

KSHSAA releases classifications for 2019-20 school year



The Kansas State High School Activities Association released its classifications for the 2019-20 school year, along with the football classifications for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons.

There were a few changes in both areas, but more so on the football side.

Football classifications are determined based on enrollment figures in ninth, 10th and 11th grade. Louisburg is still in 4A with 432 students and is toward the lower half of the classification.

Entering Class 4A beginning in the 2020 school year will be St. James Academy, Lansing and Great Bend, who have all moved down from Class 5A. Wamego also made the jump back in from Class 3A.

Kansas State High School Activities Association

Football Classifications and Enrollments-Descending Order 2020 & 2021

Enrollment figures are based on ninth, tenth and eleventh grades only.

Enrollment figures are as of September 20, 2019.

6A		5A		4A		3A	
Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 48	
Range: 1854 - 1092		Range: 1083 - 655		Range: 654 - 340		Range: 324 - 168	
Wichita-East	1854	Liberal	1083	Lansing	654	Baldwin	324
Wichita-North	1691	Hutchinson	1049	Great Bend	651	Topeka-Hayden	314
Wichita-Southeast	1662	Wichita-Heights	1045	Lenexa-St. James Academy	649	Parsons	286
Derby	1638	Shawnee-Mill Valley	982	Bonner Springs	640	Andale	279
Garden City	1560	Leavenworth	977	Arkansas City	620	Pratt	275
Dodge City	1533	Wichita-Northwest	970	Andover Central	608	Clearwater	266
Olathe South	1503	Emporia	949	Basehor-Linwood	587	Iola	256
Olathe East	1477	Kansas City-Turner	902	McPherson	535	Girard	252
Olathe North	1469	Wichita-Bishop Carroll	890	Kansas City-Piper	518	Nickerson	252
Topeka-Washburn Rural	1449	Topeka West	882	Ottawa	507	Clay Center Community	247
Wichita-South	1438	Topeka-Seaman	881	Buhler	497	Holton	242
Lawrence-Free State	1411	Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights	876	SM-Bishop Miege	493	Concordia	241
Manhattan	1402	Maize	871	Augusta	491	Kansas City-Bishop Ward	240
Topeka	1364	Kansas City-Washington	850	Winfield	472	Garnett-Anderson County	234
Olathe Northwest	1356	Maize South	842	Tonganoxie	471	Chapman	224
Kansas City-Wyandotte	1355	OP-Blue Valley Southwest	811	Independence	461	St. George-Rock Creek	224
SM East	1353	Salina-South	800	Chanute	452	Baxter Springs	223
Gardner-Edgerton	1325	Newton	788	Paola	447	Osawatomie	221
Haysville Campus	1297	De Soto	758	Fort Scott	434	Columbus	220
SM West	1277	Salina-Central	758	Louisburg	432	Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail	217
SM Northwest	1266	Topeka-Highland Park	757	Towanda-Circle	429	Wichita-Trinity Academy	217
Olathe West	1256	Andover	733	Coffeyville-Field Kindley	409	Hoyt-Royal Valley	216
OP-Blue Valley Northwest	1233	Goddard-Eisenhower	725	El Dorado	400	Hugoton	216
SM North	1226	Valley Center	699	Eudora	391	LaCygne-Prairie View	214
Lawrence	1221	Kansas City-Sumner Acad.	698	Rose Hill	381	Hiawatha	213
OP-Blue Valley	1182	OP-St. Thomas Aquinas	693	Altamont-Labette County	377	Frontenac	211
OP-Blue Valley West	1182	Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel	693	Mulvane	375	Meriden-Jefferson West	211
Junction City	1136	Pittsburg	691	Atchison	355	Holcomb	210
Wichita-West	1129	Hays	687	Abilene	352	Burlington	203
Kansas City-JC Harmon	1110	Kansas City-FL Schlagle	687	Wamego	351	Hesston	202
SM South	1106	Spring Hill	668	Wellington	345	Colby	201
OP-Blue Valley North	1092	Goddard	655	Ulysses	340	Wichita Collegiate	201
						Lindsborg-Smoky Valley	200
						Galena	199
						Scott Community	198
						Caney Valley	192
						Perry-Lecompton	192
						Larned	188
						Cherryvale	186
						Marysville	183
						Cheney	182
						Goodland	182
						Riley County	182
						Russell	181
						Council Grove	180
						Sabetha	173
						Gypsum-Southeast of Saline	171
						Halstead	168

** Note: Per classification Rule 5-2-2, enrollment ties are broken by using the previous classification cycle count.*

2A

Schools - 48	
Range: 168 - 112	
Cimarron	168
Lyons	168
Welleville	167
Haven	166
Hoisington	162
Osage City	161
Seneca-Nemaha Central	161
Fredonia	159
Silver Lake	158
Easton-Pleasant Ridge	156
Riverton	155
Neodesha	153
Norton Community	153
Beloit	150
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral	148
Kingman	148
Eureka	147
Pomona-West Franklin	144
Douglass	142
Kismet-Southwestern Hts.	141
Lakin	141
St. Marys	141
Hays-TMP-Marian	140
Oskaloosa	140
Minneapolis	139
Ellsworth	137
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mt Acad.	135
Rossville	135
Effingham- Atchinson Co Comm.	130
Erie	130
Hillsboro	129
Humboldt	129
Mound City-Jayhawk Linn	128
Phillipsburg	128
Wathena-Riverside	127
Belle Plaine	124
Syracuse	121
Garden Plain	120
Ellis	119
Cherokee-Southeast	118
Belleville-Republic County	117
McLouth	117
Eskridge-Mission Valley	116
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic	116
Leon-Bluestem	112
Marion	112
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan	112
Sterling	112

1A

Schools - 28	
Range: 111 - 62	
Whitewater-Remington	111
Conway Springs	110
Horton	110
Sedgwick	108
Arma-Northeast	106
Brookville-Eli-Saline	106
Richmond-Central Heights	106
Wabaunsee	105
Wichita-The Independent	102
Lyndon	99
Sublette	99
Ellinwood	98
Oakley	98
Salina-Sacred Heart	98
Uniontown	98
Johnson-Stanton County	96
Winchester- Jefferson Co. North	94
Inman	93
Elkhart	90
Plainville	89
Pleasanton	86
Allen-Northern Heights	85
Blue Rapids-Valley Heights	82
Smith Center	82
Holton-Jackson Heights	78
Troy	70
Olpe	69
Centralia	62

8-Player Division I

Schools - 48	
Range: 98 - 66	
Herington	98
Bennington	97
Hoxie	97
Yates Center	96
Medicine Lodge	95
Hill City	94
Howard-West Elk	93
Pratt-Skyline	93
Leoti-Wichita County	90
Spearville	90
WaKeeney-Trego Community	89
Moundridge	88
Sedan	88
Cottonwood Falls-Chase Co.	84
Stockton	84
Attica/Argonia	82
Valley Falls	82
Burlingame	80
Canton-Galva	79
Goessel	79
Meade	79
Ness City	79
Washington County	79
Little River	78
Shawnee-Maranaatha Christian Academy	77
Cedar Vale/Dexter	76
Burden-Central	75
Langdon-Fairfield	75
Madison/Hamilton	75
Solomon	75
Udall	74
Atwood-Rawlins County	72
Highland-Doniphan West	72
La Crosse	72
Oswego	72
Kinsley	71
Clyde-Clifton Clyde	70
Oberlin-Decatur Community	70
Rosalia-Flinthills	70
Jetmore-Hodgeman County	69
Lincoln	69
Macksville	69
Oxford	69
Moran-Marmaton Valley	68
Greensburg-Kiowa County	67
St. John-Hudson	67
Montezuma-South Gray	66
Pretty Prairie	66

