Wildcats see historical season come to a close with loss to Bishop Miege



Louisburg goalie Garrett Rolofson slides in to make a save last Tuesday during the Wildcats' home state quarterfinal game against Bishop Miege.

A school record 16 wins, a Frontier League championship and a regional title are all something worth celebrating, but following last Tuesday's state quarterfinal match with Bishop Miege, all Louisburg could think about was the finality of it all.

Despite all those accomplishments, the Wildcats fell one win short of their main goal – a spot in the state final four.

Louisburg saw its season come to a close with a 3-0 loss to Bishop Miege at the Wildcat Sports Complex. The Wildcats lost to the eventual state champion, as Miege went on to defeat Wichita-Trinity on Saturday, 3-1, for the Class 4-1A state championship – the Stags' fourth in a row.

As difficult as the loss was for Louisburg, there was no forgetting how big of a jump the Wildcats made from the season before as they went from a 6-win team to one that

earned the East’s No.
1 seed in the state playoffs.

“Going 6-11 last year and seeing
this Miege team almost mercy-ruling us in the regional championship last year
in the rain, was a program changer,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “After
that was over, we talked about how things needed to change and it starts now.
For our first practice in June, I told them that they are the ones that has to
change them. Since day one, they have played for each other, played hard in
practice and it was a total mindset change. When someone got hurt, it was the
next guy up. We missed two starters for half of the year and it was always the
next guy up taking advantage of his opportunity to fill in. The freshmen
stepped up huge for us.

“This team is special. 16 wins is
a school record and only two losses is probably a school record. This team is
incredible, played so hard and did everything I asked them to do. They were
always there to pick each other up and that is what this soccer family is all
about. It will be tough to say goodbye to these kids.”

Louisburg (16-2) gave Miege all it
had as several Wildcats were dealing with injuries, which made the task of
knocking off the perennial state champion even more difficult.

Senior defender Will Frank played
with an injured knee. The team’s leading scorer, Cade Gassman,

had an oblique
injury, and was nowhere near 100 percent.



Louisburg senior Will Frank heads the ball out of the box Tuesday against Bishop Miege.

Still, those players, and others, played through the pain to give what they had left against one of the state's best teams.

"Will is going to having surgery
in the offseason here on his knee and played hard and fought through," Conley
said. "Landon (Johnson) is still fighting through a patella tendon problem and
he did the best he could to run on the ball. Cade had a strained oblique, and
could hardly move at all, but just gutted it out for his teammates. David

(Perentis) hurt his leg earlier in the season and he has been fighting through it. We are just dinged up and banged up everywhere, but Miege was able to put it on us at the end."

The Wildcats kept the game scoreless through the first 30 minutes thanks its defense. Goalie Garrett Rolofson made several diving saves and Frank cleared ball after ball out of the back.

Sophomore defender Michael Seuferling also cleared the ball off the goal line to keep the game scoreless midway through the first half, but the Stags answered with a goal in the 30th minute to go up 1-0 at halftime.

"We defended our butts off," Conley said. "It was kind of a 'bend but don't break' mentality there for a while. We knew they were going to get chances. The goal was to just limit those chances to the less-dangerous the better and keep them wide. We had a couple good looks, but we just didn't put it on frame. Unfortunately, we just couldn't get one to go.

"Defensively, we played well. We had a wall built and were going to let them shoot from outside and we did a good job blocking what we could. They have four or five players who do a really good job for them."



Senior Colin Cook makes a pass to a teammate during the Wildcats' state quarterfinal game against Miege.

Bishop Miege put away two more opportunities in the second half to get the victory and end the Wildcats' season on their home field – one that provided a lot of memories.

Like with the end of every season, the Wildcats were forced to say goodbye to their season class as Ryan Haight, Colin Cook, Landon Johnson, David Perentis, Emanuel Fries, Rolofson and Frank all played their final game.

"The seniors, from day one, took ownership of the program," Conley said. "Since day one, they have held everyone

accountable and it was incredible. I couldn’t be happier for a group of guys. It would have been great to go back to a state final four, and this could have been a state championship game. It stinks that we had to run into them here and not in the state final four, where it deserved to be. This is a special team and they will be tough to emulate. These seniors have set the standard and brought us back to where we need to be.”

Wildcats outlast Kansas City Christian for regional title



Louisburg senior Landon Johnson hoists the Class 4-1A regional championship trophy on Thursday and celebrates with his teammates after the Wildcats’ 2-0 win over Kansas City Christian at Wildcat Stadium.

For more than 70 minutes, the goals for Louisburg were hard to come by and it started to leave an eerie feeling on Halloween night.

However, the Wildcats got their treat when it was all over.

Louisburg scored two goals in the final seven minutes of the match to earn a 2-0 victory over

Kansas City
Christian in the Class 4-1A regional championship game Thursday. The Wildcats
(16-1-1) earned their third regional title in the last four years and will now
move on to the state quarterfinals.

