

Louisburg beats rival Paola to earn playoff berth



Louisburg sophomore Austin Moore gets a block from his offensive line and breaks free for a long gain Friday in Paola. Moore rushed for 122 yards and four touchdowns in the 35-7 over Paola.

PAOLA – It had been five years since the Louisburg football team walked off the field and had anything to celebrate following a game with Paola.

The last five meetings with the Panthers, the Wildcats found themselves on the wrong side of the scoreboard. All that came to an end on Friday.

Louisburg had a lot to celebrate as it rolled Paola 35-7 at Panther Stadium in Paola. Not only did the Wildcats snap the losing streak to the Panthers, but they also earned a spot in the Class 4A, Division I playoffs.

After a loss to Ottawa the week before, the Wildcats had to win Friday to keep their season alive and they didn't leave much doubt from the opening kickoff.

"You beat Paola and make the playoffs in the same night – that is really big," Louisburg co-head coach Gary Griffin said. "These kids don't want to be done. They have more football in them and they are good bunch of kids. The coaches really like

being around them.”

Although the Wildcats had to win to get into the playoffs, the contest with Paola was considered a must-win before the season started. Former head coach Kyle Littrell stressed the importance of this game to his players throughout the summer and in practice.

Then when Littrell resigned his post shortly prior to the season, his players wanted to make sure they honored him on the field.

“It feels awesome,” senior lineman Mason Koechner said of the win. “Coach Littrell told us before the season started that even if we didn’t win a single game all year that he wanted us to win this game. I think we went out there and played the best game we could and we did it for him.”



Quarterback Grant Harding waits for a block from teammate

Jake Hill to get a few extra yards Friday in Paola.

Louisburg had it going in all phases of the game. The Wildcats racked up 429 yards of total offense and had five rushing touchdowns.

The Wildcat defense also held Paola to 227 yards, had two interceptions and had a shutout going until the final two minutes of the contest. Louisburg also converted on all five of its extra points from Nick Hull on special teams.

"This win feels really good for a lot of reasons," Griffin said. "That is the best game we have played for four quarters – offensively, defensively and on special teams. We stiffened and made some plays on the goal line and picked off a couple passes. That is what we have been waiting for this team to do this year. Offensively we were pretty efficient as well."

On a team dominated by seniors, it was sophomore Austin Moore who came through with the biggest performance of the night. Moore carried the ball 15 times for 122 yards and had four touchdowns.

Moore was also all over the field defensively as he led the Wildcats with eight tackles, including two for a loss and had an interception.

"Austin is a gamer," Griffin said. "He knows he didn't play very good against Ottawa and he wanted to come out and atone for it. You have to give those touchdowns to the offensive line. They opened some holes for him; he is a hard runner and he made some plays."



Seniors Dustyn Rizzo (left) and Mason Koechner team up for a tackle.

The offensive line of Koechner, Dustyn Rizzo, Dalton Frazier, T.J. Dover and Garrett Lowry paved the way for 283 yards on the ground and gave quarterback Grant Harding a lot of time to make some big pass plays down the field.

“The offensive line just made some really big holes, I read the blocks and it was all thanks to them,” Moore said. “I am thankful that I get another week with these seniors. I really enjoy playing with them all and happy that we can keep it going.”

Louisburg (7-2 overall, 2-1 district) made a statement early as the Wildcats drove down the field on the game’s first possession for a touchdown. The Wildcats faced a fourth-down-and-1 near midifield, they went for it and Moore broke free for a 29-yard run that set up a 4-yard touchdown run from

Thomas San Agustin.

Right before the end of the first quarter, Harding found Korbin Hankinson for a 65-yard pass that put Louisburg inside the 10-yard line. Moore then scored on a 4-yard touchdown to put Louisburg up 14-0.

Paola took its next possession down the field to try and answer. The Panthers faced a fourth down on the Louisburg 14-yard line, but Moore intercepted the Paola pass to stall the drive.

Moore then responded with a 43-yard run, Harding scrambled for 21 yards and eventually Moore scored on a 3-yard touchdown run to put Louisburg up 21-0 right before halftime.

Harding was a big part of the offense for the Wildcats as he tallied 146 yards through the air and 79 yards on the ground. Hankinson was other end of some of those passes as he caught five balls for 108 yards.

"It is awesome," Koechner said of the win. "We knew we were one and done and that we had to win this game. We had the best week of practice that we had all year. We were focused and came out and did it."

The Panthers used a little trickery to try and get back in the game to start the second half as they went for a fake punt near midfield and converted. Then as Paola looked toward the endzone with a long pass, Hankinson intercepted it to thwart another Panther drive.

Louisburg scored late in the third as Moore scored on a 4-yard run and then scored again on a 6-yard scamper to the endzone to put the Wildcats up 35-0 midway through the fourth quarter.