8-Player Division II

Schools - 52	
Range: 66 - 29	
Sylvan-Lucas Unified	66
Rural Vista (<i>White City/Hope</i>)	65
Peabody-Burns	64
Bucklin	61
Minneola	61
Victoria	61
Caldwell	60
Satanta	60
Kensington-Thunder Ridge	59
Onaga	59
Downs-Lakeside	58
Mankato-Rock Hills	58
Coldwater-South Central	57
Lebo	57
Quinter	57
Beloit-St. John's/Tipton	54
Osborne	54
South Haven	53
Wakefield	52
Hutchinson-Central Christian	51
Ingalls	51
Sharon Springs-Wallace Co.	51
St. Francis	51
St. Paul	51
Clafin-Central Plains	50
Hartford	50
Norwich	50
Scandia-Pike Valley	50
Colony-Crest	49
Frankfort	49
Melvern-MDCV	49
Buffalo-Altoona Midway	48
Dighton	48
Hanover	47
Leroy-Southern Coffey Co.	47
Chetopa	46
Logan/Palco	46
Lost Springs-Centre	46
Otis-Bison	46
Linn	43
Waverly	42
Southern Cloud (<i>Miltonvale/Glasco</i>)	40
Stafford	40
Wetmore	39
Grainfield- Wheatland/Grinnell	38
Randolph-Blue Valley	38
Kiowa-South Barber	37
Winona-Triplains/Brewster	36
Chase	33
Axtell	30
Tescott	30
Wilson	29



Printing Department

Goddard, Pittsburg and Spring Hill all saw their enrollment grow and will be moving up from 4A to 5A next year. Baldwin

saw their enrollment decline and will move down to Class 3A in football the next two years.

In the rest of the sports, not much changed with regards to Class 4A for this year.

Enrollment figures for all grades in Louisburg this year is 573, which puts the school in the upper half of Class 4A. The biggest school is Buhler with 661 and Bishop Miege is the second biggest at 656 and Ottawa is third at 653.

2019-2020 Classifications and Enrollments

Enrollment figures as of September 20, 2019 based on ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades.

Note: Schools are listed in descending order

- ↑ School Moved Up in Class
- ↓ School Moved Down in Class

[Printable View](#)

[Sort By School](#)

6A	5A	4A
Member Schools: 36	Member Schools: 36	Member Schools: 36
Range: 2431-1312	Range: 1305-710	Range: 661-312
Wichita-East HS	2431 ↓ Leavenworth HS	1305 Buhler HS
Wichita-North HS	2190 Wichita-Northwest HS	1260 Shawnee Mission-Bishop Miege HS
Wichita-Southeast HS	2164 Emporia HS	1245 Ottawa HS
Derby HS	2105 Maize HS	1194 Winfield HS
Dodge City HS	2010 Wichita-Bishop Carroll HS	1153 Kansas City-Piper HS
Olathe South HS	2005 Topeka-Seaman HS	1150 Augusta HS
Garden City HS	1985 Topeka West HS	1146 Paola HS
Olathe North HS	1976 Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights HS	1131 Tonganoxie HS
Topeka-Washburn Rural HS	1933 Overland Park-Blue Valley Southwest HS	1089 Fort Scott HS
Olathe East HS	1927 Kansas City-Washington HS	1084 Chanute HS
Olathe Northwest HS	1880 Kansas City-Turner HS	1076 Independence HS
Lawrence-Free State HS	1855 Maize South HS	1060 Louisburg HS
Wichita-South HS	1852 Salina-South HS	1046 Towanda-Circle HS
Manhattan HS	1823 Newton HS	1044 Coffeyville-Field Kindley HS
Shawnee Mission East HS	1758 Salina-Central HS	1001 El Dorado HS
Gardner-Edgerton HS	1729 De Soto HS	992 Mulvane HS
Topeka HS	1728 Andover HS	959 Eudora HS
Wichita-Haysville Campus HS	1712 Topeka-Highland Park HS	959 Altamont-Labelle County HS
Shawnee Mission West HS	1638 Goddard-Eisenhower HS	952 Rose Hill HS
Kansas City-Wyandotte HS	1637 Overland Park-St. Thomas Aquinas HS	925 Atchison HS
Shawnee Mission Northwest HS	1624 Kansas City-FL Schlegle HS	909 Wellington HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest HS	1619 Valley Center HS	904 Abilene HS
Lawrence HS	1601 Lenexa-St. James Academy	902 Warrego HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley HS	1600 Great Bend HS	884 Ulysses HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley West HS	1582 Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel HS	880 Baldwin HS
Shawnee Mission North HS	1557 Kansas City-Sumner Academy	871 Topeka-Hayden HS
Olathe West HS	1535 Pittsburg HS	867 Andale HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley North HS	1498 Hays HS	863 Clearwater HS
Shawnee Mission South HS	1469 Lansing HS	859 Parsons HS
Junction City HS	1440 Goddard HS	848 Pratt HS
Wichita-West HS	1421 Spring Hill HS	825 Iola HS
Kansas City-JC Harmon HS	1399 Andover Central HS	810 Nickerson HS
Hutchinson HS	1386 Bonner Springs HS	793 ↑ Holton HS
Liberal HS	1371 Basehor-Linwood HS	791 ↑ Girard HS
↑ Wichita-Heights HS	1357 Arkansas City HS	765 Chapman HS
Shawnee-Mill Valley HS	1312 McPherson HS	710 ↑ Clay Center Community HS

3A

Member Schools: 64

Range: 305-172

†Garnett-Anderson County HS	305
Concordia HS	303
†Wichita-Trinity Academy	303
Kansas City-Bishop Ward HS	300
Columbus HS	296
†Osawatomie HS	296
St. George-Rock Creek HS	294
Baxter Springs HS	286
Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail HS	286
Hoyt-Royal Valley HS	283
Hugoton HS	280
Hesston HS	279
Frontenac HS	276
Meriden-Jefferson West HS	275
Hiawatha HS	273
Galena HS	270
LaCygne-Prairie View HS	270
Holcomb HS	266
Marysville HS	266
Wichita Collegiate HS	266
Scott Community HS	265
Caney Valley HS	263
Lindsborg-Smoky Valley HS	263
Colby HS	262
Burlington HS	260
Perry-Leocompton HS	252
Goodland HS	246
Wellsville HS	243
Larned HS	242
Russell HS	239
Cheney HS	238
Sabetha HS	237
Riley County HS	231
Council Grove HS	229
Cherryvale HS	225
Gypsum-Southeast of Saline HS	223
Halstead HS	221
Haven HS	220
Riverton HS	214
Fredonia HS	213
Lyons HS	213
Silver Lake HS	213
Beloit HS	212
Seneca-Nemaha Central HS	210
Cimarron HS	207
Hoisington HS	205
Norton Community HS	204
Osage City HS	204
Easton-Pleasant Ridge HS	203
Kingman HS	202
Neodesha HS	200
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral HS	199
Pomona-West Franklin HS	192
Kismet-Southwestern Heights HS	190
Eureka HS	188
†Lakin HS	185
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mount Academy	184
Minneapolis HS	184
Hays-Thomas More Prep-Marian HS	182
St. Marys HS	182
Douglass HS	178
†Effingham-Atchison Co Community HS	174
†Humboldt HS	174
Phillipsburg HS	172

