

Wildcats one win away from regional title



Louisburg senior Parker Cates tries to beat a Fort Scott player to a 50-50 ball Monday during the first round of the regional playoffs in Louisburg. The Wildcats knocked off No. 2 seed Independence on Tuesday and will play for the regional title Thursday in Coffeyville.

INDEPENDENCE, Kan. – The Louisburg High School boys soccer team is one step closer its goal of a regional championship.

The Wildcats, the No. 7 seed in the regional tournament, pulled off a big upset Tuesday when it ousted No. 2 Independence with a 3-1 victory at Independence High School.

With the win, the Wildcats are now in the regional championship game against No. 3 seed Coffeyville-Field Kindley. Coffeyville defeated No. 6 Paola in double overtime. Louisburg will travel to Coffeyville for a 4:30 p.m. start Thursday.

“Independence is a very skilled team and they played well, but this was a great win for us obviously,” Louisburg coach Ben York said. “It puts us in the regional title game and we are playing well right now. We are not the team that entered the tournament with a 4-10-2 record. We are a better team than

that now. We just had a rough start to our season. I have always felt that we could play with anybody.”

The Wildcats (6-10-2) wasted no time proving that as they got on the board 20 minutes into the match. Senior T.J. Svoboda passed to fellow senior Parker Cates, who scored his first of two goals in the contest.



Defender Hunter Mitchell knocks the ball away from a Fort Scott player Monday in Louisburg.

A few minutes later, Independence tied the match on a lapse in the Wildcat defense, but Louisburg would respond.

Late in the first half, Louisburg scored on another give-and-go as Svoboda found junior Noah Juarez who struck the ball at the top of the box passed the Independence goalie. The Wildcats had a 2-1 lead at halftime.

“We did a lot better job of moving the ball around and we did a good job of getting good shots,” York said. “It was definitely one of our better games of the year. These guys know that it is win or go home and it is also nice to have everyone healthy and have our full lineup out there.”

Louisburg put the game away in the second half when sophomore

Christian Scholtz took a shot on goal. The shot was saved, but Cates got the rebound and put the ball in the back of the net.

“It was great to see Parker get those two goals, and he also got two goals in the game against Fort Scott, so I am sure that is giving him some confidence right now,” York said. “He, and a lot of other guys were struggling to convert those opportunities but we have gotten a little better as of late.”

The Wildcats defense also picked up the slack as they allowed just the one shot on goal. Defenders Scott Murphy and Jairus Brown helped mark up on the Independence scoring threats and senior sweeper Cale Schneider also provided solid play as well.

Now, the Wildcats are hoping they can get that one more win when they get to Coffeyville Thursday that will put them into the state quarterfinals

“After doing a little bit of research, I think Coffeyville is pretty comparable team to Paola and a few other teams we have played,” York said. “We have every opportunity to go down there and get a win but we have to play well and I know the guys are excited about the opportunity.”

Wildcats roll Fort Scott

Just like in its season opener against Fort Scott, the Louisburg boys soccer team made quick work of the Tigers.

The Wildcats scored five goals in each half on their way to 10-0 victory in the first round of the regional playoffs Monday in Louisburg. The match was ended with six minutes left due to the 10-goal mercy rule.

It was a sluggish start, but once the Wildcats scored their first goal in the 27th minute, the flood gates opened. Seniors

Parker Cates and T.J. Svoboda, along with junior Noah Juarez, each scored two goals in the contest.

“The environment to this game was all about the first time we played them,” Louisburg coach Ben York said. “I think the guys had that in the back of their minds and that is why we got off to a little bit of a rough start. They were a little uptight to start, but I just let them figure it out and they were finally able to get going and we did a good job at putting some shots away.”

Cates put the Wildcats on the board first when Juarez put a shot on goal, it was saved, but Cates was there to put in the rebound. Sophomore Christian Schultz and Svoboda scored goals in the next two minutes to make it 3-0.

Raistlin Brewer and Juarez scored goals of their own to make it 5-0 at half. Five minutes into the second half, Cates found the back of the net for his second goal to continue the onslaught.

In the 45th minute, Juarez had a ball come sharply back to him 40 yards away, and with the Fort Scott goalie away from the net, struck the ball to the empty goal for a 7-0 advantage.

The Wildcats had another nice goal in the 49th minute when Brewer hit a cross into the box and Svoboda slid in between two Fort Scott defenders to get his second tally.

Louisburg sealed the win when Curran Conklin and Cale Schneider each scored to give the Wildcats 10 goals.

Wildcats fight hard on senior night



Louisburg's Noah Juarez goes up for the bicycle kick in the box during the Wildcats' final home contest Thursday against Ottawa. The shot found the back of the net for the Wildcats' first goal, but Louisburg fell 3-2. The Wildcats also honored their seven seniors during the senior night ceremony following the game.

