# Three Wildcats run their way to state meet



**Louisburg junior Wyatt Reece finishes the last part of the course with some encouragement from his coach John Reece on Saturday at the Class 4A regional meet in Burlington. Reece, along with teammates Tim Smith and Trinity Moore, qualified for the Class 4A state meet with top 10 finishes.**

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BURLINGTON – Wyatt Reece, Tim Smith and Trinity Moore weaved through the winding course Saturday at the Class 4A regional meet.

With every turn on the John Redmond reservoir path, the three Louisburg runners came that much closer to their goal. All they wanted was an opportunity to run one more race.

They got that chance.

Reece, Smith and Moore all qualified for the Class 4A state cross country meet after they finished in the top 10 individually in Saturday's race at Burlington. It is also the second straight season the Wildcats will have a runner represent them at state as Reece went a season ago.

"I am just thrilled right now," Louisburg coach John Reece said. "I was told that we got 200 percent better since we have three going to state this year, so that is definitely a plus. Wyatt and Tim 'raced' today. That is what we talked about is

that they have to ‘race’ to get in and they both went out there and ran a great one. They both ran close to personal records and it paid off for them.

“Trinity ran well and this is huge for her. She was hurt for two weeks, then came back and ran 11th at league and finished in the top 10 here, which is just outstanding.”

Wyatt ensured his second trip to state as he was able to stay near the front for much of the race and eventually crossed the finish line in fifth-place in 17 minutes and 7 seconds, which was close to a personal record.

“It is always a really big deal to go to state and that is always the goal,” Wyatt said. “It is a big accomplishment and I am lucky to be able to do it two years in a row. It is really nice to have Tim there to run with me because we train together during the season, so it was nice to have someone there to keep training with.”




**Junior Tim Smith distances himself from an Iola runner Saturday in Burlington. Smith finished seventh at the regional meet.**

Smith also ran close to the front as he was able to finish in seventh with a time of 17:16. He started out the first mile in 13th place, before eventually working his way up into the top 10.

“It feels really good because we have been working all summer for it,” Smith said. “Just the fact that we planned for this, and we actually did it, means a lot. I am so excited to go state. It is all that I have wanted and hope that we can do well out there.”

As for Moore, she competed in a tough girls field that featured one of the top runners in the nation in Girard’s

Callie Logue. That didn’t stop Moore from recording one of her best times of the season as she came in eighth in 20:44.

“It is really fun because I was able to work hard enough to be able to do this and I was just happy to run with everyone else,” Moore said. “It was fun to be able to run as a team and I am glad that I get to go to state.

“I think I ran a pretty good race today. I think I ran a little too fast at the beginning, but I found myself and I was able to pass a lot of girls so I think I did really well.”

Louisburg was hoping to get one of the top three spots in the team standings and qualify the whole team for state, but came up short as it finished fifth with 122 points. Girard won the meet with 61 points, while Fort Scott (62) and Frontenac (74) took second and third, respectively.




**Freshman Trinity Moore leads a pack of runners around a curve Saturday in Burlington. Moore finished eighth overall in the girls race.**

Logue won the individual crown with a time of 17:51, nearly two minutes ahead of the second-place finisher.

“The girls field was incredible,” coach Reece said. “I knew it would be close to try and get in as a team, but there were so many girls that broke up all the ones in the back. The 12th place finish was the final qualifier and it just showed you how tough of a race it was.”

Junior Isabelle Holtzen ran a personal best time of 22:03 to come in 27th overall, while sophomore Kaitlyn Lewer (22:09) and senior Madelynn Yalowitz (22:16) finished 33rd and 34th,

respectively.

Freshman Emily Williams was 48th in 23:22 and sophomore Alex Miller was right behind her in 49th in 23:29. Junior Reilly Alexander rounded out the Louisburg girls team in 55th in 23:51.

Girard won the boys team title with 57 points, while Fort Scott (71) and Iola (76) took second and third to also qualify for state. Fort Scott's Devin Brooks took first individually in 16:31.

As for what the three Wildcats can expect for Saturday's Class 4A state meet in Wamego, Wyatt will be able to guide both Smith and Moore on what to prepare for.

"Wamego's course has been labeled as one of the toughest in the state," Wyatt said. "I love going out there and running because you are at state, and that is a big deal, but it takes a lot of work to get there and you have to work hard when you get there."

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# Four Wildcat runners earn honors at league meet



**Louisburg junior Wyatt Reece ran a personal-best time of 17**

**minutes and 8 seconds to take third at the Frontier League Championships on Thursday at the Baldwin City Golf Course. It was the second-fastest time in school history.**

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BALDWIN CITY – One by one, Wyatt Reece passed every runner in the field Thursday at the Baldwin City Golf Course.