Now the Wildcats will focus their sights on the playoffs as they hit the road to face Independence at 7 p.m. Friday. Should the Wildcats advance, they will meet the winner between

Bishop Miege and Piper.

"If we improve as much next week as we did this week, then we will play a few games," Griffin said. "We just have to take them one game at a time."

LOU	7	14	7	7 – 35
PAO	0	0	0	7 – 7

First quarter

L: Thomas San Agustin 4 run (Nick Hull kick)

Second quarter

L: Austin Moore 4 run (Hull kick)

L: Moore 3 run (Hull kick)

Third quarter

L: Moore 4 run (Hull kick)

Fourth quarter

L: Moore 6 run (Hull kick)

P: Donovan Sutti 10 pass from Bryce Huber (kick good)

STATISTICS

OFFENSE

RUSHING – Austin Moore 15-122; Grant Harding 9-79; Thomas San Agustin 10-54; Jake Hill 4-16; Korbin Hankinson 2-8; Will Ridley 2-2; Owen Staver 1-2.

PASSING – Grant Harding 7-11-146

RECEIVING – Korbin Hankinson 5-108, Thomas San Agustin 2-38

DEFENSE

TACKLES – Austin Moore 8, Mason Koechner 6, Matt Rison 5, Thomas San Agustin 4, Dustyn Rizzo 4, Lyndon Smith 3, Connor Green 3, Jake Hill 3, T.J. Dover 3, Grant Harding 2, Nick Hull 2, Ben Hupp 2, Kiefer Tucker 2, Dalton Ribordy 2, Brayden Gage 1, Korbin Hankinson 1, Tommy Dalton 1.

SACKS – Matt Rison 1

INTERCEPTIONS – Austin Moore, Korbin Hankinson

Big plays hurt Louisburg in loss to Ottawa



Louisburg senior Grant Harding tries to knock down a pass in front of Ottawa's Cooper Diel last Friday in Louisburg. The Wildcats lost their district game against Ottawa, 48-28 and will try to earn a spot into the playoffs this Friday against Paola.

Halloween was still more than a week away, but big plays

haunted the Louisburg football team Friday in its final regular season home contest.

Ottawa came into Louisburg on Friday and scored seven touchdowns of 40 yards or more and left with a 48-28 district win and spoiled senior night for the Wildcats. The Cyclones scored three unanswered touchdowns to start the game and forced the Wildcats to play from behind early.

Louisburg didn't help itself with penalties and the Wildcats also turned the ball over four times as they suffered their second loss of the season. Any more losses and their season is over as the Wildcats will travel to Paola this Friday for the final district game of the season, with the winner grabbing a playoff spot.

"There is a lot riding on it now," Louisburg co-head coach Jeff Lohse said of the game. "It is an even bigger game than it was before and Paola is always a big game. We are going to have a great week of practice and I think our kids are going to bounce back."

In a game that featured a combined 76 points, Friday's contest actually started slow for both teams. Louisburg threw an interception on its first possession, the Wildcat defense then forced Ottawa to punt on a three-and-out, before turning the ball over on downs themselves in the redzone.

Ottawa then found a hole in the Wildcat defense as running back Devion Bethea scooted toward the endzone on a 42-yard run to take an early lead. The Cyclones expanded their lead in the second quarter on a 74-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Isaac McCullough and a 79-yard run from Bethea to go up by three touchdowns.



Junior Garrett Lowry brings down Ottawa's Devion Bethea during Friday's game in Louisburg.

Louisburg (6-2 overall, 1-1 district) finally got on the board late in the first half when Thomas San Agustin scored the first of his three touchdowns on a 2-yard run to cut the lead to 21-7 at halftime.

Going into the second half the Wildcats were still in the game, but it took just a few seconds to change all that. Ottawa's Perry Carroll fielded the opening kickoff off a bounce and returned it 90 yards for a touchdown.

"We knew their offense was going to be really good and their quarterback (McCullough) is a really good player," Lohse said. "Big plays just killed us. The kickoff return right after halftime was a huge play in the game."

The Wildcats marched down the field later in the quarter and scored on a 1-yard run from San Agustin to cut the Ottawa lead to two touchdowns.

Two minutes later, Ottawa answered again and this time it was on the arm of McCullough who found Cooper Diel for a 51-yard score and all but put the game out of reach for Louisburg.

Louisburg didn't stop fighting as it used a little trickery to try and get back in it. San Agustin hit Desmond Doles for a 37-yard halfback pass that set up a 3-yard touchdown run for San Agustin.

McCullough threw his third touchdown of the game in the fourth quarter and Diel intercepted a Wildcat pass and returned it for another score to seal it for the Cyclones. Louisburg running back Austin Moore tacked on a 13-yard touchdown run for the Wildcats' final score late in the game.

"Even though we were down early, it didn't change a whole lot of what we were trying to do," Lohse said. "We knew we're still in it for a while, but we hurt ourselves. We hurt ourselves with penalties and we turned it over a couple times. We can't do that against good teams."