“This group is special,” Louisburg
coach Kyle Conley said. “It is going to be tough when it is all over. This
group has changed our culture. They came back to what this program believes and
they have bought in to what we are teaching them. They have worked so hard
since June. For these seniors, this is their third title in four years and I
think it is a lot of fun for them.

“I would like to get them back to
the state final four so they can see what it looks like. We are young, but we
have some upperclassmen here to lead us. They all work and play so hard and it
is a credit to them and their ability to play for each other. It is bittersweet
but it is a lot of fun right now.”



The Louisburg boys soccer team won their third regional title in the last four years with a 2-0 victory over Kansas City Christian on Thursday.

It wasn't a lot of fun early on as the Wildcats struggled to find the back of the net and it got a little harder when they had to watch their leading scorer, Cade Gassman, leave with an injury early in the second half.

Like they have done most off the season, the Wildcats were there to pick each other up and freshman Colin McManigal, who replaced Gassman, gave them spark they were looking for.

With seven minutes left in the match, McManigal scored on an assist from junior Treston Carlson to put Louisburg on top, 1-0, and it was all Louisburg needed to keep its season alive.



Freshman Colin McManigal tries to settle the ball as he races down the sideline Thursday against Kansas City Christian.

“I knew we had to get a ball into the back side to score and once I saw that ball go through, I knew I had a chance,” McManigal said. “I saw the goalie’s eyes and I watched him miss the ball and I knew this was the one. I just popped it in and it was history from there.

“Cade has been doing so good this year and he is like a brother to me. When he came out, it gave me a chance to go get one for the team. I just tried my hardest out there and I am glad it all worked out. Hopefully he will get better soon.”

Less than two minutes later, Carlson provided the Wildcats with some cushion as he found the back of the net to all but seal the win. On a day where Carlson, and several of his teammates had good looks at the net and the shots didn’t go in, the score provided a sense of relief to the Louisburg sideline.

“I am super excited,” Carlson said of the regional title. “I am just proud of the team on how we continued to battle even when things weren’t going our way. Kansas City Christian was a tough team, and they played hard, but I am definitely glad we were able to get this one.”

Kansas City Christian, which took third in the state a year ago, provided the Wildcats with one of their toughest tests of the season. Still, the Wildcats got the production it was looking at several different spots in the field.



Sophomore Braden Yows tries to get past a Kansas City Christian player Thursday in Louisburg.

Sophomore Braden Yows was a factor for Louisburg all night in the midfield as he distributed the ball and provided the Wildcats with several scoring opportunities.

“Braden did a really good job,”
Conley said. “Isaac (Guetterman) has been playing well too in the middle so we
can give Braden a little bit of a breather here and there. It is hard to take
Braden off the field, and when he was out of there for the 4 or 5 minutes, you
could see the game starting to change a little bit and we had to get him back
out there. He played fantastic and was able to move the ball around quick and

he just has great vision and that helps us a ton.”

Defensively, senior goalie Garrett
Rolofson earned his second straight shutout in the playoffs, while senior
midfielder Ryan Haight was locked on Kansas City Christian’s top scorer for most
of the night and held him scoreless.

The back line of Toby Espina-Roca,
Will Frank, Michael Seuferling, Luke Faulkner, and midfielders Hunter Rogers
and Ethan Showalter also provided good protection as well.



Defender Toby Espina-Roca clears the ball away Thursday in the Wildcats’ 2-0 win.

Louisburg’s defense will have to

work hard in its next matchup as the Wildcats will host Bishop Miege at 5 p.m.
on Tuesday in the Class 4-1A state quarterfinals. Miege has won the last three
state championships and Louisburg will face its biggest task of the season on
its home field.

“They are a fantastic team,”
Conley said. “They play a really tough schedule and their record does not imply
out good they are. They are a very dynamic and dangerous team. Coach (Nate)
Huppe will have his boys ready to go and I will have mine ready and we will see
what happens.”

Louisburg shuts out Atchison

In its game leading up to the regional
championship, Louisburg first had to get by Atchison.

It took a little while to get
going, but once they did, the Wildcats didn’t stop as they scored five
unanswered goals to win 5-0 over the Redmen in the regional semifinals last
Tuesday in Louisburg.

Five different players scored for
the Wildcats as sophomore Braden Yows broke open the scoreless match on a goal
with nine minutes left in the first half. Cade Gassman and Ethan Ptacek both
added goals of their own to put Louisburg up 3-0 at halftime.

Junior Treston Carlson and sophomore
Jaden Vohs scored the game’s final two goals to complete he scoring, while

senior goalie Garrett Rolofson earned the clean sheet.

Louisburg wraps up Frontier League title with rout of Piper on Senior Night



Senior defender Will Frank clears the ball away from a Piper player Thursday during Louisburg's Senior Night contest at Wildcat Stadium Complex. The Wildcats rolled to an 8-1 win.

Cold and rain weren't the conditions Louisburg was hoping for in its regular season finale, but the Wildcats players didn't complain.

They had too much to celebrate.