As Louisburg High soccer coach Ben York looked onto the field in the waning seconds of his team's final regular season contest, he saw one thing.

York saw a never-give-up attitude – especially from his seniors.

It was fitting that his seniors left it all out on the pitch in the Wildcats' 3-2 loss on senior night to Ottawa on Thursday in Louisburg. It was a night filled with mixed emotions as Jairus Brown, Parker Cates, Hunter Mitchell, Michael Minster, Cale Schneider and T.J. Svoboda were recognized following the contest.

“Most of these guys have been varsity from the very first second that they came into the program,” York said. “It has been fun to watch them progress. Our whole team progression

goes as our seniors go. When they play well, we play well.”

For the most part, the Wildcats played strong, considering Ottawa blanked Louisburg back in early September. Playing without sophomore midfielder Grant Ryals who was out with an illness, Louisburg was forced to reshuffle their lineup again.

The injury moved Brown to midfielder and brought Curran Conklin off the bench to start on defense. Despite that, the Wildcats were ready to go from the start.

Cates, Brown and Mitchell all had shots on goal in the first two minutes of the contest, but the Wildcats didn't let up on their shots on goal.

Junior Noah Juarez received a cross into the box when he decided to go up into the air in a group of Ottawa defenders for a bicycle kick. The move worked as he fired the ball into the right corner and gave the Wildcats a 1-0 in the 11th minute.

“That was the best goal I have seen here in probably seven or eight years,” York said. “That is something that he practices all the time. He got a great cross and he got on the end of it. I was fortunate that I was at the right angle where I was able to see it, because if I would have missed it then it would have been a real bummer. It was fantastic and the goalie didn't have a chance to stop it.”



Louisburg High School soccer

seniors were honored on senior night Thursday. The LHS seniors (from left) are Michael Minster, T.J. Svobda, manager Lilly Scott, Cale Schneider, head coach Ben York, Jairus Brown, Parker Cates and Hunter Mitchell.

Ottawa went on the attack in the 27th minute when the Cyclones struck a shot on goal, but was saved by Minster as he came out of the goal. The shot rebounded back to an Ottawa player who had an empty net, but his shot was knocked away by Schneider.

The scrum around the goal continued as Minster saved another shot, but this time the Cyclones were there for the rebound again and tied it up.

Sophomore Christian Scholtz had the best chance to give the Wildcats the lead back in the 36th minute, but his shot from the left shot rolled across the top of the post and rolled out. The game stayed tied 1-1 at halftime.

Ottawa scored two goals within minutes of each other, with the final one coming in the 58th minute to put the Cyclones up 3-1.

The Wildcats (4-10-2) didn't give up as Juarez had a shot in the box that was deflected by Ottawa, but sophomore Raistlin Brewer was right there for the rebound and found the back of the net in the 63rd minute to make it 3-2.

"We conceded some silly goals," York said. "It hurts not playing with your starting midfielder in Grant, and we are not a team that does well when we are not our full unit. We don't have a whole lot of depth in our group. Our seniors did a good job to carry us to the result we had, which was a more

reasonable result than 3-1 would have been.

“We had a lot more possession of the ball and we did a lot more with it than we did the last time we played. We have progressed a lot since the beginning of the season.”

Despite the loss, the six Wildcat seniors will have at least one more home game. Louisburg begins the regional playoffs at 4:30 p.m. today as the No. 7 seed Wildcats host No. 10 Fort Scott (2-14) in the East Regional. The Wildcats defeated Fort Scott 10-0 earlier in the season.

Should the Wildcats advance, they will travel to No. 2 Independence (9-7) for a 4 p.m. start Tuesday with the regional championship set for Thursday.

“We have the type of team that can surprise some people in the playoffs,” York said. “We can play with any team in our region. We have played two of the top teams in our region and we have played them pretty tough. We have to get this first game out of the way, but I feel like we are an uptick and we can play well. If we can win two games then we are in the regional championship, and that is what we want.”

Wildcats hang with state-ranked De Soto



Louisburg's Christian Scholtz makes a move past a Baldwin defender during Monday's contest in Louisburg. The Wildcats lost the contest 2-0 and also fell to De Soto on Tuesday, 2-0.

If facing the No. 2 team in Class 4A on the road wasn't hard enough, the Louisburg High School boys' soccer team had to do it down a goal.

The Wildcats made their way back to De Soto on Tuesday after the game was postponed on Oct. 8 due to bad weather. De Soto managed to score a goal in the first five minutes before the game was called.

When it was finally over, the Wildcats still fell 2-0 to De Soto, but Louisburg coach Ben York couldn't have left more encouraged from what he saw.

"To be honest, that might have been one of the better games we have played all season," York said. "I thought it was the best we have played as a group this season and we played hard. Sure we came in down 1-0, and we could have easily just let it play out, but when we started back up we played like it was 0-0 again and that was good to see. They didn't back down and we had our chances to score."

