# Wildcats score two second half goals to down Spring Hill



Louisburg freshman Cade Gassman celebrates after scoring the go-ahead goal Thursday against Spring Hill in the Wildcats' 2-1 victory.

There have been a few moments during the Louisburg boys soccer team's winning streak where the result always hasn't been crystal clear.

Thursday brought ones of those moments.

The Wildcats hosted Spring Hill in

a Frontier League match and they found themselves down a goal in the second

half. Louisburg put together several chances on goal, but had no luck — that is

until midway in the second half.

Louisburg struck twice in a matter

of 10 minutes as the Wildcats rallied to a 2-1 victory over the Broncos. The

win improved their record to 7-0 on the season as the Wildcats sit atop the league standings.

It was also the third victory for Louisburg in a four-day span

as the Wildcats defeated Bishop Ward and Lansing earlier in the week.

#### "Tt

was a great week winning 3 games in four days against the type of teams that

were on our schedule," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "We played hard and

overcame the extreme heat to have success. I think our fitness and depth proved

very beneficial over these past four days. The boys found a way to get positive

results and to play for each other. It was a great watching the boys play with

so much heart and passion."

# Spring

Hill struck first early in the first half. A miscue by the Wildcat defense allowed

the Broncos to score in the opening minutes, but Louisburg tightened up its

back line and the Broncos had limited chances the rest of the way.

"We only gave up three shots the whole

night, but that was one that was way too easy," Conley said. "The boys knew we

had the better of play in the first half and we were getting plenty of chances.

I feel that they just needed to get some confidence and then they would be able

to break down Spring Hill. We had a lot of chances and did a nice job of

moving the ball and attacking."



Treston Carlson heads the ball away from the Spring Hill defense Thursday in Louisburg.

That confidence boost came with 27

minutes left in the match when sophomore Braden Yows scored to tie the match

and was one of eight shots on goal for Louisburg.

Ten minutes later, the Wildcats jumped in

front as Yows sent a pass to freshman Cade Gassman, who calmly hit a slow

roller that caught the Spring Hill goalie out of place and found the back of the net.

# "Braden

and Cade have played really well this year," Conley said. "They keep creating,

moving and causing so many problems for our opponents. It's really nice when

teams try to take one of our players away, because we have a different one step

up each night. This group is really playing well and playing for each other.

They feed off of the others success."

### Senior

goalie Garrett Rolofson finished the night with just two saves as the Wildcat

defense held strong and didn't let Spring Hill have many opportunities.



The Louisburg boys soccer team celebrates with its fans following the Wildcats' 2-1 victory Thursday.

The Wildcats will try and keep their winning streak going when they travel to Baldwin today for a road contest. Varsity is set to play at 4 p.m.

"Baldwin is a fantastic team and plays really hard," Conley said. "They play the game the right way

and do a nice job
of attacking and taking what the other team gives them. It
will be a great
match up and should be a lot of fun to watch."

# Wildcats stay perfect with comeback win over Bishop Ward



Louisburg goalie Garrett Rolofson slides in for a save Tuesday during the Wildcats' match at Bishop Ward.

The Louisburg boys soccer team has experienced a lot during this winning streak to start their season, and the Wildcats have had to overcome some adversity along the way.

That was true Tuesday when

Louisburg traveled to Bishop Ward and found itself down a goal at halftime and

its perfect season was in jeopardy. Like before, the Wildcats figured out a way

to clear those obstacles.

Louisburg got two second half

goals from freshman Cade Gassman, and junior Logan Faulkner scored the go-ahead

goal in the Wildcats' 3-1 victory over Bishop Ward. The Wildcats now have a

six-game winning streak to start the year and picked up their second win in as many days.

"The boys played so hard the second half," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "We just struggled to have that fire and energy that we usually play with in the first half. I'm not sure if it was the environment, playing the night before or what.

### "The

Bishop Ward game was physical and we struggled to respond right way. It seemed

like after the red card, the boys responded and played extremely hard. We

played for each other and picked our intensity up."

Louisburg (6-0) faced even more adversity later in the game when Conley was given two yellow cards, which turned into a red card, and he was forced to leave the match.

His players certainly responded in

his absence as they tied the match early in the second half as Gassman blasted

a shot from 15 yards away that found the back of the net and gave the Wildcats

the momentum they were looking for.

With 20 minutes left in the match,

Faulkner put the Wildcats up for good with a goal in a scrum in front of the

net. Gassman iced the match with a penalty kick with five seconds left to give

Louisburg its sixth consecutive win.



Cade Gassman battles a Bishop Ward defender for a 50-50 ball Tuesday at Bishop Ward.

"Cade

has been doing really well and is starting to get some of that chemistry with

Braden (Yows) and Treston (Carlson)," Conley said. "They are working really

well together and the boys are playing really creative soccer. I couldn't be

happier with their development thus far. Cade is consistently working to get

better each and every day. It is paying off for him right now."

### Senior

goalie Garrett Rolofson finished the night with six saves as the Wildcat

defense tightened up as the game went along after giving up a goal in the early

stages of the first half.