Along with Louisburg's 8-1 victory over Piper in which it honored eight seniors on Senior Night, the Wildcats also made history in the process. Their victory gave them the outright Frontier League title as they ended the regular season with a 14-1-1 record and are the No. 1 seed in the playoffs for the Class 4-1A east side of the state.

It is the Wildcats’ second league title in three years and they head into postseason play on a five-match winning streak.

“Man, it is really impressive,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said of his team’s achievements. “This group of boys have bought in from day one and worked so hard. They are committed to each other and it shows in their play. Their attitudes and work ethic is a major reason why we are having the success we are. I could not be happier for a group of young men.

“This group had a lot of lofty goals at the beginning of the season, and they have accomplished two of them with that win against Piper. This is such a special group.”

The senior group of Will Frank, Ryan Haight, Colin Cook, Landon Johnson, David Perentis, Garrett Rolofson, Emanuel Fries and manager Mackenzie Scholtz were all recognized before the match as they were able to celebrate Senior Night first, and then a league title after.



Seniors (from left) Mackenzie Scholtz, Garrett Rolofson, Ryan Haight, Colin Cook, Will Frank, Landon Johnson, Emanuel Fries and David Perentis were honored before Thursday's contest.

Louisburg
jumped on Piper from the opening whistle as sophomore Braden Yows scored the
team's first goal 20 seconds into the match.

From
there, it was freshman Cade Gassman who made the biggest mark as he recorded a
hat trick in a 5-minute span to give the Wildcats a 4-0 lead midway through the
first half. Gassman finished with a game-high four goals as he added another in
the second half.

Senior
Landon Johnson also put away a couple shots as he converted a penalty kick late
in the first half and then opened the second half with another

goal to give the
Wildcats a 6-1 advantage. Freshman Colin McManigal added a goal midway through
the second half and Gassman iced the win with his fourth score with 13 minutes
remaining in the match.

“Cade was on fire,” Conley said. “He ended with four, but it could have been easily six if I let him. He was focused and played with such passion and determination. I couldn’t be happier for a young man and how well he’s played the entire season.

“Landon
played really hard as well. He was extremely dangerous with the ball at his
feet. He did a great job of breaking down their flanks.”



Senior David Perentis deflects the ball away from a Piper player Thursday.

The Wildcats recorded 18 shots on goal and 35 shots overall as they put pressure on the Piper defense the entire night. Junior Treston Carlson and Gassman each had five shots on goal and Johnson had three.

Defensively, other than one goal late in the first half, the Wildcats shut down the Piper attack as senior goalie Garrett Rolofson finished the night with three saves.

Senior Will Frank, junior Luke Faulkner, sophomore Michael Seuferling and freshman Toby Espina-Roca limited Piper's chances from the defensive line, while defensive midfielders Ryan Haight, Ethan Showalter and Hunter Rogers also provided support.

"The defenders played very well minus one play," Conley said. "They held it down and limited their touches in the offensive half. Piper did send almost their entire team forward and tried to create a lot of problems for us, but we did a great job of staying disciplined and marked up. We did a really nice job of limiting their opportunities.

"The conditions were terrible, but we handled it really well. The boys were ready from pregame on. They were focused and really intense. I think we played so well from start to finish. We moved the ball and did a great

job of attacking
what they gave us. The boys read the game well. It was nice to be able to sub
as much as we did and not lose a beat with those guys.”



Senior Garrett Rolofson traded in his goalie jersey late in the match Thursday as the Wildcats tried to get him his first-ever goal.

Now the focus is on the postseason where the Wildcats will host Atchison at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the regional semifinal game. Atchison defeated Bishop Ward, 6-0, Monday in the play-in game.

Should
the Wildcats advance, they will play the winner of No. 8 Maur Hill-Mount
Academy and No. 9 Kansas City Christian on Thursday in the

regional
championship game.

“I am glad it’s finally here,” Conley
said of the postseason. “This team is motivated and determined to make an
impact. I am excited to see what this team can do and keep proving everyone
wrong. I love how hard the boys played all year and how much they improved. It’s
going to be a lot of fun.”

Wildcats jump to top of Frontier League with win over Ottawa



Louisburg’s Hunter Rogers puts a shot on goal Tuesday during the Wildcats’ match with Ottawa in Louisburg. In all, the Wildcats put 29 shots on goal in their 4-1 win.

OTTAWA — News made it way toward
the Louisburg sideline midway through the first half that Spring Hill had just upset
Frontier League leader Baldwin.

It caught the attention of the

Wildcat coaches, and with a win over Ottawa, Louisburg was going to take sole possession of first place. Head coach Kyle Conley relayed that news to his players at halftime and the Wildcats made sure they left Tuesday's game on top.

Louisburg took care of business as the Wildcats scored a pair of goals in each half and recorded a 4-1 victory over Ottawa at Wildcat Stadium. The win improved their record to 13-1-1 on the season, and a win or tie over Piper tonight, will give the Wildcats their second league title in three years.

"We need to do our job. It is Senior Night, there should be a ton of emotion and a lot of things going on and a lot of distractions," Conley said. "We are after another banner."