Well, all but two that is.

Reece ran a season best time of 17 minutes and 8 seconds and picked the right moment to do it. The Louisburg junior finished third at the Frontier League Championships, and in the process, recorded the second-fastest time in school history.

His third place finish also earned him first team all-league honors

"I ran at Baldwin as a freshmen for league and I really like the course," Reece said. "I like uphill running a lot more and it has that, but it is nothing that is super steep and you can relax a little bit. It is a fast course as it is, the weather was perfect and everything just seemed to click."

The Baldwin course was also kind to a few other Louisburg runners as the Wildcats earned four all-league spots overall. Along with Reece, junior Tim Smith was named second team all-league after he finished eighth in 17:45.

Those honors continued onto the girls team as the Wildcats earned two all-league spots.

After missing two weeks with an injury, freshman Trinity Moore returned to lead the Louisburg girls in 11$^{th}$ overall in 21:23 and was good enough to get second team all-league. Sophomore Kaitlyn Lewer continued to show improvement as well as she was 21$^{st}$ in 22:03 and was named an all-league honorable mention.




**Louisburg runners (from left) Tim Smith, Trinity Moore and Kaitlyn Lewer all earned Frontier League honors last Thursday in Baldwin. Smith finished eighth in the boys race, while Moore and Lewer finished 11th and 21st, respectively.**

"It was great to have Trinity back in the mix," Louisburg coach John Reece said. "She makes our team even stronger. The girls all ran great and most ran their best times for the season. Our tough league only makes us better."

Senior Madelynn Yalowitz just missed all-league honors as she took 26th in 22:25. Junior Isabelle Holtzen was next on the team in 29th in 22:40 and sophomore Alex Miller ran a time of 23:15 to finish 35th.

Freshman Emily Williams (23:28) and junior Reilly Alexander (24:01) came in 38th and 44th, respectively. Sophomore Shaylor Whitham was 50th in 24:20.

Freshman Natalie George (58th), senior Lily Cook (60th), senior Mara Justesen (61st), senior Bryn O'Meara (62nd), senior Liz Hildreth (63rd), junior Lilly Mick (64th), freshman Piper Mills (67th), freshman Elizabeth Kratochvil (71st), senior Hailey

Crowder (72nd), junior Haley Earl (73rd), junior Janae Kuhlman (74th) and senior Grace Rolofson (75th) also competed for Louisburg.

As a team, the Louisburg girls took fifth with 123 points. Baldwin won the league title with 33 points and Eudora was second with 51. Eudora's Riley Hiebert won the individual league crown with a time of 19:20.

The Wildcat boys finished sixth in the team standings with 142 points and was the first time they had put together a varsity team all season. De Soto won the league title with 37 points and Spring Hill was second with 51. Spring Hill's Dylan Brenneman won the individual title in 16:09.

Senior Austin Raetzel was third on the Louisburg team as he took 51st overall in 20:15. Freshman Evan Murphy (66th), sophomore Bryce Kuhlman (67th), sophomore Jackson Staab (70th), freshman Keith Estle (74th), junior Garrett Mills (76th), sophomore Gareth Baus (83rd) and junior Parker Perentis (84th) rounded out the Wildcat team.

Louisburg will now compete in the race it has been waiting for all season. The Wildcats will travel to Burlington on Saturday for the Class 4A regional race.

The top three teams earn a spot in the state meet next week in Wamego, along with the top five individuals that aren't on a qualifying team. The girls race will begin at 10 a.m. and the boys will follow at approximately 10:30.

"We are super excited for regionals and we hope to be state bound with two boys and the girls team," coach Reece said. "I want them to leave it all on the course and end the season with their heads held high no matter the outcome. "This has to be the best group I have had the privilege to coach."

# Reece medals third, Lewer leads girls at home meet



**Louisburg sophomore Kaitlyn Lewer makes her way up a hill alongside a Fort Scott runner Thursday at Lewis-Young Park during the Louisburg Invitational. Lewer led the Louisburg girls with a 10th place finish.**

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Lewis-Young Park felt right at home to the Louisburg High School cross country team as it competed in the Louisburg Invitational on Thursday.

The Wildcats took to the course in the six-team meet, and after running all those familiar hills, turns and straightaways, they came away with several pieces of hardware to show for it.

