just how good Carson was for her team this year,” Lowry said. “It wasn’t just on game nights, but every day in practice with how she competed and her great leadership. She never took a day off and always led by example. Carson is one of the hardest working players that I have worked with coaching basketball – boys or girls.

“She was relentless as a player and was always the first one on the floor for a loose ball. She is fantastic example for all the younger girls in Louisburg about the level of commitment and determination that is required to be successful on and off the court.”



Louisburg sophomore Madilyn Melton led the Lady Cats in scoring at 14 points a game and was named an all-league honorable mention.

Melton earned her first all-league honor for the Lady Cats as the Louisburg sophomore led the team in scoring with 14 points and six rebounds per game.

“Madilyn has committed herself and puts in a great deal of work to improve as a player for her team,” Lowry said. “Not only that, she does so many of

those things we talk about when it comes to effort, character, being unselfish and she does it all with great pride. What was most impressive about Madilyn this season was her growth as a leader that she earned through her hard work and unselfishness.”

Piper

(state runner-up), Baldwin (third-place finisher) and Eudora (state qualifier)

led the league with three selections each, while Piper had two first-team selections

in Ryan Cobbins and Ali Vigil. Baldwin also had two first team honorees in

Kayla Kurtz and Macey Frost, while Eudora’s Riley Hiebert was also named to the first team.

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE GIRLS BASKETBALL

FIRST TEAM

Ryan Cobbins, Piper, senior

Ali Vigil, Piper, junior

Kayla Kurtz, Baldwin, senior

Riley Hiebert, Eudora, junior

Macey Frost, Baldwin, senior

SECOND TEAM

Bella Todd, Spring Hill, senior

Lauren Delker, Spring Hill, senior

Kate Ogle, Baldwin, senior

Harper Schreiner, Eudora, freshman

Evelyn Vazquez, Piper, sophomore

HONORABLE MENTION

Carson Buffington, Louisburg,
senior

Hallie Hoffine, Bonner Springs,
senior

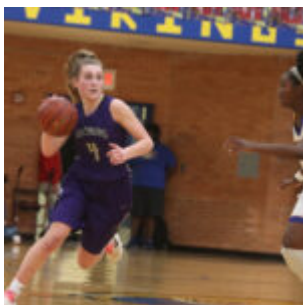
Reagan Hiebert, Eudora, junior

Madilyn Melton, Louisburg,
sophomore

Brayden Hanf, Paola, junior

Anna Soetaert, Tonganoxie, senior

Lady Cats can't slow down Parsons' Taylor in season- ending loss



Louisburg senior Carson Buffington drives toward the basket on Parsons' Nena Taylor on Thursday during the Class 4A sub-state semifinal at Parsons High School.

PARSONS – Going into Thursday's Class 4A sub-state semifinal game, the Louisburg girls basketball team knew if it was going to leave Parsons with a win, the Lady Cats were going to have to slow down the Vikings' best player – Nena Taylor.

As much as the Lady Cats tried, there was no slowing Taylor and her Vikings teammates.

Mixed in with a slow start offensively, Louisburg had a tough time containing Taylor as Parsons handed the Lady Cats a 50-44 loss and ended their season one game short of a sub-state championship.

"The one thing that is great about it is that they are so disappointed," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "They didn't want to be done. It says a lot about this group that they wanted to play together for another game. They are disappointed, but at the same time they are disappointed for the right reasons. It hurts for sure."

Offensively, Louisburg struggled to get going as it scored two points in the first quarter before picking up the pace that led to a 22-point fourth quarter as it tried to rally. The rally, unfortunately for the Lady Cats, came up short thanks to Taylor.

The Lady Cats had a tough time keeping Taylor out of the lane as she scored a bulk of her game-high 34 points around the basket or at the free-throw line. She also added 12 rebounds to her

line for the double-double.

“She is a great player and will be a good player again next year,” Lowry said of Taylor. “She is really talented.

We tried to do some different things with her and I thought the girls battled better in the second half with her, but she is going to do what she does.”



