

Wildcats bounce back to beat Bishop Ward at Baldwin Invite



Louisburg senior Brayden Gage gets to the basket for two points Thursday during the consolation semifinal game of the Baldwin Invitational against Bishop Ward. The Wildcats won 58-40.

BALDWIN CITY — Coming off a difficult loss to begin the Baldwin Invitational, the Louisburg boys basketball team needed to make amends quickly.

The Wildcats were on a three-game losing skid going into Thursday's consolation semifinal against Bishop Ward and they wanted get things back on track in this tournament before heading back into Frontier League play.

Louisburg got the win it was looking for as the Wildcats downed Bishop Ward, 58-40, behind a big second half in which they outscored the Cyclones 37-23.

"We were just more patient on offense and we were getting better shots," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "I thought we worked the offense a lot better than we did in our first game here. The first half wasn't pretty because shots just weren't falling, but

we were taking good shots. The second half our defense really sparked our offense and I thought we were a lot better defensively and it got us going.”

It was a balanced effort from the Wildcats as two players scored in double figures and eight different players found the scoring column.

Senior Noah Hill had a big night with a team-high 12 points before having to leave the game in the second half due to an injury. Senior guard Brayden Gage also picked it up as he finished with 11.



Louisburg senior Noah Hill gets on the floor for a loose ball

Thursday against Bishop Ward.

Sophomore guard Weston Guetterman

added eight points in the win, while senior Kohl Vogel finished with seven.

Junior Michael Waldron added a pair of 3-pointers to the cause and freshman

Julian Margrave came off the bench to score his first varsity points as he finished with six.

"It was good to see a bunch a different guys contribute and not just rely on one or two guys," Pfannenstiel said. "I thought we moved the ball around well, especially in the second half, and more guys were able to contribute for us. We were able to play a few extra guys as well, which I think will allow us to play even harder moving forward."

The Wildcats (5-5) found themselves in close battle with the Cyclones in the first half as they led just 21-17 at halftime. Louisburg was able to overcome some turnovers problems in the second half as it got key baskets down the stretch to pull away.

Louisburg will try and finish the Baldwin tournament with a two straight wins tonight when it faces off with Wellsville at 7 p.m., in the fifth-place game.

"We want to get a on a roll here and it was nice to be able to break that three-game losing streak we were on," Pfannenstiel said. "Hopefully we can get some momentum going heading back into league play. Wellsville is a very disciplined team and a very

patient team.

They play incredibly hard and they play smart, so we are going to have to play a very good game if we want to be able to win.”

LOU	11	10	19	18 –
58				
BW	10	7	13	10 –
40				

LOUISBURG (5-5): Noah Hill 5 2-3 12; Brayden Gage 5 0-0 11; Weston Guetterman 4 0-2 8; Kohl Vogel 3 1-2 7; Michael Waldron 2 0-0 6; Julian Margrave 2 1-1 6; Dylan DeShazer 1 3-4 5; Madden Rutherford 1 1-2 3. Totals: 23 8-14 58. 3-point field goals: 4, (Waldron 2, Gage, Margrave)

WILDCATS COME UP SHORT AGAINST HARMON

Louisburg couldn't have asked for a better start to the Baldwin Invitational on Tuesday as it opened with Harmon.

The Wildcats went on a run to start the first quarter and jumped out to a double-digit lead. Unfortunately, Louisburg wasn't able to keep its momentum as it fell to Harmon, 51-45.

Louisburg jumped out to a 16-2 lead in the first quarter, but took a step back in the second quarter to allow Harmon to get back into the game. Despite a back-and-forth third quarter, Harmon used a 15-8 run in the fourth to seal the win.

“It was a tough loss,” Louisburg

coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "I thought we played pretty well for three quarters, but got a little bit out of sorts offensively in the fourth quarter. We just turned the ball over way too many times and that has been our Achilles heel."

Senior Kohl Vogel tried to keep the Wildcats in the game as he finished with a team-high 22 points and had six rebounds. Senior Dylan DeShazer just missed double figures with nine points, but also had a team-high seven rebounds.

LOU	16	6	15	8 –
45				
HAR	2	18	16	15 –
51				

LOUISBURG: Kohl Vogel 10-18 0-1 22; Dylan DeShazer 3-12 2-2 9; Brayden Gage 1-5 3-4 6; Weston Guetterman 1-5 2-2 4; Madden Rutherford 2-4 0-1 4. Totals: 17-48 7-12 45. 3-point field goals: 4, (Vogel 2, Gage, DeShazer)

Lady Cats fall to state-ranked Baldwin



Louisburg guard Megan Foote tries to dribble past a Baldwin defender Wednesday during the Lady Cats' road contest at Baldwin. Louisburg fell 49-19.

BALDWIN CITY – Going on the road against a state-ranked team is usually a difficult task and it was just that Wednesday for the Louisburg girls basketball team.

The Lady Cats ventured to No. 5-ranked Baldwin for a makeup of game that was postponed last week. Louisburg fell 49-19 to move its record to 5-4 on the season.

It was close game early as both teams struggled to find their footing in the first quarter and the Lady Cats trailed just 6-3 going into the second quarter.

Baldwin eventually got into a rhythm and pulled away as it knocked down several outside shots to score 20 points in the second period and took a 26-7 halftime lead. From there, the Bulldogs were able to pull away and not look back.

Louisburg had just three players score in the contest. Sophomore Madilyn Melton led the way with seven points and nine rebounds, while fellow sophomore Megan Foote had seven points and six rebounds.