The Wildcats were able to move the ball against the Cyclones as they racked up 412 total yards of offense, including 305 yards on the ground. Quarterback Grant Harding led the Wildcats with 123 yards rushing and San Agustin added 81 yards on 15 carries.

The final game of district play is now on tap for Louisburg as it tries to forget about this game and prepare for rival Paola. A win against the Panthers would give Louisburg a spot in the Class 4A state playoffs for the second straight season.

"We are a pretty resilient team," Lohse said. "If we win our next game we are in and that is what we have to focus on."

OTT	7	14	13	14 – 48
LOU	0	7	13	8 – 28

First quarter

0: Devion Bethea 42 run (kick good)

Second quarter

0: Blaine Ray 74 pass from Isaac McCullough (kick good)

0: Bethea 79 run (kick good)

L: Thomas San Agustin 2 run (Nick Hull kick)

Third quarter

0: Perry Carroll 90 kickoff return (kick failed)

L: San Agustin 1 run (Hull kick)

0: Cooper Diel 51 pass from McCullough (kick good)

L: San Agustin 3 run (kick failed)

Fourth quarter

0: Ray 30 pass from McCullough (kick failed)

0: Diel 30 interception return (McCullough run)

L: Austin Moore 13 run (Moore run)

STATISTICS

OFFENSE

RUSHING – Grant Harding 15-123, Thomas San Agustin 15-81, Jake Hill 9-34, Austin Moore 7-34, Korbin Hankinson 7-33

PASSING – Grant Harding 9-25-70; Thomas San Agustin 1-1-37

RECEIVING – Desmond Doles 3-58, Thomas San Agustin 4-26, Korbin Hankinson 3-23

DEFENSE

TACKLES – Austin Moore 6, Mason Koechner 6, Jake Hill 5, T.J. Dover 5, Dustyn Rizzo 4, Thomas San Agustin 3, Nick Hull 3, Garrett Lowry 3, Matt Rison 2, Lyndon Smith 1, Connor Green 1, Grant Harding 1, Ben Hupp 1, Kiefer Tucker 1.

FOOTBALL, CHEER AND CROSS COUNTRY SENIOR NIGHT

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Connor Green



Dalton Frazer



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Grant Harding



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Jake Hill



Kaitlyn Gaza



Korbin Hankinson



Lily Cook



Liz Hildreth



Lyndon Smith



Madelynn Yalowitz



Mason Koechner



Matt Rison



Megan Eberhart



Nick Hull



Rachael Bellinger



Thomas San Agustin



T.J. Dover



Tommy Dalton

Wildcats bounce back in district opener



Louisburg senior T.J. Dover stops a Fort Scott running back behind the line of scrimmage Friday during the Wildcats' district opener against the Tigers at Wildcat Stadium. The Wildcats defeated Fort Scott 35-6.

Louisburg wanted to make a statement following its one-point loss in its last game, and unfortunately for Fort Scott, the Tigers were next on the Wildcats' schedule.

The Wildcats began district play against Fort Scott on Friday at Wildcat Stadium and took their aggression out on the Tigers as they rolled to a 35-6 victory. Louisburg scored 28 unanswered points in the first half as it took control of the game from the opening kickoff.

The win allowed Louisburg to quickly forget its first loss of the season the week before against Spring Hill where the Wildcats fell in the final seconds. One more win and the Wildcats would more than likely secure a spot in the state playoffs.

"It was really big," senior T.J. Dover said of the win. "We were preaching all week that we couldn't let Spring Hill beat us twice and I thought we came out in the first half and showed what we can do. I think we came out and made a statement and it was fun. It was good that everyone played well together and it is time to build off of it."

Dover was a part of an offensive line that included Dalton Frazier, Garrett Lowry, Dustyn Rizzo and Mason Koechner, which paved the way for the Wildcats' 435 yards of total offense. Along with tight ends Ben Hupp and Dalton Ribordy, Louisburg opened up several holes in its running game as the Wildcat tallied 304 yards on the ground.



Korbin Hankinson hauls in a touchdown pass from Grant Harding on Friday in the Wildcats' district opener with Fort Scott.

Senior running back Thomas San Agustin took advantage of the blocking as he tallied 109 yards rushing on just 10 carries to go along with two touchdowns. Sophomore Austin Moore also had 15 carries for 92 yards and a touchdown.

The Wildcats (6-1 overall, 1-0 district) were also dangerous through the air as senior quarterback Grant Harding threw for 135 yards, and 112 of those yards went to senior Korbin Hankinson.

Louisburg made a statement early on the game's opening drive. The Wildcats drove the field in nine plays that ended on a 3-yard touchdown run from Harding. Louisburg's first play from scrimmage was a 23-yard run from San Agustin.