Lady Cat sophomore Brooklyn Diederich puts up a runner at the buzzer Thursday in Parsons.

Louisburg stayed within striking distance of Parsons for much of the game and trailed by just six points early in the third thanks to back-to-back 3-pointers from senior Kennia Hankinson.

Next, it was Taylor’s turn to answer as she went on a 10-0 run on her own and eventually helped give Parsons a 15-point cushion heading into the fourth quarter.

The Lady Cats chipped away at the Parsons lead and eventually cut it to six with 30 seconds left after a couple baskets from sophomore Madilyn Melton, but Louisburg could get no closer.

Melton led the Lady Cats in scoring with 19 points and also had a team-high seven rebounds. Hankinson was next with nine points and senior Carson Buffington had seven points, five rebounds, six deflections and four steals in her final game.



Louisburg senior Kennia Hankinson drives past a Parsons defender Thursday during the Class 4A sub-state tournament.

Sophomore Alyse Moore had a team-high seven steals to lead the Lady Cats on defense and also had six rebounds and five points. Junior Haley Cain had a team-high five assists to go along with six rebounds.

“I knew they were going to continue to battle,” Lowry said of his team’s rally. “What is great about it is we have younger players that are battling their tails off and they are going to be hungry coming back next year. I also can’t say enough about our leadership. I can’t say enough about our captains Carson and Haley, and even our younger players are starting to be leaders now like Alyse, Madilyn and Brooklyn (Diederich). They turned into great leaders right in front of us here at the end of the season. It is a result of what the program has done throughout the years.”

Louisburg finished its season with a 10-11 record and saw improvement from a year ago, but the end of the year is always difficult, especially as Buffington and Hankinson played their final game as Lady Cats.

“I thought we competed all year and they did what I asked them to do,” Lowry said. “The personal and collective growth of this group was fantastic and I can’t ask any more of the kids than what they gave here at the end. I am proud to be their coach.”

LOU	2	10	10	22 –
44				

PAR 12	10	15	13 – 50
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LOUISBURG (10-11): Madilyn Melton 6-12 6-13 19; Kennia Hankinson 3-9 0-0 9; Carson Buffington

2-5 2-4 7; Alyse

Moore 2-8 1-2 5; Brooklyn Diederich 1-8 0-0 3; Haley Cain 0-5 1-2 1. Totals:
14-49 10-21 44. 3-point field goals: 6, (Hankinson 3, Buffington, Diederich, Melton)

Wildcats' season comes to close with loss to Anderson County



Louisburg senior Dylan DeShazer goes up for a shot Wednesday during the Class 4A sub-state semifinal game at Anderson County High School. DeShazer scored a team-high 16 points in the Wildcats' 57-35 loss to Anderson County.

GARNETT – After a close first half during Wednesday's Class 4A sub-state semifinal, the Louisburg boys basketball team was just 16 minutes from a shot at the sub-state championship game.

Louisburg, the No. 13 seed, trailed No. 4 Anderson County by just one point at halftime, but the second half provided a much different story – one that wasn't a happy ending for

Louisburg.

The Wildcats scored just 10 second half points and watched as Anderson County ended their season with a 57-35 loss at Anderson County High School.

Much of the game was decided from behind the 3-point line where the Bulldogs thrived with a 9-for-16 performance and the Wildcats were just 2-for-18 and shot just 30 percent for the game.

"That was the difference in the game," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "It was just a cold night for us.

We shot too many 3's probably in the first half and should have looked to get the ball inside more. It wasn't that they went on a big, fast run, it was just more methodical and we just couldn't find a way to score. They just slowly stretched their lead and that is how the game goes sometimes."

The two teams were involved in a close game back in December when the Wildcats traveled to Garnett and lost an 80-74 game in overtime.

Louisburg did better defensively this time around, but the Wildcats couldn't get the offense to follow suit. Louisburg trailed 26-25 at halftime, but Anderson County knocked down several shots in the third quarter that led to a 19-6 run.