Senior Carson Buffington finished with five points and seven rebounds. Junior Haley Cain was second on the team

in rebounding with eight.

The Lady Cats will compete in the Top Gun Tournament in Wellsville beginning Tuesday. Louisburg is the No. 6 seed and will play No. 3 Wellsville at 6:45 p.m.

Tonight, the Lady Cats will play at home for the first time in 2019 as it hosts Spring Hill for a Frontier League matchup. Tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m.

LOU	3	4	8	4
– 19				
BAL	6	20	16	7 –
49				

LOUISBURG (5-4): Madilyn Melton 2-6 3-6 7; Megan Foote 1-7 5-6 7; Carson Buffington 1-7 2-6 5. Totals: 4-35
10-24 19. 3-point field goals: 1, (Buffington)

Offense comes alive for Lady Cats in win at Bonner Springs



Louisburg sophomore Madilyn Melton fights past two Bonner Springs defenders to get to the basket Tuesday at Bonner Springs High School.

BONNER SPRINGS – Coming off a road loss to Eudora where the Louisburg girls basketball team managed just 28 points, the Lady Cats knew they were going to have to pick things up offensively.

Louisburg did just that as the Lady Cats nearly eclipsed their previous point total in the first quarter alone Tuesday in Bonner Springs. The Lady Cats opened with a 24-point first quarter and never looked back in a 56-44 win over the Braves.

It was a big victory for the Lady Cats as they are in the middle of a three-game road swing to open 2019 and head coach Shawn Lowry was pleased with the way his team responded in all phases of the game.

“I am never proud or disappointed after a win or a loss, I am just proud of how our kids respond to all different kinds of things, whether that is in practice or a game,” Lowry said. “I am proud of our character, our toughness and our togetherness. Ever since I have been here, I have talked about togetherness and this group embraces it as good as any that I have had here. That is what I am most proud of.”

The Lady Cats got offensive production from several different players and also found success from the outside. Louisburg hit nine 3-pointers on the night and was able to score both inside and out.

It started with sophomore Madilyn Melton as she had a team-high 14 points, seven rebounds and three assists to lead Louisburg. Junior Haley Cain also stepped up inside with 11 points and five rebounds.

Sophomore guard Megan Foote, who got her first start of the season, also finished in double figures with 10 points, four rebounds and three assists. Sophomore Brooklyn Diederich came off the bench to score eight points and senior Carson Buffington also had a team-high seven rebounds.



Senior Carson Buffington leaps into the air to pressure a Bonner Springs player Tuesday.

“After the last game we talked about having to find someone who can score the ball and it is just kids stepping up and saying that they get it and I will look to be more aggressive and be a scorer,” Lowry said. “I thought we did a good job of that. Haley, Megan, Diederich and (Kennia) Hankinson all did a good job of looking for opportunities. Teams are going to play Madilyn a little tougher inside and will start to pack it in a little bit, and that means we have to look to be scorers from the outside when we need to.”

Louisburg (5-3) took a 30-22 halftime lead after slowing down a little offensively in the second quarter. Bonner Springs chipped away at the Lady Cat lead in the third as Braves’ forward Kim Whetstone scored eight straight points to cut the Louisburg lead to three. Whetstone led Bonner Springs with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

“She is a nice player and is very athletic and very tough,” Lowry said. “We tried to do some different things against her, and when we tried some of those things she really started to score. She is a nice player and we will have to play them again at our place.

Melton, Foote and Cain scored the next 12 points for Louisburg to help build the lead back to double digits and the Lady Cats were able to keep it there.

Louisburg will try and make it two wins in a row tonight when it travels to Baldwin. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

“They have a great program and they are obviously the state champions from last year,” Lowry said. “They have so many great players back from last year, but our girls won’t back down from the challenge and we are going to work our butts off and get ready for them.

LOU	24	6	15	11 –
56				

BON	13	9	13	9 –
44				

LOUISBURG (5-3): Madilyn Melton 6-14 1-4 14; Haley Cain 5-15 0-1 11; Megan Foote 2-3 4-7 10; Brooklyn Diederich 3-5 0-0 8; Carson Buffington 2-7 0-0 6; Kennia Hankinson 1-5 0-0 3; Alyse Moore 0-1 3-4 3; Erin Lemke 0-0 1-3 1. Totals: 19-50 9-18 56. 3-point field goals: 9, (Buffington 2, Diederich 2, Foote 2, Hankinson, Cain, Melton)

State-ranked Bonner Springs downs Louisburg



Louisburg junior Michael Waldron drives to the basket Tuesday

during the Wildcats' road contest against Bonner Springs.

BONNER SPRINGS – The Louisburg boys basketball team knew it was going to be a difficult challenge Tuesday when it faced off with one of the better teams in the state.

The Wildcats traveled to Bonner Springs for a Frontier League matchup and the Braves, who are ranked No. 10 in Class 5A, handed Louisburg a 72-46 loss.

“It was a tough matchup,” Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. “They are really quick and we knew we were going to have to play zone and keep them in front of us. We struggled to do the little things early on and they exposed us on that and that is what good teams do. There is a lot to be learned from the game. We will move on and keep grinding.”

Bonner Springs used its quickness and athleticism to pressure the Wildcats on defense and the Braves scored 19 points off Louisburg turnovers.

Louisburg (4-4) was unable to get much traction as Bonner Springs jumped out to a 22-12 lead in the first quarter and the Braves scored 26 more points in the second quarter to get out to a big lead.

Wildcat senior Dylan DeShazer led Louisburg in scoring with 11 points and added six rebounds. Fellow senior Kohl Vogel also finished in double figures with 10 points and six rebounds, while junior Madden Rutherford led the Wildcats with eight rebounds.

