

Louisburg boys fall to De Soto in road contest



Louisburg senior Jayce Geiman tries to dribble through a pair of De Soto defenders Tuesday at De Soto High School. The Wildcats fell to De Soto 57-40, which snapped a two-game winning streak.

DE SOTO – The first time the Louisburg boys basketball team squared off with De Soto, everything went its way in a 16-point victory at home.

The exact opposite happened Tuesday.

Louisburg traveled to De Soto for the return game and left with a 57-40 loss after winning its last two games at the buzzer. The Wildcats struggled to get much offense going from the start, and on the other end, had a hard time containing De Soto's Noah Watson.

Watson scored a game-high 25 points and pulled down 11 rebounds as he accounted for nearly half of his team's points.

De Soto opened the contest on a 11-4 run and led 17-8 at the end of the first quarter. Louisburg's deficit increased to 13 points halftime and the Wildcats (8-11) weren't able to get the De Soto lead under 10 the rest of the way.

Senior Grant Harding led Louisburg in scoring with 13 points and fellow senior T.J. Dover finished with eight points.

Louisburg will try to end its regular season on a positive note as the Wildcats will host rival Paola on Friday for senior night. Tipoff is set for approximately 7:30 p.m.

Senior night ceremonies will be held in-between the varsity girls and boys contest.

LOU	8	10	12	10 –
40				
DES	17	14	12	14 –
57				

LOUISBURG (8-11): Grant Harding 13, T.J. Dover 8, Dalton Ribordy 6, Jayce Geiman 4, Jake Hill 4, Desmond Doles 3, Sam Guetterman 2. Totals: 18-45 4-12 40. 3-point field goals: none

Wildcats win at buzzer for second straight game



SPRING HILL – For the second time in three days, Louisburg had the ball in its hands with a chance to win.

And for the second time, the Wildcats found a way to pull out a win – at the buzzer.

With Louisburg down by one point in overtime, senior T.J. Dover pulled down a rebound off a Grant Harding miss and scored as the buzzer sounded to give the Wildcats a 43-42 win Friday at Spring Hill High School.

On Tuesday against Baldwin, the Wildcats had their first buzzer-beater win when junior Dalton Ribordy broke a tie game with a game-winner of his own.

"I would rather just do things right the first time and not get in these close games to where we have to win in the last second, but I really do love these boys," Louisburg coach Jason Nelson said. "This is the second time they just decided they weren't going to lose."

Both teams struggled to break free from one another, especially in the overtime. Dover gave Louisburg a three-point lead in the extra period as he scored five straight points, but Spring Hill rallied back to eventually tie and take the lead on a free throw from Jordan Hoston with less than minute left.

Louisburg (8-10) called a timeout to set up a play with nine seconds left, and while it didn't work to perfection, it certainly did the job.

Senior Jayce Geiman got the ball on the inbound pass, sent it over Harding who drove the basket. The shot missed but Dover was there to corral the rebound and put it in off the backboard to give the Wildcats their second straight win.



Louisburg senior T.J. Dover goes up for a shot Friday against Spring Hill. Dover finished with nine points, including the game-winner in overtime.

"I was just looking for any loose ball," Dover said. "We obviously just wanted to get the ball in Grant's hands for the last shot and we were just looking to rebound if he missed and we were able to clean it up. The same thing happened in the

last game. Everyone is just stepping up now and it seems like it is coming together at the right time.”

It was a tough game offensively for both teams as they struggled to get into any kind of rhythm. The Wildcats shot just 39 percent from the field and also struggled from the free-throw line, where they were 4-for-13 for the game.

Still, the Wildcats made that one extra play they needed to secure a big win against a possible postseason opponent in two weeks when Louisburg returns to Spring Hill for the Class 4A substate tournament.

“Tuesday was a manifestation of poor defense, and this time was a manifestation of poor free-throw shooting,” Nelson said. “We were 4 of 13 from the line and most of them were missed front ends of one-and-ones.

“I thought we played fantastic at times in the second half and in overtime. The first half we were a little bit slow offensively, but credit to the kids they found a way to win.”

The lead changed hands four times in the second half and Louisburg turned a three-point deficit into a one-point lead late in the third quarter on a basket from Ribordy and senior Jake Hill.