"There were holes there to run through and the backs did a good job running through them," Louisburg co-head coach Gary Griffin said. "I thought Grant threw the ball pretty decent in the first half and we were able to make some big plays in the passing game. That helps with the running game. We started the game really physical and we got a nice crack block on a sweep on our first drive and that set the tone. That was a nice first drive for us."

Late in the first half, the Wildcats got their passing attack going as Harding hit Hankinson for a 37-yard pass, which eventually resulted in a 3-yard touchdown run from Moore. Harding ran in the 2-point conversion to put Louisburg up 14-0 going into the second quarter.

Louisburg's defense came through next as Fort Scott turned the ball over on downs in the redzone. Then the Harding-Hankinson combo struck again and this time it was for six points.

Following a 30-yard run from Jake Hill, Harding hit Hankinson in stride for a 68-yard touchdown pass to give the Wildcats a three-score lead.

On Fort Scott's next possession, Dover forced a fumble and Moore recovered to give the Louisburg offense one last chance in the first half. The Wildcats took full advantage as San Agustin scored on a 19-yard touchdown run with 54 seconds left in the quarter.

"I think the first half was the best we have played offensively," Griffin said. "We made some big plays in the passing game and we were consistently able to run the football. I was happy with the way our kids bounced back. We had a good week of practice and I thought we showed it. We were a lot more physical."

Fort Scott responded in the second half with a 13-play drive that took seven minutes off the clock and scored a touchdown to cut the Wildcat lead to 28-6.

It took less than a minute for the Wildcats to answer.



Austin Moore (21) leads a host of Wildcats tacklers as they bring down a Fort Scott player Friday in Louisburg

San Agustin went 75 yards in just two plays. He took the kickoff 40 yards and then scored on a 35-yard touchdown run on the first play of the drive to put the Wildcats up 35-6 and sealed the win.

"It was real nice to see us bounce back there," Griffin said. "That is a part of growing up too. I think that kind of demoralized them a little bit. They were able to get a little momentum, but then we were able to get a nice kickoff return and we scored on the very next play. We have done that a few times this year and it was big for us to answer."

The Wildcats got a good performance from their defense as Hill

led Louisburg with nine tackles on the night and Moore was right behind him with eight. Louisburg was able to limit Fort Scott to 181 yards of total offense with three injured cornerbacks, but reserves Desmond Doles and Brayden Gage filled in well.

Louisburg will need to get healthier this Friday when it hosts Ottawa on senior night. The Cyclones defeated Paola 38-7 in their opener.

"We just have to get better," Griffin said. "We have struggled with spread teams this year and Ottawa is going to spread you out. They will just pick you apart so we are going to have to get to work at practice. We are going to have to get some kids healthy. Our top three corners are banged up and didn't play much. I thought Desmond and Brayden played well for being first time starters."

FS	0	0	6	0 – 6
LOU	14	14	7	0 – 35

First quarter

L: Grant Harding 3 run (kick failed)

L: Austin Moore 3 run (Harding run)

Second quarter

L: Korbin Hankinson 68 pass from Harding (kick failed)

L: Thomas San Agustin 19 run (Dalton Ribordy from Harding)

Third quarter

F: Brady Tourtillott 13 pass from Jesse Jones (kick failed)

L: San Agustin 35 run (Nick Hull kick)

STATISTICS

OFFENSE

RUSHING – Thomas San Agustin 10-109; Austin Moore 15-92; Jake Hill 4-39; Will Ridley 5-34; Grant Harding 4-25; Owen Staver 1-5; Blue Caplinger 1-3.

PASSING – Grant Harding 4-16-131

RECEIVING – Korbin Hankinson 3-112; Thomas San Agustin 1-19

DEFENSE

TACKLES – Jake Hill 9, Austin Moore 8, Mason Koechner 5, Nick Hull 4, Will Ridley 2, Dustyn Rizzo 2, T.J. Dover 2, Desmond Doles 2, Grant Harding 1, Thomas San Agustin 1, Kiefer Tucker 1.

FORCED FUMBLE – T.J. Dover

FUMBLE RECOVERY – Austin Moore

Spring Hill hands Louisburg its first loss



Louisburg senior Mason Koechner (53) and Nick Hull bring down a Spring Hill player during Friday's contest in Spring Hill. Koechner led Louisburg with 11 tackles in the Wildcats' 28-27 loss.

SPRING HILL – As the clock hit zero, and the Spring Hill players ran onto the field to celebrate, the feeling of disgust and disappointment started to invade members of the Louisburg High School football team.

The Wildcats entered Friday's contest in Spring Hill with a perfect record and a No. 4 ranking in the state. Both of those things are gone now.

Louisburg fell in a heartbreaking 28-27 defeat to the Broncos despite a dramatic ending that had everyone in the stadium on their feet.

"It was definitely a tough loss," Louisburg co-head coach Jeff Lohse said. "We knew coming in that Spring Hill was a good team and they were going to be ready for the challenge. The guys took this one very hard. There are a lot of things we need to get better at going into district play."