In all, five varsity runners earned medals, including junior Wyatt Reece who led the boys squad in third place overall and sophomore Kaitlyn Lewer, who paced the girls team in 10$^{th}$. The Louisburg girls also took third in the team standings.

“The kids always get pumped for our home meet,” Louisburg coach John Reece said. “They either love our course or hate it. Most love it because they continue to show improvement even though their time does not show it after running at

Pittsburg’s flat, fast and short course.”

The meet was also an opportunity to honor Louisburg’s nine senior runners. Seniors Lily Cook, Hailey Crowder, Kaitlyn Gaza, Liz Hildreth, Mara Justesen, Bryn O’Meara, Austin Raetzel, Grace Rolofson and Madelynn Yalowitz all ran on their home course for the final time.

“The senior group this year has been great,” coach Reece said. “The ones that have given the program four years have made it better and the late comers only added to this. They have been positive influences and welcoming to incoming freshman as well as those who found our sport later in their school career. I wish I could have had all of them for four years, but I will take what I can get.”

Wyatt Reece and teammate Tim Smith continue to run well for the Wildcats as both earned medals in the boys race. Wyatt’s third place finish of 18 minutes and 3 seconds was his second-fastest time of the season.




**Junior Wyatt Reece turns the corner and heads to the finish line Thursday during the Louisburg Invitational.**

Smith ran a time of 19:04 to finish 11th overall, while Raetzel finished 29th overall in 21:14. Fort Scott won the boys team title with 40 points and Spring Hill was second with 42.

“Wyatt ran a great race,” coach Reece said. “He was pumped to run our course and really attacked it. He knew he was not going to be challenging for first, but was ready to fight it out for second until Fort Scott jumped in, which was great to have them, and he turned to claiming third in the race which he did. Looking at past performances and what he is doing this year, he has made big gains in his racing and his times will soon show that.”

Lewer picked a good time to run her best race of the season for the girls team. The Lady Cats had to run without their top runner, Trinity Moore, for a second straight week due to an injury, but Lewer stepped up to lead Louisburg in 10th with a season-best time of 22:47.

Teammates Isabelle Holtzen and Yalowitz also earned medals for the Louisburg girls team. Holtzen, a junior, took 12th in 23:09 and Yalowitz was 13th in 23:12.

Junior Reilly Alexander was next on the girls team in 22nd in 24:34. Sophomore Alex Miller (25:07), sophomore Shaylor Whitham (25:18) and freshman Emily Williams (25:18) came in 26th, 27th and 28th, respectively.



**Senior Madelynn Yalowitz stays with a pack of runners Thursday. Yalowitz medaled 13th overall.**

Louisburg was third in the team standing with 72 points and Fort Scott won the meet with 19 points. Spring Hill took second with 58.

“We are still improving as a group and we have a lot of work ahead of us,” coach Reece said. “Kaitlyn ran a great race to lead the team. She improved on her best time this year, from the Pittsburg meet the week before, and did it on a tougher course. The future this year, and years to come, looks bright with the hard working girls we have.”

In the junior varsity race, four Louisburg girls earned medals as Natalie George (fourth), Justesen (seventh), Hildreth (eighth) and Lilly Mick (10$^{th}$) all finished in the top 10.

Now the Wildcats will venture into the postseason as they will travel to the Frontier League meet Thursday in Baldwin City. The following week, Louisburg will take part in the regional meet in Burlington.

As the season is coming to a close, the Louisburg coaches and runners are excited to see what transpires.

“Postseason is always nerve racking for the runners, Coach A (Arianne Seidl) and myself,” coach Reece said. “We want them all to finish on a positive note and walk away from the season proud of their accomplishments. We hope that we have prepared them to peak for their last race. They are excited to compete and to reach their individual and team goals at the end of the season.

“As I said at the beginning of the year, it is going to be a fun ride and it has been. No matter the outcomes at league, regional and hopefully state, it has been a great year full of great performances and a step forward for the program.”

# Smith, Reece pace Wildcat runners at Pittsburg



**Louisburg senior Austin Raetzel leads a pack of runners during a meet earlier this season. The Wildcat cross country team traveled to Pittsburg last Thursday and left with two top 10 finishes on the boys side.**

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PITTSBURG – The Louisburg High School cross country team ventured a little further south than normal to see some new competition.

The Wildcats took part in the Pittsburg Invitational on Thursday, and despite missing a key runner, fared well – especially on the boys side.

Juniors Tim Smith and Wyatt Reece each had top 10 finishes to earn medals for the fifth straight week and both runners ran a season-best time. Smith crossed the finish line in fifth in 17 minutes and 11 seconds and Reece came in eighth in 17:18.