2A

Member Schools: 64

Range: 171-109

Mound City-Jayhawk Linn HS	171
Oskaloosa HS	171
†Belle Plaine HS	170
Rossville HS	169
Elsworth HS	168
†Erie HS	166
†Wathena-Riverside HS	164
Conway Springs HS	160
Belleville-Republic County HS	158
Garden Plain HS	158
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic HS	158
Cherokee-Southeast HS	157
Eskridge-Mission Valley HS	156
Arma-Northeast HS	155
Hillsboro HS	155
Olathe-Heritage Christian Academy	155
Ellis HS	154
Syracuse HS	153
McLouth HS	152
Whitewater-Remington HS	152
Horton HS	150
Sterling HS	147
Marion HS	146
Leon-Bluestem HS	144
Wichita-The Independent HS	142
Richmond-Central Heights HS	141
Sedgewick HS	140
Alma-Wabaunsee HS	139
Brookville-El-Saline HS	139
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan HS	139
Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian HS	136
Medicine Lodge HS	134
Lawrence-Bishop Seabury Academy	132
Salina-Sacred Heart HS	131
Winchester-Jefferson County North HS	130
Bernington HS	128
Johnson-Stanton County HS	128
Lyndon HS	127
Oakley HS	127
Plainville HS	127
Sublette HS	127
Inman HS	126
Yates Center HS	126
Elinwood HS	124
Pratt-Skyline HS	123
WaKeeney-Trego Community HS	122
Uniontown HS	120
Herington HS	119
Smith Center HS	119
Pleasanton HS	118
Elkhart HS	117
†Hill City HS	117
Hoxie HS	116
Allen-Northern Heights HS	115
Howard-West Elk HS	115
†Sedan HS	114
†Cottonwood Falls-Chase County HS	113
Holton-Jackson Heights HS	113
Canton-Galva HS	112
Blue Rapids-Valley Heights HS	110
†Moundridge HS	110
Shawnee-Maranatha Christian Academy	110
Leoti-Wichita County HS	109
†Spearville HS	109

1A

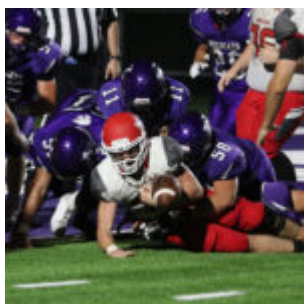
Member Schools: 117

Range: 108-14

Stockton HS	108
Elbing-Berean Academy	105
Little River HS	105
†Meade HS	103
†Ness City HS	103
Washington County HS	103
Udall HS	102
†Goessel HS	101
Valley Falls HS	101
†Oswego HS	98
Burden-Central HS	97
Troy HS	97
Macksville HS	96
Atwood-Rawlins County HS	95
Rosalie-Flinthills HS	95
La Crosse HS	94
Solomon HS	93
Burlingame HS	92
Lincoln HS	92
†Oberlin-Decatur Community HS	91
Oxford HS	91
St. John-Hudson HS	91
Clyde-Clifton Clyde HS	90
Jetmore-Hodgeman County HS	90
Peabody-Burns HS	90
Kinsley HS	89
Langdon-Fairfield HS	89
Highland-Doniphan West HS	87
Olpe HS	87
Centralia HS	86
Montezuma-South Gray HS	86
Moran-Marmaton Valley HS	86
Greensburg-Kiowa County HS	85
Wichita-Classical School Of Wichita	83
Onaga HS	82
Caldwell HS	80
Lebo HS	79
Minnesota HS	79
Bucklin HS	78
Pretty Prairie HS	78
Sylvan-Lucas Unified HS	78
Norwich HS	77
Victoria HS	77
Coldwater-South Central HS	76
Mankato-Rock Hills HS	76
Satanta HS	76
Kensington-Thunder Ridge HS	75
Osborne HS	75
Madison HS	74
Dexter HS	72
Hanover HS	71
Burton HS	70
Hutchinson-Central Christian HS	69
St. Francis HS	69
Ingalls HS	68
McPherson-Elyria Christian HS	68
Downs-Lakeside HS	67
Wakefield HS	67
Hartford HS	66
Quinter HS	66
Dighton HS	65
Frankfort HS	65
Melvorn-Marais Des Cygnes Valley HS	65
St. Paul HS	65
Clafin-Central Plains HS	64
Colony-Crest HS	63
Randolph-Blue Valley HS	63
Scandia-Pike Valley HS	63
Lost Springs-Centre HS	62
South Haven HS	62
Rexford-Golden Plains HS	61
Chetopa HS	60
Sharon Springs-Wallace County HS	60
Buffalo-Altoona Midway HS	59
Leroy-Southern Coffey County HS	58
Otis-Bison HS	58
Grainfield-Wheatland/Grinnell HS	57
Stafford HS	57
Ashland HS	56
Linn HS	56
Tribune-Greeley County HS	55
Beloit-St. John's HS	54
Waverly HS	54
Wellmore HS	51
Attica HS	50
Deerfield HS	49
Argonia HS	48
Cunningham HS	48
Kiowa-South Barber HS	48
Rolla HS	46
Moscow HS	45
Axtell HS	42
Bird City-Cheylin HS	42
Chase HS	42
Hope HS	42
Cedar Vale HS	40
Rozel-Pawnee Heights HS	40
Tescott HS	40
Wichita-Central Christian Academy	40
Almena-Northern Valley HS	39
White City HS	39
Logan HS	38
Wilson HS	35
Fowler HS	32
Natoma HS	30
Ransom-Western Plains HS	29
Weskan HS	29
Brewster HS	28
Palco HS	28
Glasco HS	27
Longton-Elk Valley HS	26
Hamilton HS	25
Miltonvale HS	22

Three schools will make the move up to Class 4A this year. Clay Center, Girard and Holton all saw their enrollment increase and will come back to 4A, while Osawatomie, Anderson County and Wichita-Trinity Academy will move out of 4A to 3A this year.

Tonganoxie ruins Wildcats' home opener



Louisburg's (from left) Eli Johnson, Konnor Vohs and Garrett Harding team up to stop a Tonganoxie player at the goal line and force a fumble Friday at Wildcat Stadium.

It wasn't the way the Louisburg football wanted to kick off its home schedule Friday against Tonganoxie.

Tonganoxie took advantage of some Wildcat mistakes and racked up nearly 500 yards of total offense as it handed Louisburg a 42-6 loss at Wildcat Stadium.

The Chieftains were the more physical team as they won the battle up front and put together several hard hits on the Wildcat players.

“Tonganoxie is very good,” Louisburg coach Robert Ebenstein said. “My hats off to them. They played a complete, physical four-quarter game. They are best public school that I have seen in a long time. They are legit.”

Louisburg (0-2) had to face obstacles throughout the game, including losing players to injury, and it challenged their depth. Running backs Charlie Koontz and Jay Scollin had to leave the game with injuries, as did quarterback Madden Rutherford.

The Chieftains’ defense held Louisburg to just 175 total yards of offense and forced two turnovers. Even with all that, the Wildcats trailed just 21-6 at halftime.

“They really didn’t let us do a whole lot,” Ebenstein said of Tonganoxie. “Then on top of it we lose two starting running backs and our quarterback to injury, and at that point, we were just going to take what we could get. I am really proud of our kids. They fought hard and they never tucked their tails. They didn’t quit and they fought their butts off and I am proud of them for that.”

Tonganoxie (2-0) opened the game with a 79-yard drive that ended in a 2-yard touchdown, and after the Wildcats were forced to punt on their opening possession, the Chieftains drove down the field once again. Except this time, the Wildcat defense forced Tonganoxie to turn the ball over on downs in the red zone.