# Louisburg

will try to avoid its first loss of the season tonight when it hosts Spring

Hill in a Frontier League dual. Varsity is set to begin at 6 p.m. at the

Wildcat Stadium Complex.

# "Man,

Spring Hill is always so good," Conley said. "Our games are always intense and

have an incredible atmosphere. I think the boys are ready for it and it should

be a really good one. Both teams are playing really, really well right now."

# LOUISBURG SHUTS OUT LANSING ON ROAD

# Louisburg

had a difficult task ahead of itself Monday when it had to travel to square off

with Lansing — a Class 5A program.

#### The

Wildcats didn't have much of a problem as they controlled possession from the start

and never looked back in a 2-0 result.

#### Junior

Treston Carlson gave Louisburg a 1-0 lead before halftime and then sophomore Braden

Yows sealed the win with a goal in the second half. Freshman Cade Gassman added

an assist, while senior goalie Garrett Rolofson notched another shutout.

#### "The

Lansing game was extremely intense and very physical," Louisburg coach Kyle

Conley said. "We had a ridiculous amount of shots, but just couldn't score. We

did a great job of keeping the ball and possessing. I was very excited how our

boys fought and played. They are starting to figure out how I want us to play

the game. This team is going to be a lot of fun if they keep learning and improving."

# Louisburg

had plenty of chances to make it an even larger score with 13 shots on goal,

including five from Yows. Logan Faulkner had three attempts, while Colin Cook,

Gassman, Jaden Vohs and Gavin York also had looks at the net.

# Wildcats remain unbeaten with win over Bonner Springs



Louisburg defender Michael Seuferling stretches out to knock the ball away from a Bonner Springs player Thursday in Louisburg. It could have easily been a frustrating day for the Louisburg boys soccer team.

On Thursday, the Wildcats hosted Bonner Springs and had to wait almost 90 minutes before playing the match due to inclement weather. Then when it did get underway, the Braves deployed a defense that slowed down the Wildcat attack.

Despite all that, Louisburg came

away with its fourth consecutive win and was able to squeeze in a 2-0 victory

in between a pair of rain showers.

" T

felt the boys handled the hour and a half weather delay about as good as they

could," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "They came out ready to go and played

with a lot of pressure from the start. It is fun watching how this team grows

each and every game. This group has a tremendous work ethic."

#### The

work ethic was on display early on as the Wildcats put pressure on the Bonner

Springs back line with 17 shots on goal for the game, including seven each from

junior Treston Carlson and sophomore Braden Yows, two from freshman Cade

Gassman and another from freshman Gavin York.

#### Bonner

Springs' defense did frustrate the Wildcats at times as they made several runs

at the goal, with not a lot to show for it. The result still ended in a pair of

Carlson goals — one in each half — that was more than enough to get the

# victory.

### "It

did add some frustration, but that happens when a team puts so many people

behind the ball like Bonner Springs does," Conley said. "They were organized

defensively, and were tough to breakdown. I felt we did leave a lot of chances

off the board, but the boys kept attacking.

# "Treston

did a great job and has been improving each and every game. He has been

determined this off season to get better and it is paying dividends this season so far."



Junior Ethan Showalter heads the ball away Thursday during the Wildcats' 2-0 home victory over the Braves.

Senior goalie Garrett Rolofson earned his third shutout of the season as he finished the night with four saves, while the backline of Toby Espina Roca, Will Frank, Michael Seuferling and Luke Faulkner, along with midfielders Ethan Showalter and Hunter Rogers, prevented Bonner Springs from getting many good looks on goal.

The Wildcats (4-0) still have yet

to lose this season and have done so without two of its senior starters — Ryan Haight

and Landon Johnson — who are out with injuries, but hope to be back in the next

couple of weeks. Still, Conley has liked what he has seen out of his young team.

"We focused on getting back to doing things the way we did in the past," Conley said. "The boys bought into that from day one in the summer. I am extremely excited for this team and how this team has been evolving. They play so hard and with such passion, it is truly a lot of fun to come to training each and every day. We have our team goals and this groups is determined to meet them."

# Louisburg

will have a busy week as the Wildcats will play three matches in a four-day

span. It all begins today when they travel to Lansing for a 6 p.m. start.

#### The

Wildcats will travel to Bishop Ward on Tuesday and then will host Spring Hill

on Thursday. Both matches also begin at 6 p.m.

## "We

will need to focus on each game, one at a time," Conley said. "It is going to

be a tough week, but we will be focused and prepared. It will be essential that

our execution and communication is better."

# Frontier League sends proposal to KSHSAA to separate private schools



A big change to the Kansas High School

Activities Association (KSHSAA) postseason could be coming sooner rather than

later if a proposal, submitted by the Frontier League, passes the KSHSAA Board

of Directors and its member schools.

Last month the Frontier League,

led by Paola High School principal Jeff Hines and Louisburg superintendent Dr.

Brian Biermann, petitioned KSHSAA to separate public and private schools into

their own postseason competitions.

In order for it pass, the petition

must be signed by 20 percent of the 355 member schools according to KSHSAA

bi-laws. The Frontier League got the 71 needed petitions and have now submitted

this to appear in front of the KSHSAA Board of Directors for vote in their

Sept. 18 meeting.