Senior Austin Raetzel rounded out the Wildcat team in 60$^{th}$ in 20:43.

“The boys ran well as individuals since we have not put a varsity team together yet,” Louisburg coach John Reece said.

“Wyatt and Tim are still showing improvement and are posed to make a great run at qualifying for state.”

As for the girls squad, the Lady Cats were without top runner Trinity Moore, who was out with an injury. Louisburg finished sixth in the team standings with 136 points. Fort Scott took first with 36 and Frontenac was second with 55 points.

“The girls ran well and not having a top runner causes us to add about 30-plus points to our team total,” coach Reece said. “We are still training well and the future meets will be exciting.”

Senior Madelynn Yalowitz led the Louisburg girls in 24th overall with a time of 21:50. Junior Isabelle Holtzen was right behind her in 28th in 22:06 and sophomore Kaitlyn Lewer took 33rd in 22:20.

Junior Reilly Alexander finished in 24:03 to take 48th and sophomore Shaylor Whitham was right behind her in 49th in 24:04. Freshmen Emily Williams (24:28) and Natalie George (25:05) came in 52nd and 60th, respectively.

In the junior varsity races, sophomore Alex Miller finished fifth overall in 23:51 to earn a medal, while senior Mara Justesen was 12th in 25:00. Bryn O’Meara (21st), Lilly Mick (23rd), Elizabeth Kratochvil (27th), Kaitlyn Gaza (32nd), Lily Cook (44th), Tomi Frederes (46th), Piper Mills (49th), Hailey Crowder (51st), Mariah Wrigley (57th), Weeraya Khongpatimakorn (59th) and Grace Rolofson (61st) also competed for the Lady Cats.

Gareth Baus had a strong race for the junior varsity boys as he took 14th in 20:26. Evan Murphy (38th), Jackson Staab (44th),

Keith Estle (47th), Garrett Rolofson (48th), Garrett Mills (49th) and Parker Perentis (67th) also ran for Louisburg.

Louisburg returns to action this Thursday when it competes in the Louisburg Invitational at Lewis-Young Park. The first race is set to begin at 3 p.m., which was moved up an hour due to weather concerns.

“We hope to tear it up at our home meet this week,” coach Reece said.

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# Louisburg girls capture Prairie View meet crown



**The Louisburg High School girls cross country team won the Ramsey Invitational on Thursday at Prairie View High School for the second straight season. Members of the team (from left) are Kaitlyn Lewer, Emily Williams, Madelynn Yalowitz, Alex Miller, Isabelle Holtzen, Trinity Moore and Reilly Alexander.**

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LA CYGNE – Just a year ago, the Louisburg High School girls cross country team made program history when it won its first ever team competition.

History repeated itself Thursday when Louisburg won the Ramsey Invitational for the second consecutive year at Prairie View High School. The Lady Cats scored 16 points and finished 33 points ahead of runner-up Blue Valley.

Louisburg had four runners finish in the top 10, but the entire team stepped up as a freshman ran her first varsity race and another runner moved up from junior varsity due to an injury. Freshman Emily Williams moved up to varsity after running well on the junior varsity level all season, while sophomore Alex Miller also moved up to varsity due to an injury to fellow sophomore Shaylor Whitham.

“It was awesome to finish first as a girls team again,” Louisburg coach John Reece said. “We are definitely going for the three-peat next year.

“The young runners continue to step up when called upon as Emily and Alex did a great job. Emily has found a spot on the varsity squad even with Shaylor returning to the group for next week. It is great to see them working hard and putting the team first.”

Individually, the Louisburg boys and girls teams shined. Freshman Trinity Moore won the girls race as she ran a season-best time of 21 minutes and 51 seconds to win by 46 seconds.

Moore has finished in the top 10 in all four races this season and has made a big impact in her first year as her time on Thursday is the second-fastest time in program history.

She is getting pushed by a pair of upperclassmen as junior Isabelle Holtzen (23:24) and senior Madelynn Yalowitz (23:25) finished fifth and sixth, respectively. Sophomore Kaitlyn Lewer also had a top 10 finish as she took ninth (24:40).

“Trinity is having a great first year so far,” Reece said. “As she continues to gain experience she will only get better with the sport. The varsity girls push each other both in meets and

at practice. They are almost always running together and work together on pace days to really push each other."

Williams ran a time of 26 minutes to take 13th overall and junior Reilly Alexander was 17th in 26:47. Miller rounded out the varsity lineup in 21st in 27:52.