Jay Scollin (33) and Justin Collins break up a Tonganoxie pass in the endzone Friday.

As it turned out, it was only a minor victory for Louisburg as Tonganoxie put together another possession that ended on a 5-yard score from Elijah Tyner and went up 14-0 late in the first quarter.

Louisburg had an answer as the Wildcats put together a drive of their own that ended with an 8-yard touchdown pass to Ben Wiedenmann from Rutherford. Wiedenmann also had a big game on the ground for Louisburg as he carried the ball 13 times for 103 yards.

The Chieftains stopped any kind of momentum the Wildcats put together as they scored on their next possession to go up 21-6. Tonganoxie looked to increase its lead even more before halftime, but the Wildcat defense had other answers.

The Wildcats forced two turnovers as Weston Guetterman recovered a fumble near the goal line. Then shortly before halftime, Michael Waldron intercepted a pass to keep the deficit at 15 points.



Louisburg's Brandon Doles (8) and A.J. Reed team up for a tackle Friday against Tonganoxie.

Andy Hupp was all over the field for the Wildcat defense as the junior linebacker recorded a team-high 16 tackles, including six solo stops. Hupp then came in the game at quarterback in the second half for Rutherford.

"Andy has taken minimal reps at quarterback, but he is just a football player and he will do anything we ask of him," Ebenstein said. "Andy is just a stud and he played well

for us.”

Justin Collins and Brandon Doles were next on the team with seven tackles each, while Guetterman, Garrett Harding and Wiedenmann each added six.

Louisburg will try for its first win of the season Friday when they travel to Baldwin. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. on the campus of Baker University.

“We have a winning culture here, so anytime you lose it is tough on the guys,” Ebenstein said. “At the end of the day, these guys are doing what we ask of them. They are lining up every play and getting to where they need to be. We talk to them about life skills and we tell them that sometimes in life you don’t get lucky breaks all the time and it is all about how you respond. Our kids responded and kept fighting. We are going to go to practice and get better and get ready for Baldwin.”

LOU	0	6	0	0
– 6				
TON	14	7	7	14
– 42				

SCORING SUMMARY

FIRST QUARTER

T: Sam Kleidosty 2 run (Javier Trujillo kick)

T: Elijah Tyner 5 run (Trujillo kick)

SECOND QUARTER

L: Ben Wiedenmann 8 pass from Madden Rutherford (extra point failed)

T: Cooper Cunningham 16 pass from Blake Poje (Trujillo kick)

THIRD QUARTER

T: Tyner 9 run (Trujillo kick)

FOURTH QUARTER

T: Cunningham 2 run (Trujillo kick)

T: Devyn Splichal run (Mendoza kick)

STATISTICS

RUSHING: Ben Wiedenmann 13-103;
Madden Rutherford 9-8

PASSING: Madden Rutherford
7-19-73-1

RECEIVING: Ben Wiedenmann 4-23; Weston Guetterman 2-23; Charlie Koontz 1-21; Michael Waldron 1-6

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 statute 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	Support Change
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.”

If 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.”

Late comeback falls short in Wildcats' loss to Spring Hill



Louisburg junior Ben Wiedenmann breaks through the line for a

long run during the Wildcats' season opener Friday in Spring Hill.

SPRING HILL – Four yards.

That is how far away the Louisburg football team was from completing what was already an impeccable comeback in its season opener Friday against Spring Hill.

Down three points with 50 seconds left, the Wildcats had a first and goal from the 4-yard line and were ready to steal the road win. Fate had other ideas, however.

Two penalties and two incompletions later, the Wildcats were forced to try a game-tying field goal. The kick fell short and Spring Hill survived a 27-24 contest that could have easily gone different way after Louisburg scored 18 unanswered points to tie it.

“Losing sucks, that is for sure,” Louisburg coach Robert Ebenstein said. “We had every chance to win it. The game really wasn’t lost at the end, the game was lost in the first half and I was glad to see us battle back like we did. I was very pleased with how they fought.

“We had chances to make plays. Sometimes you make them and sometimes you don’t. There was a big learning curve for us, and unfortunately some of the plays we learned on were scores for them.”

Spring Hill jumped out quickly as the Broncos scored the game’s first 10 points before the Wildcats battled back early in the second quarter.

Louisburg drove 80 yards and ended

with a 1-yard touchdown run from quarterback Madden Rutherford, and after a missed extra point, the Wildcats trailed by just four.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, Spring Hill's offense was difficult to get off the field as the Broncos engineered two more scoring drives. Bronco running back Zade Barker scored on pair of 4-yard runs to go up 24-6 with under two minutes left in the first half.

"We had a lot of kids making first starts out there on defense and we really weren't assignment sound," Ebenstein said. "That is something we might have taken for granted the last couple of years because we had kids who knew where to be and what to do. We will learn, coach them up and be better next game."

The Wildcats did take some momentum going into halftime as Rutherford led the Wildcats down the field and completed the drive with a 23-yard touchdown pass to Charlie Koontz with 24 seconds remaining.

After halftime, the Wildcats dominated time of possession.

Louisburg ate up the first nine minutes of the third quarter, which ended in a 36-yard field goal from Drake Varns. The Wildcat defense then forced a three-and-out, and got the ball right back. In all, Spring Hill ran just 15 plays from scrimmage the entire second half.

"Keeping our defense fresh and

their quarterback off the field was big for us,” Ebenstein said.



Junior Weston Guetterman hauls in one of his eight catches on Friday. Guetterman had a career-best 184 yards receiving.

Late in the third quarter, and with Louisburg facing a third-and-long situation, Rutherford connected with junior Weston Guetterman on a 35-yard pass play to the Spring Hill 21-yard line. Then on the opening play of the fourth quarter, junior Justin Collins found a hole and scored on a 21-yard touchdown run to tie the game.

Spring Hill kicker Bear Gardner put the Broncos in front again with a 27-yard field goal with

5 minutes and 49 seconds left in the contest.

The Wildcats had their backs against wall, yet again, late in the fourth quarter as they faced a 4th down and 22. Rutherford again came through as he found running back Ben Wiedenmann on a 32-yard pass over the middle for a first down.

All that set up the first-and-goal from the 4-yard line, which would be as close as the Wildcats would get. An illegal procedure penalty, two incompletions and a delay of game stymied the Louisburg drive.

“We had every intention of coming back and winning that game,” Ebenstein said. “We had the ball on our fingertips twice in the endzone to win it, and then we had a good snap, good hold on the field goal but the kick just didn’t go through. We will learn from this and get better.”



Junior linebacker Andy Hupp brings down a Spring Hill player for a loss Friday.

Louisburg also had several players who were cramping up throughout the game, which forced players to play in different spots at times and limited the Wildcats on what they could do late in the game.

One of those was Rutherford, who despite the cramping issues, completed 12 of 27 passes for 251 yards and a touchdown. His favorite target was Guetterman, who had his best day in a Wildcat uniform with eight catches for 184 yards. Guetterman made several key catches late in the contest to keep drives alive.