Louisburg (4-9-1) did have its opportunities to find the back of the net. The Wildcats had eight shots on goal, including three chances that were close to the 6-yard box.

Senior T.J. Svoboda got past the De Soto defender for a 1-on-1 with the goalie near the box, but the shot sailed just wide of the goal.



Junior Noah Juarez slides to knock the ball away from a Baldwin player Monday in Louisburg.

Junior Noah Juarez also had a couple different opportunities on deflections near the goal, but his shot either hit off a De Soto defender or was saved by the goalie. Cale Schneider, Herman Knipp and Christian Scholtz also had shots on goal.

“It seems like have been saying this all season, but we are getting plenty of chances to score, we just need to get better at finding the back of the net,” York said. “It will come and then I think it will just open up for these guys. We are really close, but haven’t turned the corner yet. It will happen though.”

The Wildcats also limited De Soto to just five shots on goal and had one of their better games defensively, according to York.

“I thought Michael (Minster) really made some nice saves in goal for us,” York said. “I thought defensively we played pretty well and I thought it was our best overall game as far as our ability to defend and then attack. We did both things well and hopefully we can turn things around in our next two games. We are probably the best 4-9-1 team out there and I know we are better than our record shows. We just have to put it together.”

Louisburg will try and snap its 3-game losing skid today when it travels to Eudora. The Wildcats will return home one final time Tuesday when it hosts Ottawa on senior night.

Wildcats fall to Baldwin

Louisburg had a chance to avenge a loss from earlier in the season Monday when it hosted Baldwin, but the Wildcats couldn't muster the offense.

Baldwin scored a goal in each half to pull away for a 2-0 victory over Louisburg. The Wildcats had their chances, especially in the second half.

After Baldwin scored a goal in the 15th minute to take a 1-0 lead into halftime, the Wildcats put together several shots on goal in the second half. Their best chance came early on when the Baldwin goalie was called for a penalty after picking up the ball in the box after it was passed to him by his own teammate.

Louisburg had an opportunity just inside the 18-yard box, but the kick was knocked away by the De Soto defense. With 28 minutes left in the game, T.J. Svoboda blew past his defender for a shot in the box, but went wide left.

Just three minutes later, midfielder Grant Ryals sent a pass up to teammate Christian Scholtz, whose shot sailed just over the post.

Baldwin put the game away later in the second half when Noah Buckley scored his second goal of the game on a 1-on-1 opportunity with the goalie.

Louisburg comes up short against Spring Hill

Louisburg had another shot at revenge from a loss earlier in the year when the Wildcats hosted Spring Hill on Oct. 6.

It didn't work out the way the Wildcats had hoped.

Spring Hill put the game away with two second half goals in the 4-1 victory over Louisburg. The Broncos jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first half and never looked back.

Louisburg did cut Spring Hill's lead in half when Grant Ryals' shot hit off the right post and into the net in the 37th minute.

Four minutes into the second half, Spring Hill scored after the Wildcat defense misplayed a ball and then scored again a few minutes later on a cross into the box.

Wildcats overcome odds to beat Paola



Louisburg junior Noah Juarez (right) boots the ball away from the Wildcat net during their match with Paola last month. The Wildcats traveled to Paola on Thursday and came away with a 3-1 victory to avenge a loss earlier in the year.

PAOLA – Playing with a full 11 players on the soccer pitch is hard enough to get a win, but to compete with only 10 makes it extremely difficult.

The Louisburg soccer team played all but 15 minutes with a man down during Thursday's road contest in Paola. In the end, the Wildcats made it look a lot easier than it actually was.

Louisburg strung together three second half goals on its way to a 3-1 win over the Panthers. The win was an even bigger one for the Wildcats as they avenged a loss to Paola from earlier in the season and have now won three in a row.

"I am not sure why, but it seemed like we played better when we had just 10 guys on the field," Louisburg coach Ben York said. "I am not sure if we were just more focused or fired up because of what happened, but we were able to control most of the game, which was great to see. We had to move some guys around in different spots, but everyone responded well and we played together."

It all started 10 minutes into the match when defender Cale Schneider and a Paola player both received yellow cards. A few minutes later, the Wildcats were awarded a free kick. Schneider set the ball quickly and kicked it.

The ball hit the Paola player, who wasn't the required 10 yards away from the play according to York, and Schneider received his second yellow card, which became a red and was forced to leave the game. The red card also means Schneider will miss the next contest as well.

"Cale was just trying to play fast and get the ball up the field," York said. "I didn't agree with the call as I didn't think he did anything wrong there, but you have to go with what the official called. It was unfortunate for us, but I thought our guys responded well to the challenge of playing a

man down.”

With Schneider, the Wildcats’ defensive leader out of the game, York moved midfielder Noah Juarez back to stopper to help contain the Paola attack. Defenders Hunter Mitchell and Jairus Brown also made up for the loss of Schneider with strong play in the back as well.