Louisburg will try and get back on track today when it travels to Baldwin. The Wildcats will travel to Baldwin against next week for the Baldwin Invitational where Louisburg is the No. 6 seed and will meet Harmon.

"We will see what kind of team we are, whether we will feel sorry for ourselves or get in there and work to get better," Pfannenstiel said. "Hopefully we can play well on Friday and get a little momentum going for a well-balanced tournament. There is eight really good teams in that tournament, but we have to take care of business against Baldwin and continue to get better."

LOU	12	11	13	10 –
46				
BON	22	26	17	7 – 72

LOUISBURG (4-4): Dylan DeShazer 4-6 1-2 11; Kohl Vogel 3-10 3-4 10; Brayden Gage 3-9 1-2 8; Weston Guetterman 2-5 2-5 6; Madden Rutherford 1-6 2-2 5; Noah Hill 0-1 3-4 3; Ben Guetterman 1-4 0-0 2; Michael Waldron 0-1 1-2 1. Totals: 14-42 13-21 46. 3-point field goals: 5, (DeShazer 2, Vogel, Gage, Rutherford)

Shooting woes hurt Wildcats in loss to Eudora



Louisburg senior Kohl Vogel goes up to try and block a Eudora shot Friday at Eudora High School. The Wildcats fell to the Cardinals, 59-31.

EUDORA – After one quarter, the Louisburg boys basketball team was right there with Eudora, the No. 6-ranked team in Class 4A.

It was the second quarter where the Wildcats weren't able to recover.

In its first action following the holiday break, Louisburg had its worst shooting night of the season in a 59-31 loss to the Cardinals at Eudora High School. The Cardinals were part of the reason for that as they forced 15 Wildcat turnovers and scored 17 points off those mistakes.

"It was obviously wasn't one of our better shooting nights, and it wasn't necessarily shooting, but more execution offensively," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "We were really poor in the second quarter with our execution and Eudora was really hot there for a while and they are a really good team and well-coached.

"They played as well as I have

seen them play this year. That will happen sometimes when you have an off night and the other team is on fire and that is what the score was as lopsided as it was."

The two teams were on the opposite sides of the shooting spectrums as Louisburg shot just 28 percent for the game, while Eudora connected on 56 percent of its shots. The Cardinals also combined for 41 points in the second and third quarters to pull away.

"Eudora shot it well and even their coach told me after it was over that they hadn't even shot that well in an open gym before, much less a game," Pfannenstiel said. "We just have to shoot the ball better and that was an emphasis over the summer. So far we have done a lot better with that, but we just have to bounce back."

Senior Kohl Vogel led the Wildcat offense with eight points on the night and fellow senior Dylan DeShazer finished with six. Junior Madden Rutherford had five rebounds to lead the Wildcats.

Louisburg will try and get back on track Tuesday when it travels to Bonner Springs, which is ranked No. 10 in Class 5A. The Wildcats will live on the road the next couple of weeks as they won't have a home game until Jan. 25.

"We have some difficult games coming up so we can't feel sorry for ourselves after this," Pfannenstiel said. "We

have a very good Bonner Springs team on Tuesday and we have to come back and get ready to go.”

LOU	10	4	11	6 –
31				
EUD	13	18	23	5 –
59				

LOUISBURG (4-3): Kohl Vogel 4-8
0-1 8; Dylan DeShazer 0-4 6-7 6; Brayden Gage 2-6 1-2 5;
Weston Guetterman 1-7
0-0 3; Madden Rutherford 1-4 0-0 3; Garrett Rolofson 1-2 0-0
2; Noah Hill 1-2
0-0 2; Ben Guetterman 1-3 0-1 2. Totals: 11-39 7-11 31. 3-
point field goals: 2,
(Rutherford, W. Guetterman)

Rough third quarter sinks Lady Cats against Eudora



Louisburg junior Haley Cain gets on the floor for a loose ball Friday at Eudora High School. The Lady Cats fell 51-28 in their first game back from the holiday break.

EUDORA – There are times during a

season where most teams will have games where the offense just wasn't there.

Friday was one of those nights for the Louisburg girls basketball team.

Eudora built on its 10-point halftime lead with a big third quarter and handed the Lady Cats a 51-28 defeat at Eudora High School. The Cardinals went on a 20-3 run in the third quarter to pull away and the Lady Cats didn't have an answer.

"We just have to find a way to score the basketball," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "Whether it is with different looks, different sets, different personnel – we just have to find a way to get better at scoring the ball. Maybe it is something simple like getting to the rim, making our free throws or hitting some shots from the outside. It needs to get better."

The Cardinals employed a zone defense for much of the game and wanted to make Louisburg beat them from the outside. That defense took away the Lady Cats' strength, which is driving to the basket and getting the ball down low.

"If I was on the other side coaching, I would probably zone us quite a bit too," Lowry said. "They forced us to shoot from the outside and we couldn't take advantage of that. Our driving ability and inside game can be pretty strong, but we have to find a way

to score the basketball in addition to those two things.”

The Lady Cats trailed by just six points at the end of the first quarter and had a 27-17 halftime deficit before the Cardinals caught fire.

Along with the rough night shooting, the Lady Cats had a tough time containing Eudora sisters Riley and Reagan Hiebert. The Cardinal twins combined for 29 of the team’s 51 points as they knocked down several shots from the outside against the Louisburg zone.

“They are tough to guard and they are athletic,” Lowry said of the Eudora guards. “That is what speed does. They are great track athletes and it shows on the basketball floor as well. Add to that, they can really shoot the ball.

