

Wildcats get first win over Eudora in nearly a decade



Louisburg senior Brayden Gage glides to the basket for two points Tuesday during the Wildcats' home win Tuesday over Eudora.

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

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

Mission impossible became possible for the Wildcats.

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

"For us to lose the way we did against them the first time, we got it put on us pretty good, so it was a great win for sure," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said.

“Obviously they are missing their key guy, but they are still a really good team. Their bigs are tough inside and they get really good position and are well-coached. It was important for us to get a win and it was a signature win that our program needed. Our kids are excited, for sure. That was a good basketball game.”

It was a back and forth first half that ended with a three-point Louisburg lead at halftime after senior Kohl Vogel knocked down a 3-pointer and freshman Julian Margrave made two free throws.

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

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

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

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

“Kohl is our consistent offensive threat, for sure,” Pfannenstiel said. “He just finds ways to slash and score. I thought he was really good. We need him to score 16 to 20

points a game for us
to be successful. The guys did a good job of getting the ball
to him. We went
back to wanting to push the ball a little bit more and I think
that helps us
out. I think that is Kohl's game is getting out in
transition."

Eudora made things interesting in the
fourth quarter as it cut the Wildcat lead to six and Louisburg
had to call a
couple different timeouts during that stretch. Louisburg would
knock down its
free throws in the final minutes as Gage converted a 3-point
play and sophomore
Weston Guetterman also hit a bucket to seal the win.

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

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

EUD
39

11

10

4

14 –

LOUISBURG (8-9): Kohl Vogel 7-11

1-1 18; Julian Margrave 2-2 2-2 8; Brayden Gage 3-4 1-1 7;
Dylan DeShazer 2-5

2-2 7; Ben Guetterman 1-5 0-0 3; Weston Guetterman 1-3 0-2 2;
Noah Hill 1-2 0-0

2; Madden Rutherford 0-3 2-4 2. Totals: 17-37 8-12 49. 3-point
field goals: 7,

(Vogel 3, Margrave 2, DeShazer, B. Guetterman)

Lady Cats fall to Eudora in home contest



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

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

It was a different game Tuesday when Louisburg hosted Eudora in its first of four straight home contests. The Lady

Cats trailed by just six points early in the fourth quarter and were within striking distance of the No. 9-ranked team in the state.

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

"We have to find ways to finish plays," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "Defensively we are doing a good job, but we are killing ourselves right now with turnovers, not finishing and those are things that are on us. No one is doing that stuff to us, we are doing it to ourselves."

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

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

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

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

"We did a fairly good job at times
against the zone," Lowry said. "Eudora has some nice players
that present some
issues, in particular with their outside shooting. We didn't
contain on the drive
very well and that is some things we need to clean up on. Part
of it was we did
some different defensive stuff with a 3-2, but we just got
together (Tuesday) after
having no practices or school for a while, but we have to be
ready either way."

Louisburg sophomore Madilyn Melton
led Louisburg in scoring with 14 points and also had a team-
high eight rebounds
in the loss. Hankinson also finished in double figures with 11
and junior Haley
Cain added seven.

Sophomore Alyse Moore and
Buffington each ended the game with six rebounds and
Buffington also had a
team-high six assists.

The Lady Cats will try and get
back on track tonight when it hosts Bonner Springs. The game
was originally
scheduled for Friday, but was moved up to due inclement
weather. Tipoff is set
for 6 p.m.

“It is not necessarily about wins or losses, but we need to have three good games going into postseason play,” Lowry said. “We are going to hammer on that. It is all about how we want to finish. How do the seniors want to finish this journey? How do their teammates want to finish this ride together? It has to be the work we do in practice and having a high intensity level in games.”

LOU	12	7	5	15
– 39				
EUD	13	11	9	16 –
49				

LOUISBURG (7-10): Madilyn Melton 6-13 2-2 14; Kennia Hankinson 3-11 2-2 11; Haley Cain 3-4 0-0 7; Alyse Moore 1-3 1-2 4; Brooklyn Diederich 1-7 0-0 3. Totals: 14-42 5-7 39. 3-point field goals: 6, (Hankinson 3, Cain, Diederich, Moore).

Lady Cats’ rally falls short at Spring Hill



Louisburg senior Kennia Hankinson drives on Spring Hill's Lauren Delker on Friday in Spring Hill.