As it turned out, it was Juarez who led the Wildcat offensive attack as well. Juarez scored two goals to give Louisburg a scoring boost and senior T.J. Svoboda added a goal of his own.

After a scoreless first half, Svoboda scored in the opening minutes of the second half to put Louisburg up 1-0, but the lead didn’t last long as Paola responded and tied the match just minutes later.

Louisburg (4-6-1) took the lead for good midway through the second half as Paola was called for a foul in the box, the Wildcats were awarded a penalty kick and Juarez converted the opportunity.

Juarez gave the Wildcats a two-goal lead later on a free kick from 25 yards out that found the back of the net.

“I thought we really controlled possession as we had a lot of shots on goal, especially in the second half,” York said. “I think we had like 20 for the game, so that was definitely great to see.”

Louisburg will try for another revenge win at 4 p.m. today when it hosts Spring Hill. The Wildcats fell to the Broncos 2-1 earlier in the season and they hope they can add another win to their streak.

“You can tell with the games we have had recently that we have gotten more opportunities and we are gaining more confidence, which is what we need,” York said. “We are playing better and we are a better team than when we played Spring Hill a few

weeks ago. We just need to go out and show it, and I think we can.”

Junior varsity soccer off to good start



Louisburg’s Chris Williams (left) battles a Piper player for a 50-50 ball during a home match last month. The Wildcats are 6-2-2 to start their season and have 36 goals so far on the season.

The Louisburg High School junior varsity soccer team has had no problems scoring goals this season and it has picked up its fair share of wins along the way.

The Wildcats currently have a 6-2-2 record on the year and have scored 36 goals in their 10 games so far. Louisburg won three of its first four matches to start the season and outscored its opponents 14-1 with blowout wins over Fort Scott, Ottawa and Paola.

New junior varsity coach Tanner O’Hara couldn’t have asked for a better start with his new group and he likes what he sees

from his team moving forward.

“This season has been pretty good for us, especially with this being my first season and new to the kids, as they are with me,” O’Hara said. “I am still trying to figure out where my players will be most effective for us. They have played very hard every game and even if we get down by a goal they never give up. I am very pleased with their work ethic.

“I am still tweaking the lineup to give us the best opportunity for the game. The skill level of the team is there, it’s just a matter of getting more chemistry with each other and knocking the ball around. With the season being halfway over, I see a very bright future for the team.”

The Wildcats squared off with De Soto in their fifth game of the season and recorded their first tie. Jonathan Ventre scored the two goals for Louisburg in the 2-all match.

Louisburg responded in a big way as it blanked Baldwin 4-0 in its next match. Eric Vazquez, David Holiday, Calvin Cassida and Ty Martin all had goals for the Wildcats. After a 2-0 loss to Piper gave the Wildcats their second defeat on the season, they responded once again.

The Wildcats defeated Eudora, tied with Bonner Springs and downed Paola on Thursday.

On Sept. 22, Louisburg traveled to Eudora and left with an 8-0 victory. Ventre led the way with a two goals and two assists, while Jacob Benne added two goals. Martin, Kristoffer Aye, Kris Light and Jon Paul Totta each found the back of the net to complete the scoring.

Louisburg tied Bonner Springs 3-3 on Sept. 24 before taking care of business against Paola in a 5-1 win. Martin finished with two goals to lead Louisburg over Paola, while Cassida, Jacob Arnett and Jacob Anderson also scored goals.

Macyn White, Kolten Ragan, Timothy Smith, Chris Williams, Nick Hamamy and goalie Ambrose Stefan also are playing for the junior varsity team this season.

Late goals lift Wildcats in overtime



Louisburg sophomore Grant Ryals pumps his fists as teammates (from left) Noah Juarez, Hunter Mitchell, T.J. Svoboda and Cale Schneider mob him after Ryals scored the game-tying goal in the 78th minute in the Wildcats 2-1 overtime victory Monday in Louisburg.

For 78 minutes, the Louisburg boys soccer team was staring at another gut-wrenching defeat.

The Wildcats have been a part of too many of them already this season – six to be exact. Down a goal with two minutes left in Monday’s home match with Heritage Christian, the Wildcats were in desperate need of one.

Sophomores Grant Ryals and Christian Scholtz were happy to oblige.

Ryals hit a shot in the 78th minute that found the back of the net to force overtime. In the extra period, Scholtz answered with a goal of his own on a run down the left side of the field that gave the Wildcats a 2-1 victory.

“The kids played hard,” Louisburg coach Ben York said. “I kept telling them it was eventually going to come and we will get a goal. Grant tucked a nice shot away and put it right in the corner.

“We are learning how we work offensively. We are learning where we want to play certain balls and it is just trial by error for these guys. Typically you have those things ironed out before the season, but we will take it now. A few game here in the middle of the season have allowed us to do that.”