24

SH

10

14

0

3

- 27

First quarter

SH: Gage Klutts 26 pass from
Corbyn Meyers (Bear Gardner kick)

SH: Gardner 26 FG

Second quarter

L: Madden Rutherford 1 run (kick
failed)

SH: Zade Barker 4 run (Gardner
kick)

SH: Barker 4 run (Gardner kick)

L: Charlie Koontz 23 pass from Rutherford
(Rutherford run)

Third quarter

L: Drake Varns 36 FG

Fourth quarter

L: Justin Collins 21 run (Varns
kick)

SH: Gardner 27 FG

STATISTICS

RUSHING – Ben Wiedenmann 15-81;

Madden Rutherford 11-37; Charlie Koontz 8-37; Justin Collins
3-31; Kolby Kattau
6-15; Jay Scollin 1-3

PASSING – Madden Rutherford
12-27-251

RECEIVING – Weston Guetterman
8-184; Ben Wiedenmann 1-32; Charlie Koontz 1-23; Jay Scollin
1-7; Michael
Waldron 1-5

TACKLES – Andy Hupp 8; Kolby
Kattau 7; Ben Wiedenmann 6; Michael Waldron 6; Brayden White
5; Justin Collins
4; Charlie Koontz 4; Andrew Krause 3; Weston Guetterman 2; Jay
Scollin 2;
Konnor Vohs 1; Drake Varns 1; A.J. Reed 1

Wildcat football ready to defend Frontier League title



Louisburg quarterback Madden Rutherford hands the ball off to junior Ben Wiedenmann during a workout over the summer. The Wildcats open their season Friday at Spring Hill.

It was one of those special years for Louisburg football that doesn't come along very often.

The Wildcats won their first 10 games in 2018, captured a Frontier League title and finished with a regional

championship, before defending state champion Bishop Miege came calling and ended the Wildcats' season.

Last year may be hard to replicate, especially after losing 18 seniors, but the Wildcats have the pieces to make a lot of noise in the Frontier League once again.

Louisburg has close to 70 players out this season, which is the most since head coach Robert Ebenstein has been involved with the program, and the Wildcats have 10 seniors this year that will be looked to fill the leadership left behind from last year's group.

"So far practices have been going very well," Ebenstein said. "We have some holes to fill from last year's roster, but the guys have been working very hard and are ready to fill those spots.

"We return 13 letterman with 8 individuals who started a game on offense and 6 individuals who started a game on defense. We will be younger with some new faces, but we have many kids who are ready to take that step up and compete at the varsity level."

One constant is third-year quarterback Madden Rutherford, who will once again lead the Wildcat offense. The Louisburg senior threw for more than 1,100 yards last season and had 14 touchdowns.

Rutherford is also a threat to take off and run as he recorded 354 yards on the ground and had four touchdowns a year ago as a second-team All-Frontier League player. He

also earned an all-league first team as a punter.

“Returning a quarterback is always a blessing, but when you can bring back a kid who is starting for his third season, it is a huge advantage,” Ebenstein said. “He is the smartest football player I have ever coached and knows our offensive system inside and out. He knows his job, he knows every route the receivers run and he knows all the blocking assignments the backs have. Honestly, he knows most all of the offensive line responsibilities as well.”



Louisburg head coach Robert Ebenstein is in his third season leading the Wildcats.

That offensive line will have a little different look from a year ago. Returning are all-league players Brayden White and Garrett Harding, and the Wildcats seniors will anchor that front along with fellow senior tight end Michael Waldron.

White,

who was a first-team All-Frontier League selection a year ago, will lead the way at tackle and Harding will be a fixture at guard. Seniors Ian McGuire, Sam Kratochvil, along with juniors Andy Hupp, Eli Johnson and sophomore Dominic Owens are new faces who could help the Wildcats up front this season.

Louisburg

lost three off that line from last season, including Kiefer Tucker, who was an All-Frontier League first team player on both sides of ball. Still, Ebenstein likes what he has coming back to help pave the way up front.

“Our offensive line will have some new faces, but should be a dominant force,” Ebenstein said. “We have smart football kids all over the field and we will have the most athletic offensive line we have had in a long time. We might not be as big as we have in the past, but our speed up front will be a strength.

“Being able to zone our opponents, and double off and be able to pick up those quick linebackers, will be a strength of ours. Also having Waldron return at tight end is a plus as well as his blocking, and knowledge of the system, is outstanding.”



Senior Michael Waldron hauls in a catch during the team's camp over the summer.

The Wildcats also have a stable of running backs to be able to get through those holes. Gone is All-League first-teamer Austin Moore, who is now with the Kansas State football program, but Ebenstein will have plenty to choose from to help fill the void.

Senior Charlie Koontz and junior Ben Wiedenmann both saw varsity time last season, and will lead the way in 2019. Juniors Justin Collins, Jay Scollin and sophomore Kolby Kattau will also see time in the backfield.

"This year our running backs will look a lot different," Ebenstein said. "We lost some quality kids, but some tough kids are ready to take those spots. All of those guys will be in the backfield this year and all do certain things very well. You should be hearing many names called out over the speakers this season. This is, by far, is the fastest backfield we have had in Louisburg since I have been here."

Defense was a staple for the Wildcats a year ago, and that

helped them to an undefeated league title. Although they have spots to fill, the Wildcats still figure to be strong in that area as well.

Hupp, Koontz, Kattau and sophomore Brandon Doles will all see a lot of time at the linebacker spot, while Hupp and Koontz are both returning starters at the position. White and Harding will anchor the middle of the defensive line as returning starters.

Wiedenmann will bring some speed off the edge from the defensive end spot, while Johnson, senior Andrew Krause and Owens will see time at defensive end.

In the secondary, Waldron, along with juniors Weston Guetterman, Collins, Konnor Vohs and Ben Guetterman will all see action in the defensive backfield.

Assistant coach Jeff Lohse is also returning as the team's defensive coordinator as he guided the Wildcats to one of Class 4A's top defenses a year ago.

"With Lohse calling the defense, I am always confident in our defense to be in the right spots and make plays," Ebenstein said. "Schematically, it will look similar to the Louisburg defenses over the years, but we will have some new faces for sure.

"Our defensive line should be a strength of ours with Harding and White anchoring the middle and I think Ben Wiedenmann could possibly be one of the fastest defensive ends in the state."

The Wildcats also return both of their kickers on special teams as senior Drake Varns will resume his placekicking

duties, while Rutherford is the team's punter.

The Frontier League will provide a lot of competition for the Wildcats again this season, including rival Paola, which is one of the favorites to win the league crown.

Still, Louisburg hopes to figure into that conversation at the end of the year and make a run in the state playoffs. It all starts Friday when the Wildcats travel to Spring Hill for their season opener.

"Our expectations are always the same," Ebenstein said. "We want to get better every practice, be prepared for every game, and represent this team in the best light we can.

"The Frontier League is tough week in and week out. There are no easy games in this league, but right now I am really only concerned with Spring Hill and leaving that game, 1-0."

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

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.

“The 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.

Stiles, Lohse, Burk and Bowes to be inducted into LHS Hall of Fame



Dennis Stiles (top left), John Lohse (top right), Jason Burk (bottom left) and Krystal (Bowes) Grojean will be inducted into the Louisburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame this fall.

It has been 11 years since Louisburg High School had inducted a class into its athletic hall of fame, but the wait for a new class is finally over.

The USD 416 Endowment Association, which oversees the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame, has announced a new 4-member class. Dennis Stiles (Class of 1969), John Lohse (1995), Jason Burk (1999) and Krystal (Bowes) Grojean (2001) were the top four vote getters in this year's hall of fame voting and will be honored in an induction ceremony sometime this fall.

"Louisburg has a history of great athletes," said Damon Dennis, a USD 416 Endowment Association board member. "We had a good cross-section of both young and older voters this year that really took their job seriously. The four athletes chosen represent several generations of former Wildcats and each one were dominant in their particular era and sports. The Endowment Association is excited to get the Hall of Fame going again and plan on some big things in the future."