Juniors Wyatt Reece and Tim Smith continue to run well for the Louisburg boys. Reece finished runner-up, just nine seconds behind the leader with a season-best time of 18:24, while Smith came in third in 18:45.

Senior Austin Raetzel finished in 21st with a time of 21:22 to round out the Wildcat varsity runners.

"Wyatt and Tim ran well," coach Reece said. "Wyatt did most of the work during the race up front. He made a move with about 500 meters left and did what he needed to do to win the race but fell short. Wyatt has been 'racing' this year which has been great to see. For this being Tim's first year, he is doing fantastic as well."

In the junior varsity girls race, freshman Natalie George took second overall in 26:58, while seniors Mara Justesen and Bryn O'Meara also had top 10 finishes in sixth and eighth, respectively.

Lilly Mick (12th), Kaitlyn Gaza (17th), Elizabeth Kratochvil (19th), Hailey Crowder (22nd), Lily Cook (24th), Haley Earl (28th), Janae Kuhlman (38th) and Mariah Wrigley (39th) also competed for Louisburg.

Gareth Baus led the junior varsity boys in 11th overall, while Bryce Kuhlman came in 17th, Jackson Staab (21st), Evan Murphy (30th), Garrett Rolofson (40th), Parker Parentis (41st) and

Garrett Mills (42nd) also competed for Louisburg.

Louisburg returns to action Thursday when it travels to Pittsburg and the runners hope to see their times continue to go down.

“We get to go south this week and run against a few 4A schools that could be in our regional meet,” coach Reece said. “It should be great weather and fast times and there may be some shuffling of Top 7 all-time performances.”

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# LHS girls cross country finishes third at Wellsville



**Junior Isabelle Holtzen (left) sprints past a Spring Hill runner near the finish line as she gets some encouragement from Louisburg head coach John Reece on Thursday in Wellsville. Holtzen and the Lady Cats finished third in the team standings.**

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WELLSVILLE – It was another meet and another slew of medals for the Louisburg cross country team Thursday.

The Wildcat runners competed at the Wellsville Invitational and members of both the boys and girls teams finished toward

the top of the pack. The Louisburg girls finished third in the team standings and three earned individual medals.

Louisburg also captured two individual medals on the boys side as it left Wellsville with plenty of hardware.

The Lady Cats finished with 70 points for their third place finish as Fort Scott won the meet with 45 points and Eudora was second with 53.

Louisburg got another good performance from freshman Trinity Moore as she had her third consecutive top 10 finish of the season as she came in fourth in 22 minute and 5 seconds to earn a medal.

Junior Isabelle Holtzen was just outside the top 10 as she took 11th in 23:20 and senior teammate Madelynn Yalowitz came in 18th in 23:37 as both garnered a medal.

Sophomores Shaylor Whitham (27th), Kaitlyn Lewer (31st), junior Reilly Alexander (41st) and senior Kaitlyn Gaza (47th) also competed for the Lady Cats.

“The competition was fierce for the girls,” Louisburg coach John Reece said. “I knew Eudora was going to be strong, but I was surprised by Fort Scott. They have a great team this year. I felt like we had to earn the third place team medals, but it was not easy and a few places either direction could have totally changed the team outcomes. It is nice to see the girls continue to get individual medals at the meets. They are running strong.”




**Louisburg junior Wyatt Reece runs away from a pair of runners toward the finish line Thursday in Wellsville.**

Wyatt Reece came through with one of his better races on the season as he finished fourth to lead the boys team in 18:31. The Wildcat junior passed two runners in the final 200 meters to leap into the top five.

“Wyatt raced well,” coach Reece said. “He said he felt like he ran the turns well in the beginning which gave him a good position as the race played out. It would not be my plan for him to wait to run people down at the end but to put them away earlier in the race. He does have a great finish which looks like he saved something for the end, but it is just how he can finish even when tired. I am always telling the runners you can still run fast even when you are tired, and he can.”

Fellow junior Tim Smith also came through with medal-winning performance as he came in ninth in 18:53. Senior Austin Raetzel also competed for the Wildcats and took 54$^{th}$ overall.

The Wellsville course provided a different change of pace from the week prior when the Wildcats ventured to hill-filled Eisenhower Road Course in Ottawa. The Wellsville course didn’t have the hills, but featured a lot of twists and turns to keep the runners on their toes.

“Every course has its challenges,” Reece said. “Wellsville is different than Ottawa but it has multiple tight turns which can be tricky and the minimal change in terrain means there is no time to relax on a down hill. But of course the temperature had to get back to its normal hotness, so that was different as well.”