Spring Hill grabbed the lead right back to start the fourth and built a 36-32 lead midway through the quarter, but the Wildcats cut into the lead on a made shot from Ribordy. Louisburg then used its defense late to tie the game when Geiman knocked a Spring Hill pass away and threw it to teammate Sam Guetterman who had an easy layup with a minute left.

The game eventually went into overtime and Dover scored seven of his nine points in the extra period, including the game-winner, to help give Louisburg the win.

Geiman and Harding each scored in double figures with 10 points to lead the Wildcats, while Ribordy added eight points and five rebounds.

“It was exciting,” Dover said. “It was huge to get this game, especially after losing to them the first time at our place. We know what we need to do to win, and now that we figured out how to win those games, it is all about fixing the small stuff like free throws and not giving up offensive boards. When we get that stuff figured out, then I am excited to see what we can do for substate.”

Louisburg will have two more regular season games left before the postseason and it begins Tuesday when it travels to De Soto. The Wildcats will host rival Paola on Friday for senior night.

LOU	7	12	11	
6	7 – 43			
SH	9	10	10	7
	6 – 42			

LOUISBURG (8-10): Grant Harding 10, Jayce Geiman 10, T.J. Dover 9, Dalton Ribordy 8, Sam Guetterman 4, Jake Hill 2. Totals: 18-46 4-13 43. 3-point field goals: 3, (Geiman 3)

Rally falls short for Lady Cats in loss to Spring Hill



Louisburg senior Emalee Overbay stretches out for a rebound Friday at Spring Hill High School. Overbay and the Lady Cats fell 55-49

SPRING HILL – Trailing at any point in the game has never really rattled the Louisburg High School girls basketball team.

The Lady Cats have found themselves behind in several game this season, but in many of those, Louisburg always found a way to rally.

Friday was no different.

Louisburg overcame a 14-point fourth quarter deficit on the road against Spring Hill to tie the game, but couldn't quite get over the hump in a 55-49 loss, despite putting together a 23-point fourth quarter.

"Defensively we made a little bit of an adjustment there in the fourth and we were able to pick up our intensity a little bit," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "We started battling for possessions and making them count. At the end of the day, we have to be better at our end of game situations. It is good one to learn from and we are going to be right back here in two weeks playing likely the same team."

It was a good litmus test for the Lady Cats as they will return to Spring Hill on Mar. 3 for the substate tournament and have a reasonable chance of playing the Broncos again for the right to continue their season.

After an even first quarter, Louisburg (9-9) had a tough time handling the Bronco size in the second and third quarters. Spring Hill forward's Camryn Williams and Savannah Leaton, who both stand 6-foot-1 and 6-0, respectively, scored several easy baskets.

Williams was second on the Spring Hill team with 13 points, but the Broncos also got some production from the perimeter as point guard Meghan Goff led all scorers with 16 points.

"Their size was probably the biggest factor for most of the game," Lowry said. "Again, we have to play through that and we have all year. It was a little tougher for us this time, but I thought the girls battled hard and did some good things."

Goff hit a 3-pointer shortly before halftime to give Spring Hill a 10-point lead and the Broncos maintained the double digit lead into the fourth quarter.

It was then Louisburg started to attack the basket more and was able to get back in the game from the free-throw line. The Lady Cats hit 9 of 11 free throws in the final eight minutes.

The Lady Cats became more aggressive on both sides of the floor. With five minutes remaining, Paige Buffington connected on a 3-pointer, and then senior Emalee Overbay turned hustle into four points on one possession.

Overbay made a basket and was fouled with 4:35 left in game. She tried to convert the 3-point play from the free-throw line, however Overbay missed the shot, but got the rebound and went back up for two more points to cut the Spring Hill lead to five.

Sophomore Carson Buffington hit a basket and a pair of free throws to get it within one and senior Chloe Renner tied the game with a free throw with 2:39 remaining.

Unfortunately for Louisburg, Goff connected on back-to-back

shots to push the lead back to five and the Wildcats were unable to get any closer.

Carson Buffington recorded a double-double to lead the Lady Cats with 12 points and 14 rebounds, including six offensive boards. Paige Buffington also finished with 12 points and had six rebounds and three assists.

Senior Madisen Simpson also scored in double figures with 11 points and had seven rebounds and three steals.

Louisburg has one week left of its regular season as it travels to De Soto on Tuesday before returning home Friday against rival Paola for senior night.