More than two dozen voters, that includes current members of the hall of fame, long-time Louisburg residents, teachers and coaches, voted on the class in June. Each voter was asked to submit their top four choices for the hall and votes were then tabulated.

To be eligible for the hall of fame, the inductee must wait at least 10 years following graduation to be nominated.

The last class that was inducted was in 2008 and Dennis, and the rest of the Endowment Association, is committed to making this a yearly occurrence moving forward.

Here are the accomplishments of each of the newest hall of fame inductees. Look for more information on an induction ceremony in the coming weeks.



Dennis Stiles

Dennis Stiles – Class of 1969 – Football, Basketball, Track

Stiles

lettered 4 years in football and track and 3 years in basketball. His senior year he was named all-league and all-state in football and was co-captain on the Wildcat team

that finished the
year 4-4.

As sophomore, he played on the varsity basketball team which was 12-0 in league play, finished the year 19-3 and were district champions. He earned honorable mention all-state honors his sophomore and junior seasons and was second-team all-state his senior year. Stiles was at one time the school's career scoring leader.

Stiles competed at the state track meet as a junior and senior where he placed fourth in the discus his senior year. He previously held school records in the discus and triple jump. He also received a football scholarship to Kansas State University.



John Lohse

John Lohse – Class of 1995 – Football, Basketball and Baseball

Lohse lettered all four years in baseball and was selected to

represent

Kansas in the all-star baseball classic his senior year. He was an all-league

pitcher and centerfielder for the Wildcats his sophomore through senior years.

He had a .510 average his junior and senior seasons with 10 home runs his

junior year and 12 more his senior season.

In football, Lohse was a 3-year letterwinner. He was an all-league wide

receiver his junior and senior seasons. In his senior year, he had 850 yards

receiving and 11 touchdowns and was later selected to represent Kansas in the

Metro Classic All-Star Game.

Lohse was also a 3-year letterwinner in basketball and was an all-league selection his junior and senior seasons. He averaged a double-double

his junior and senior years.

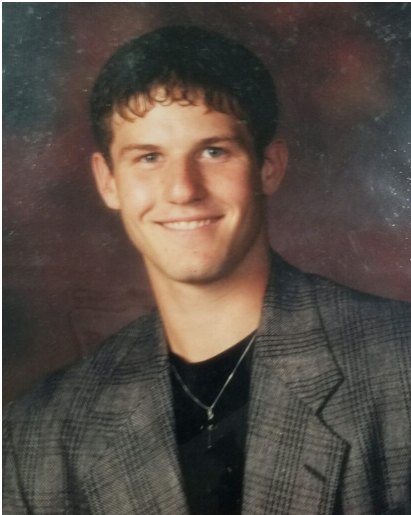
Post-graduation, Lohse attended Pittsburg State on a baseball scholarship and played on the Gorilla team for four years. He was selected to

the all-MIAA team his sophomore and junior seasons before injuring his shoulder

his senior year. He had a .315 average his junior and senior seasons. In his

first collegiate at-bat his freshman year, Lohse hit a game-winning grand slam

to give Pitt State its first win over Missouri Southern in five years.



Jason Burk

Jason Burk – Class of 1999 – Track and Football

Burk was a 4-year letterwinner for the Louisburg track and field team and qualified for state in all four years in four events. He accumulated 12 state medals, 16 regional track medals and 14 Frontier League medals. Burk was selected to the Kansas City All-Metro track team in 1998 and 1999.

During his senior season, Burk was a state champion in both the triple and long jump. He won the triple jump with a leap 48 feet and the long jump with a mark of 22-5. He also finished fifth in the 100-meter dash and sixth in the high jump. As a junior, Burk won a state championship in the triple jump with mark of 46 feet and won three more state medals. He took second long jump, fourth in the 100 dash and sixth in the 200 dash. As a sophomore, Burk won state medals in the triple jump (second), long jump (fourth)

and 4×100 relay

(third). He was a member of the 4×100 team that took second at state as a freshman in 1996.

At one time, Burk held seven school records. He currently holds school records in the triple jump, high jump and long jump. Burk holds the school record for most points in a season with 326.

Burk also played football, where he was a part of bi-district, district and regional championship teams.



Krystal (Bowes) Grojean

Krystal (Bowes) Grojean – Class of 2001 – Volleyball, Basketball, Track

Bowes was a 4-year letterwinner in track before she was offered a scholarship on the Wichita State track and field team.

In her senior season at Louisburg, Bowes earned three state medals, including a second-place finish in the javelin with a throw of 145-10. She was also third in the discus with a toss of 126-9 and fifth in the shot put at 37-5. As a sophomore and junior, she finished sixth in the discus at state. In all, Bowes racked up five state medals in her high school career before moving on to Wichita State. She is the current Louisburg record holder in the javelin (146-10) and discus (137-11).

At Wichita State, she earned academic All-American honors and was a team captain all four years. Bowes was a two-time NCAA national qualifier and finished fifth in the javelin and was second in the Missouri Valley Conference in 2006. In 2004, Bowes took first in the MVC in the javelin and fourth in the discus. In 2003, she won the Missouri Valley Conference discus title, was second in the javelin and fourth in the hammer throw. Bowes was also a member two Shocker teams that won conference titles.

In volleyball and basketball at LHS, Bowes was a 3-year letterwinner in each sport and earned first-team all-Frontier League honors each season.

Current members of the LHS Hall of Fame

Class of 2005:

Tom
Stevens – 1934 – Track and Field (High Jump)

1947/48

Undefeated Football Teams

Richard

Meiers – 1949 – Basketball/Football

Don

Meek – 1965-1998 – Coach/Administrator

Larry

Harding – 1976-1994 – Volleyball/Golf Coach

Amy

Dodson Goode – 1986 – Volleyball/Basketball

Class of 2006:

Jim

Wells – 1936 – Track and Field (Pole Vault)/Football

Doug

Eaton – 1971 – Wrestling

Sue

Truman Apple – 1974 – Track and Field/Volleyball/Basketball

Mike

Meek – 1985- Football/Wrestling/Track and Field

Jamie

Waite – 1991 – Track and Field (Pole Vault)/Football/Basketball

Class of 2007

Alan

Taylor – 1949 – Football

Tim

Dozier – 1987 – Wrestling/Football

Beth

Dodson Dixon – 1989 – Volleyball/Basketball

Jeff

Lohse – 1991 – Baseball/Football/Basketball

Class of 2008

Greg

Kahmann – 1987 – Baseball/Football/Basketball

Mark

Buckingham – 1994 – Basketball

Blue Caplinger selected as 2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Male Athlete of the Year



Blue Caplinger made history in a few different ways for Louisburg High School during the 2018-19 season.

Caplinger, along with fellow LHS student Alyse Moore, became the first Wildcat athlete in recent memory – if ever – to participate in two sports during the same season. All that led up to what was a spectacular finish to his senior year.

Caplinger helped the 4×400-meter

relay to a state championship in late May, which was the school's first individual track title since 2015. When all was said and done, Caplinger lettered in four sports this past year.

These are just a couple of the reasons why Caplinger was chosen as the 2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Male Athlete of the Year.

The award, which is in its second year, is to recognize an outstanding LHS student athlete. Louisburg Sports Zone asked the head coaches at LHS to submit nominations and those nominations were then organized and submitted back to the coaches for a vote.

The coaches then submitted their top three choices and the number of votes were added up, which decided the winner.

Caplinger was one of the leaders of the Wildcat football team that reeled off 10 straight wins to start the season and captured a regional championship before falling to eventual state champion Bishop Miege.