The Wildcats dominated possession for much of the contest against Ottawa as they put together several scoring chances. In all, Louisburg finished the night with 29 shots on goal.

Junior Treston Carlson was able to find the back of the net 15 minutes into the first half to give Louisburg a 1-0 advantage over Ottawa. A few minutes later, senior Landon Johnson doubled the Wildcats' score with another goal and Louisburg took a 2-0 lead at halftime.

Louisburg didn't waste any time after halftime as freshman Cade Gassman scored three minutes into the second half.

Ottawa cut the Louisburg lead to 3-1 with a goal early in the half off a corner
kick.



Senior Colin Cook possesses the ball to go upfield Tuesday against Ottawa.

The Cyclones weren’t able to get a better opportunity than that one and the Wildcats kept pushing up. Sophomore Braden Yows iced the game when his shot hit the back post and rolled slowly across the line.

Yows and Gassman each added an
assist in the win, while Yows led the Wildcats with five shots on goal.
Freshman Colin McManigal and Johnson each had four shots, while Carlson and
junior Logan Faulkner both had three.

Defensively, the Wildcats were able to limit Ottawa's opportunities and senior goalie Garrett Rolofson finished with five saves.

"We did a good job," Conley said. "We were trying to work on our cuts and angles a little more this week. We did a good job of possessing it, moving it and doing our job. The final third could be a little bit cleaner, but the kids played well and played with a ton of energy. You can't ask for anything more than that.

"I thought we did a good job defensively. We had a lot of kids play for us tonight, whether it was 10 minutes or 20 minutes, we were just relentless. I think the last 15 minutes of the first half we kind of just dominated they rest of the way. We just played with a lot of heart tonight and the kids just played really, really well."

Now the Wildcats will turn all their focus to Piper tonight as they try for win No. 14, and more importantly, a Frontier League title. It will also be an emotional evening as it is also Senior Night and the Wildcats will honor eight seniors for their time with the program.

"It is a credit to them," Conley said of his team's success. "Last year was rough. We never really gelled and we struggled with chemistry a little bit. This team came together since the first day of summer, they are playing for each other, they are always together and supporting one another. It is a credit to them and how hard they play and their desire to get better. It is a credit to all 38 of those guys and they are doing

a great job from top to bottom.”

Yows’ golden goal lifts Louisburg past Paola in OT



Louisburg sophomore Braden Yows (right) is engulfed by his teammates following his game-winning goal in the Wildcats’ 1-0 victory over Paola on Monday in Louisburg.

Just like the first match earlier in the season, Louisburg and Paola found themselves in another battle Monday as the two teams went into overtime for the second time this year.

And just like the first time, Louisburg got the golden goal it was looking for to pull out a win.

Sophomore Braden Yows struck the ball on the back side of the goal and found the back of the net five minutes into overtime and the Wildcats came away with a 1-0 victory over the Panthers.

Senior Ryan Haight crossed the ball into the backside of the goal for the assist and Yows was

there to put a
good foot on the pass.

“It was a little unbelieveable,”
Yows said. “Ryan played a great ball into the box and I called for it. Ethan
(Ptacek) could have taken the chance, but when I shot it and went in, it was
almost like a dream come true a little bit. I almost couldn’t believe it at
first.

“Those type of goals don’t come
around very often that win you a game against your rival. It was great, but if
Ryan doesn’t play that ball and Treston (Carlson) doesn’t play it to him then
that goal never happens. It was a team goal.”

It certainly was a team effort as
the Wildcats (12-1-1) picked up their third consecutive victory on the season
and defeated a Paola (8-4-1) team that is one of the best in the Frontier
League and currently has the fourth-best record on the East side of the state in
Class 4-1A.

Louisburg played well on each third of the field, but it started on defense as the Wildcats limited Paola’s chances on goal. To do that, Haight shadowed Paola’s top scorer, Ryan Wokutch, most of the night and got help from junior midfielder Ethan Showalter.

Neither player came off the field
much and were helped by the back line of Will Frank, Michael Seuferling, Toby
Espina-Roca and Luke Faulkner. Senior goalie Garrett Rolofson

recorded three
saves and earned the shutout.

“Ryan (Wokutch) has special speed
and is an incredible player,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “We decided to
put Ryan Haight on him and I thought he shut him down pretty well. He did a
really nice job on him defensively, but Wokutch is so dangerous that he causes
a massive amount of problems for him.”



Louisburg senior Landon Johnson holds off a Paola player for the ball Monday.

Both teams had opportunities early
in the first half as Wokutch had a header that was saved by Rolofson. For
Louisburg, senior Landon Johnson had two shots on goal, one of

which hit off
the cross bar.

The Wildcats put the pressure on
the Paola defense and controlled possession for much of the second half and
overtime. Louisburg had 27 shots on the night, including 14 on goal.

Junior Treston Carlson and Johnson
led the Wildcats with three shots on goal. Yows, along with freshmen Cade
Gassman and Ethan Ptacek, each had two.