The board of directors would then

have to pass it by simple majority of those in attendance to bring the proposal

to a vote from all the member schools.

"Kansas needs to catch up with

the rest of the country and get this competitive imbalance under control in our

state," Hines said. "The longer we wait then more students

will be negatively

impacted. We have a responsibility as educators to create the best

opportunities possible for our students. No one can honestly say we have

the best system possible right now. It can definitely be improved."

The proposal submitted by the Frontier League is the same one the state of Texas uses that keeps the schools in their same classification, but only separates the schools come postseason.

Other options were discussed

before submitting the proposal, such as implementing a multiplier on all

private schools like Missouri currently does. In fact, it is the most popular

proposal among the schools that were surveyed by Hines last January.

They also talked about the "Oklahoma

model" where schools are bumped up a classification based on success for

competitive balance.

Seventy-four percent of the

schools said they would support a population multiplier, 64 percent would

support competitive balance factors and 51 percent would support separate divisions.

However, KSHSAA would not be able

to make this change with a multiplier due to state statute K.S.A. 72-130 that

states a high school association "must establish a system of classification of

member high schools according to student attendance."

KSHSAA would not be able to pass a

new bi-law that goes against state statute, and therefore, the Kansas State

Legislature would have reword the statue to allow the association to make those changes.

The Frontier League believes the Texas model, or separate postseason divisions, does not deal with classifications. Also, this model had more support from 5A and 6A schools as neither classification would likely vote for a multiplier.

"We don't view that as a classification decision as we are not affecting classification, but KSHSAA and their lawyers view that it is," Biermann said. "5A and 6A schools that we talked to really wanted us to push for the Texas model because they don't want to play them (private schools) either. The biggest thing for me is if 5 and 6A schools don't want to play them, then why do we? As a superintendent, I am supposed to create opportunities for kids. We had four teams last year in both soccer teams, football and volleyball that all saw their season end to Bishop Miege. It is not right that we have kids and coaches that work their tails off and they don't have the opportunity to win.

"Am I all about state

championships? Absolutely not. But we also know the reality of it in the

current system. Winning state championships is important for communities and is

always a goal. I am not ever going to give up on this idea and neither will the

Frontier League."

The public versus private school debate has been going on for the last several years and Hines

has been leading the charge since 2015 when he put together a study that displayed the disparity of state championships won by private schools.

In 2018-19, private schools won 32 percent of the state championships in Classes 5A through 1A. There are currently no private schools in 6A. Twenty-one of those 24 state titles were won by private schools in Class 4A and 5A.

That is a high number considering that out of the 355 member schools, only 27 of them are private.

The Frontier League wanted to see change, so Hines surveyed the 355 member schools late last year and presented his findings to KSHSAA in January. More than 88 percent of the schools responded, that included 22 private institutions, and 87 percent said they want the current system changed.

# Presentation of Public/Private School Survey Results

#### to The KSHSAA Executive Board

January 10, 2019

# **Results from Survey**

313 of the 355 KSHSAA Member Schools Responded - 88.2%

291 Public Schools Responded

22 Private Schools Responded

273 Member Schools voted YES to support a change in the current structure

271 Public Schools Voted Yes for Change

2 Private Schools Voted for Change

40 Member Schools voted NO to support a change in the current structure

20 Public Schools Voted No for Change

20 Private Schools Voted No for Change

87.2% voted that they want the current system changed.

	Survey Response Rate	<b>Support Change</b>
1A	82.9%	92.8%
2A	89.0%	84.2%
3A	98.4%	85.6%
4A	100.0%	88.9%
5A	88.8%	81.3%
6A	77.7%	82.1%
Total	88.2%	87.2%

# **School Superintendent Response Rate**

175 School Superintendents Responded

169 out of 175 Support Change

96.6% Support Change

# **Principal Response Rate**

182 Principals Responded

84.6% Support Change

## **Activities Director Response Rate**

200 Activities Directors Responded

85% Support Change

Although most schools said they would support the multiplier model more, Hines and the rest of the league schools, believe it is the best way to proceed at this time.

#### "Our

survey indicated that separate divisions was the least popular option among

member schools, however as a league we feel like it is the most appropriate

option," Hines said. "A multiplier will pass through and will be our next

option if this does not go through. A multiplier will impact many private

schools that are not quasi sports academies that are not very successful in athletics. The

separate divisions avoids this situation."

## Ιf

the proposal does pass the board of directors, KSHSAA will then put it to a

vote with all 355 member schools and it must pass by a simple majority and by

four of the six classes.

#### From

there, KSHSAA executive director Bill Faflick would take it to the Kansas

Legislature before change could be implemented.

#### "We

know it won't happen overnight," Biermann said. "Even if this passes, nothing

will change this year and probably not the following year. It could be three

years out with the way football schedules take shape. We are honestly ok with

that if we knew that there was light at the end of the tunnel. If this would

not pass, we would turn right around and do the multiplier one."

Despite what happens at the

upcoming board of directors meeting, Hines believes changes to the system will

happen sooner rather than later.

"I am now confident something will get done," Hines said. "I think it will ultimately take a multiplier to get something done. If the

separate divisions fails then we will propose a multiplier for the spring board of directors meeting."