He was an All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball as he earned first team defensive honors from the safety spot with 31 tackles, two fumble recoveries and an interception.



Blue Caplinger poses for picture with his coaches (from left), boys track coach Andy Wright, head football coach Robert Ebenstein and baseball coach Joel McGhee. Not pictured is wrestling coach Bobby Bovaird.

Caplinger played a couple different positions offensively and earned second team all-league honors as a multi-purpose player. He had 310 yards rushing and four touchdowns to go along 234 yards receiving and two more scores.

He was also the lead blocker on a lot of the big runs that teammate Austin Moore – who was a first-team all-league and all-state running back – had during the season.

“Blue was the most all-purpose player we had,” Louisburg football coach Robert Ebenstein said. “He was the ideal teammate who put the team first all the time. He always did anything that was asked of him. He was a tough competitor and a great all-around person.”

During the wrestling season, Caplinger was a state-ranked wrestler at 170 pounds for much of the year. He ended his season with a team-high

33-5 record and was a regional champion.

At the Class 4A state tournament, Caplinger finished one win shy of his first state medal. In all, Caplinger finished with a team high in wins and also holds the school record for most career reversals (72) and most career escapes (86). He ended his Wildcat career with a 111-57 record.

“Anyone who knows Blue understands what a great young man he is,” Louisburg wrestling coach Bobby Bovaird said. “Blue embodies so much about what wrestling is all about. I wanted him to get that state medal so badly, and he came so close not once, but twice. With these sorts of setbacks, Blue has demonstrated that he’s gained the resilience to be a champion in life.”

In the spring, Caplinger became a dual-sport athlete as he participated in both baseball and track and field.

Although his focus was on track, Caplinger helped out the Wildcat baseball team as a pinch-runner as he stole five bases in eight games.

However, Caplinger did a lot of his damage on the track as he was one of the Wildcats’ top sprinters. He joined Justin Collins, Ben Wiedenmann and Chris Williams to win the Class 4A state title in the 4×400-meter relay.

Caplinger, along with Charlie Koontz, Wiedenmann and Collins, also medaled fifth at state in the 4×100 relay. Both relays broke school records this past season in the Frontier League and regional meets.

Caplinger will continue his athletic career this fall as he plans to attend Benedictine College on a football scholarship.

Moore, Tucker excited for Shrine Bowl opportunity



Louisburg's Austin Moore (left) and Kiefer Tucker will represent the East side of the state Saturday during the Kansas Shrine Bowl in Dodge City. They will be joined by Louisburg head football coach Robert Ebenstein, who is an assistant coach on the team.

The Kansas Shrine Bowl is one of the premier all-star football games as it pits the best high school seniors from each side of the state.

As it turns out, Louisburg High School is going to have two representatives.

Austin Moore was selected to join the East squad back in December along with Louisburg head coach Robert Ebenstein, but the Shrine Bowl rules state that only one player from each school can be chosen – that is unless an opening comes up shortly before the game.

So when an opening became available, Kiefer Tucker, who was a first team All-Frontier League player on both sides of the

ball for Louisburg, got a text from his high school coach.

Tucker is going to get one more chance to play alongside his former teammate and coach as he was selected as a replacement to play in the Shrine Bowl and practiced with the East team earlier this week in Ottawa.

“Being selected to play in the Shrine Bowl is a great honor and I was smiling pretty big when I got the text from Coach E saying there is a spot open for me,” Tucker said. “I’m excited to be able to go up against great talent.”

Moore, who won first team all-league, all-state and player of the year honors following his senior season last fall, will be one the East’s top players on defense. He will start at linebacker and is looking forward to the challenge of going up against the West.

“The defense we are running is a 3-5 and I will be one of the ‘dog linebackers,’” Moore said. “The dog linebackers are to the outside of the middle backer. I’m just really excited to represent Louisburg again on Saturday and to play another football game.”

Tucker, on the other hand, will see a lot of time on the offensive side of the ball. He is going to play at the guard spot after originally starting on the defensive side and will be coached by Ebenstein, who is working with the offensive line.

Tucker is looking forward to suiting up one final time with his teammate and coach, as they will each go their separate ways after this game.

“Being able to play with Austin one last time is one of my favorite parts about this coming

weekend," Tucker said. "The last time we were on the field together, Austin's season was taken from him early (broken collarbone) and to be able to play with him again means a lot to me. One top of that, to be able to get coached by Coach E one more time is a pretty great thing. To be able to end my high school career with both of them right by me will mean a lot."

Moore feels the same as the three Louisburg representatives have gotten a chance to relive some of the Wildcats' past successes.

"It has been really fun being out on the field with Coach E and Kiefer one more time," Moore said. "We've been talking about all of the fun times we've had over the past four years, and it has definitely made me miss playing for Louisburg even more."

Although the game is what Moore and Tucker have been preparing for, they both also realize this week is more than just a game.

The Kansas Shrine Bowl is an all-star high school senior, East vs. West, football game put on each year in Kansas, by the Kansas Shrine.

It is a 501(c) 3 non-profit charity that produces annual events and related activities, with net proceeds benefiting Shriners Hospitals for Children. The Kansas Shrine Bowl has sent over \$2M to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Notable alumni of the game include current Oakland Raiders All-Pro Wide Receiver Jordy Nelson, NFL Hall of Famer Barry Sanders, former Kansas State and Kansas City Chiefs Linebacker Gary Spani, former Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year and Super Bowl Champion Linebacker Mark Simoneau and many others.

Both Moore and Tucker traveled from Ottawa to Dodge City yesterday and will spend the rest of this week preparing for the game. They will also get the opportunity to meet some of the patients from the Shriners Hospital.

“I’m just honored to be selected because the Shrine Bowl is more than just a game,” Tucker said. “On the day where we meet some of the kids, I hope to be able to spread a few smiles and share some laughs with them.”

Kickoff for the game is set for 7 p.m. on Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Dodge City and the game will be streamed at www.kansasshrinebowl.com.

2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Year nominees



For the past three years, Louisburg Sports Zone has given out Athlete of the Week awards during each of the three sports seasons. I do it to recognize special athletic achievements and to highlight the athletes.

For the second straight year, Louisburg Sports Zone will be handing out an Athlete of the Year honor to a male and female athlete at Louisburg High School. I wanted the opportunity to recognize those who exemplify what it means to be an "athlete."

Although I am giving out the award, I wanted the process to be subjective, so I asked the head coaches at LHS to help me out. I asked each coach to send me nominations of who they thought exemplified the Athlete of the Year honor. They will then vote for their top 3 male and female athletes and then I will tabulate the results and determine the winner. In the next week, I will announce this year's recipients.

Below are the nominees for this year's award in alphabetical order by last name. Congrats to all those who were nominated and best of luck!

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



CARSON BUFFINGTON – SENIOR – BASKETBALL, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL

Carson was a 3-time letter winner in her senior season and was named as a team captain in volleyball, basketball and soccer.

In volleyball, Buffington earned second team All-Frontier League honors as she helped lead the Lady Cats to a Class 4A state runner-up performance. She also moved from her starting setter position to the outside hitter spot and had a lot of success for the Lady Cats as she tallied 130 kills in her new position. With all that success, Buffington was also selected to the Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches Association Senior All-Star Match.

Buffington also wrapped up a strong career for the Louisburg basketball team as she averaged eight points and seven

rebounds to go along with three steals a contest. She was named as a Frontier League honorable mention this past season, and she also was selected as an all-state honorable mention.