Louisburg also took advantage of a
tiring Paola team as the Wildcats were able to sub in groups for much of the
match and were fresher going into overtime.

“We have to thank Conley for this
one,” Yows said. “We could see Paola was a little worn down, but we have a
little more depth, but coach makes us do a lot of fitness in practice and it
pays off. Paola was really good in the first half, but Ryan did a great job of
shutting down Wokutch but Hunter (Rogers) and Sho (Ethan Showalter) both played
amazing. They were a big help back there.”

The Wildcats were able to find the
net halfway through the extra period when Haight played a ball toward the back
side of the goal and Yows was there waiting for it.

“That is the ball I was talking about to the boys,” Conley said. “I kept telling them the back side was wide open. We got there a couple times and kind of wasted some chances, but Braden shifted a little bit, smacked it home and that was it.

It was a good read for Braden, and a good lead from Ryan and it was good to get a win."



The Louisburg players pile on each other following the Wildcats' 1-0 overtime win over Paola.

Yows' game-winner emptied the

Wildcat bench and the players were able to celebrate their 12th win
of the season as they piled on Yows.

The Wildcats will continue its special season Tuesday when it hosts Ottawa and then will host Piper on Thursday for Senior Night. Louisburg will have the opportunity to win a Frontier League title and assure itself a No. 1 seed in the state playoffs next week.

"We have a good style of play and

I think we do a good job of possessing the ball," Conley said. "I think we could get a little more dynamic in the final third, but at the same time I love how hard we play and how the kids don't stop. They might be too young to understand what they are truly doing right now, but it is a lot of fun to watch."

Wildcats continue winning ways with victory over Eudora



Louisburg junior Ethan Showalter takes a shot during the first half of the Wildcats' home match against Eudora on Thursday.

It wasn't a victory that solidified anything for the Louisburg boys soccer team – but it came pretty close.

Louisburg hosted Eudora on Thursday and pulled away for a 4-1 victory. It was a win that helped Wildcats maintain a hold on their postseason goals.

The Wildcats, who are now 11-1-1 on the season, are sitting atop the Frontier League and

currently have the best record in the Class 4A East standings. The victory helped set up what could be a special finish.

“I think this team realizes that we are in the hunt for a league title, and that we are sitting really well for a No. 1 seed in the playoffs,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “It is a lot of fun right now. The kids are playing hard and they are playing for each other and that is the best part.”

Mother Nature tried to make things interesting for the Wildcats as it poured on the two teams during the first 15 to 20 minutes. In that time, Eudora was awarded a penalty kick and converted to take an early 1-0 lead.

The Cardinals didn’t have the lead for more than a minute as senior Colin Cook tied it up as he scored off a rebound on a shot from junior Treston Carlson. Midway through the first half, Louisburg took the lead for good on a goal from senior Logan Faulkner.

“That is probably the hardest rain I have been a part of in a soccer game,” Conley said. “It was just dumping. Then it stopped and then would start dumping again. We knew it was going to rain, knew it was going to be cold and I don’t think it affected our guys much. We played well and we moved the ball really well in the first half and they chased us all over the place.”

Louisburg kept the pressure on in
the second half as freshman midfielder Ethan Ptacek made it 3-1 on an assist
from senior teammate Ryan Haight. Carlson added a goal himself to ice the match
with under two minutes remaining.



Senior David Perentis beats a Eudora player for a 50-50 ball Thursday during the Wildcats' 4-1 win.

The Wildcats dominated possession
for much of the match and that turned into 14 shots on goal and 20 shots
overall.

Carlson and freshman Cade Gassman
each had three shots on goal to lead Louisburg. Sophomore Braden Yows, along

with Cook and Ptacek, finished with two.

“They (Eudora) were physical, aggressive and they fouled us a lot and our kids kept their heads for the most part and played hard,” Conley said. “I am really excited and it was a great win for us after getting one at Spring Hill. Eudora is really good too. I think this was a good showing for us and we did our job and we executed really well.

“I think we might have left four (goals) on the board there in the first half. We were on the doorstep several times, and one even hit the net that I thought was a goal. It was nice to see the guys possess the ball, make them chase us and then attack. It should give us some confidence moving forward.”

Defensively, the Wildcats limited Eudora to just five shots on goal and four of them were saved by senior goalie Garrett Rolofson.



Defender Michael Seuferling heads the ball away from the Eudora goal Thursday.

“We did a good job for the most part on defense,” Conley said. “I think we lost our marks a couple times, but we probably could have played a little more aggressive in back, but I thought we still did well. Our outside backs got beat up a little bit, but I thought they held their ground well and Rolo did his job.”

Louisburg will try for its fourth straight victory tonight as it hosts Paola for a 6 p.m. start. It is also Alumni Night for Louisburg and former players are invited to come back and be

recognized.

The Wildcats know they can have a special ending to their season if they continue to do what they have done through the first 13 matches.

“We are just focused on (this) week
and we have Paola on Monday,” Conley said. “They are a good team and are
playing well right now. We are going to have to do our job and play one game at
a time and see what happens.”