“Eudora is a really good team. We knew they were going to be a solid team and they got a really nice freshman class coming up too. They were what we expected. They are a talented group of kids and they are well-coached and he has done a nice job for a long time.”

Louisburg sophomore Madilyn Melton nearly had a double-double to lead the Lady Cats. Melton finished with 10 points and eight rebounds and was the lone Lady Cat to score in double figures.

Sophomore Alyse Moore was next with six points, while sophomore guard Brooklyn Diederich added five. Seniors

Carson Buffington and Kennia Hankinson were second on the team with five rebounds.

The Lady Cats will try and get back on track Tuesday when it travels to Bonner Springs. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m., as Louisburg is in the middle of a three-game road trip.

"We had a really good work over the break," Lowry said. "Our attendance was fantastic and our work ethic was great. Our energy was really good, but now we have to come back and play three games on the road. We just have to pick ourselves from this and rebound at Bonner Springs."

LOU	10	7	3	8 –
28				
EUD	16	11	20	4 –
51				

LOUISBURG (4-3): Madilyn Melton 4-8 2-4 10; Alyse Moore 2-3 2-7 6; Brooklyn Diederich 2-10 0-0 5; Carson Buffington 1-5 0-0 2; Haley Cain 1-5 0-2 2; Ashley Moore 1-1 0-0 2; Erin Lemke 0-2 1-2 1. Totals: 11-38 5-15 28. 3-point field goals: 1, (Diederich)

Top 10 Stories of 2018



It was a successful, and eventful, 2018 for Louisburg High School athletics and for those who are connected to the Wildcat program. This past year created a lot of school history for LHS and several programs brought back state hardware to Louisburg.

Below are the Top 10 stories from 2018, along with a brief explanation of each. Included in the explanation is the link to the actual story from the event.

This year was a blast to cover and I was blessed to have the opportunity to go along for the ride with many of these. As much fun as it was, I can't wait for 2019 to begin. Looking forward to it!



10. Dillon medals at state golf for second straight year

EMPORIA – All season, Calvin Dillon had been atop or near the front of leaderboard and that didn't change in what was his biggest tournament of the season.

The Louisburg High School sophomore went up against the state's best during the Class 4A state golf tournament on May 19 at the Emporia Municipal Course and did more than old his own. Dillon earned a state medal as he finished 11th overall with a 3-over par 74.

It was the second consecutive state medal for Dillon after he finished 10th overall last season at Wamego as a freshman.

"It is a real honor to earn another state medal, especially with the quality players that were at

the state tournament,” Dillon said. “There were lots of good players and lots of good teams.”

It was another notch on Dillon’s list of accomplishments that included a Frontier League title and six straight tournament victories during the 2018 season.



Louisburg football coach Robert Ebenstein



Louisburg girls soccer coach Kyle Conley

9. Conley, Ebenstein named Class 4A Coach of the Year

Louisburg girls soccer coach Kyle Conley and Wildcat football coach Robert Ebenstein both led their respective teams to special seasons.

Those seasons were special enough for both coaches to earn two big awards.

Conley was rewarded for all his hard work in June when it was announced that he was named as the Kansas Soccer Coaches Association's Girls Coach of the Year for Class 4-1A.

He guided the Wildcats to a 14-7 record and a spot in the state championship match, where the Lady Cats finished second overall. The

finish was something to remember for Wildcat fans as that was accomplished in just the program's third year of existence.

He has posted a 41-18-2 record during his time as the Wildcat girls head coach and also guided the Louisburg boys soccer team to its best finish in program history in 2017 with a fourth place finish at state.

As for Ebenstein, he guided the Wildcats to 10 straight victories and a regional championship to start the 2018 season, before getting knocked out in the sectional round against eventual state champion, Bishop Miege.

Following the season, the Kansas Football Coaches Association named Ebenstein as the Class 4A Coach of the Year. Ebenstein, who is just in his second season as head coach, has a 16-4 record with the Wildcats as he guided his team to a Frontier League championship this year.



8. **Holtzen finishes Louisburg career with 12 varsity letters**

Once Isabelle Holtzen received her diploma and walked out of Louisburg High School for the last time as a student, she officially became one of the most decorated female athletes in school history.

No, she doesn't have any individual state championships, or even one as part of a team. Holtzen's decorations aren't ones in the form of trophies or all-state honors, but instead, they can be found on the front of

her letter jacket.

Holtzen became the first female athlete in at least 20 years to earn 12 varsity letters, which means she lettered on the varsity level in three sports in each of her four years of high school.

In research done by Louisburg Sports Zone, it was unable to find the last athlete to accomplish the feat, which could mean Holtzen could be the first Lady Cat to do so. She competed in cross country, basketball and track and field

The last athlete to come close was in 2001 when Krystal Bowes earned 10 varsity letters before moving on to a collegiate track career at Wichita State.

“The biggest thing that it means to me is to just have an opportunity to participate in three sports at a school like Louisburg,” Holtzen said. “The bigger the school that you go to, the harder it is to play multiple sports at the varsity level and I think Louisburg is unique in that fact. The best part of this whole journey was I think my freshman year because there was no pressure and no one was expecting anything from me. It was surprising and exciting to be able to letter in all three sports.”

Holtzen is currently at Northern Iowa, where she received a scholarship to pole vault for the Panther Track and Field Team.



7.

Dixon earns All-American, Player of the Year honors, signs with Kansas State

Louisburg

senior Anna Dixon led the Lady Cat volleyball program all season and she was recognized for her play on the court.