A lot of obstacles are still in the way for change to happen, whether it has to deal with state statues or member votes, but none of the schools in the nine-member Frontier League are going to stop until they see a more even playing field.

"I am very proud of the Frontier League, and even though we compete against each other, we are very unified on this," Biermann said. "It is about fairness and equality and I am tired of having my kids at Louisburg High School not having the same opportunity as some others. The throttle is down and it is going to stay down."

# Wildcats stay unbeaten with road win at Basehor-Linwood



Louisburg sophomore Hunter Rogers makes a pass to a Wildcat

# teammate Tuesday at Basehor-Linwood High School.

BASEHOR - A pair of contrasting

styles was on display Tuesday at Basehor-Linwood High School as a smaller and

quicker Louisburg team squared off with a big and physical Basehor-Linwood squad.

Speed won out this time around.

Louisburg scored a pair of first half goals and never looked back in a 3-0 shutout of Basehor-Linwood and the Wildcats have yet to lose as they are now 3-0 on the season.

"We just needed play quicker so

they couldn't come get to us," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "We struggled

a little bit with that early, but we started to play the ball quicker, moving

it quicker and then they had to chase us. If you try to play physical with a

team that is twice our size, we are obviously going to lose that match. It was

good for our boys to realize what our advantage was and to take advantage of that.

"Basehor is a big, strong and talented team and they have a relentless attack. They are really good and I think we held up strong back there."

The Wildcat defense did its job as it posted its second shutout of the season, thanks in part to the Louisburg back line of senior Will Frank, junior Luke Faulkner, sophomore Michael Seuferling and freshman Toby Espina Roca. For Frank, it was the first match of the season after coming back from injury, and the returning starter provided stability in the back.

Senior goalie Garrett Rolofson

also turned away several Bobcat shots as he ended the night with five saves.

"The four of them played really

well and they did their job," Conley said of his defense. "We rotated through

and they kept playing hard. Toby played well, Luke played well on the back side

and I think Michael might have been the man of the match. Will did a good job in

the middle, so those guys did a good job of holding their line and holding

their ground and not giving an inch.

"Will got his first start, so it

was nice to have him back. We probably played him a little too much, but that

is ok. He was being a leader back there for us."



Junior Treston Carlson celebrates his goal with teammate Braden Yows on Tuesday in the Wildcats' 3-0 win in Basehor.

Fifteen minutes into the match,

the Wildcats got on the board. Freshman Ethan Ptacek raced down the right side

of the field, beat his defender and found the back of the net on a breakaway

opportunity to give Louisburg the lead.

Junior Treston Carlson added on to

it later in the half when he connected on a shot from 25 yards out that sailed

over the Bobcat goalie's head to give the Wildcats a two-goal advantage.

Freshman Cade Gassman cemented the win in the second half with a goal of his own with 13 minutes remaining in the

match on an assist from Braden Yows. Gassman had four of the team's 12 shots on  $\,$ 

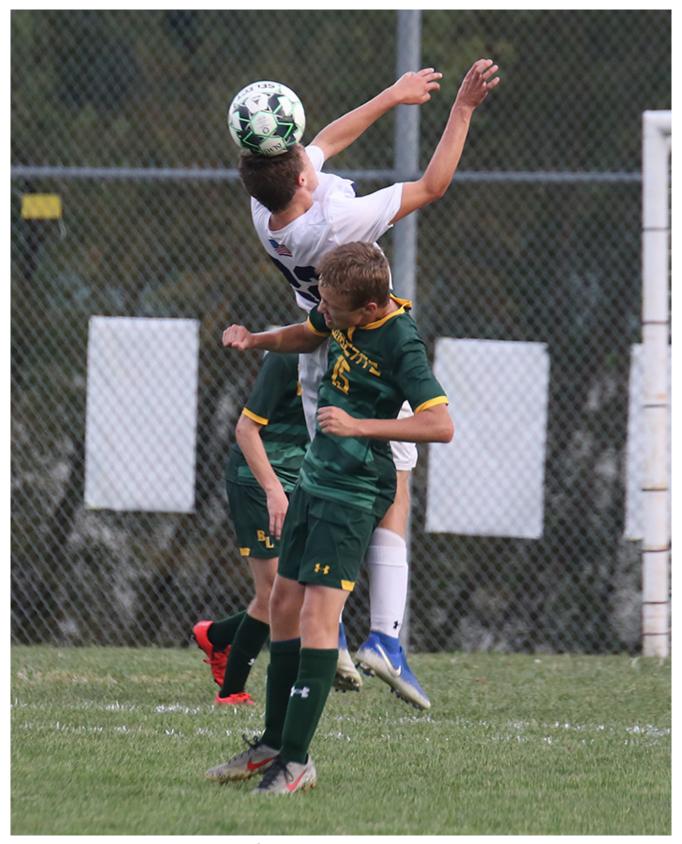
goal and was on the attack most of the night.

"We have spots that we have to

clean up really quick, but for the most part I thought we played really well,"

Conley said. "I thought we possessed the ball well, broke them down a little

bit and had a lot of chances on goal where we could have scored even more."