Wildcats bounce back to beat Spring Hill on road



Freshman Cade Gassman leaps in the air to put a shot on goal off a corner kick Tuesday in Spring Hill. Louisburg defeated the Broncos, 1-0, on a late goal by Treston Carlson.

SPRING HILL – For the first time
all season, the Louisburg boys soccer team had to play a match after coming off
a loss and Wildcat coach Kyle Conley was curious how his team would respond.

Conley got his answer Tuesday when Louisburg traveled to face

off with Spring Hill in a Frontier League match. The Wildcats responded just fine.

The Wildcats broke open a scoreless game on a go-ahead goal with seven minutes remaining in the second half and left Spring Hill with a 1-0 victory. The win puts Louisburg's record at 10-1-1 on the season and the Wildcats currently have a two-game lead in the standings for the No. 1 seed in the state playoffs.

"It was nice to see the boys respond," Conley said. "I think we did a nice job of playing hard and playing good clean soccer. We did a very nice job of controlling the pace of play and attacking what they gave us. I was very pleased with how hard we played and how we moved the ball."

Junior Treston Carlson provided the heroics for Louisburg as he snuck a shot past the Spring Hill keeper with 7 minutes and 50 seconds left in the match to give the Wildcats they goal they had been looking for.

Louisburg took 21 shots on the night, 10 of which were on goal. Carlson had half of those with five, while sophomore Braden Yows and freshman Cade Gassman and three and two, respectively.

"We did a nice job of creating chances all night," Conley said. "I think the boys are putting some added pressure on themselves and over thinking some of our situations. We were creating lot of chances but couldn't quite find the back of the net.

"Treston found himself in a really good spot and buried it. He has been so close the past couple games, so it was great to

see him put one away.”



Louisburg junior Ethan Showalter pushes the ball up the field Tuesday in Spring Hill.

Defensively,
the Wildcats were able to limit the Broncos’ shots on goal as senior goalie
Garrett Rolofson was able to get the shutout. Spring Hill had just four shots
on goal thanks to the back line of Toby Espina-Roca, Will Frank, Michael
Seuferling, Luke Faulkner, Ryan Haight and Ethan Showalter.

“I
think we did a really nice job to limit their opportunities and chances for the
most part,” Conley said. “We held our back line and played really sound

defense. I was excited to see the boys respond the way that they did. I really
liked how we matched their intensity."

The Wildcats are toward the top of the Frontier League standings and will try and stay that way as they host Eudora at 4 p.m. today. The Cardinals, which have a 6-3-1 record on the season, defeated Baldwin earlier in the year, which is the lone team to beat the Wildcats.

"Eudora is playing really well right
now and are on a six game winning streak," Conley said. "It is a big game and
we will need to be ready to play, regardless where we play. It is important
that we play our game and we dictate the pace. They are very physical and play
really fast. Should be a great game."

Baldwin hands Louisburg first loss of the season



Louisburg senior Landon Johnson pushes the ball up the field Thursday during the Wildcats' match with Baldwin at Wildcat Stadium.

Louisburg was primed for revenge

Thursday as the Wildcats wanted to avenge their only non-win of the season.

They were well on their way to doing that as they jumped out to an early lead over Baldwin at home. However, the Bulldogs scored two second half goals and handed Louisburg a 2-1 defeat after the two teams tied earlier in the year.

Baldwin scored the go-ahead goal with 14 minutes left in the match to get the win and it was the Wildcats' first loss on the season.

"We played really hard and had a massive amount of possession but just couldn't break through," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "Baldwin played with a ton of energy and capitalized on their chances. I liked how hard we played and how we didn't give up."

The Wildcats continue to get healthier as another starter returned to the lineup. Senior captain Ryan Haight was out on the pitch for his first action of the season against the Bulldogs and he didn't waste any time getting involved.

Haight scored Louisburg's lone goal with 18 minutes left in the first half as he was on the back side of the goal on a corner kick and tapped it in past the Baldwin keeper.

Louisburg (9-1-1) had its opportunities as the Wildcats had 18 shots on the night and had six on goal. Braden Yows, Haight, Cade Gassman, Treston Carlson and Colin McManigal each had chances, but were either just wide of the mark or saved.

The match remained the same until eight minutes into the second
half when Baldwin tied it up, and then with 14 minutes left in the match, took the
lead on a hard shot near the right side of the box that found the back of the
net. Caden Prather and Colby Zimmerman scored the Baldwin goals.

The night was not all lost for Louisburg. Both teams wore special pink uniforms during the Wildcats' Cancer Awareness night as they
raised money to help a local family dealing with cancer.

Players from both teams also stood together before the varsity match as friends and family who have dealt with cancer were read aloud in their
honor.

The Wildcats will try and bounce back today when they travel to
Spring Hill for a 6 p.m. start at Spring Hill High School. Louisburg returns
home Thursday for a match with Eudora.