The Wildcats (3-6-1) have two victories and a tie in their last three matches and have been struggling to score goals. It was frustrating at times Monday for Louisburg as it peppered the Heritage goalie with nearly 20 shots on goal.



Christian Scholtz sends his game-winning goal into the back of the net Monday in Louisburg.

Seniors T.J. Svoboda, Parker Cates, junior Noah Juarez, along with Ryals and Scholtz, all had shots on goal throughout the game, but came up empty. Heritage Christian scored its lone goal with less than a minute left in the first half when a high-arching free kick from 40 yards out was placed just out of the reach of Louisburg goalie Michael Minster and gave it a 1-0 halftime lead.

The Wildcats had their best chance at a goal late in the second half when Heritage was called for a foul in the box. Juarez was awarded a penalty kick, but the Heritage goalie made the diving save to keep the Wildcats scoreless.

Then came the dramatics.

Ryals struck the ball near the top of the box that snuck past the outstretched hands of the Heritage goalie to tie the match in the 78th minute to force overtime.

Heritage Christian gave the Wildcats a scare on a couple different occasions in overtime. Three minutes into the extra period, Heritage hit a free kick from 35 yards away that was heading for the corner of the net but Minster was able to knock it away.

Minster came up big again just minutes later as another Heritage shot on goal deflected off a player and the ball rolled to the line. The Louisburg goalie dove to make the save just before it reached the line.

Defenders Jairus Brown, Scott Murphy, Cale Schneider and Hunter Mitchell all made big slide tackles at times to relieve some of the Heritage pressure.

"We are still in the game because Michael makes an extremely athletic play that most goalkeepers don't make," York said. "The one shot from 35 yards out was heading for the upper 90 and Michael did what Michael does. He saved a goal right there. He really excited the guys through his play. He is one

of the more athletic guys on our team and he was able to redeem himself a little bit.”

Nine minutes into overtime, Scholtz added a little flair of his own as he used his left foot to send a rocket shot that found the corner of the net and gave the Wildcats the 2-1 victory.

“Christian had a real good game,” York said. “I put him in a different spot offensively that has allowed him to have more touches on the ball and more freedom to move. He has a wicked left foot and he leads our team with eight goals this year. It was good to see him get a solid shot on goal. That keeper thought he was going far post and he went near post and the keeper couldn’t move.”

The Wildcats will go for their third straight victory Thursday when they travel to Paola and they hope to redeem a loss from earlier in the season.

“We are going into Paola’s game with good confidence and I know that we can win,” York said. “I also know that if we make silly mistakes that we can concede silly goals to Paola as well and that has already happened. So we just need to play smart and finish our shots which I know we can do.”

Louisburg downs Bonner Springs

Louisburg was able to get its first win since the beginning of the season last Thursday when it traveled to Bonner Springs.

The Wildcats were able to get a late first half goal which gave them the momentum they needed to pull away for a 3-1 victory over the Braves.

Raistlin Brewer gave the Wildcats their first goal of the game late in the first half when he headed the ball into the net on a cross and Louisburg took a 1-0 lead into halftime.

Senior T.J. Svoboda came through in the second half for Louisburg. Svoboda scored in the opening minute and tacked on another goal 20 minute later to put the game away.

“The game against Bonner Springs was more of an accurate representation of what type of team we actually are,” York said. “It was more of a normal setting for us because we were able to play under the lights with junior varsity playing first. They were amped up and when it came down to it, we were the better team and we were able to finish. I thought we played very well.”

Wildcats end losing streak with tie to Eudora



Louisburg senior Jairus Brown clears the ball away during Tuesday’s home match with Eudora. The Wildcats ended their six-game losing streak with a 2-2 tie to the Cardinals.

The Louisburg boys soccer team saw one streak go by the

wayside, while another stayed intact following Tuesday's home contest with Eudora.

For the Wildcats, both were positives.

Although it wasn't a victory, Louisburg ended a six-game losing skid with a 2-2 tie of Eudora after the Wildcats rallied from a two-goal deficit in the first half.

The other streak remained alive as Louisburg has still not lost to Eudora in the 13-year program history. Those were enough to leave some positive vibes around the team despite not getting a victory.

"I would have rather us got the win, but those things mean something about being able to fight back," Louisburg coach Ben York said. "We are this close, with a little shift in confidence and a couple of things going our way, that we can turn it around. We have the potential to win several games down the stretch."

Louisburg (1-6-1) possessed the ball for much of the second half and two overtime periods. With that, the Wildcats had plenty of chances to win the game in regulation and several opportunities in overtime.

The Wildcats had 23 shots on goal for the game, with a lot of those in the final part of the match. Whether the ball wasn't struck just right, or a shot hit off the post or the goalkeeper made the save, they put themselves in a position to win.