Freshman Ethan Ptacek wins a header Tuesday at Basehor. Ptacek scored the team's first goal.

The Wildcats will try and stay undefeated today when it hosts Bonner Springs. The match has been moved up to 4 p.m. due to weather concerns.

Louisburg, which defeated Bonner

Springs in overtime last season, will face a Braves squad that is looking for a little revenge from a year ago.

"Bonner graduated 16 seniors, but

they are a much different team and have a different philosophy," Conley said. "They

do a good job of listening to their coach and they are going to play hard and

play quick. We are going to have to do our job and execute, otherwise it could

be a rough night.

"We have to come ready to go. The Frontier

League is the best league in the state when it comes to 4A soccer, so it is

going to be a battle every night and I am sure Bonner will be ready to go."

# Carlson's goal gives Louisburg thrilling overtime win over Paola



Members of the Louisburg boys soccer team rush the field Thursday in Paola to surround teammate Treston Carlson, who scored the game-winning goal in overtime to give the Wildcats a 3-2 victory.

PAOLA — Through the first 45

minutes of the match with rival Paola, nothing seemed to go right for the

Louisburg soccer team.

Paola jumped out to a two-goal

lead early in the second half and the Wildcats had a hard time getting much

going offensively. Louisburg was staring at its first loss of the season.

"We just didn't play well at all,

especially in the first 20 minutes," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "Paola

had pressure, took it at us and they got a penalty kick early and all of a

sudden we were shocked. Then they got up 2-0 on us early in the second half and

Paola had all the momentum. We needed to make something happen."

Then — all of a sudden — something

changed. In a game where the Panthers had everything going it way, Louisburg

got some momentum of its own to steal a win on the road.

The Wildcats rallied to notch a

3-2 result in overtime thanks to a header from junior Treston Carlson that

sealed the comeback win for Louisburg. That finish capped a turn of events that

led Louisburg to its second consecutive win to start the season.

"It was a great win because we are a young team still trying to figure out how to play," Conley said. "It was awesome to

see them finish the game and I am so proud of my kids. They just grinded and battled. They could have easily put their head down when it was 2-0, but to be quite honest, 2-0 is the worst lead to have in soccer. Once we got a goal, the momentum just shifted and all of a sudden we were playing like gangbusters."

It did, indeed.

Paola took a 1-0 lead in the first half on a penalty kick, and then in the opening minutes of the second, went up two on a goal from senior Ryan Wokutch.

With 27 minutes left in the match,

the tide started to turn for the Wildcats. Paola's Gabriel Luna was issued a

red card and the Panthers were forced to play a man down the rest of the way.

It gave Louisburg the spark it was

looking for as the Wildcats put pressure on the Panther defense and were

eventually awarded a penalty kick with 22 minutes left in regulation. Freshman

Cade Gassman converted the opportunity to cut the Paola lead in half and the

Wildcats were off and running.



Freshman Cade Gassman goes up for a header Thursday against Paola.

Another freshman, Ethan Ptacek, got in on the fun six minutes later when he tied the match on his first varsity goal.

"The worst thing was, Ethan was wide open for a long time and we just couldn't get it to him," Conley said. "We were able to get it to him and he was pretty excited to score his first varsity goal for sure. The game really turned after that. Paola was pinging on empty and were trying to gut it out, but we just had the fresher legs and the momentum."

Paola also had to deal with cramping with several of their players throughout the second half and the

Panthers were forced to shuffle players in and out. It all led to a thrilling

finish in overtime for the Wildcats.

"Hats off to Paola because they

played down a man for a long time," Conley said. "They had kids fighting

through cramps all night and they played their butts off. I think the

difference was we were just a little deeper than they were and it paid off."

Four minutes into overtime, the

Wildcats were able to finish it off when sophomore Braden Yows crossed the ball

into the box, and it eventually found the head of Carlson, who put it away for the win.



Louisburg defender Toby Espina Roca clears the ball away from the goal Thursday against Paola.

The entire Louisburg bench stormed the Panther Stadium field in celebration of a win they hope turns into plenty more down the road.

"This is what rivalry games are

all about," Conley said. "Paola played really hard and fought through a lot of

adversity, but I am so proud of our kids and how they kept fighting and  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) +\left( 1\right) +\left($ 

battling through it all. When you win tough games like this it is a heck of a

confidence builder and I am glad we just had enough gas left in the tank to get

the win. It became more of a game of attrition than anything

else."

Louisburg will try for its third straight win today when it travels to Basehor-Linwood. Varsity is set to begin at 6 p.m.

# Wildcats blank Fort Scott to win season opener



Sophomore Braden Yows heads the ball down the field Tuesday during the the team's season opener against Fort Scott. Yows finished with four goals and an assist in the Wildcats' 10-0 win over Fort Scott.

Losing to Fort Scott to begin its season a year ago was something that has stuck in the back of the minds of the Louisburg boys soccer team.

The setback was the start of a difficult 2018 campaign for the Wildcats, and one they have tried to learn from.

Consider it a lesson learned.

The Wildcats opened their 2019

season Tuesday when they hosted Fort Scott at Wildcat Stadium and they made

sure not to let the same thing happen twice.