Conley notches 100th career victory as Wildcat head coach



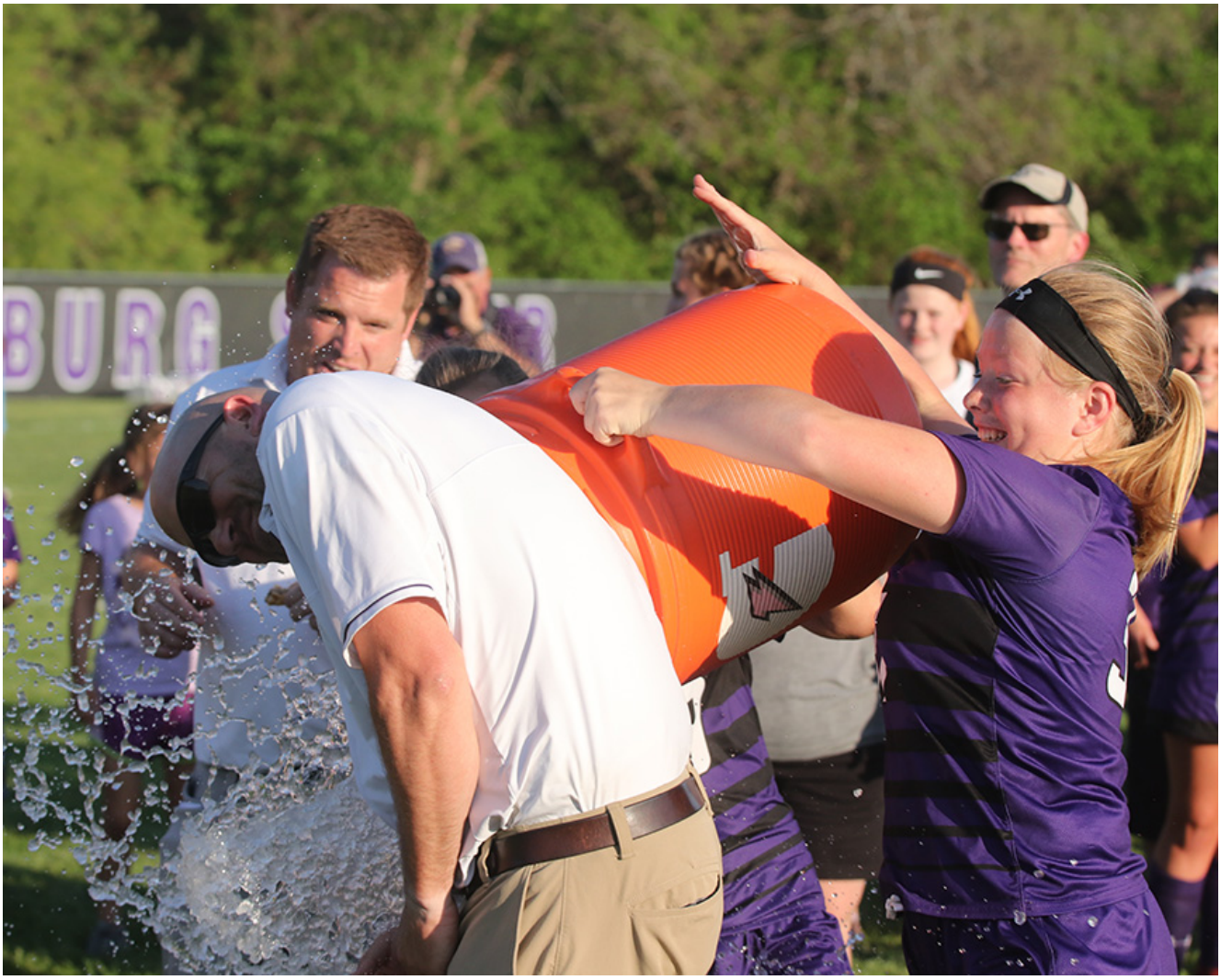
Louisburg head coach Kyle Conley earned his 100th career win Tuesday in the Wildcats' overtime victory over Tonganoxie.

Kyle Conley has been a part of many close matches during his time as the Louisburg boys and girls head soccer coach.

Conley has pulled out his fair share of wins during his four years between the two programs, so it only seemed fitting that his milestone victory would come with a little excitement.

Louisburg rallied for a 3-2 overtime win over Tonganoxie, and as a result, the Wildcats gave Conley his 100th career victory. Following the match, Conley was recognized in front of the crowd and presented with a banner from his players commemorating the special moment.

"I have been blessed with great kids," Conley said. "They play their tails off and they work hard, boys or girls, it doesn't matter. If you don't have kids that play hard, then none of this is possible. Having quality kids who do the things you ask and work so hard, makes it fun to coach and positive things happen. I am really lucky to be in Louisburg right now."



LHS girls soccer coach Kyle Conley has had a lot of things to celebrate in four seasons, including back-to-back state runner-up finishes.

In his four years as head coach, Conley has posted a 100-46-4 record and has helped the Wildcats to several big time wins.

On the girls side, Conley was named the girls' first-ever coach when the program started in the spring of 2016. He led them to a 14-win season that first year and they reached the state quarterfinals.