"The hardest part about this game is not clearing a ball out of the back, but it is taking a shot and you only have eight feet on one side or the other of the goalie to finish those shots," York said. "We work on it in practice, but we haven't had a lot of opportunities in games."



Midfielder Grant Ryals heads the ball away Tuesday during the Wildcats' home match with Eudora.

"We have to find a way to finish those and we will. We haven't been that offensive to have a lot of those opportunities and that is one of the more frustrating things when you are trying to build a team. We could have scored literally eight goals and we just couldn't finish. Eudora played really hard and really tough and that is the best Eudora has looked in a long time, but we need to finish those."

Eudora jumped on Louisburg early as it opened the game with two first half goals, but the Wildcats didn't hang their heads and fought back. Sophomore Christian Scholtz cut the lead in half with the team's first goal, then senior T.J. Svoboda followed that up to tie the game late in the first half.

The Wildcats also made a defensive adjustment late in the first half as they moved senior forward Jairus Brown back on defense to help mark up on Eudora's main offensive threat.

The Cardinals didn't get many chances to score in the second half, while the Wildcats took over and peppered Eudora with shots in the overtime. Svoboda, Scholtz, Herman Knipp, Curran

Conklin, Grant Ryals and Noah Juarez all had shots on goal, but couldn't find the back of the net.

Louisburg, despite playing a close match the day before, had more energy than Eudora toward the end of the match, which kept the Wildcats in it.

"We were tired and we didn't come out strong to start," York said. "However, our conditioning is what kept us in it till the end. You say it and say it to the guys, but our conditioning is the reason we were able to get all those opportunities in the end. You watch their guys come off with cramps, and we had played a game the day before and then went to double overtime in this one, and we were still making runs and getting shots."

Louisburg will try for a win tonight when it travels to Bonner Springs. The Wildcats will then return home Monday to play Heritage Christian.

Wildcats fall to Piper

Louisburg was on the verge of seeing its losing ways come to an end Monday when it hosted Piper.

Instead, the Wildcats watched as the Pirates scored two goals in the final six minutes and fell 3-2. Louisburg had the lead on two occasions, but both times Piper answered the Wildcat score.

In the 23rd minute, junior Noah Juarez gave Louisburg an early lead with a strong shot in the box and the Wildcats held that lead at halftime. To start the second half, Piper scored in the 47th minute to tie the game.

It stayed that way until the 73rd minute when sophomore Christian Scholtz hit a shot that sailed over the goalie's

head. The momentum stayed with the Wildcats for about 30 seconds, which was when Piper tied the game with a quick goal.

In the 89th minute, Piper struck the ball hard and the shot went off the right post and bounced in.

“The most frustrating part about it is we don’t know what it feels like as a team, when we are up late, how to put the opponent away because that is where we had them,” Louisburg coach Ben York said. “It was a step in the right direction though. We were able to score some goals which we hadn’t done in a while. Plus, now these guys know what they have to do to put teams away when we are up late and it is a good learning experience for them.”

Wildcats fall to De Soto but see improvements



Louisburg goalie Michael Minster prepares to stop a shot on goal from a De Soto player during Tuesday’s home contest. Minster finished the game with nine saves but Louisburg fell 2-0.

In the midst of a three-game losing skid, the Louisburg High

School boys' soccer team didn't see much relief in its schedule Tuesday when it hosted Frontier League leader De Soto.

That streak extended to four games in a 2-0 loss, but Wildcat coach Ben York knew what his team was up against and he saw a lot of progress.

"They are a better team than we are," York said. "They are bigger, faster and more experienced. But we fought hard and I am glad to see that because that is a step in the right direction for our guys. We have a pretty good stretch of games that we have a chance to win and that will help us out because we need points to get a better game in the postseason."

Louisburg (1-4) played De Soto to a scoreless draw in the first half and both teams had their chances to score. The Wildcats had six shots on goal in the first half and had some good opportunities to score.

T.J. Svoboda, Raistlin Brewer, Noah Juarez, Kolten Ragan and Christian Scholtz all had shots on goal and they were putting some pressure on the De Soto defense.

De Soto had chances as well as it put eight shots on goal, but senior goalkeeper Michael Minster came away with some big saves to keep the game scoreless. Minster finished the match with nine saves.



Louisburg's Raistlin Brewer heads the ball away during the Wildcats' home match Tuesday against De Soto.

"Michael did great," York said. "He has that ability to play that way every time out. We have been working with Michael on positioning and when to decide to come out. That is a good team to have that happen against because it is a huge confidence booster for him. He had nine saves and that was great for him. It was good for our defense too and we are still learning."

The Wildcats were also playing a little short-handed as senior defender Hunter Mitchell and senior forward Jairus Brown both missed the game with an illness and the team was forced to move some players around.