Louisburg scored six first half goals on its way to a 10-0 victory over the Tigers and put together the start it was looking for.

"It was nice to finally be done with preseason," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "The boys were hungry and ready. We talked about how we needed to come ready to go to avoid the upset we had last year. They boys were both mentally and physically ready to ensure that didn't happen again. I love the energy the boys played with and how hard we played from start to finish."

Newcomer Braden Yows provided the

Wildcats with a boost right from the start. Yows, a sophomore, scored four

goals — all in the first half — and added an assist in his first game for Louisburg.

Yows had a hat trick in the first 25 minutes of the match from the midfield spot and set the tone for the Louisburg.

"Braden is going to a really special

player," Conley said. "He played really well and has been a leader for us on

and off the field. His vision is fantastic. I love how he is playing for his

teammates, and of course, how hard he works day in and day out. He had a

fantastic first game."



Logan Faulkner (13) goes up for a header with teammate Treston Carlson and heads the ball in for a goal.

Yows wasn't the only Wildcat to have a strong first game. Freshman Cade Gassman got going in the second half with two

goals and also had two assists in his Wildcat debut.

Junior Treston Carlson scored his first

of two goals late in the first half and added another late in the second half.

Junior Logan Faulkner headed in a goal in the first half on a Yows throw-in

from the side and sophomore Jaden Vohs invoked the mercy rule with the team's

10<sup>th</sup> goal late in the match.

Senior Colin Cook led the team, along with Gassman, with two assists on the night. Sophomores Hunter Rogers and Isaac

Guetterman also finished with an assist.



Senior David Perentis settles the ball Tuesday during the Wildcats' season opener against Fort Scott.

Louisburg dominated possession for much

of the contest, but when the Tigers got looks, goalie Garrett Rolofson turned

them away as the Louisburg senior had four saves in the shutout. The defensive

back line of Toby Espina Roca, Luke Faulkner and Michael Seuferling were also vital in the shutout.

The win was, what the Wildcats hope, is the start of many more to come.

"There are a lot of new players and I think that is something that we need to keep in mind," Conley

said. "This team

is going to be a lot of fun to watch grow. It is important to keep in mind that

a lot of these kids are new to high school soccer or have very limited

experience. It was great watching them come ready to play and perform so well."

Louisburg will try to make it two in a row Thursday when it travels to Paola for its Frontier League opener. The match is set to begin at 6 p.m.

# Wildcats to feature mix of experience and youth as they hope for big season



Sophomore Braden Yows (left) and Ryan Haight battle for a 50-50 ball during the team's scrimmage last Saturday at Wildcat Stadium.

Earning a spot in the regional championship match last season was one of the few positives for the Louisburg boys soccer team.

It was a rough year that saw the

Wildcats end with a 6-11 record in a season where they were plagued by injuries

and other factors out of their control. This time around, Louisburg is ready

for a new beginning and is going to do so with a lot of fresh faces.

Louisburg will feature a varsity

squad that is made up of all four classes and will have several newcomers. In

all, 38 players are out for soccer this season — which is the most under head coach Kyle Conley.

"We had a fantastic summer of preparation and improvement," Conley said. "We struggled last year in meeting our standard, but this group of boys wanted to get back to the previous years' culture and standard. This group worked their tails off, brought a ton of positive energy and had a very successful summer. We had 48 kids originally signup for the team in May, but it got reduced down to 38 players.

#### "These

young men have very high standards for themselves. They set the standard in the

beginning of summer and have been pushing to live up to it all summer and

preseason. This team is determined to get back to where we once were and their

focus and dedication has shown this."

#### The

Wildcats return a seven-member senior class that will play vital roles and it

starts with Ryan Haight. The Louisburg defensive midfielder earned first-team

All-Frontier League honors last season and will be one of the

team leaders in 2019.

"Ryan had a fantastic summer," Conley said. "He is extremely fit and just excelled this summer. He will have his best season yet. He is poised and experienced. Those two characteristics will allow him to have a really solid year. His work ethic is one of the best I have ever had the opportunity to coach."



Senior Colin Cook makes a pass during the team's scrimmage last week.

Will

Frank, Garrett Rolofson, Landon Johnson, Colin Cook and David Perentis, who all

saw varsity time a year ago, will play even bigger roles this season. Also included

among the seniors is Emanuel Fries, a foreign exchange student.

#### Frank,

who has started the last two seasons, returns to lead the

Wildcat defense after

earning honorable mention all-league honors last season. Rolofson, who saw some

time as the team's goalie last year, is the Wildcat starter in net.

#### Sophomore

Michael Seuferling, along with Frank, Haight, Ethan Showalter (junior) and Toby

Espina (freshman) will all man the defensive side of the field for Louisburg.

Perentis, Logan and Luke Faulkner (juniors), and Hunter Rogers (sophomore)

could also see playing time there as well.

"Rolofson had a fantastic summer and

played really, really well," Conley said. "He has become more confident and his

leadership has been fantastic.

#### " T

think this team is very balanced," Conley said. "We added new pieces all over

the field, but I feel these pieces have been improvements over what we

previously had. We will have a variety of all classes represented within the

varsity roster. It's going to be a team that is going to be a lot of fun

to watch as they develop their team chemistry and learn as a team."