The Wildcats (9-12) had a tough time containing Anderson County senior Justin Rockers as he knocked down three 3-pointers during that stretch and made six overall. Rockers also scored a game-high 20 points and was one of three Bulldogs to score in double figures.

"Our guys were confident coming into the game and we knew this was a great opportunity for us," Pfannenstiel said. "We were excited about coming back to Anderson County because we knew we had a shot. If we said going in that we would hold them to 57 points, I thought we would win because they are a high-flying team that really pushes the ball. We controlled the tempo for a while, but we just couldn't score, especially in the second half.

"I was frustrated the very first possession because our game plan was to know where (Carter Powelson) and (Kass Allnutt) are and also know where (Rockers) is because if he gets his feet set he is going to hit it. We let Rockers get a wide open look on the first possession of the game and he knocked it down. He had a big night and we knew he was capable of that. Despite that, we played good enough defensively but we just couldn't score."



Louisburg senior Kohl Vogel drives to the basket Wednesday against Anderson County.

Louisburg senior Dylan DeShazer didn't have a problem scoring as he put together one of his best efforts of the season. DeShazer finished with a game-high 16 points to go along with seven rebounds and was the lone Wildcat to score in double figures.

Senior Brayden Gage was next on the team in scoring with six points and junior Madden Rutherford led the Wildcats with nine rebounds.

"Dylan was really good," Pfannenstiel said. "He was tough in there and he was really smooth and confident shooting the ball. He had a big game for us and he almost

single-handedly kept us in the game there in the first half. Every time they went on a little run he made some big shots and I was proud of him.”

Although the Wildcats saw their season come to a close, they saw a big improvement from a year ago, including in the win column as they jumped from two last season to nine this year.

It also marked the final game for Wildcat seniors Kohl Vogel, Noah Hill, Gage and DeShazer and Pfannenstiel appreciates what they gave to the program.

“I was very proud of what we have done,” he said. “Our league was just incredible this year. When you add Piper and Bonner Springs, two of the best teams in the state, that just added to our schedule. The Frontier League is just a beast night in and night out. We thought we could get a winning record, which was our goal, but we were close to getting there. Wins and losses aren’t the only deciding factor in moving our program forward.

“I told our kids that it starts during the summer with all the workouts that they did. We did shooting workouts five days a week for the first month-and-a-half of summer because we need to develop as shooters. I knew it would be popular at first, but figured numbers would drop off as the summer went on, but every day I flipped on the lights and there were 20 dudes there waiting on me. That got me excited because I knew they cared about getting better and they had all bought in. The work ethic and leadership that these seniors displayed is going to carry on for a long time, a lot more than the wins

and losses.”

LOU	10	15	6	4 –
35				
AC	13	13	19	12
– 57				

LOUISBURG (9-12): Dylan DeShazer

7-11 2-4 16; Brayden Gage 2-4 2-2 6; Kohl Vogel 2-11 0-2 4;

Ben Guetterman 1-5

0-0 3; Michael Waldron 1-4 0-0 3; Julian Margrave 1-3 0-0 2;

Weston Guetterman

0-4 1-2 1. Totals: 14-47 5-10 35. 3-point field goals: 2, (B.

Guetterman,

Waldron)

Wildcats complete sweep of Paola with victory on Senior Night



Louisburg senior guard Brayden Gage passes the ball off to senior teammate Kohl Vogel during the Wildcats’ Senior Night game with Paola on Friday. The Wildcats rolled to a 51-33 victory.

The Louisburg boys basketball team had a chance to sweep rival Paola last Friday during its Senior Night contest.

The Wildcats took full advantage.

Louisburg held Paola to just two points in the first quarter and the Wildcats never let up in the 51-33 victory.

The win gave seniors Brayden Gage, Kohl Vogel, Dylan DeShazer and Noah Hill some bragging rights as they played their final home game.