The Wildcats also experienced some success on the junior varsity level, especially on the girls side. Freshman Emily Williams won the JV girls race in 26:26, while sophomore Alex Miller and freshman Natalie George came in third and seventh, respectively.

Louisburg returns to action Thursday when it travels to the Prairie View Invitational. The meet is set to begin at 4 p.m.

For a photo gallery from the meet, make sure to click here.

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# Smith, Moore lead LHS cross country at Ottawa



**Louisburg junior Tim Smith passes Spring Hill’s Trey Mathis to win the Ottawa triangular Thursday at the Eisenhower Road Course in Ottawa. Freshman Trinity Moore led the girls team as she finished second overall.**

OTTAWA – The steep hills at the Eisenhower Road Course in Ottawa provided the toughest test of the season thus far for the Louisburg High School cross country team.

For some of the Wildcat runners, they took those hills head on Thursday and came away with some impressive performances from a few first-year runners. In a triangular with Ottawa and Spring Hill, Louisburg found itself in the front of the pack in both races.

Louisburg's Tim Smith surpassed Spring Hill's Trey Mathis in the final stretch as he won the boys' side in 19 minutes and 13 seconds. Smith's teammate, junior Wyatt Reece, also ran toward the front for most of the race and took fourth in 19:54.

Smith competed in his first-ever cross country race and it was a certainly a memorable one for the Wildcat junior.

"Tim ran a great race on Thursday," Louisburg coach John Reece said. "He, Wyatt and a Spring Hill runner set the tone for the race and Tim had it on the last hill to pull into the lead and stay there."

The Louisburg girls also had a big day as they finished with nine medals and got a good performance from a first-year runner of their own. Freshman Trinity Moore had her second-straight top 10 performance as she took second place in 23:26.

Moore's teammate, junior Isabelle Holtzen, was next to cross the finish line in 24:50 as she came in sixth. Senior Madelynn Yalowitz (25:12) and sophomore Kaitlyn Lewer (26:20) took eighth and 10$^{th}$, respectively.

The top 20 runners in each race earned medals.

"The girls team continues to impress Coach A (Arianne Seidl)

and I," coach Reece said. "Team scores were not kept but the girls won the meet by three points. The girls continue to work hard together both in practice and meets. Our number six through 10 runners on the squad continue to improve and are making the inner-squad competition fierce. This is going to be a fun season."

Louisburg's girls squad wasn't done earning hardware as six more runners garnered medals.

Sophomore Shaylor Whitham finished 12th overall in 26:40 and junior Reilly Alexander came in 15th in 27:31. Freshman Natalie George (28:51), freshman Emily Williams (29:06), senior Mara Justesen (29:08) and junior Lilly Mick (29:16) came in 16th, 17th, 18th and 20th, respectively.

Seniors Lily Cook (21st), Kaitlyn Gaza (23rd), Bryn O'Meara (24th), junior Tomi Frederes (26th), freshman Elizabeth Kratochvil (27th), sophomore Alex Miller (28th), senior Hailey Crowder (29th) and sophomore Weeraya Khongpatimakorn (30th) also competed for the Wildcats.




**Louisburg freshman**

**Trinity Moore leads a pack of runners up a hill Thursday in Ottawa.**

Freshman Evan Murphy (25:47) and sophomore Gareth Baus (26:29) finished just out of medal contention as they took 23rd and 24th, respectively. Sophomore Bryce Kuhlman (26th), freshman Garrett Rolofson, junior Garrett Mills (28th), sophomore Jackson Staab (29th), freshman Keith Estle (30th) and junior Parker Perentis (31st) also ran for Louisburg.

The Wildcats return to action Thursday when they compete at the Wellsville Invitational. The meet is set to begin at 4 p.m.

To view a photo gallery from the meet, make sure to click here.

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# Lady Cats medal third in season opening meet



**The Louisburg High School girls cross country team finished third at the Jerry Howarter Invitational on Thursday in Garnett. Members of the team are (from left) Kaitlyn Lewer,**

**Kaitlyn Gaza, Trinity Moore, Reilly Alexander, Isabelle Holtzen, Madelynn Yalowitz and Shaylor Whitham.**

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GARNETT – The rolling hills of the Garnett Golf Course make it difficult for any runner, but when it is the first meet of the season, it makes the task even harder.

Those things didn't seem to bother the Louisburg High School cross country team much. The Wildcats had two runners finish in the top 10 of the varsity race Thursday during the Jerry Howarter Invitational and the girls team had a historic finish themselves.