SPRING HILL – The Louisburg girls basketball team did exactly what head coach Shawn Lowry wanted them to do after halftime.

Lowry implored his team to come out focused, play aggressive and perform well offensively. The Lady Cats did all those things as they scored 19 third quarter points to take a slim lead over Spring Hill on the road Friday.

Louisburg just couldn't sustain it.

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

"We talk about the first few minutes of that third quarter being some of the most important of the game,"

Lowry said. "It kinda sets the tone and I thought the girls really took that to heart. I thought our leadership was really good and they were talking to each other out there and flying around. Once we get to that position, we need to find a way to take it to the next level."

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

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

"I sure like our group of kids and I really enjoy coaching them," Lowry said. "They give so much and they play together and are so unselfish. For them, I am not sure they realize the team that they can be if we can have that mentality that we can finish at the rim and be disciplined about making our free throws. It is those two things that is the gap for us right now and those are two of the easier parts of the game. The kids are playing hard, the defensive effort is really good and they are rebounding the ball for the most part, so we need to get some of those other things cleaned up."

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

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

After a back-and-forth first quarter, Spring Hill started to pull away and actually led by 11 points late in

the first half. That is when the Lady Cats made their move as they outscored Spring Hill 19-9 in the third quarter and took the lead on two different occasions thanks to baskets from Melton and Moore.

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

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

The Lady Cats return home for the final four games of the season starting Tuesday when they host Eudora. Louisburg will then face off with Bonner Springs at home Friday.

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

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

LOUISBURG (7-9): Madilyn Melton 7-14 4-6 18; Alyse Moore 3-7 2-2 9; Carson Buffington 1-7 4-6

7; Kennia

Hankinson 2-15 1-5 6; Haley Cain 1-2 0-0 3; Megan Foote 0-3 1-4 1. Totals:
14-55 12-23 44. 3-point field goals: 4, (Buffington, Hankinson, Cain, Moore)

Cold shooting sinks Louisburg in road loss to Spring Hill



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

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

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

The Wildcats (7-9) put themselves in a big hole early on as Louisburg went scoreless in the

second quarter and
were outscored 27-5 in the second and third quarters.
Louisburg had a difficult
time against Spring Hill's length as it couldn't get a good
shot against the
Broncos' zone defense.

"Spring Hill took us out of rhythm a little bit," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "I knew they had that zone in their pocket and I am surprised they didn't use it the first time we played them. That is the first time a team we have played has primarily went zone against us. We have seen it a few times here and there, but with their length, they were able to cause some problems for us. We were pretty passive against it, we didn't pass really well out of it and we didn't catch ready to shoot.

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

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

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

"He is just consistent,"

Pfannenstiel said of Feedback. "In all the games I have coached against him he

has probably been around the 15-20 point mark each time. He is a consistent

player and he has a lot of energy and bounce. He is a great player and he is

tough to stop."

Wildcat senior Kohl Vogel led

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

figures.

The Wildcats return to action

Tuesday when they host Eudora for their first of four straight home games

before the start of the postseason. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

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

LOU	9	0	5	11
- 25				

SH	12	10	17	9 -
48				

LOUISBURG (7-9): Kohl Vogel 4-9

0-1 10; Dylan DeShazer 2-4 0-1 4; Weston Guetterman 1-3 1-2 3; Brayden Gage 1-4

0-1 2; Noah Hill 1-5 0-0 2; Ben Guetterman 1-7 0-0 2; Madden Rutherford 1-2 0-0

2. Totals: 11-41 1-5 25. 3-point field goals: 2, (Vogel 2)

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



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

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

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

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

"I was definitely proud with the way our guys fought and battled and pretty good Ottawa team," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "This was a game we can definitely learn things from and get

better. It seemed like we just couldn't get that big shot to fall to get the lead there late, and I know some of the guys are frustrated, but we did some good things out there."

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

Louisburg knocked down four 3-pointers in the frame, including three from

Michael Waldron, who finished with a team-high nine points.

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



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

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

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

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

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

Defense was another reason the Wildcats were able to hang around as they switched from a zone defense to a man, which gave the Cyclones a different look. Louisburg was able to force 14 Ottawa turnovers, which led to some run outs, but the Wildcats missed a few easy attempts in the first half.