LOU	9	7	10	23
– 49				
SH	8	18	14	15
– 55				

LOUISBURG (9-9): Paige Buffington 12, Carson Buffington 12, Madisen Simpson 11, Tayler Lancaster 4, Emalee Overbay 4, Haley Cain, Isabelle Holtzen 2, Chloe Renner 2. Totals: 14 18-24 55. 3-point field goals: 3, (P. Buffington 2, Simpson)

Ribordy's buzzer-beater lifts Wildcats past Baldwin



Louisburg's Sam Guetterman (left) celebrates with Dalton Ribordy (middle) and Desmond Doles following Ribordy's buzzer-beater Tuesday that gave the Wildcats a 60-58 win over Baldwin.

Less than two minutes into the game, Dalton Ribordy found himself on the bench with two fouls.

For the next 14 minutes of the first half, Ribordy had to sit as he watched his team dig themselves a double-digit hole against Baldwin on Tuesday. The Louisburg junior wanted to be out there to help in some way.

Ribordy got his chance later – and it was a big one.

After a couple missed shots, and with two seconds left in a tie game, Ribordy fought for an offensive rebound. He grabbed it and put up one last opportunity. That shot found the bottom of the net to give the Wildcats a 60-58 win at the buzzer at Louisburg High School.

"I didn't know how much time we had left when I got the shot off," Ribordy said. "I just put it up and watched it rattle around a couple times. Then I heard the buzzer and saw it go in. I just felt – I don't even know what I felt actually. Then I see the student section run onto the floor and it was just an amazing feeling."

It was a feeling many didn't think they were going to have, especially after the first half. Ribordy, Grant Harding and Desmond Doles all had to sit a majority of the half in foul

trouble and the Wildcat offense struggled to get going.



Junior Dalton Ribordy puts up shot at the buzzer that gave the Wildcats the win Tuesday against Baldwin.

Baldwin held Louisburg to seven points in the second quarter and took a 34-22 lead at halftime. Louisburg, which had beaten Baldwin three times earlier this season, found that a fourth time was going to be even tougher.

"The end was fantastic," Louisburg coach Jason Nelson said.

“The first 16 minutes were terrible for us. We were slow on defense. Offensively, we were settling for shots and we were playing right into their zone. To our credit, once halftime was over our defensive intensity was much better, we blocked out much better, but most importantly we asserted ourselves offensively.”

The Wildcats (7-10) also got good production from their bench as different players had to step up as Louisburg had to play without starter Jayce Geiman and they had to battle foul problems.

Senior Jake Hill came off the bench to finish in double figures with 11 points, including a couple big baskets in the fourth quarter to help Louisburg battle back. Hill was one of three Wildcats to score in double figures as Harding led Louisburg with 16 points and Ribordy added 10.

Senior Dalton Stone started for this first time this season and finished with nine points on three 3-pointers.

“Jake had a good game and he is our best player against a zone, especially at getting the zone to collapse,” Nelson said. “He did fantastic at that.”

“This is probably our first attitude win of the year. This was our first win of the year where we basically weren’t going to be denied, which is refreshing to see.”



Louisburg senior Jake Hill goes up for two of his 11 points off the bench Tuesday.

Louisburg found itself down eight points late in the third quarter, but Hill scored a basket to end the frame and then another to begin the fourth quarter to cut Baldwin's lead to four. Louisburg eventually tied it up on four straight points from Harding with 3 minutes and 50 seconds left in the game.

The lead switched hands and was tied on two different

occasions before Harding tied the game at 58-all late in the game. After a Baldwin missed shot, it gave the Wildcats one final possession.

Harding drove the lane but his shot rimmed out. He then got his own rebound, but missed a second shot before Ribordy got the offensive board and the game-winner.

"It feels pretty good," Ribordy said. "We came in at halftime and talked about things that we needed to fix. I felt like when we came out at the beginning of the third quarter, that is exactly what we did. We fought all the way back to the very last second and pulled out the win.

"After a win like this, I think it shows that no matter what the deficit is, we know we can come back if we play together as a team."

Louisburg will try for back-to-back wins Friday when it travels to Spring Hill. The Wildcats and Broncos could meet a couple weeks later as they are in the same substate tournament.

"Spring Hill is always good at home," Nelson said. "This game is big for our confidence and this will be a good barometer to see where we are at for substate."