The Wildcats (5-1) trailed by seven points with three minutes left in the contest after Spring Hill broke the tie with a touchdown. Louisburg drove down the field, made a couple big plays and quarterback Grant Harding hit Korbin Hankinson on a screen pass and Hankinson dove for the pylon for the score with one second remaining.



Korbin Hankinson dives for the pylon for a touchdown Friday in Spring Hill. Hankinson scored on the play to cut the Spring Hill lead to one.

Instead of trying to send the game to overtime with an extra point, the Wildcats decided to go for two points and the win. Harding hit Hankinson on a quick pass, but he was unable to get past the line of scrimmage as the Spring Hill defense made the stop.

“The decision to go for two at the end was a no-brainer at that point,” Lohse said. “We had the momentum and the guys all wanted to go for the win on the road.”

Mistakes haunted Louisburg through much of the game as penalties and a turnover took away some big plays. Some of those plays included a punt return for a touchdown and a fake punt for a first down that were called back due to penalties in the first half.

Louisburg also fumbled in the redzone in the fourth quarter, in which Spring Hill recovered and went on to score the go-ahead touchdown.

"We just couldn't seem to get out of our own way at times," Lohse said. "There were definitely some very big penalties that halted drives or touchdowns. Those little things come back to haunt you at the end of close ballgames."

Still, despite those mistakes, the Wildcats came up with big plays when they needed them. Hankinson took a punt return to the Spring Hill 13-yard line and the Wildcats were able to score on an Austin Moore 3-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter. The 2-point conversion failed and Louisburg still trailed by a point.

It didn't stay that way for long as two possessions later, Harding hit Hankinson in stride for a 50-yard touchdown pass. Thomas San Agustin ran in the 2-point conversion to give Louisburg a 14-7 lead with a minute to go in the first half.

Instead of going into the locker room with a lead, Louisburg allowed two big pass plays from Spring Hill, including a 37-yard screen pass with 24 seconds left in the first half to tie the game.



Dustyn Rizzo brings down Spring Hill running back Ty Straw on Friday in Spring Hill.

Spring Hill quarterback Jacob Letellier, who had three touchdowns in the game, broke open a tie game with a 20-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter to put Spring Hill up 21-14.

Louisburg answered right back when Harding found San Agustin for one of his three touchdown passes on the night. Harding hit San Agustin for a 36-yard score and a Nick Hull extra point tied the game.

Still, the Wildcats had a hard time holding the Spring Hill offense. After Louisburg turned the ball over in the redzone late in the fourth quarter, Spring Hill responded with a touchdown drive that ended on a 1-yard score with 3:08 left in the game.

Spring Hill amassed 355 yards of total offense and did damage on the ground and through the air.

“Spring Hill did a good job of converting on third down,” Lohse said. “We just couldn’t seem to get them off the field and get the ball back to our offense.”

Despite being down seven points, the Wildcat offense got in gear and drove 65 yards for a score themselves. San Agustin recorded a 16-yard run on the drive and Harding connected with Desmond Doles and Christian Tosterud on two big passes.

With six seconds remaining, Harding hit Hankinson for the 7-yard score to cut the Spring Hill lead to one.

“I thought we showed a ton of character driving down and scoring with under two seconds to play,” Lohse said. “Our guys are hurting and are ready to get back on the field as soon as possible. We have some great leadership on this team and I believe those seniors will push everyone a little bit harder this week knowing that there is a lot at stake these next three games.”

The next three games will determine whether the Wildcats make the playoffs as they enter what is a difficult district play. Louisburg will host Fort Scott (3-3) this Friday and will also face off with Ottawa (4-2) and rival Paola (3-3).

“We are in a very tough district,” Lohse said. “We have got to take things game by game and be more prepared and more focused than we have been up to this point. This loss will help bring things back into perspective for us. There are many uncharacteristic things that we keep doing, on both sides of the ball, that we will get fixed this week.”

LOU	0	14	7	6 – 27
SH	7	7	7	7 – 28

First quarter

S: Jacob Letellier 2 run (kick good)

Second quarter

L: Austin Moore 3 run (run failed)

L: Korbin Hankinson 50 pass from Grant Harding (Thomas San Agustin run)

S: Ty Straw 37 pass from Letellier (kick good)

Third quarter

S: Letellier 20 run (kick good)

L: San Agustin 36 pass from Harding (Nick Hull kick)

Fourth quarter

S: Straw 1 run (kick good)

L: Hankinson 7 pass from Harding (pass failed)

STATISTICS

OFFENSE

RUSHING – Grant Harding 11-63; Thomas San Agustin 8-46; Austin Moore 4-18; Jake Hill 4-13; Korbin Hankinson 12-minus 2

PASSING – Grant Harding 9-16-153

RECEIVING – Korbin Hankinson 4-79; Thomas San Agustin 2-46; Christian Tosterud 1-14; Desmond Doles 1-12, Jake Hill 1-2.