Dixon was named to the Under Armour Volleyball All-American team as she received a spot on the honorable mention squad when the list was released in November.

Dixon, the 6-foot-3 outside hitter, was recently named the Class 4A Player of the Year by the Kansas Volleyball Association, and along with that was also selected to the all-state first team.

It was the second year in a row Dixon was named player of the year, as she had to share the honor last season with Rose Hill's Gracie Van

Driel.

The honors certainly didn't stop there as Dixon was all named to the All-Frontier League first team as she helped guide the Lady Cats to an undefeated league season.

Dixon led the Lady Cats in kills with 584 in 105 sets played. She also finished with 325 digs, as she played all six rotations and also had 50 aces and 42 blocks.

In her four years with the program, Dixon finished with 2,003 kills, which would place that total among the best the school has ever seen.

All that success resulted in a dream come true for Dixon as she made it official last November when she signed to play volleyball at Kansas State.

"I have always known Kansas State was going to be my home," Dixon said. "Even since I committed as a sophomore, I always wanted to go up to Manhattan and see the girls and spend time with the team. K-State is where I need to be."



6. Louisburg wrestling sends six to state, Holtzen earns first state medal

SALINA – As the final whistle sounded in his blood round match, Cade Holtzen looked up into the rafters of the Tony's Pizza Events Center and smiled.

He had finally reached his goal.

Holtzen defeated Columbus' Gabe Porter by a 6-0 decision Saturday during the Class 4A Kansas State Wrestling Championships in Salina and secured his state medal.

"It is one of the best feelings that I have had in my life," Holtzen said. "Just knowing that I'm going to place – you just can't match that with anything else."

It certainly wasn't

easy for the Louisburg freshman as he faced a win or go home with nothing scenario heading into his match with Porter. Holtzen pulled out the victory and eventually finished sixth overall at 113 pounds to give Louisburg a state medalist for the third consecutive season.

"It is pretty cool," he said. "I have been working for this all season, so to get a state medal is great. It may not have been as high as I wanted, but any state medal is pretty amazing."

Holtzen had a special year for the Wildcats as he finished with a 45-6 record and broke the school record for most wins in a single season. He won four different tournaments and was a Frontier League and regional tournament runner-up.

To add to his resume, he became only the second freshman in school history to earn state medal – second to only Austin Hood, who would go on to win three state titles.

Austin Moore finished one victory shy of earning his first state medal, while Ryan Adams, Thad Hendrix and Blue Caplinger also picked up wins at the state tournament.



5. Moore, Johnson finished in top 10 at state cross country, girls qualify for second straight year

WAMEGO – It was going to be hard for the Louisburg High School girls cross country team to duplicate its magical season of 2017.

Not only did the Lady Cats qualify their team for state for the first time in program history, but they also had a top five finisher in Trinity Moore.

Fast forward to 2018, Louisburg wasn't able to match that successful run – the Lady Cats took it a step further.

Moore, along with freshman Reese Johnson, each had a top 10 finish during the Class 4A Kansas State Cross Country Championships at Wamego Country Club, and it is the first time

in school history that two female runners had medaled at a state meet. Louisburg added on to that as the girls finished fifth in the team standings with 154 points, which is also the highest finish in school history.

Moore, who finished fifth at state a year ago, bested her performance by one place as she took fourth with one of her better performances of the season. Johnson was right behind her as she crossed the finish line in sixth.

Shaylor Whitham, Carlee Gassman, Kaitlyn Lewer, Delaney Wright and Kennady Wilkerson were also members of the Lady Cats' team to run at state. Emily Williams was a member of the regional team that finished second overall.



4. Louisburg track earns six state medals, Gassman state runner-up in

300 hurdles

WICHITA – Carlee Gassman had broken the Louisburg High School 300-meter hurdle record three different times in 2018 prior to the state track meet.

She picked the perfect time to make it a fourth.

Gassman broke her own school record in the 300 hurdles in May at the Class 4A Kansas State Track and Field Championships in Wichita as she ran a time of 45.68 seconds to earn a silver medal as she was the Wildcats' top performer on the weekend. Andale's Abby Smarsh, who is a senior, won the event in 44.73.

It was the Louisburg sophomore's first time competing at the Kansas meet as she transferred in from Iowa last year, where she qualified for the state meet there in the 400 hurdles.

Gassman's medal in the 300 hurdles was just one of six the Wildcats were able to bring home following the two-day meet. Those six medals were the most Louisburg has earned since 2011, when the Wildcats combined to medal in 10 events and the boys won their first team state title.

The 300 hurdles wasn't the only event Gassman found success in as she also medaled in the long jump. Gassman, who hadn't competed in the event prior to this year, finished fifth with a mark of 17 feet, 0.25 inches.

Isabelle Holtzen would go on to finish sixth in the pole vault, the boys 4x400 team of Chris Williams, Blue Caplinger, Ben Wiedenmann and Justin Collins went on to take seventh. Williams finished eighth in the 400-meter run and

Trent Martin medaled
eighth in the boys pole vault.



3. Louisburg volleyball takes runner-up at state for second straight season

HUTCHINSON – The
feeling was much of the same.

The pride of finishing as a state-runner up was a popular one among the members of the Louisburg volleyball team. At the same time, the frustration of taking second in state in back-to-back seasons was just as prevalent.

Louisburg wasn't quite sure what to feel following its 25-13 and 25-14 loss to Bishop Miege in the championship game of the Class 4A state tournament Saturday at Hutchinson Sports Arena.