One of those moves came at the sweeper spot as York moved senior Cale Schneider from forward to help shore up the defense and he liked what he saw.

"We played good today," York said. "We tried a little something new and we are moving forward I think. We played against a top 10 team in the state without Hunter and Jairus, who were out sick, and honestly it was good for us. It wasn't good that they were gone, but I think I found a sweeper for the back.

"I thought Cale did great. I know it is a bite for his pride to go back there, but he led us very well out there today. De Soto has some really talented kids on that team."

De Soto broke up the scoreless match nine minutes into the second half to take the lead. It answered with another goal with a minute left to seal the win despite strong defensive play from Schneider, Parker Cates, Scott Murphy, Curran Conklin and Jacob Benne.

Despite the loss, York knows his team is moving in the right direction.

“I think people might look at our record and just assume we aren’t playing very well,” he said. “I don’t feel that way yet and I don’t see that coming either. We are still healthy, we are playing well and we are still trying to figure out who goes where the best. If it happens to take us a little longer then I am ok with that. I have never been about how many wins we get in a season. We fought well and played good as a team.”

Louisburg returns to action today when it travels to Baldwin. The varsity is set to begin at 4 p.m.

Wildcats fall to Spring Hill

On Sept. 10, the Louisburg boys soccer team traveled to Spring Hill and went toe-toe with the Broncos, but came up just short in a 2-1 loss.

Down two goals at halftime, senior T.J. Svoboda helped bring the Wildcats back as he scored an unassisted sliding goal midway through the second half.

The Wildcats had another shot at a goal when Noah Juarez received a pass toward the back post, dribbled behind the defender and his shot hit the post and went in. Unfortunately, Juarez was called for offsides and the goal was disallowed.

“We probably should have won that game,” York said. “We just had a couple of calls that didn’t go our way. They guys still worked really hard and did a good job to get back in it.”

Missed chances hurt Cats in loss to Paola



Junior Noah Juarez heads the ball away during Louisburg's home match with Paola on Tuesday. The Wildcats took an early lead, but couldn't hold on in the 2-1 loss to the Panthers and they have now lost two straight.

Less than 15 seconds into the match, the Louisburg soccer team converted on one of its toughest goals in the short season.

Herman Knipp crossed the ball into the box and found the head of Christian Scholtz, who put it in the back of the net to give the Wildcats an early lead over Paola.

It was the easy opportunities that gave the Wildcats problems.

Louisburg had several chances to put some distance between itself and Paola on Tuesday in Louisburg, but the Panthers took advantage of a couple Wildcat mistakes to steal a 2-1 game.

"The frustrating part for me was we were the more talented team and we didn't win, but that will happen from time to time," Louisburg coach Ben York said. "You have to give Paola

credit. They are a better team than they were a year ago and they played hard. We just had so many chances and we just didn't take advantage.

"Right now we are lacking that instinct to put teams away, and the longer you let an opponent hang around the more confidence they get. We just need to put this behind us and figure out how to get better."



Louisburg defender Jacob Benne heads the ball away Tuesday during the Wildcats' home game with Paola.

The Wildcats (1-2) had approximately 20 shots on goal, many of which were either just wide or were stopped on big saves from Paola goalie Alex Slawson.

Following Scholtz's goal to open the match, the game remained at a back-and-forth pace until midway through the first half when Paola's Niklas Kramer scored on a 1-on-1 with Louisburg goalie Michael Minster.

Late in the first half, the Panthers nearly took the lead but Minster knocked away a shot at the top of the net to keep the

game tied. Louisburg junior Noah Juarez found himself in a 1-on-1 situation with Slawson right before halftime, but his shot went wide left.

It was much of the same in the second half. Juarez, Jairus Brown, Scholtz, Cale Schneider and T.J. Svoboda all had shots on goal, but couldn't convert.

The Panthers were able to take advantage of a Wildcat miscue on defense midway through the second half as Paola's Manny Velasquez took a shot that hit the right post and went in.

"We have known since the beginning of the season that weakest part of our team is defense," York said. "We are a little young and inexperienced back there and we made a couple of mistakes. We just have to play better overall as a team. We have to start playing with more confidence."

The Wildcats continued to put pressure on Slawson all the way up to the final seconds. With under 10 seconds left, Louisburg passed the ball up the field to Knipp, who dribbled into the box.

Knipp was taken down and the side official waved his flag to indicate a foul that would have given Louisburg a penalty kick and a chance to tie the game once again.

However, the head official had declared that time already expired before the foul was committed.

"Normally, in situations like that the head referee will go to his AR (assistant referee) and talk with him to see if the right call was made," York said. "But the head referee never went over to talk with him and that is his choice. It was just a big moment in the game that could have given us a penalty kick, and possibly tied the game, so I just figured he would have double checked with his AR."

Louisburg will try and snap its two-game skid today when it

travels to Spring Hill. Varsity action is set to begin at 6 p.m.