Louisburg head coach Kyle Conley believes his team is ready for a bounce-back year after the Wildcats finished with six wins a year ago.

The Wildcats will also have some experience at the midfield spot. Cook and junior Treston Carlson return with varsity experience, as do Logan and Luke Faulkner. Junior Ethan White, along with sophomores Isaac Guetterman and Jaden Vohs, could also see some varsity action.

#### Johnson,

who missed most of last season with an injury after an allleague performance

as a sophomore, will also be out to begin his senior season but Conley hopes he

will be in the mix midway through the year.

"He's a leader, but has been out for the past two years," Conley said. "He has been a great teammate helping and

teaching from the sidelines. He is eager to return and help this team."

#### Α

lot of those new faces will be on the attacking side of the field as the

Wildcats will feature a lot of youth.



Senior David Perentis (left) and freshman Cade Gassman battle for a 50-50 ball last week during the team's intrasquad scrimmage.

#### Sophomore

Braden Yows, who is a transfer from Missouri, will be one of the leaders at the

midfield spot and freshmen Cade Gassman and Colin McManigal will see a lot of

time at forward. Freshmen Ethan Ptacek and Gavin York will also garner a lot of

minutes in the midfield.

"We added 17 new players to this team," Conley said. "Cade is poised to have an unbelievable year as a freshman. Braden is an extremely talented sophomore, who will help lead us. Toby (Espina) is a very skilled player who will help us at outside back this season. Colin has a motor that doesn't stop and will

get solid minutes at forward for us. Gavin is a strong player who can play a lot of different positions and will play a very nice roll for us at the varsity level. Ethan is incredibility athletic and has a ridiculous speed."

The Wildcats will take part in, what Conley believes, is a very competitive Frontier League. It is the kind of schedule that he hopes his team can build on, and get better, as the season goes along.

"The league is going to be very interesting," Conley said. "Several

teams graduated a lot of seniors and some only graduated a few. I think this

year's league is going to be very balanced top to bottom. Our league is going

to be a lot of fun to watch because each and every night, anything can and will happen."

Louisburg will begin its season outside of league play on Sept.

3 when it hosts Fort Scott at 6 p.m. The Wildcats open Frontier League play at

6 p.m. on Sept. 5 in Paola. Junior varsity matches will begin at 4:30 p.m. in both games.

# Numbers up for all LHS fall programs as athletes battle

### through heat



Last fall, each of the four Louisburg High School athletic programs had something to brag about.

Whether it was football's 10-1

season that ended with a regional championship, volleyball's state runner-up

finish, cross country's two state medalists and state qualifying girls team or

the boys' soccer regional championship appearance — the Wildcats had plenty to

cheer about and several athletes took notice.

Numbers are up for all four programs following the first day of practice Monday and the coaches and athletes are excited to get the season started after last year's successes.

The Wildcat football team saw a big jump in numbers as they have 70 students out this season and football coach Robert Ebenstein and has liked what he seen through the first couple days of workouts.

"Our numbers are up and based on the numbers at the middle school and youth programs and I expect them to keep growing," Ebenstein said. "I am very excited for practice to get going. When you finish the season off with a loss in the playoffs it sticks with you and the opportunity to go play another game creates that energy and that eager feeling to get going. So far I am very pleased with our kids' focus and effort. We need

to continue to get better every day."

Louisburg volleyball has also seen a spike in its numbers as 40

athletes have attended tryouts. Those tryouts will go through Wednesday and

head coach Jessica Compliment believes those high numbers will be beneficial

down the road.

"The players are excited, but I

think some are nervous as well with tryouts and cuts these first few days," Compliment

said. "Forty is the most we've had tryout for quite some time. Generally we

have around 35. The higher numbers leads to more competition for uniforms and playing time."

Cross country head coach John Reece is pulling

double duty this season as he, and assistant coach Paul Restivo, will also be

leading the new Louisburg Middle School program. The Wildcats have a combined

59 runners out between the two programs, including 37 on the high school side.

Louisburg returns a majority of its girls team that qualified for state a year ago, including its two state medalists in

senior Trinity Moore and sophomore Reese Johnson.

Despite a little hiccup with the heat during the first two days of workouts, coach Reece likes what he sees from both teams.

"It was great to get started, and yes the heat caused us to change our workout a little bit, but we still got in our

miles," Reece said. "We had a good turnout during summer running, so as a whole

they are ready to get to the good stuff and go compete.

"There is definitely a huge difference

with LMS joining the crew. Two coaches managing 59 kids is a lot, and we might

need more help for supervision as we get more personalized with workouts for

different levels of runners, but this is a good thing for Louisburg's cross

country program. It is going to be a fun year."

Soccer also saw a big increase in

interest as the Wildcats have 44 athletes trying out this season and they will

continue the tryout process through Thursday. It is a good problem to have for

head coach Kyle Conley and he has liked what he has seen so far as the Wildcats

look to take another step forward this year.

"The kids worked hard, but showed we have

a lot of work to do," Conley said. "We had a really, really good summer, but we

got a little rusty with the month off. This year we are getting back to focus

on our culture and getting back to playing for each other. The boys have been

focused and determined to improve this season."