In 2017, the Lady
Cats fell to Rose Hill by two points in the championship

match, and fast

forward to the present, they were in the same spot – holding the state

runner-up trophy. It was the 15th time in program history that Louisburg finished in the top four at state.

The Lady Cats rattled off four straight wins to start the tournament, including knocking off No. 1 seed Independence, and defending state champions Rose Hill and Topeka Hayden. Louisburg then battled back to defeat Andale in the state semifinals.

“The loss was tough,”

Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “To come so close to a state title two

years in a row, only to come up short is tough. But with that being said, it is

a huge accomplishment for this team to get back to the state championship and

make it two years in a row. Finishing second is nothing to hang our heads on.

Last year’s finish fueled the fire for the team this year, and I challenged the

returning players to use this loss and feeling to fuel them for next year.”

Louisburg has been

one of the more dominant teams in Class 4A in the last decade as the Lady Cats

have made the state tournament seven out of the last nine years and have

finished as a state runner-up on three different occasions, along with several

third and fourth place finishes. They finished 2018 with a 36-9 record.



2. Louisburg girls soccer advances to title game, has best finish in program history

NORTH NEWTON – The obstacle seemed insurmountable – and it was.

The Louisburg High School girls soccer team found itself in the Class 4-1A state championship match in the program's third year of existence, but if they wanted to take it another step further, the Wildcats were going to have to knock the defending state champion of its perch.

Unfortunately, Bishop Miege wasn't about to be moved.

In a state title game that was played in the sweltering heat in late May at Bethel College, the Wildcats couldn't stay with the Stags in a 5-0 defeat. It was the third consecutive title for Bishop Miege, while Louisburg earned a state plaque for the first time in its short history.

It was special season for the Wildcats as the night before they knocked off Topeka Hayden, 1-0, in the state semifinals to secure the program's first state plaque. In 2017, Louisburg

both games in its state tournament appearance and finished fourth.

The road to this state championship appearance has been an interesting one for the Wildcats. More than three years ago, a group of Louisburg parents and citizens raised enough money to begin the girls soccer program and fund it for three years.

Louisburg was in the final year of that funding, and while the program isn't going away, the team realized they needed to play for more than themselves.

"We played for the community tonight," Louisburg senior Bailey Belcher said after the Hayden win. "We have to remember that when they raised money for this program, it was just through this year, so I think we owed it to them to play well. I really think it might have helped with how we played and I think it was one of the best games we played all season."

"It is a third-year program with 41 wins, three regional championships, two state final fours and now a state runner-up," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said after the title game. "We just have kids who come in and work their butt off. They are not soft, they aren't weak and from top to bottom they are going to work hard."

"We worked hard, but we just played Miego. That is one of the best teams in the state, and that stinks, but our kids played hard, worked

their tail off and it was a great year. We had people criticize us for how we got there, but we won games and that really motivated the kids. It got them fired up to go do something bigger than themselves. I couldn't be more proud of they stuck together and what they accomplished."



1. Football wins 10 straight, takes Frontier League title and regional championship

It had been almost two months since Louisburg and Piper squared off on the football field in what was one of the more entertaining games on the Wildcats' schedule.

Back in early September, Louisburg left Piper High School with a seven-point win – a victory that would help propel them to a Frontier League championship and a perfect regular season.

The two teams squared off again and the stakes were a bit higher. The game, at least for Louisburg anyway, was even more exciting.

The Wildcats dominated action from the opening kickoff and never looked back in a 48-0 win over the Pirates. In the process, Louisburg won the school's first regional championship since 2016 and are off to a 10-0 start for the first time since 2010.

Louisburg advanced to the sectional round where it fell to eventual state champion Bishop Miege, 55-21, and finished its season with a 10-1 record.

It was as season marked with special moments, including a 28-7 victory over then-undefeated Paola late in the year to secure a league title.

"Being 10-0 and then having that first loss of the season was very disappointing," Louisburg coach Robert Ebenstein said. "Losing always sucks, but losing in the playoffs and having to wait until next August is the worst. At the end of the day, Miege is a very good team and we did some good things. We got them to fourth down on multiple drives in the first quarter, we just couldn't make the plays on those big downs. Then we got behind a little and started pressing.

"Overall it was a great year. I am very proud of our guys and excited for them that they were able to get double digit wins for only the third time since 2000, and

there was a
lot of really good football played during that time period. It
was a lot
fun to be a part of.”



Austin Moore was named to the Kansas Shrine Bowl and was a first-team all-state player for the Wildcats. Moore was also named as the Kansas Small-Class Player of the Year by 810 Varsity.

With all that success, honors
started to roll in for its players as running backs Austin
Moore and Blue
Caplinger, along with linemen Brayden White and Kiefer Tucker
all earned
all-state honors.

Moore and White went on to be
semifinalists for the Simone Awards and Moore was also
selected to participate
in the Kansas Shrine Bowl in the summer of 2019. Ebenstein was
also named as
coach of the year by the football coaches association.

Most recently, Moore was named the Kansas Small-Class Player of the Year and Running Back of the Year by 810varsity.com, while White was named the Small-Class Lineman of the Year. Ebenstein was also named Kansas Small-Class Coach of the Year by 810 Varsity.

Wildcats overcome slow start to rout Turner



Louisburg senior Dylan DeShazer puts up a shot in the lane Tuesday against Turner at Louisburg High School. DeShazer was one of five Wildcats in double figures and ended with 11 points.

It wasn't the start Louisburg boys basketball coach Ty Pfannenstiel had hoped for Tuesday in the Wildcats' home game against Turner.