“It was definitely one of our goals was to beat Paola and it meant everything with them being our rivals,” Vogel said. “All of the seniors were ready to compete and that is what we did.”

Although they were able to pull away offensively, the Wildcats (9-11) won the game on the defensive end as they forced 28 Paola turnovers and Louisburg scored 20 points off of those mistakes.

Gage and Vogel and made things difficult on the Panther offense as they consistently trapped the Paola ball handlers at the top of the key and those steals led to several runouts.

For the game, Gage finished with a team-high eight deflections and had four steals, while Vogel had a team-high five steals to go along with a game-high 17 points.

“You could tell our kids had something to play for and that the end of the season is near because we played

with that energy and really just made a lot of plays,"
Louisburg Ty
Pfannenstiel said. "We started off slow, and with both teams
playing zone,
sometimes that can happen, but our defense really sparked our
offense. We got a
lot of steals, a lot of deflections and once we got confidence
things really
kept going for us."

Three of the four seniors got the Wildcats off to a good start
as Hill started the game with four points, and in-between
there was a Madden Rutherford 3-pointer to put Louisburg up
7-2. Vogel went on to hit a 3-pointer of his own, along with a
pair of free throws and Gage hit a basket to give the Wildcats
a 14-2 lead going into the second quarter.



Louisburg senior Noah Hill goes up for two points on Friday

against Paola.

The Wildcats expanded their lead to 30-8 late in the second quarter after a basket from DeShazer and free throws from Vogel, who went to the free-throw line 13 times for the game. Louisburg went on to take a 31-13 halftime lead.

Along with the seniors, the Wildcats also got a good performance from sophomore guard Weston Guetterman as he joined Vogel in double figures with 11 points.

"It was a great team effort," Pfannenstiel said. "We talked the other day about everyone having their role and they all have things that they do well. We just really stress that and playing as a team and playing unselfish. Our energy was good and I thought everyone was playing unselfish basketball. We don't have any individual stars, so it will take a great team effort to win and that was perfect heading into postseason."

Louisburg expanded its lead to 22 points at the end of the third quarter and the Wildcats were able to empty their bench in the fourth quarter to give their four seniors a nice ovation as they said their farewells.

"It was big to beat Paola on Senior Night," Gage said. "It is good to be able to say I was undefeated against them my senior year in all sports. As for the other seniors, I think they feel the same way and it was special that all four of us stepped up on Senior Night and got the win."



Louisburg senior Dylan DeShazer goes up for a basket Friday against Paola at Louisburg High School.

Postseason play now begins for the Wildcats as they are the No. 13 seed in the sub-state tournament and will travel to No. 4 Anderson County (14-5) for a 7 p.m., tipoff on Wednesday.

The winner of that game will play the winner of No. 5 Eudora (11-7) and No. 12 Tonganoxie (9-11) on Friday in the sub-state championship. Louisburg has played all three teams this season and have wins over Eudora and Tonganoxie and an overtime loss to Anderson County early in the season.

"They are familiar opponents, but it has been awhile since we have played Anderson County and that is our only focus right now," Pfannenstiel said. "We have a little different look to us now. We have added a little bit of depth. We were down

DeShazer in that game
and I don't think we went more than six deep at that time. It
will be an
up-tempo game. They like to run and pressure, so we have to be
able to play at
that tempo, but also know when it is time to be patient."

LOU	14	17	14	6 –
51				

PAO	2	11	10	10 –
33				

LOUISBURG (9-11): Kohl Vogel 3-7
9-13 17; Weston Guetterman 4-5 1-2 11; Brayden Gage 3-8 0-1 6;
Dylan DeShazer
1-4 3-6 5; Noah Hill 1-3 2-3 4; Ben Guetterman 1-3 0-0 3;
Madden Rutherford 1-2
0-0 3; Julian Margrave 1-2 0-0 2. Totals: 15-37 15-29 51. 3-
point field goals:
6, (Vogel 2, W. Guetterman 2, B. Guetterman, Rutherford)

Lady Cats down Paola on emotional Senior Night



The Louisburg girls basketball team celebrates following its
54-48 victory over rival Paola on Friday in Louisburg. The

Lady Cats are now 10-10 on the season.