From there, the Louisburg girls would go on to a fourth place state finish in 2017, followed

by back-to-back
state runner-up finishes in 2018 and 2019 – losing to Bishop Miege in the both
state championship games. Conley has also been named the Class 4-1A Coach of
the Year the last two years.

In his first season as the boys
head coach in the fall of 2016, he guided Louisburg 14-6-1 record and its first
appearance in the state final four. The Wildcats went on to finish fourth in
Class 4A, and then would reach the state quarterfinals the following year with
a 13-win campaign.

Currently, the Wildcats are 9-1-1
this season and have the best record in Class 4-3-2-1A.



As the head boys soccer coach, Kyle Conley has led the Wildcats to two regional championships and a fourth place finish at state.

"Starting the girls program and going 14-4-1 that first year and have a chance to go to state was a wonderful memory, but losing to De Soto in the quarterfinals on this field that same year kinda sticks with me," Conley said. "You know, 100 wins is great, but I probably dwell more on those 46 losses more than I do the wins. There are so many of those games that could have went either way. When you have kids that have heart and passion, it makes it fun to coach.

"Then you have the first boys team to make a state final four in 2016 was a great one, and I will remember the team that played McPherson at home in the state quarterfinals and lost a close 2-1 game that had two shots go off the post in the final five minutes. That was a special team as well. Just honored to

be able to coach all of them.”

With so many highs and lows that teams encounter throughout a season, Conley realizes the people are what makes his job enjoyable – not necessarily the wins.

“There are so many memories and I have been able to coach so many good kids,” he said. “I am just blessed to be in Louisburg and have the opportunity to interact with these student athletes and hopefully have a positive impact on them. It is an awesome place to be.”

Louisburg stays unbeaten with overtime win against Tongie



Louisburg’s Braden Yows celebrates his goal off a corner kick with his teammates Tuesday against Tonganoxie in Louisburg. The Wildcats are 9-0-1 on the season.

Just call them the ‘Cardiac Kids.’

For the second time this season, the Louisburg boys soccer team found itself down two goals – not the ideal position to be in to find success. The Wildcats trailed by a couple scores

to Tonganoxie at home Tuesday, and for the second time this season, they found a way to respond.

Louisburg rallied to force overtime and eventually downed Tonganoxie, 3-2, on a goal by Cade Gassman four minutes into the extra period. The win improved the Wildcats' record to 9-0-1 as they continued their special season.

"They are trying to give me a heart attack," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "We have such a young team that I think they are too naïve to understand what is really going on. At times we just gave up a back side goal early, and then a penalty kick, and we found a way to get back in it. It is almost like they want to get down so they can find a reason to play hard. I was really proud that they never gave up and kept fighting."

Down 2-0 midway through the first half, the Wildcats were able get some momentum going into halftime as Gassman scored his first of two goals on the night as he flicked a shot past the Chieftains goalie.

Louisburg had 13 shots on goal in the game and many of those game in the second half and in overtime. Braden Yows, Gassman, Ethan Ptacek, Colin McManigal, Treston Carlson, Ethan Showalter and Landon Johnson all had looks at the goal.

The Wildcats got one to go in

midway through the second half when Louisburg was awarded a corner kick and
Yows took the shot. It sailed around the Chieftain goalie and curved into the
back of the net for the equalizer with 17 minutes left in regulation.

“We talked about the keeper and
his positioning a little bit and we talked about giving it a go at the back
stick and letting someone make a play,” Conley said. “Braden definitely let it
go there and it was a great shot. I am not sure if he meant to do it or not,
but I don’t care at this point. We will take it however we can get it.”



Senior Landon Johnson holds off a Tonganoxie player for the ball Tuesday in Louisburg.

Johnson, a senior midfielder and captain, played in his first game back from injury and nearly gave his team the lead late in regulation. His direct kick outside the box just missed the target and the two teams went to overtime.

Then four minutes into the extra period, another corner kick was sent in by Yows but his shot was knocked down by the Tongie goalie. Gassman, and several other teammates, were around the play and the Louisburg freshman was able to tap it in for the game-winner.

“Neither team did a good job of clearing the ball off the line on corner kicks, so we knew if we just got into the mix and could get it knocked down that anything could happen,” Conley said. “Cade just kept bulldogging and playing hard and was able to get that last one to go in.”

Even down by two goals early into the match, Conley never thought his team was out of it, especially when the Wildcats started to turn things around late in the first half.

“The kids played hard, they stayed focused and they knew what their job was,” Conley said. “We found a good combination to play with in the last 20 minutes and we definitely took over the last 10 minutes of the first half.

“The second half I think we

dictated the flow of play. We gave them a couple counter attack looks, but we had the pressure on them the whole time. We knew the goals were going to come, we just didn’t know when.”

Louisburg is still without a loss on the season and the Wildcats will try and keep it that way tonight when they host Baldwin for a 6 p.m. start. They will try to avenge a tie to the Bulldogs last week, which so far this season, has been the Wildcats’ only setback.