The Louisburg girls medaled third overall in the team standings with 86 points as Trinity Moore, Madelynn Yalowitz, Isabelle Holtzen, Shaylor Whitham, Kaitlyn Lewer, Reilly Alexander and Kaitlyn Gaza recorded the team's highest finish at this event.

"The girls team did great," Louisburg coach John Reece said. "Four of our varsity runners were competing in cross country for the first time and they did a great job. I looked back at past years and this is the first time we have medaled as a team at Anderson County."

Honors continued to roll in as one of those first time runners led the team with a top 10 finish. Moore, a freshman, led the Wildcat runners as she finished eighth overall in 22 minutes and 53 seconds.

"It was Trinity's day (Thursday)," Reece said. "Next week could bring a different runner to the front of the group as they are all great runners. Trinity ran well and it was great to see that from a first time freshman."

Louisburg also had two other runners garner medals. Yalowitz, a senior, took 14$^{th}$ in 23:20, while Holtzen, a junior, came in

23rd in 24:15.

Whitham (24:58) and Lewer (25:35), who are also first time runners as sophomores, took 31st and 37th, respectively. Alexander, a junior, also had a strong finish as she ran 27:22 to take 47th in her inaugural race. Gaza rounded out the varsity lineup as she crossed the finish in 53rd with a time of 28:43.

On the boys side, junior Wyatt Reece had one of the best performances on the varsity stage as he medaled sixth overall in 18:59. Wyatt, along with senior Austin Raetzel, were the lone runners to participate in the varsity meet. Raetzel was 65th in 22:46.

“Wyatt ran a great race,” coach Reece said. “From last year’s 27th place finish to this year’s sixth place finish is awesome. He has set some tough goals for himself this year and he just checked off his first one with a top ten finish at Anderson County.”

The Wildcats also competed in two junior varsity races and a beginner’s race.

Natalie George led the Louisburg JV girls as she took 19th in 28:13 and Mara Justesen was 26th in 29:21. Alex Miller (29:33) and Bryn O’Meara (29:34) finished 28th and 29th, respectively.

Lilly Mick (34th), Lily Cook (35th) and Hailey Crowder (38th) rounded out the junior varsity girls lineup.

Bryce Kuhlman led the JV boys in 25th in 23 minutes and Gareth Baus was next on the team in 42nd. Evan Murphy (44th), Jackson Staab (48th), Garrett Rolofson (50th) and Garrett Mills (51st) also ran for Louisburg.

In the beginners 2-mile race, freshman Emily Williams won the girls division in 16:07. Piper Mills (9th), Elizabeth Kratochvil (10th), Mariah Wrigley (15th), Grace Rolofson (16th) and Haley Early (18th) also ran for the Wildcats.

Keith Estle came in 12th on the boys side, while Parker Perentis and Frankie Hurst took 13th and 18th, respectively.

Louisburg returns to action Thursday when it travels to Ottawa. The first race is set to begin at 4:30 p.m.

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# LHS cross country has state aspirations



**Louisburg junior Isabelle Holtzen is one of several returning runners from last season's girls cross country team and she, and the rest of the Lady Cat runners, hope to earn a spot at the state meet this season.**

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After members of the Louisburg High School girls cross country team came up short of earning a spot at the Class 4A state meet last season, those same runners only had one thing in mind when preparing for the upcoming season.

It is what has been driving them during workouts all summer.

“For the girls team, we did not set a goal,” Louisburg coach John Reece said. “We made a statement – ‘State’ – no exceptions.”

The Lady Cat runners have high expectations this season – and they should – as they have almost their full team back from a year ago.  Seniors Madelynn Yalowitz, Kaitlyn Gaza and Liz Hildreth, along with junior Isabelle Holtzen, return to lead the experienced group of runners.

Junior Lilly Mick, sophomore Alex Miller and senior Mara Justesen also competed at the regional meet a year ago and will be vying for a spot on the varsity roster. According to Reece, it will be difficult to decide on what his final team will look like as he has a few newcomers that have thrown their name into the mix as well.

“The girls are up in numbers and this will make it tough for coach A (Arianne Seidl) and I to pick a top seven for our first meet,” Reece said. “Hopefully it will create competition among teammates to perform well to claim a varsity spot. We will be looking to our past varsity runners to lead the way.”



**Louisburg’s Wyatt Reece**

**hopes for an even better junior season after qualifying for state as a sophomore.**

What won't be difficult for the coaches to figure is who the top boy runner will be. Junior Wyatt Reece returns after earning a spot at the Class 4A state cross country meet last season.