LOU	15	7	19	19 –
60				
BAL	17	17	13	11 –
58				

LOUISBURG (7-10): Grant Harding 16, Jake Hill 11, Dalton Ribordy 10, Dalton Stone 9, T.J. Dover 8, Sam Guetterman 6. Totals: 22-53 13-18 60. 3-point field goals: 4, (Stone 3, Harding)

Lady Cats nearly pull off upset of Baldwin



Louisburg sophomore Carson Buffington backs down a Baldwin player under the basket Tuesday during the Lady Cats' home game. Louisburg came up just short against No. 7 Baldwin in a 55-52 loss.

In prior years, a near upset of a state-ranked team might have been looked at as a moral victory for the Louisburg High School girls basketball team.

However, in Tuesday's close 55-52 loss at home to No. 7-ranked Baldwin, it was viewed a bit differently.

"I am so proud of them, but the girls don't like it right now," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "It is great to see that out of this group. It bothers them to lose on this floor, in front of our crowd. They are disappointed, but we are going to build from this."

The Lady Cats were on the verge of knocking off one of the top teams in the Frontier League thanks to their defense. Louisburg was able to hold Baldwin to just 20 first half points and took a 23-20 halftime lead.

The one player the Lady Cats weren't able to slow down was Baldwin's Abby Ogle. The Bulldog junior accounted for more than half of her team's points with a game-high 31.

Still, the Lady Cats were within striking distance in the game's final minute.

"They played fantastic," Lowry said. "I am as proud of them right now as I was when we took the floor. I knew what they were going to give tonight. We made some adjustments at practice to help slow Baldwin down and took that and implemented it in the game. We have some tough kids and they played hard."

Louisburg (9-8) found itself down five points with under three minutes left in the game, but senior Tayler Lancaster hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead to two. Sophomore Carson Buffington tied it with a shot after pulling down an offensive rebound with 1 minute and 45 seconds left.

About six seconds later, Baldwin took the lead again thanks to Ogle who hit a basket and was fouled to convert the three-point play. The Baldwin lead ballooned again to five thanks to another score from Ogle.

The Lady Cats were able to stay in the game after Baldwin missed six of its final eight free throws. Louisburg senior Madisen Simpson hit a pair of free throws with 14 seconds remaining to cut the deficit to two

Baldwin added a free throw to make it a three-point game with 12 seconds left, but the Lady Cats' attempt to tie the game came up short.

The Lady Cats fought the entire game as they used a big second quarter run to turn what was a big deficit into a halftime lead. Louisburg found itself down eight, but went on a 13-2 run to end the first half.



Louisburg senior Chloe Renner drives to the basket Tuesday against Baldwin.

Simpson made two 3-pointers and junior Isabelle Holtzen hit another 3-pointer during the run, while senior Chloe Renner hit a pair of free throws and freshman Haley Cain made a basket after an offensive rebound shortly before halftime.

"They are finding ways together, and different kids are doing different things, to stay in games maybe when things aren't

going their way,” Lowry said. “They don’t freak out, or let down about the situation they are in, they just keep battling. They keep rebounding, they keep defending and they keep doing things offensively that they want to do.”

Louisburg extended that lead to six midway through the third quarter, before Baldwin would rally back.

Another positive for the Lady Cats is they converted 20 of 22 from the free-throw line and have shown improvement in that department as of late.

“We have to be good from the free-throw line, especially with some of the things we try to do offensively,” Lowry said. “We have made strides from the beginning of the season to where we are at now. The girls have bought in and are committed to get better. We have some younger kids who are getting better too.”

Simpson led the Lady Cats in scoring with 24 points, including four 3-pointers. Senior Paige Buffington also finished in double figures with 10 points – as she was 10-for-10 from the free-throw line.

Carson Buffington led Louisburg with 12 rebounds and Renner added eight.

Louisburg will travel to Spring Hill on Friday for what is an important game for postseason ramifications as both teams are in the same substate and could see each other in the first round. The two teams are 1-1 against each other so far this year.

“It will be a big one to see where the league will finish out and preparing for substate,” Lowry said. “The girls will be ready.”