DEFENSE

TACKLES – Mason Koechner 11, Austin Moore 7, Dustyn Rizzo 7, T.J. Dover 7, Lyndon Smith 6, Connor Green 5, Grant Harding 4, Korbin Hankinson 3, Nick Hull 3, Thomas San Agustin 2, Dalton Ribordy 2, Christian Tosterud 1, Jake Hill 1, Will Ridley 1, Garrett Lowry 1.

Wildcats roll past Baldwin on homecoming



Louisburg running back Thomas San Agustin forces his way across the goal line for one of his two touchdowns Friday at Wildcat Stadium. San Agustin had 148 yards on the ground in the Wildcats' 36-8 win over Baldwin.

As Korbin Hankinson took the opening kickoff, the Louisburg senior raced down the sideline untouched for a touchdown.

It would be a sign of things to come for the Wildcat football team Friday against Baldwin. Louisburg found the endzone four more times and rolled to a 36-8 victory over the Bulldogs in the Wildcats' annual homecoming contest.

Despite the 28-point win, Louisburg left Wildcat Stadium knowing the game didn't go exactly as it wanted. Penalties, empty trips in the redzone and offensive mistakes had the

Wildcats lamenting not being able to play a complete game.

"We are still focusing on playing well for four quarters and we have yet to do that," Louisburg co-head coach Gary Griffin said. "Normally it is the second half where we haven't played well, but this time it was the first half. The last few years we haven't played very well on homecoming, so it is nice to get this one out of the way."



Louisburg senior lineman T.J. Dover brings down a Baldwin player Friday.

Even with all the homecoming distractions, the Wildcats (5-0) were still able to play well at times and it started on the opening kickoff as Hankinson had a wall of blockers that escorted him to the endzone and the Wildcats were rolling early.

Quarterback Grant Harding broke free for a 55-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter to put Louisburg up 14-0. Then following a Baldwin score, the Wildcats marched down the field in less than two minutes to score on a 3-yard touchdown from sophomore Austin Moore.

Louisburg running back Thomas San Agustin had a 37-yard run on the drive and Dalton Ribordy caught a 15-yard pass from Harding that set up Moore's score to put the Wildcats up 21-8 at halftime.

Still, the first half left the Wildcats frustrated as they came up empty on three trips in the redzone. The Louisburg defense set up one of those opportunities.

Linebacker Nick Hull and lineman Dustyn Rizzo pressured Baldwin's quarterback late in the first quarter and forced an interception by Moore, but the Wildcats were unable to convert.

"It is very frustrating," Griffin said of the empty redzone opportunities. "There are a lot of reasons why that happened. I didn't call a very good game in the first half and that is on me. We didn't execute very well either. Baldwin just played harder than we did for a while."

At the end of the first half, and into the third quarter, the Wildcats were able to move the ball better and resulted on a San Agustin 4-yard touchdown run in the third. A bad snap on the extra point turned into two points for Louisburg as Harding gathered the ball, rolled out and found Moore for the 2-point conversion.

San Agustin scored his second touchdown of the night in the fourth quarter on a 5-yard run to seal the win for the Wildcats. The Louisburg senior had a big night on the ground with 148 yards on 12 carries to go along with the two touchdowns.

The Wildcat offensive line of Garrett Lowry, Dalton Frazier, T.J. Dover, Mason Koechner and Rizzo did a good job opening holes for the Louisburg backs as they tallied 357 yards on the ground.

“Baldwin has a history of having tough kids and they came out in the first half and I thought they played really well and tough football,” Griffin said. “Offensively I don’t think we executed very well. I think they won the line of scrimmage the first two-thirds of the first half. Then that last third and all of the third quarter I thought we got back to doing what we do. We have some inconsistencies that we have to overcome.”



Louisburg wide receiver Christian Tosterud stretches out for a pass in the endzone Friday.

Other than allowing the one touchdown in the second quarter,

the Louisburg defense came through again with another stout performance. Louisburg limited Baldwin to just 94 yards of total offense and held the Bulldogs to just 30 yards rushing on 29 carries.

Koechner led the Wildcat defense with five tackles and a sack, while Harding and Moore each recorded an interception. Senior Lyndon Smith also had a team-high five tackles.

The Louisburg defense has been strong all season as the Wildcats have held their opponents to a combined 31 points, which has been a big reason to their perfect start to the year and their No. 4 ranking in Class 4A-Division I.

"Defensively I thought we played real well outside of the one drive they scored on," Griffin said. "In this league and the competition that we have to go up against, I am happy with 5-0. I am not satisfied and I don't think the kids are either. That is the good part is they aren't happy with the way they played and they know they can do better."