Wildcats lose first game of season to Ottawa

Coming off an easy win to start the season, Louisburg ran up against a tough Frontier League opponent in Ottawa on Sept. 3.

Ottawa pulled away in the second half and Louisburg fell 3-0 at Ottawa High School to record its first loss of the season. The Cyclones scored one goal in the first half and the Wildcats had their chances to tie or take the lead, but Ottawa scored two late goals in the second half to seal the win.

“We definitely had our chances in the Ottawa game, we just shot ourselves in the foot a couple different times,” York said. “Ottawa is a good quality team, but what they do best is take advantage of other teams’ mistakes, and we made a couple in the back that hurt us. We just stood around and watched the ball a couple times. Ottawa may have only had like five shots on goal but they made them count.”

Wildcats blank Fort Scott in opener



Louisburg's Grant Ryals pulls back on a ball to try and get past a Fort Scott defender during Tuesday's season opener in Louisburg. The Wildcats ran away with the match to win 10-0 and scored eight first half goals.

Thirty seconds into the match, T.J. Svoboda found himself one-on-one with the Fort Scott goalkeeper.

Svoboda's shot found the back of the net, and in the blink of an eye, Louisburg had its first lead of the season. Three hat tricks, and about 50 minutes later, the Wildcats had their first win.

Louisburg had no problem with the lesser-experienced Fort Scott team Tuesday in its home opener as it rolled to a 10-0 victory. The match was called 12 minutes into the second half once the Wildcats got their 10th goal.

"We trained really hard all summer and these guys were just ready to play against somebody and that was unfortunate for Fort Scott," Louisburg coach Ben York said. "Fort Scott is a young team and I know they will only get better, but we did some good things as well. It was nice to have a game where we can get our feet wet and try some things out."

The Wildcats were definitely able to work on their shooting skills as they peppered the Fort Scott defense with shot after shot from the game's opening seconds. Louisburg was able to take advantage of some Tiger mistakes in the back to take an early lead.

Senior Cale Schneider, junior Noah Juarez and sophomore Christian Scholtz answered for the Wildcats as they scored three goals each to complete the shutout and quickly get their first hat tricks of the season.

"It went well," Schneider said. "We got a lot of time on the

ball, and since the competition wasn't as good, we were able to work it around and get a good feel for how the team looks this year.

"Going into the game, there was a little nerves just because it was the first game, but once T.J. scored that first goal we just got into a rhythm and went on from there."



Defender Scott Murphy heads the ball away from a Fort Scott player Tuesday in the Wildcats' season opener in Louisburg.

Following Svoboda's goal, the Wildcats put the pressure on as they put five shots on goal in the next 10 minutes before Scholtz scored his first goal of the game in the 11th minute. Less than a minute later, Schneider answered as he was able to tap in a goal in a scrum around the net.

Schneider scored again in the 18th minute to make it 4-0 before Fort Scott helped out the Wildcat cause. The Tigers were called for a hand ball in the box, which turned into a penalty kick for Juarez who easily knocked it past the goalie.

Juarez added another goal in the 27th minute and Scholtz added a score two minutes later. Scholtz was the first to record a hat trick when he got a good pass from Curran Conklin in the 32nd minute to make it 8-0 at halftime.

Louisburg started the second half much like they did the first as Svoboda assisted Schneider on his third goal of the game in the 46th minute. Juarez sealed the win in the 52nd minute with the game's final score.

"I felt last year we were put into a corner to play more defensively because of our personnel," York said. "We have had a lot of kids get a lot better. Christian Scholtz is as tall as I am now, Grant (Ryals) has played a full year up in the city and Cale belongs up top or out wide, depending on where we need him. He is fast, big, strong and has a presence. That is where he should have been last year, but we needed him in the back."

Although they didn't score, the Wildcats still had a lot of players on the offensive. Grant Ryals, Raistlin Brewer, Herman Knipp and Jairus Brown all had shots that were just wide of the goals.

As much fun as the offense had, the Wildcat defense didn't do much as Fort Scott managed just one shot on goal and didn't provide much of a test for goalie Michael Minster.

"Michael is going to be called upon to be big time for us this year," York said. "I think both Michael and Ambrose (Stefan) have improved enough that I think we have a formidable team and a solid goalkeeper. Michael really developed last year and over the summer. I want to see him get some more work, but I don't. He is good, and he will do well, but I would like to keep the ball out of his hands for as long as I can."

The Wildcats will encounter a bigger test today when they travel to Ottawa for their first Frontier League matchup. The

varsity match is set for 6 p.m.

“We are a work in progress and (today) is going to be an interesting day to see how we do when we come up against someone who is just as big, fast and strong as we are,” York said. “Ottawa is always a big rivalry for us and they have gotten us the last couple of years. They graduated a lot from last year but I am sure they will be ready to play.”