Reece finished 71st at the Wamego Country Club last October and the experience left him wanting more.

"Wyatt's state qualification definitely motivated him," coach Reece said. "He has been working hard all summer and attended a cross country camp in Colorado Springs, along with Isabelle and Madelynn, to continue to improve on his training. He wants to go to state again and move up way in the places. I hope to see him compete at the front of the field in all of our meets and really push himself."

As far as the boys team goes, the Wildcats will be low in numbers compared to the girls side. Louisburg lost several varsity runners from last season due to graduation and the Wildcats return several inexperienced runners.

One of those runners is sophomore Tim Smith, who ran the distance races for the Louisburg track team last spring, and coach Reece hopes he, along with several others, can get better. Senior Austin Raetzel also looks to provide some experience for Louisburg as he is the lone senior boy runner.

"Numbers wise the boys team is a little down, but we do have several new runners this year," coach Reece said. "It could be awhile before we field a complete varsity team."

The Wildcats are ready to see if all the hard work over the summer has paid off when they open their season Thursday in

Garnett for the Jerry Howarter Invitational. The meet is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

They will also get an opportunity to run on their home course when they host the Louisburg Invitational on Oct. 6.

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# Numbers are up for LHS fall sports



**After making the playoffs a season ago, the Louisburg High School football watched its number rise by a small number as they try to improve off of its 7-3 season in 2015. The Wildcats hold a scrimmage at 8 a.m., on Saturday.**

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A week into the fall sports season, all of the Louisburg High School sports teams have seen their participation numbers rise from last year – albeit by a small number.

It would make sense as all four programs made strides in the 2015-16 campaign. The football team returned to the playoffs after a 3-win season the year before and volleyball placed third at the state tournament.

Boys soccer won its first regional title in five years despite a rough beginning. Meanwhile, cross country qualified a runner

for the state meet for the first time in several years and the girls team made program history when it won its first ever meet.

Needless to say, last year's results have left several excited for what is to come in all sports.



**Sophie McMullen is one of three returning varsity players from last season's third place finish at state for the LHS volleyball team.**

Louisburg's football team won seven games last season, which was four more than the year before despite a first-round exit in the playoffs. The Wildcats saw their numbers rise from 58 to 63 this season and are ready to make an improvement on the field as well.

They are going through 2-a-days now and will finish a grueling week with an 8 a.m. scrimmage Saturday.

"The first couple days have gone real well, however we are a little limited in what we can do and expect without full

pads," football coach Kyle Littrell said. "We have a great group of kids who have committed themselves to our grueling summer program and the seniors have really taken the leadership role and ran with it."

Volleyball spent the first three days of practice going through tryouts, but head coach Jessica Compliment saw numbers rise from 28 to 36 this season, which means a few more cuts than last year, but Louisburg has to replace five varsity players from a year ago.

The Lady Cats might have the shortest amount of time to get ready of all the sports as they open their season with the preseason Frontier League tournament on Aug. 27 in Baldwin.

"The first few days of practice have centered around testing and conditioning," Compliment said. "We started practice with the team on Thursday. I know the players are ready to get the season going, which is good because we have a quick turnaround with a tournament in a week."



**Louisburg's (from left) Jon Paul Totta, Kyle Allen and Jacob Arnett take part in a drill during a soccer practice Wednesday.**

First-year boys soccer coach Kyle Conley inherits a Wildcat

program that won the regional tournament and advanced to the state quarterfinals. The numbers for the Wildcats program were up by just two from last year, but Conley has liked what he has seen out of his group thus far.

“The kids are focused and determined,” Conley said. “I am very pleased with their attitudes and work ethic. They seem eager to learn from each session. I love how the kids are believing in the program and my philosophy.

“It is really good to finally get started and get things going. I am excited to see what this team will become. I do understand that our league is incredibly talented, but our mind set it going to be we have something to prove.”

As for cross country, head coach John Reece has seen a large number return for the season, especially on the girls. The Wildcats have 36 runners out this season – with 24 of those competing on the girls team. Louisburg had 31 total runners out a year ago.



**Louisburg cross country runners Kaitlyn Gaza (left) and Lilly Mick finish up a practice run Wednesday.**

Junior Wyatt Reece returns to help the boys after qualifying for the state meet as a sophomore.

“Practices have started great, especially since it is not 110 degrees in the shade,” coach Reece said. “Those who ran through the summer are ahead of the game. We hope to do some great things this year with almost all of my varsity girls returning.”

Look for full previews on each team next week at Louisburg Sports Zone.