17 -

LOUISBURG (9-8): Madisen Simpson 24, Paige Buffington 10, Carson Buffington 6, Tayler Lancaster 5, Isabelle Holtzen 3, Chloe Renner 2, Haley Cain 2. Totals: 13 20-22 52. 3-point field goals: 6, (Simpson 4, Lancaster, Holtzen)

Quick start lifts Lady Cats past Ottawa



Louisburg junior Isabelle Holtzen goes up for two points during the Lady Cats' 48-34 win over Ottawa on Friday at Louisburg High School. The Lady Cats won their third straight game and are now 9-7 on the season.

The Louisburg High School girls basketball team picked a good time of the season to go on a winning streak.

With only four games left in the regular season, the Lady Cats need every win they can get when it comes to the Frontier League and substate standings. Louisburg got another big win Friday when it hosted Ottawa and pulled away for a 48-34 win.

It was the third consecutive victory for the Lady Cats as they improved their record to 9-7 on the season and are now 6-2 in the Frontier League standings – currently in third place. Louisburg also has the second-best record in its substate.

“It was definitely big for substate and league standings,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “Each one is important now with substate and the end of the season getting closer and closer. With four games left, these ones at home are important for us and we take a lot of pride in these.”

The Lady Cats took a lot of pride in their defense early as Louisburg held Ottawa without a field goal and forced nine turnovers in the first quarter. Louisburg turned Ottawa over 15 times in the first half and had 11 steals for the game.

Louisburg countered that with a strong offensive start as it outscored Ottawa 18-2 in the first quarter and maintained the lead in the next three frames.

“We wanted to something a little bit different defensively and the girls did a great job with it,” Lowry said. “They executed everything that we wanted to do and it was good to see. There were a few breakdowns on some help defense stuff, but for the most part they stuck with the game plan and played really great defensively.”

Senior Paige Buffington and sophomore Carson Buffington got the Lady Cats going early as Paige hit a pair of 3-pointers and a basket, while Carson scored six points as the two combined for 14 of the team’s 18 points in the first quarter.



Senior Paige Buffington rises up for a shot Friday against Ottawa.

The Lady Cats took a 29-14 lead into halftime, and although their lead was never threatened, cooled off a little offensively in the third quarter with just four points. Louisburg picked it up back up in the fourth and secured the 14-point win.

"It is tough to play with a big lead sometimes," Lowry said.

"We try to practice with a lot of intensity, so when we get into game situations then that will carry over. Still, there is probably a little bit of letdown and mental breakdown stuff when you have a lead like that. But if your starters don't have that, then the players off the bench need to come on and pick them up and provide that intensity. That is a real positive about the rotation that we have right now."

Senior Madisen Simpson was the lone Lady Cat to score in double figures with 11 points to go along with three steals, while senior Chloe Renner came off the bench to give Louisburg a spark with nine points, six rebounds and three assists.

Paige and Carson Buffington finished with eight points each, while Carson pulled down a team-high nine rebounds in the win. Senior Tayler Lancaster added seven points and a pair of steals.

Ottawa's Ryen White scored 25 of her team's 34 points.

Louisburg returns action Tuesday when it hosts No. 7 Baldwin and then will follow it up with a road game against Spring Hill on Friday.

LOU	18	11	4	15 –
48				
OTT	2	12	6	14
– 34				

LOUISBURG (9-7): Madisen Simpson 11, Chloe Renner 9, Paige Buffington 8, Carson Buffington 8, Tayler Lancaster 7, Kennia Hankinson 3, Isabelle Holtzen 2. Totals: 20 3-7 48. 3-point field goals: 5, (P. Buffington 2, Simpson, Lancaster, Hankinson)

Hot-shooting Cyclones down Louisburg



Louisburg senior Sam Guetterman battles for a rebound with a pair of Ottawa players Friday at Louisburg High School. The Wildcats couldn't slow down Ottawa as they fell 75-60.

There weren't many teams that were going to slow down the Ottawa boys basketball squad Friday.

Louisburg gave it a try, but the Cyclones didn't miss much – more specifically the duo of Isaac McCullough and Perry Carroll. The Ottawa teammates scored 26 points each as the Cyclones downed the Wildcats 75-60 at Louisburg High School.

The Cyclones shot 59 percent from the field and knocked down eight 3-pointers as the Wildcats tried several different things to climb back in the game.

"We did everything well that was in our game plan except blocking out and preventing offensive rebounds," Louisburg coach Jason Nelson said. "I think we gave up five or six offensive rebounds and that is too much. It hurt us in the first half, but aside from that we contested their shots."