The Wildcats turned the ball over 12 times in the first half, and although they had the lead, it wasn't what Pfannenstiel was hoping for.

Louisburg's third quarter was exactly what it was looking for.

The Wildcats scored 32 points in the third quarter and they

were able to pull away from Turner for an 80-48 victory in their final game before the holiday break.

"I think we started off slow, but credit Turner a little bit and they were able to get some turnovers," Pfannenstiel said. "We were really sloppy with the ball, especially early. We had 12 turnovers in the first half and that is just too many. That was our point of emphasis at halftime was to make the simple plays and try not to do too much. The second half we only had three turnovers and that was a big difference."

Turner had a two-point lead midway through the first quarter and the Wildcats couldn't seem to find a rhythm offensively. So Pfannenstiel went to his bench and put in five reserves in senior Noah Hill, junior Michael Waldron, sophomores Ben Guetterman, Andy Hupp and Connor Koesser.

Those players gave the Wildcats a lift off the bench as they went on a 9-1 run to end the quarter and give Louisburg a 17-11 lead.

"Those guys came in and gave us a spark there," Pfannenstiel said. "You know when those guys get their opportunity, you know they are going to play hard. That kind of sent a message to those older guys and I am proud of that younger group that came in. Noah was in there with them, and he had been out with an illness and that is why he came off the bench, but it was good to have him lead that group. They were just doing the little things right and that is what we have to do as a group."

The message was heard loud and clear as the Wildcats opened the second quarter on an 11-2 run and eventually built a 37-20 lead at halftime.

Louisburg's offense caught fire in the third quarter as it racked up 32 points. Senior Kohl Vogel got things going with three consecutive steals that led two baskets to open the second half and the Wildcats were off and running.

The Wildcats all but sealed the win as the buzzer sounded in the third quarter when sophomore Weston Guetterman sank a 3-pointer from three or four steps in front of the half-court line. Louisburg led 69-38 and forced a running clock the rest of the way.



Louisburg sophomore Weston Guetterman puts up a last-second shot in front of the half-court line Tuesday against Turner. Guetterman made the shot and finished with 10 points.

"I think we only missed three shots in that third quarter and we were able to get some things going there," Pfannenstiel said. "It really started on the defensive end and that sparked us offensively. We preach that every day that our defense has to be a constant every time. There will be times where we don't shoot the ball well and we have to be good on the defensive end every time."

Louisburg had five players score in double figures and Vogel and Hill led the way with 14 points each. Vogel also had five rebounds, five assists and three steals, while Hill had six rebounds.

Junior Madden Rutherford finished with 12 points and a team-high seven rebounds, while senior Dylan DeShazer and Weston Guetterman scored 11 and 10 points, respectively. Senior Brayden Gage added eight points, six rebounds and five assists.

The Wildcats have already doubled their win total from a season ago as they currently have a 4-2 record and have gotten off to a good start. However, Louisburg realizes there will be plenty more tests in the weeks to come.

“Every game has been a good game,” Pfannenstiel said. “Even in our two losses, we have been right there. I think our kids are playing confident, unselfish and team basketball. We are doing the right things on both ends of the floor and now we have a stretch to work and get better before we get into the brunt of the Frontier League. We come back from break and we play Eudora and Bonner Springs right away and both are really, really good teams. We have to have ourselves ready and keep moving forward.”

LOU	17	20	32	11-
80				
TUR	11	9	18	10-
48				

LOUISBURG (4-2): Kohl Vogel 6-10 0-2 14; Noah Hill 7-10 0-0 14; Madden Rutherford 5-8 2-4 12; Dylan DeShazer 4-10 2-3 11; Weston Guetterman 4-6 0-0 10; Brayden Gage 3-4 1-2 8; Michael Waldron 3-5 0-0 7; Konnor Vohs 1-1 0-0 2; Ben Guetterman 1-3 0-0 2. Totals: 34-59 5-11 80. 3-point field goals: 7, (Vogel 2, W. Guetterman 2, Gage, Waldron, DeShazer)

Lady Cats end 2018 with blowout win over Turner



Louisburg senior Carson Buffington drives to the basket during the Lady Cats' home contest against Turner on Tuesday at LHS. Buffington finished with a game-high 12 points.

The best way for the Louisburg girls basketball team to shake off a 40-plus point loss was to record a blowout win of its own.

After losing a tough game to state-ranked Piper last week, the Lady Cats bounced back nicely Tuesday in their final game before the holiday break. Louisburg jumped to an early lead against Turner and never looked back in a 57-23 win at Louisburg High School.

"We will take this one and move on, especially after last Friday's game and sometimes when you come back like this, you are not sure what to expect after having just one day of practice," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "With all that said, we had moments of playing hard. Over this break, we have to do some things in regards to our team's toughness and our effort all the time. There are times when it is good, but we have to work on it being good all the time."

The Lady Cats (4-2) controlled the game from the opening tipoff as they jumped out to a 16-4 lead to start the game. Louisburg used its defense to get out to a big lead as sophomore Alyse Moore recorded three straight steals to end the quarter and give the Lady Cats a 20-8 lead.

It was much of the same in the second quarter as Louisburg outscored Turner 20-6 and built a 40-14 lead at halftime.

Although the game was all but wrapped up, the Lady Cats came out slow to start the second half and scored just one point through the first four minutes of the third quarter. Lowry decided to bring in five new players and it jumped start the Lady Cat offense.

Junior Sydni Keagle, sophomores Megan Foote, Brooklyn Diederich, and freshmen Delaney Wright and Jordan Mynsted gave the Lady Cats a lift as they ended the quarter on an 11-0 run to put Louisburg up 52-22.