However, the first two day of practices weren't without their challenges as intense heat and humidity caused some of the programs to change their schedules, including soccer, which moved its practice to the evening on Tuesday and spent some time indoors Monday.

heat was an interesting factor to go along with the late start due to the

KSHSAA schedule," Conley said. "We started in the AUX gym for the first hour

and 15 minutes then transitioned outside for an hour. It was frustrating but

the boys handled it very well."

#### With

the heat advisories, teams had to take precautions with their athletes and

everything seemed to go smoothly with the hot weather.

"There is nothing you can do about the heat, and it is not centralized to Louisburg, so everybody has to deal with it," Ebenstein said. "So you just do what you have to do when it comes to moving practice to the evening or whatever. I do not mind these hot early practices as it sets the tone that athletes need to take care of their bodies, and the acclimatization process gets going from the beginning. I would much rather have it this way instead of it being cool and the first hot week comes on a game week."

With the first day of practice starting

later than normal, the start of competition will also be pushed back. Team

scrimmages will be the Friday before Labor Day and actual competition won't

start until Sept. 3.

Soccer will host Fort Scott in its season

opener on Sept. 3 and volleyball will travel to Paola for dual on the same day.

Cross country opens its season on Sept. 5 at the Anderson County Invitational

and football will travel to Spring Hill on Sept. 6.

# Juarez excited for new beginning with MidAmerica Nazarene



Noah Juarez signed his letter of intent to play soccer for MidAmerica Nazarene University last May alongside Pioneer coach Kevin Wardlaw.

Noah Juarez has always wanted to play collegiate soccer and he wasn't ready to give up the sport after playing two years at Johnson County Community College.

Juarez, who is a 2016 Louisburg High School graduate, was looking for a new landing spot when his time with JCCC was up. He found the perfect spot not too far from home.

Early in the summer, Juarez signed his letter of intent to play for MidAmerica Nazarene University and he is excited to join the Pioneer program.

"I'm so

thrilled to be playing for such a great school," Juarez said. "The academic

side and soccer is at a very high level and I'm blessed to have the

#### opportunity."

#### Juarez

will be joining a very competitive MidAmerica Nazarene program that finishes

toward the top of the Heart of America Conference each year and he will see

playing time in the midfield. He will play under coach Kevin Wardlaw, who has

led the Pioneers to the national semifinals twice, including a runner-up finish in 2015.

#### Last

season, the Pioneers finished with a 12-7 record and lost in the conference

semifinals, but Juarez believes his new team can accomplish big things this year.

"We have very high expectations in our league," Juarez said. "We plan to finish first in our league, but if not that, then definitely in the top 3. We have one of the most competitive leagues in the nation, so it will be a tough test.

#### "Individually,

my role isn't to score the most goals or be the main man. I just want to be

someone who can control the midfield and control the tempo of the game. As long

as I stay disciplined, focused, and have a high work rate, things will fall into place."

#### After

finishing his two years at JCCC, Juarez found out he had to have surgery on his

foot and he knew the process back from that was going to be a

difficult one.

"I was

a little worried the beginning of the season because I had foot surgery in May

and had to place a screw in my 5th metatarsal bone," Juarez said. "It was a

long and tedious process but I was just about at 100 percent by the beginning

of preseason. It has definitely been something to get used to, and I've had to

adjust how I play a tad, but I am still looking to be a vital piece to the MNU program."



Noah Juarez scores a goal on a bicycle kick his senior year for the Wildcats.

Juarez,

who is majoring in business management and leadership, almost didn't commit to

MidAmerica as he had an opportunity to play somewhere else

last spring but a last-minute surprise kept him closer to home.

#### "I was

about to commit to North Park University (Chicago) all throughout the spring

semester and had a Division 2 school in Miami, Berry University, who had just

won the National Championship last season in contention as well. It wasn't

until May when I found myself in contention with MNU.

"I had a teammate from JCCC who had committed to MNU the year before me, and after talking to him and the help from my club coach, Daouda Kante, things started to develop a little more at MNU. After a couple of meetings with Coach Wardlaw, I found where I belonged."

Juarez was a big part of the Wildcat soccer program in his four seasons. Not only did he start all four years of high school, he earned all-Frontier League and all-state honors each season.

In his senior year, Juarez led the Wildcats with 18 goals and had seven assists as he was one of several players to help Louisburg to a fourth-place finish at state — the best finish in program history.

After finding some success at JCCC, fitting into the Pioneer team hasn't been a problem for Juarez and his transition has been seamless thanks to his

## new coach.

"I have

been fortunate to start my first few scrimmages, although, it hasn't been easy,"

he said. "There are only 10 local kids on the team where the rest are

internationals. The competition is very high. I have been starting in the center

defensive midfield, but I have also been utilized as an attacking mid as well.

#### "The

coaching at MNU has been a very good change for me. MNU plays a very possessive

style of soccer where I can flourish. I have learned a lot already and pushed  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) +\left( 1$ 

to new limits. Coach Wardlaw is a very intense, analytical person and only

wants success for the team and us individually in the classroom."