"We went through progressions offensively and did some good things there, but I have never seen anything like that in what Ottawa did. We answered as best we could, but on a night like that, not much more we could do."



Louisburg's T.J. Dover wins a jump ball Friday against Ottawa.

Senior Grant Harding did his best to try and keep the Wildcats (6-10) in it as he scored a season-high 31 points, including five 3-pointers. Harding shot well from the field as he made 8 of 17 attempts and was aggressive all night in attacking the Cyclone defense.

"Grant has been working really hard at his shot and we have all been waiting for it to come together and it did (against Ottawa)," Nelson said. "We have all seen what kind of shooter Grant is, but the biggest blessing with him not shooting as

well as he wants is it has taught him to attack the rim more. Once his shots starts falling more, it will really make him difficult to stop”

Defense didn’t factor much into the first quarter as the two teams pushed the ball up the floor. Ottawa, which had a three-point lead midway through the first, went on a mini 7-0 run, to push the lead to 10.

Senior Sam Guetterman hit a 3-pointer and junior Desmond Doles cut the Cyclone lead in half, but Ottawa went on a another 7-1 run to end the quarter and the Wildcats wouldn’t get the lead to under 10 again.

Guetterman was second on the team in scoring with seven points and five rebounds, while senior T.J. Dover had six points and a team-high six rebounds. Senior Dalton Stone also finished with six points.

Louisburg will try and snap its four-game losing streak Tuesday when it hosts Baldwin. The Wildcats have defeated the Bulldogs three times already this season.

LOU	18	15	13	14 –
60				
OTT	28	20	16	11 –
75				

LOUISBURG (6-10): Grant Harding 31, Sam Guetterman 7, T.J. Dover 6, Dalton Stone 5, Jayce Geiman 5, Dalton Ribordy 3, Desmond Doles 2. Totals: 20-46 13-17 60. 3-point field goals: 9, (Harding 5, Stone 2, Geiman, Guetterman)

Louisburg girls rally for overtime win



Louisburg's Emalee Overbay (34), Isabelle Holtzen (30) and Kennia Hankinson leap off the bench in excitement after Tayler Lancaster hit the game-tying 3-pointer in the fourth quarter Monday against De Soto at Louisburg High School.

Carson Buffington stepped to the free-throw line seven times in what was the most crucial time of the game.

Free throws aren't exactly Buffington's forte – as she will be the first to tell you. Still, that didn't stop the Louisburg sophomore from knocking down six of those seven attempts in overtime as she helped the Lady Cats to a 66-62 win Monday over De Soto at Louisburg High School.

"I am usually not confident when I shoot my free throws," Buffington said. "But I just told myself I was going to make them for the team."

Buffington wasn't the only Lady Cat to come through in pressure-packed situations. Guards Isabelle Holtzen and Tayler Lancaster each hit 3-pointers at the end of the third and fourth quarters, respectively, that either helped bring Louisburg back from a deficit or tie the game.

Chloe Renner, Emalee Overbay, Haley Cain and Buffington battled a trio of De Soto 6-footers on the glass and came up

with several big rebounds in the fourth quarter and overtime. Guards Madisen Simpson, Paige Buffington and Kennia Hankinson all hit key shots or free throws throughout the game.

“It was a great win,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “We talk about defending this place because of how hard we work here and these girls refused to give up on their home floor. It was a big league game and another one for us to grow in.

“De Soto has probably three 6-footers in there and we were in there battling for rebounds and got some big offensive rebounds late in the game. That just shows how we play, and we are going to play our tails off. It was a great team win.”



Chloe Renner drives the lane during Monday's overtime win against De Soto.

For a while, a victory was in doubt as De Soto started the third quarter on a 12-0 run after Louisburg had taken a two-

point lead at halftime. De Soto went up 40-31 late in the third before the Lady Cats went on a mini run of their own.

After a pair of Simpson free throws, Renner hit a basket and then as the buzzer sounded to end the third, Holtzen knocked down a 3-pointer that brought the Louisburg bench to its feet and the De Soto lead to two.

Lancaster opened the fourth quarter with a 3-pointer to give the Lady Cats a quick advantage, but it would change hands two more times before De Soto went on a 10-2 run to go up 52-45 with four minutes left in the game.

The Lady Cats (8-7) eased their way back into the game again after two free throws from Carson Buffington and a basket from Simpson with 1 minute and 40 seconds left in the contest to cut the De Soto lead to three.