"It was one of those times where if kids on the floor aren't giving what I think they need to give, then there are kids on that bench that are willing to give that and they want their opportunity," Lowry said. "Those girls worked really hard there and gave us a spark."



Louisburg sophomore Alyse Moore goes up for 2 of her 10 points Tuesday against Turner.

Senior Carson Buffington and Diederich led the Lady Cats in scoring with 12 points. Buffington also added a team-high six rebounds, four assists and four steals, while Diederich recorded a team-high five steals.

Moore also finished in double figures with 10 points, six rebounds and four steals, while sophomore Madilyn Melton had nine points and four rebounds.

The Lady Cats have had a good start to their season as they were able to put together a winning record through their first six games, but they realize the schedule will only get harder.

“To be 4-2, and to have the upside that we have yet to come, I am happy going into break with where we are,” Lowry said. “It gives us some things to work on over break, but overall I am

happy with our record and we will see what happens later.”

LOU	20	20	12	5– 57
TUR 23	8	6	8	1–

LOUISBURG (4-2): Carson Buffington 4-7 1-4 12; Brooklyn Diederich 4-11 3-7 12; Alyse Moore 2-4 6-12 10; Madilyn Melton 3-7 3-4 9; Kennia Hankinson 2-5 0-0 5; Sydni Keagle 2-4 0-3 4; Megan Foote 1-1 0-0 3; Delaney Wright 0-0 2-4 2. Totals: 18-42 15-34 57. 3-point field goals: 6, (Buffington 3, Diederich, Hankinson, Foote)

Louisburg nearly upsets No. 2 ranked Piper



Louisburg junior Madden Rutherford battles two Piper players for a rebound Friday during the Wildcats’ road contest at Piper High School. The Wildcats pushed the No. 2-ranked Pirates, but fell 57-44.

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – The Louisburg boys basketball team found itself in a situation Friday that not a lot of teams in the state will find themselves in.

Louisburg went on the road to Piper High School and the

Wildcats held a two-point halftime lead over the No.2-ranked Pirates and were on the verge of one of the biggest upsets of the season.

Although it was a one-point game in the fourth quarter, the Wildcats couldn't hang on in a 57-44 loss to Piper. As good as the Wildcats' effort was, they didn't want to talk about the silver linings when it was all over.

"Our expectations are really high," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "There is no one in that locker room that is happy about a moral victory. We said that we aren't into moral victories anymore. They were disappointed because they knew if they played well for two halves that we had a chance to beat a really good team.

"I really do think our kids are confident players and they are going to continue to work hard every day. Playing as well as we did should make us a confident team and know that we can go toe-to-toe with any team that we play."

The Wildcats did that for much of the game, especially in the first half, as they slowed the Pirates down offensively. Louisburg ran a lot of set plays to get good looks at the basket.

On the defensive end, Louisburg forced Piper to knock down shots from the outside and took advantage of the Pirates slow start offensively. The Wildcats (3-2) jumped out to a 7-2 lead on baskets from Kohl Vogel and Madden Rutherford.



Louisburg senior Kohl Vogel puts up a shot in the second half of Friday's game at Piper.

Late in the first quarter, Piper went on a 7-2 run to take the lead back, but senior Noah Hill scored back-to-back baskets to put Louisburg back up 13-10.

The Wildcats went up six after a 3-pointer from Rutherford and held that lead after another 3-pointer from Vogel. Piper knocked down a 3-pointer late in the second quarter to cut Louisburg's lead to 25-23 at halftime.

"We knew they were a good team," Pfannenstiel said of Piper. "We knew they were a confident team and they have a lot of athleticism. We knew we were going to have to slow them down because they like to get out and run. I feel like we did a really good job of that the entire game. We played very well defensively and our plan the whole time was to try and keep them in front of us, make them shoot from the outside and get every rebound and I thought we executed that really well."

Piper went on a 11-1 run to start the second half to get out to an eight-point lead, but the Wildcats were able to battle

back early in the fourth quarter. Baskets from Vogel and Hill were able to trim the Pirate lead to one with six minutes remaining.

However, the Pirates finished the game on an 18-6 run that included several late free throws that were able to seal the win for Piper.

"I told them at the end of the third quarter that we weathered the storm and we eventually got down eight," Pfannenstiel said. "For us to fight back and answer there was really good to see. I think if we just knock down a few more shots then maybe it is a little bit different. The final score really wasn't indicative of how close the game was. It was just kind of slugfest.

"The second half our shots just didn't fall. Piper got a little more aggressive defensively and we turned the ball over a little bit. We did a really good job in the first half with only six turnovers and then we turned it over about 11 times in the second half and that gave them a few more opportunities and gave them some confidence. Plus, we didn't shoot it really well in the second half, either."

Vogel led the Wildcats in scoring with 17 points and Rutherford nearly had a double-double with nine points and 10 rebounds. Hill and senior Dylan DeShazer each finished with six points and Hill added six rebounds.

Louisburg will try and bounce back tonight when it hosts Turner for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff, in what is the Wildcats' final game before the holiday break.

LOU	13	12	9	10-
44				
PIP	10	13	16	18-
57				

LOUISBURG (3-2): Kohl Vogel 7-15 1-3 17; Madden Rutherford 3-12 2-2 9; Dylan DeShazer 1-6 4-7 6; Noah Hill 3-5 0-0 6; Weston Guetterman 2-7 0-1 4; Brayden Gage 1-8 0-4 2. Totals: 17-53 7-13 44. 3-point field goals: 3, (Vogel 2, Rutherford).