The Louisburg girls basketball team squared off with Paola on Friday and the Lady Cats wanted to honor their two seniors – Carson Buffington and Kennia Hankinson – with a win in their final home game.

Louisburg didn't disappoint its two seniors as it ended the regular season with a 54-48 win over Paola and avenged a close loss from earlier in the season. It all culminated in what was a special night for everyone involved.

"It was the best feeling for me," Buffington said. "Paola has always been our rival, but to beat them for the final time that we will ever play them is just really special.

"It was really emotional out there. There was a lot going on, but we just had to remain level-headed and keep believing in ourselves. Even when Kennia and I both got into foul trouble, we just had to keep moving forward."

The Lady Cats (10-10) started and finished the game strong as they got out to a big lead, gave it up, but put together a good rally in the second half to get back in the game.

Louisburg jumped out to a 13-4 lead in the first quarter thanks to seven points from sophomore Madilyn Melton, but the Panthers responded to the run. Paola held Louisburg to just six points in the second quarter as the Lady Cats battled foul problems.



Senior Carson Buffington goes up for shot Friday against Paola.

Buffington had to sit for much of the second quarter with foul trouble, and during that time, Paola jumped out to a 23-19 halftime lead.

Foul problems got even worse in the third quarter when the team's leading scorers, Buffington and Melton, along with Hankinson, all picked up four fouls.

The Lady Cat bench responded and kept the game close as Brooklyn Diederich swished 3-pointer to give Louisburg a 31-30 lead, but Paola would take the lead back until the final seconds of the third.

Hankinson knocked down a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Lady Cats a 36-35 lead going into

the fourth quarter
and gave her team some much needed confidence.

“It was huge, but I thought our
bench was really good all night and the energy they brought,”
Louisburg coach
Shawn Lowry said. “Different girls were making plays and our
bench was so
excited and happy for their teammates that were on the floor
and they were
feeding off that. When Kennia hit that shot, it was a boost of
adrenaline for
everyone and it led into our fourth quarter.”



Senior Kennia Hankinson drives to the basket Friday against Paola.

Paola either had the lead or the game was tied for half of the fourth quarter, but the Lady Cats went in front on a Buffington 3-pointer. Paola tied it again, but junior Haley Cain broke the game open with a 3-pointer with 3 minutes and 47 seconds left in the game to give Louisburg the lead back

and it wouldn't relinquish it.

"It was a deep a three for sure,"

Lowry said of the shot. "It was just another kid stepping up when we needed it.

I was just so proud of their togetherness and how special that is.

"A lot of different girls had to

step up. Whether it was Brooklyn working her tail off on defense, or Sydni (Keagle)

coming off the bench and gave the minutes that she gave. They continue to

battle and push. No matter what was happening, the girls refused to lose this

game on Senior Night for those two seniors. It was awesome to see and great to

be a part of."

Buffington was then able to ice

the game at the free-throw line as she knocked down 3 of 4 attempts to help put

the game away.

Buffington made a lasting memory

for the Wildcat crowd as she led all scorers with 18 points to go along with

eight rebounds and a team-high four steals.

"You talk about leadership and

putting the team on her shoulders, Carson provided all of that for us," Lowry

said. "We needed the ball to be in her hands and she made some big free throws

there down the stretch. That is what she

is and what a great way for both seniors to finish out their career on their

home floor. You can't draw it up any better."

Melton also scored in double figures for the Lady Cats as she finished with 14 points, while sophomore Alyse Moore had seven points and a team-high nine rebounds and four steals. Diederich also had a team-high six deflections and Cain led Louisburg with five assists.

"It felt pretty amazing, especially since everyone contributed to it and we all just came together and came out with a lot of energy and we were able to get the win," Hankinson said.