That set up the heroics from Lancaster as she hit a 3-pointer with 50 seconds left that put the game into overtime.

"They were great shots and they didn't hesitate," Lowry said of the Holtzen and Lancaster 3-pointers. "There is no selfishness here and it is everyone doing their job and everyone playing their role when they are asked to. We had different kids step up tonight like Chloe and Haley who came off the bench and played great defense. Everyone really played a role in this."

De Soto opened the overtime with a basket, but the Lady Cats were able to tie it and take the lead after Carson Buffington made a basket and was fouled. She made the free throw to convert the three-point play.

Carson would go on to convert four of her next five free throw opportunities, while Paige Buffington and Simpson also hit a pair of free throws to help give the Lady Cats the win.

During that time, the Lady Cats also got big rebounds from

Carson Buffington and Renner, who gave Louisburg second chances at the basket.

Carson led the Lady Cats with a double-double as she recorded 16 points and 11 rebounds, to go along with an 8-for-9 performance from the free-throw line.



(From left) Emalee Overbay, Kennia Hankinson, Madisen Simpson, Tayler Lancaster, Carson Buffington and Paige Buffington were all smiles just after the final buzzer sounded in their 66-62 win.

“Carson cares about her team and cares about winning that game,” Lowry said. “She just stepped up there and nailed them, but it wasn’t for her, it was for her team. I am really happy for her though.”

In fact, the whole Louisburg team shot well from the free-throw line as the Lady Cats made 21 of their 24 attempts.

Simpson led the Lady Cats in scoring with 21 points, while Renner was second on the team with seven rebounds and had a team-high four assists.

The victory puts Louisburg in third place in the Frontier

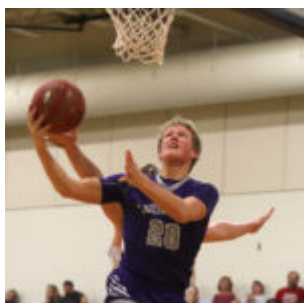
League with a 5-2 record, with its lone league losses coming to state-ranked Paola and Baldwin.

Louisburg will try and improve on that mark Friday when it hosts Ottawa. Tipoff is set for approximately 6 p.m.

LOU	12	14	12
14	14 – 66		
DES	13	11	16
12	10 – 62		

LOUISBURG (8-7): Madisen Simpson 21, Carson Buffington 16, Tayler Lancaster 8, Paige Buffington 6, Kennia Hankinson 6, Chloe Renner 4, Isabelle Holtzen 3, Haley Cain 2. Totals: 19 21-24 66. 3-point field goals: 7, (Simpson 2, Lancaster 2, Hankinson 2, Holtzen)

Wildcats can't slow down No. 2 Eudora



Louisburg senior Dalton Stone scores two points on a reverse layup Friday at Eudora High School. The Wildcats came up short in a 68-54 loss to the Cardinals.

EUDORA – Before Eudora's Mitchell Ballock released a half-court heave at the buzzer, the damage was already done.

Ballock's shot right before halftime found nothing but net and the Louisburg boys basketball team found itself down 17 points and had to go back into the locker room trying to figure out how to slow down the Creighton University commit.

The Wildcats couldn't overcome what was a rough first half as they lost 68-54 to No. 2 Eudora as Ballock went off for 25 points, despite sitting out most of the fourth quarter and Louisburg suffered its third straight loss in the process.

Eudora jumped out to a 15-7 lead in the first quarter and Louisburg had to deal with foul trouble as starter Grant Harding was forced to sit with two fouls early in the contest. A 3-pointer from Jayce Geiman and a basket from Jake Hill cut the Eudora lead going into the start of the second quarter.

The Cardinals used a quick 7-0 run to go up double digits again, before the Wildcats were able to get the lead down to seven a couple baskets from Harding and a pair of free throws from Desmond Doles. Eudora once again answered as it went on a 13-3 run to end the first half, including the half-court shot from Ballock.

Eudora ballooned the lead to 23 points in the fourth quarter before Louisburg was able to chip away at the lead.

Geiman led Louisburg in scoring with 19 points, including three 3-pointers, while Harding finished with 10 and also had four steals. Senior Sam Guetterman nearly had a double-double with eight points and a team-high eight rebounds and senior T.J. Dover scored nine points.