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

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

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

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

LOU	8	16	14	11 –
49				
OTT	14	15	15	17 –
61				

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

LOUISBURG RALLIES TO BEAT BALDWIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lady Cats get big win at home over Ottawa



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

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

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

Louisburg jumped on Ottawa from

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

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

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

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



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

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

“Defense is creating offense for us and that was a big part of our success,” Lowry said. “We were also able to hit some nice shots on the perimeter and I think we are getting more confidence there. We did a lot of shooting in practice and I think our free throw shooting improved as well.”

Sophomore Brooklyn Diederich had a strong game offensively as she finished with a team-high 14 points, including a

pair of 3-pointers. Defensively, she was also all over the floor and led the team with five deflections and three steals.

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

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

Louisburg will try for some revenge on Friday when it competes in its final road game of the season against Spring Hill and the Lady Cats will have some extra practice time to get ready.

Earlier in the season, the Lady Cats watched Spring Hill comeback from an 18-point deficit to steal a win and Louisburg is hoping to do the same this time around.

"It is an interesting time of the season, but it gives us a chance to work on some fundamental stuff and then get ready to play our last away game of the season against Spring Hill," Lowry said. "The girls like playing Spring Hill and they have a lot of friends on that team and they are excited to play them, especially after giving up an 18-point lead."

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

LOUISBURG: (7-8): Brooklyn

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

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

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

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

Lady Cats' rally comes up short against Paola



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

PAOLA – The Louisburg girls basketball team had a never-give-up attitude Tuesday when it hit the road to face off with rival Paola.

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

reached down for something a little extra.

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

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

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

Louisburg (6-8) turned those mistakes into 14 points on the other end as they gradually crept back in the game. Sophomore Brooklyn Diederich led the charge defensively for Louisburg as she played at the top of zone and created a lot of havoc.

"We didn't scheme anything different, it was just an intensity level issue," Lowry said.

“If they can play with that same intensity, then that defense can look that good all the time. I have to give Brooklyn Diederich a lot of credit. We put her up at the top and she really set the tone for us. I think other girls fed off of what she did and a lot of credit to her in that second half.”

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

free-throw line and Paola was able to hold on.

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

LOU	11	9	12	22 –
54				

PAO	15	17	8	16 –
56				

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

Wildcats get big road win against rival Paola



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

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

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

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

"It was exactly what we needed," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "Obviously both sides are going to get up for this game and it is always very emotional and high energy. It was a defensive struggle and both teams played really tough defense, and to hold them to 33 is important for us. It is nice to get us off that losing streak where we were one for our last six. Hopefully we can build off this."

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

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

"We were a little more aggressive," Pfannenstiel said of his defense. "Sometimes we just sit back in our 2-3 zone and Paola's offense looked a lot more comfortable versus that than our 1-3-1. Obviously our defense sparked our offense getting

layups and run-outs and that was big for our energy level. It wasn't that we weren't playing hard, but we were just going through the motions and never got anything going."



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

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

Rutherford recorded a team-high seven rebounds and senior Brayden Gage led Louisburg with four assists and four

steals. Senior Dylan DeShazer was second on the team in scoring with eight and fellow senior Noah Hill had seven.

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

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

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

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

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

Lady Cats finish sixth at Top Gun tournament



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

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

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

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

Wellsville, 60-28, to open tournament play Thursday.

“With the exception of Thursday’s game versus Wellsville, I thought our defensive effort was good and helped set the tone for our play in the tournament,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “It’s great for our team when our defense can create offense and intensity for us because we’re flying around and getting on the floor for loose balls. With that said we have to continue improving at scoring the basketball when we have opportunities at the rim.”

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOU	3	11	5	15
- 34				

HAY	11	8	12	17 -
48				

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

LOU	10	24	19	11 -
64				

AC	4	17	13	12
- 46				

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

Foote 3 0-0 7;

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

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

LOU	6	15	0	7 –
28				

WEL	24	13	17	6 – 60
-----	----	----	----	--------

LOUISBURG: Madilyn Melton 4 0-2 8;

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

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

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

Shooting woes hurt Wildcats in loss to Spring Hill



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

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

basketball team was laid out for the Wildcats to take.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

rebounds.

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

Louisburg will try and bounce back today when it travels to Paola in what is the first of three games this week. The Wildcats will also to travel to Baldwin on Wednesday before hosting Ottawa on Friday for homecoming.

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

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

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

Totals: 16-55 7-12

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