Postseason play now begins for the Lady Cats as they earned the No. 11 seed and will travel to No. 6 Parsons (14-6) for a 7 p.m. tipoff on Thursday. The winner of that game will face the winner between No. 3 Baldwin (17-1) and No. 14 Atchison (7-13) on Saturday for the sub-state championship.

"We are going to take a road trip down to Parsons and they have a really nice player and a really nice team," Lowry said. "It will be a challenge, but we just want a shot to get in the sub-state championship game and hopefully we can go down there and play well."

LOU	13	6	17	18 –
54				
PAO	8	15	12	13 –
48				

LOUISBURG (10-10): Carson Buffington 5-6 7-8 18; Madilyn Melton 5-14 4-9 14; Alyse Moore

1-6 5-9 7; Haley

Cain 2-6 1-3 6; Kennia Hankinson 1-9 0-2 3; Brooklyn Diederich 1-5 0-0 3; Sydni

Keagle 1-4 0-0 2; Erin Lemke 0-0 1-2 1. Totals: 16-51 18-33 54. 3-point field

goals: 4, (Buffington, Hankinson, Cain, Diederich)

Bench helps Lady Cats in win over Metro Academy



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

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

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

Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry decided to use that opportunity to go down deeper into his bench to get players some varsity time ahead of postseason play. Several Lady Cats

made an impact on the game as they came away with a 46-36 win and picked up their second straight victory in the process.

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

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

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

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

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

also gave the Lady Cats good minutes

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

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

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

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

LOU	9	18	6	12
- 46				

MA	11	8	10	7 -
36				

LOUISBURG: Madilyn Melton 5-10 8-9

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

Wildcats' rally falls short against Metro Academy



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

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

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

However, as pleased as he was with how his team finished, the Louisburg coach was just as

frustrated with the start
as the Wildcats managed just 15 first half points and were on
the verge of
having a running clock in the second half.

“That was a really good comeback,” Pfannenstiel said. “I wasn’t sure if we should be excited that we fought all the way back or that we should be mad that we came out so flat. I think it was disappointing how we started the game, but I thought we did a lot of nice things to get back in it and had a lot of guys that sparked us. We went with the hot hand and that group in the fourth quarter really carried us.

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

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

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

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

Early in the contest, the Wildcats
weren’t able to get in a rhythm offensively and Metro Academy

took advantage.

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

"We were standing around and watching, not crashing the board and not moving without the ball," Pfannenstiel said. "I thought we were better in the second half. The gym was completely quiet early on and we didn't do a good job of communicating early. There were times where I didn't know what offense we were in because the guards weren't getting us set up. It was a weird start to it that is for sure, but those things add up."

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

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

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

LOUISBURG (8-11): Michael Waldron

4-8 2-2 14; Julian Margrave 6-11 0-0 13; Madden Rutherford 2-6 3-3 8; Ben

Guetterman 2-4 3-3 7; Weston Guetterman 1-4 4-5 6; Kohl Vogel 2-12 0-0 4;

Brayden Gage 2-4 0-0 4; Noah Hill 1-1 2-4 4. Totals: 20-54 14-17 60. 3-point

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

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



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

The Louisburg boys basketball team

knew it was going to be a difficult task Thursday when the Wildcats hosted

Bonner Springs, the No. 4-ranked team in Class 5A.

As it turned out, the Wildcats

were up for the challenge and even took a lead into the second

quarter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rishaud Dockery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOUISBURG (8-10): Kohl Vogel 5-10

0-0 11; Ben Guetterman 3-7 2-2 10; Julian Margrave 3-4 0-0 8;

Madden Rutherford

3-4 0-1 7; Dylan DeShazer 2-4 1-4 5; Michael Waldron 1-5 1-3

3; Weston

Guetterman 1-3 0-0 2; Noah Hill 0-1 2-4 2; Brayden Gage 0-3

1-2 1. Totals:

18-42 7-16 49. 3-point field goals: 6, (B. Guetterman 2,

Margrave 2, Vogel,

Rutherford)