Louisburg will go for its sixth consecutive win Friday when it travels to Spring Hill for its final game before district play. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

LOU	7	14	8	7 – 36
BAL	0	8	0	0 – 8

First quarter

L: Korbin Hankinson 80 kickoff return (Nick Hull kick)

Second quarter

L: Grant Harding 55 run (Hull kick)

B: Justin Howard 2 run (pass good)

L: Austin Moore 3 run (Hull kick)

Third quarter

L: Thomas San Agustin 4 run (Harding pass to Moore)

Fourth quarter

L: San Agustin 5 run (Hull kick)

STATISTICS

OFFENSIVE

RUSHING – Thomas San Agustin 12-148; Grant Harding 8-92; Korbin Hankinson 6-49; Austin Moore 11-47; Jake Hill 5-20; Will Ridley 1-2.

PASSING – Grant Harding 3-7-22

RECEIVING – Dalton Ribordy 1-15; Austin Moore 1-7

DEFENSIVE

TACKLES – Lyndon Smith 5, Mason Koechner 5, Jake Hill 4, Korbin Hankinson 4, Connor Green 3, Will Ridley 3, Nick Hull 3, Christian Tosterud 2, Austin Moore 2, Garrett Lowry 2, Grant Harding 1, Blue Caplinger 1, Kiefer Tucker 1, Dustyn Rizzo 1, T.J. Dover 1, Dalton Ribordy 1

SACKS – Mason Koechner 1

INTERCEPTIONS – Grant Harding 1, Austin Moore 1

The LHS 2016 Fall Homecoming Candidates



Homecoming week at Louisburg High School kicked off Monday and events are in full swing. With something going on every day this week, it will be a busy time for students. All of it is of course centered around the crowning of the 2016 fall king and queen. Eight students were selected as nominees and here are their names and profiles.

The crowning will take place on Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Wildcat Stadium before kickoff of Louisburg's game with Baldwin.



**Lauren Becker and T.J.
Dover**

T.J. Dover

T.J. is the son of Steven and Jenny Dover. T.J. has participated in football for four years, basketball for four years, track for two years, golf for one year and debate for one year. T.J. plans to either play college football or attend Kansas State University and major in marketing.

Lauren Becker

Lauren is the daughter of Brian and Andrea Becker. Lauren has participated in band for four years, cheerleading for four years, choir and select choir for four years, LEO's club for four years, student council for four years, musical for four years, FCA for three years, track for three years, Letterman's Club for three years, Spanish Club for two years, SADD for two years and National Honor Society for two years. Lauren plans to attend the University of Kansas and major in nursing.



**Rio Sierra and Grant
Harding**

Grant Harding

Grant is the son of Ken and Dotty Harding. Grant has participated in football for four years, baseball for four years, basketball for four years, Letterman's Club for three

years and choir for two. Grant is currently undecided on a school, but plans to play college basketball.

Rio Sierra

Rio is the daughter of Fidel Sierra and Veneita Taulbee. Rio has participated in forensics for four years, musical for four years, select choir for three years, cheerleading for two years, Spanish Club for two years and debate for one year. Rio plans to participate in a worship internship through Life Mission Academy Ministry at King's University where she will enroll to study Theology and music. She will concurrently enroll in Johnson County Community College and then will pursue a music degree at the University of Kansas.



Hanna Becker and Carson Tappan

Carson Tappan

Carson is the son of Dave and Jackie Tappan. Carson has participated in debate for four years, forensics for four years, LEO's Club for four years, student council for three years, scholar's bowl for three years and National Honor Society for two years. Carson plans to attend school out-of-state to study film production and television writing.

Hanna Becker

Hanna is the daughter of Brian and Andrea Becker. Hanna has participated in cheerleading for four years, band for four years, choir for four years, Leo's Club for four years, musical for four years, student council for four years, FCA for three years, track for three years, SADD for two years, NHS for two years, Spanish Club for two years and Letterman's Club for one year. Hanna plans to attend the University of Kansas and major in nursing.



Paige Buffington and Jake Hill

Jake Hill

Jake is the son of Andy and Megan Hill. Jake has participate in student council for four years, football for four years, Letterman's Club for four years, LEO's Club for four years, basketball for three years, golf for two years and National Honor Society for two years. Jake plans to attend Kansas State University to dual major in business administration and finances and minor in Spanish.

Paige Buffington

Paige is the daughter of David and Amy Buffington. Paige has participated in FFA for four years, basketball for three years, track for three years, Letterman's Club for three

years, volleyball for two years, select choir for two years and National Honor Society for one year. Paige plans to attend either the University of Kansas or Missouri State to major in nursing.



The 2016 LHS fall homecoming candidates are (front row, from left) Lauren Becker, Rio Sierra, Hanna Becker, Paige Buffington; (back) T.J. Dover, Grant Harding, Carson Tappan and Jake Hill.