Louisburg will try and get back on track Friday when it hosts No. 4 Ottawa. Tipoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

LOU	12	11	13	18 –
54				
EUD	18	22	17	11 –
68				

LOUISBURG (6-9): Jayce Geiman 19, Grant Harding 19, T.J. Dover 9, Sam Guetterman 8, Jake Hill 2, Desmond Doles 2, Dalton Stone 2, Dalton Ribordy 2. Totals: 19 13-20 54. 3-point field goals: 4, (Geiman 3, Guetterman)

Big second half lifts Lady Cats past Eudora



Louisburg sophomore Carson Buffington dribbles down the floor on a fast break opportunity following one of her four steals Friday in Eudora. The Lady Cats put it altogether in the second half for a 57-33 win.

EUDORA – For 16 minutes, the Louisburg High School girls basketball team had a tough time trying to work its way around Eudora’s zone defense.

The Lady Cats had just 16 points at halftime and they weren’t

their usual scoring selves.

However, all it took was a couple tweaks and Louisburg got back on track in a 57-33 win Friday at Eudora High School. The Lady Cats turned up their defensive pressure, found a hole in the Cardinals' zone defense and let the shots fly as they recorded nine 3-pointers on the night.

"Hats off to Eudora, they used a different zone than we are used to playing against and it had an odd front," Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. "We had to make some adjustments at halftime and we were able to execute much better than the first half. Our defensive intensity wasn't that great in the first half either, but we picked that up in the second half too."

That spark on the defensive end led to a big third quarter offensively for the Lady Cats.

Louisburg (7-7) had a 26-22 lead late in the third, but the Lady Cats were physical under the basket getting offensive rebounds and forced several turnovers that started a 12-0 run to end the quarter. Carson Buffington, Haley Cain, Emalee Overbay and Chloe Renner provided big rebounds during that stretch.

Senior Tayler Lancaster led the charge as she picked the pocket of the Eudora guards, which created several chances in the open floor. Lancaster knocked down two 3-pointers during the run and fellow senior Madisen Simpson also nailed a shot from beyond-the-arc that came off a Lancaster steal.



Louisburg senior Tayler Lancaster goes up for two of her 13 points Friday in Eudora.

"Tayler has been good on the ball for us with her pressure," Lowry said. "She has good hands and she did a nice job (Friday)."

"That run we had was big, but it started with getting on the floor for loose balls and it started with toughness stuff that led into that. I think there was a scramble there that had multiple girls on the floor and it led into the run. Everything that is good for us starts with us giving really good effort and our intensity being really good on defense."

Lancaster had eight of the team's 15 steals to go along with 13 points and the Louisburg guard takes pride in stopping her opponent.

“Defense is my main focus and creating a lot of ball pressure so they have problems getting the ball into the post,” Lancaster said. “Defense is where it starts for me and the rest of the team.”

The Lady Cats kept the pressure on as they started the fourth quarter on an 11-3 run and never looked back.

Simpson led the Lady Cats in scoring with 18 points and also had seven rebounds from the guard spot. Louisburg did a lot of work on the glass and Buffington had a team-high 12 rebounds, while Cain and Overbay had eight and seven, respectively. Buffington was second on the team with four steals.

Friday gave the Lady Cats a big Frontier League road victory, and also stopped a short two-game losing streak, which included a loss to rival Paola last week. Despite some setbacks here and there, the Lady Cats are enjoying their season as they continue to make improvements off a year ago.

“We have a sisterly bond,” Lancaster said. “We just work together and we have fun doing it. Even with the losses, we tough it out together and that is how we win our games.”

Louisburg returns home this week as it hosts De Soto tonight in a makeup contest. Tipoff is set for approximately 7:30 p.m. The Lady Cats will also host Ottawa on Friday.

“We love defending our place, but getting these wins on the road are important to do,” Lowry said. “We have two tough games against De Soto and Ottawa at home so this win was a good one to get.”

LOU	9	7	22	19
– 57				
EUD	5	3	14	11
– 33				

LOUISBURG (7-7): Madisen Simpson 18, Tayler Lancaster 13, Chloe Renner 7, Kody Lowry 6, Carson Buffington 5, Emalee Overbay 3, Haley Cain 2, Isabelle Holtzen 2, Paige Buffington 1. Totals: 19 10-16 57. 3-point field goals: 9, (Simpson 4, Lancaster 3, Lowry 2)