In girls soccer, Buffington was the starting goalie for Louisburg in all 20 games. She posted 13 shutouts, which is a school record and had a .952 goals against average, which is also a school record. Buffington had 90 saves on the season that ended as a Class 4-1A state runner up for the second consecutive year. For her efforts, she was also selected second team All-Frontier League. Buffington was also named first team all-state goalie and was named Goalkeeper of the Year.



ANNA DIXON – SENIOR – VOLLEYBALL

Anna wrapped up her fourth volleyball season as a varsity starter for the Lady Cats and guided Louisburg to its second

consecutive Class 4A-state runner-up finish.

Dixon, who is currently with the Kansas State volleyball team, ended her senior season with 584 kills and had a hitting percentage of .260. She also added 325 digs, 50 aces and 42 blocks as she played all six rotations. With those lofty numbers, Dixon earned several big time honors in her final season.

She was selected as an All-Frontier League first team player and was also named to the 4A State All-Tournament Team. Those honors continued as she was named the Kansas Volleyball Coaches Association Class 4A Player of the Year and earned a spot on KVA All-State First Team.

Following the season, Dixon was also named as an Under-Armour All-American also earned MaxPreps/American Volleyball Coaches Association Player of the Week honors.



ALYSE MOORE – SOPHOMORE – BASKETBALL, SOFTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD

Alyse is a 3-sport varsity letter-winner this past year as she earned letters for the basketball, softball and track and field teams. This past spring season, Moore went to state in two different sports and became the first Wildcat athlete in recent memory to do so.

In her first season in track and field, Moore threw the javelin for the Lady Cats and went on to become regional champion as she eclipsed her personal best throw by almost 25 feet in just her third competition of the season. The following week, she medaled fourth at the Class 4A state tournament with a personal best throw of 131 feet and

9 inches.

Moore was also the starting shortstop for the Lady Cats as she helped Louisburg to its first regional championship since 2014.

During the basketball season, Moore was a starter for the Lady Cats and averaged six points, five rebounds and three steals a game.



TRINITY MOORE – JUNIOR – CROSS COUNTRY, SOCCER

Trinity is 2-sport letter-winner for Louisburg this past year as she had state performances in both cross country and soccer.

During the fall, Moore was the top runner on the Louisburg girls cross country team as she helped the Lady Cats to a regional runner-up finish and qualified for state as a team for the first time in school history. Moore medaled fourth at the Class 4A state meet in Wamego and currently holds the school record for the fastest time in program history. She

also earned first-team All-Frontier League honors for her third place finish at the league meet.

In soccer, Moore was a starter on the Wildcat team that recently finished as the Class 4-1A state runner-up for the second consecutive year. At the midfield spot, she finished the season with 12 goals and six assists and was also named to the All-Frontier League first team.



DELANEY WRIGHT – FRESHMAN – BASKETBALL, CROSS COUNTRY, TRACK AND FIELD

Delaney is a 3-sport letter-winner as she took part in cross country, basketball and track and field and competed at the state level in two of those.

Wright found most of her success in track and field as she

earned four medals at the Class 4A Kansas State Track and Field Championships in Wichita this past month. She medaled in the long jump, 400-meter-dash, 200-meter dash and as a member of the 4×400-relay.

During the regional meet, Wright broke two school records (long jump, 400 dash) and earned a regional and Frontier League title in the long jump. She also earned a medal in the long jump at the Kansas Relays earlier in the season.

In cross country, Wright was a member of the Louisburg team that finished as a Class 4A regional runner-up and qualified for the state meet as a team for the first time in school history. In basketball, Wright saw playing time at the varsity level as a freshman at different points throughout the season.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



BLUE CAPLINGER – SENIOR – BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WRESTLING

Blue is a 4-sport letter-winner in football, wrestling, baseball and track and field and competed at the state level in two of the sports.

In football, Caplinger was an All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball as he was named to the first team defense as a defensive back and second team offense as a multi-purpose player. On defense, Caplinger, who helped Louisburg to a 10-1 record and a regional championship, had 31 tackles from the safety spot and also had two tackles for a loss, two fumble

recoveries and an interception. Offensively, he had 544 total yards and six touchdowns.

On the wrestling mat, Caplinger was a regional champion at 170 pounds and finished his season with a 33-5 record. The Louisburg senior fell one match short of state medal with a 2-2 record at the Class 4A state tournament. He currently holds the school record for most career reversals (72) and most career escapes (86). Following the season, he was also named to the KWCA Academic All-State first team.

Caplinger split time between baseball and track and field in the spring. Although he spent time as a reserve and pinch-runner on the baseball team, Caplinger found a lot of success on the track.

He qualified for state as a member of two relays. Caplinger was a member of the 4×400 relay team that won the Class 4A state championship in 3 minutes and 25 seconds. Caplinger also helped the 4×100 relay to a fifth place finish and went on to garner two state medals.

Caplinger will join the Benedictine football team this fall.



AUSTIN MOORE – SENIOR – FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WRESTLING

Austin is a 3-sport letter winner in football, wrestling and track and field and was among the state's best in two of the sports.

Moore thrived on the football field for the Wildcats as he helped Louisburg to a 10-1 record and a regional championship. Moore was a first team All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball and was the league's leading vote-getter. He went on to rack up all-state awards as the Louisburg senior earned Class 4A first team all-state honors as a running back from the Topeka Capital-Journal and the Kansas Football Coaches Association. Moore was also named as a Class 4A first team all-state linebacker from the Wichita Eagle.

When the season was all said and done, Moore tallied 1,554 total yards from the running back spot, including 1,428 yards on the ground, and had 21 touchdowns before he broke his collarbone during the regional championship game.

With those numbers, he was named the Kansas Small Class Player of the Year by 810 Varsity and was All-Purpose Player of the Year by Kpreps.com. Earlier this year, Moore was also named to the Kansas Shrine Bowl roster.

On the wrestling mat, Moore missed more than half of the season with his broken collarbone, but came back in a big way. Moore won his first 14 matches when coming back at 220 pounds, which included a regional championship. He went on to earn his first state medal as he finished fourth at the Class 4A state tournament with a 3-2 record. He was also named to the KWCA Academic All-State first team.

During the spring, he was a member of the Louisburg track and field team and threw the javelin for the Wildcats. He was also on the throwers relay that ranked Top 5 nationally at one point in the season.

Moore will join the Kansas State football team this fall.



KIEFER TUCKER – SENIOR – FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WEIGHTLIFTING

Kiefer is a 2-sport letter winner in football and track and field and also went to state competition in two activities.

Tucker was a presence on the line of scrimmage for the Louisburg football team as he was a first team All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball and helped the Wildcats to a 10-1 record and a regional championship.

The Louisburg senior was among on the leaders on the offensive line as he helped pave the way for more than 3,500 yards of total offense. On defense, Tucker recorded 55 tackles from the defensive end spot, including three tackles for a loss, three forced fumbles, a fumble recovery and a sack. Those numbers helped earn him honorable mention all-

state honors and was also named to the all-state team by the Kansas Football Coaches Association.

The honors kept coming for Tucker as he was recently selected to participate in the Kansas Shrine Bowl.

During the winter, Tucker was a member of the Louisburg powerlifting team and certainly made his mark there as well. Tucker won the Class 4A state championship in the 220-pound class and broke a 24-year-old record in the bench press with a lift of 375 pounds.

In track and field, Tucker qualified for state for the first time in the discus. He finished as a regional runner-up and went on to take ninth at the Class 4A state meet in Wichita, just one spot away from earning a state medal.

Tucker will join the Emporia State football team this fall.