Wildcats shutout Eudora for fourth straight win



Louisburg senior Korbin Hankinson has his eyes on the endzone as he tries out outrun a Eudora defender Friday at Wildcat Stadium. Hankinson scored a pair of touchdowns in the

Wildcats' 33-0 win over Eudora.

There was a lot to be excited about following Louisburg's 33-0 victory over Eudora on Friday at Wildcat Stadium.

The defense recorded its second shutout of the season and the Wildcats improved their record to 4-0 on the year. Despite all that, the second half curbed Louisburg's enthusiasm on what appeared was going to be a perfect night.

"We will take the shutout, but we really didn't play very well in the second half," Louisburg co-head coach Jeff Lohse said. "We had a couple turnovers and a lot of penalties – and penalties killed us all game. They are just mental mistakes, so we will learn from those and get them fixed."

Louisburg fumbled twice in the second half and penalties stalled several drives after the Wildcats scored 25 unanswered points in the first half. Even the players realized it wasn't the way they wanted to finish the game.



Junior Dalton Ribordy pushes a Eudora runner back Friday in Louisburg.

"It feels pretty good to win," senior lineman Mason Koechner said. "We came out good in the first half, but man we had a

lot of mistakes in the second half. The score shows that we did well, and our defense held up, but we could have done a lot better.”

The Wildcats looked sharp early as they opened the game with a long drive that eventually led to a touchdown. Louisburg used a 13-play, 68-yard drive to go up 7-0 after a 1-yard touchdown run from senior Korbin Hankinson.

Eudora was then forced to punt on its next drive, but the Cardinal punter mishandled the snap and Louisburg senior Ben Hupp was able to recover the fumble and give the Wildcats a short field. Louisburg was able to take advantage as sophomore Austin Moore scored on a 2-yard touchdown run to go up 13-0.

Right before the end of the first quarter, the Cardinals turned the ball over on downs and Wildcat senior Jake Hill gave Louisburg good field position to start the second quarter following a 36-yard run. The next play, quarterback Grant Harding found fellow senior Thomas San Agustin who hauled in a 40-yard over-the-shoulder catch for a touchdown and 19-0 lead.

Moore recovered Eudora’s second fumble of the game later in the first half and San Agustin later ran it in for a 3-yard touchdown to put the Wildcats up 25-0 at halftime.

San Agustin accounted for 113 total yards and a pair of touchdowns, while Hankinson had a team-high 81 yards on the ground and two scores, including a 30-yard pass from Harding in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

Harding had 159 yards of total offense to go along with his two touchdown throws as he guided the Wildcat attack. He also got good protection from his offensive line of Koechner, T.J. Dover, Dalton Frazier, Garrett Lowry and Dustyn Rizzo.

“I thought our offensive line and running backs did a nice job in the first half and Korbin made a nice catch in the second half,” Lohse said. “Grant threw a couple nice balls for

touchdowns, which was good to see because when teams start stacking the box against us we have to be able to throw the ball a little bit and he did a good job of that.”

The Wildcats had trouble getting anything going on offense in the second half thanks to penalties and two turnovers.

Louisburg’s defense did keep the shutout intact as it limited Eudora to 173 yards of total offense and the Cardinals never threatened to score.

Senior Lyndon Smith led Louisburg with 10 tackles, while Moore and Koechner added nine and eight, respectively. Hill also finished with seven stops in the win.

“Yeah we got out to a big lead, but we feel like this team is good enough that we need to learn how to finish now and we are not finishing ball games,” Lohse said. “That is what we are going to work on this week and moving forward.”

Louisburg will go for its fifth straight win Friday when it hosts Baldwin for homecoming. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

“We are all pretty excited with what we have done so far,” Koechner said. “We are excited with what is to come and we know we are doing well, but we know we can do even better.”

LOU	13	12	0	8 – 33
EUD	0	0	0	0 – 0

First quarter

L: Korbin Hankinson 1 run (Nick Hull kick)

L: Austin Moore 2 run (kick failed)

Second quarter

L: Thomas San Agustin 40 pass from Grant Harding (run failed)

L: San Agustin 3 run (run failed)

Fourth quarter

L: Hankinson 30 pass from Harding (San Agustin run)

STATISTICS

OFFENSE

RUSHING – Korbin Hankinson 12-81; Thomas San Agustin 10-67; Jake Hill 7-64; Grant Harding 12-61; Will Ridley 1-11; Austin Moore 4-8

PASSING – Grant Harding 6-10-98

RECEIVING – Thomas San Agustin 2-46; Korbin Hankinson 1-30; Christian Tosterud 2-13; Ben Hupp 1-9

DEFENSE

TACKLES – Lyndon Smith 10, Austin Moore 9, Mason Koechner 8, Jake Hill 7, Nick Hull 5, Dustyn Rizzo 5, Garrett Lowry 5, T.J. Dover 4, Dalton Ribordy 4, Connor Green 3, Grant Harding 3, Thomas San Agustin 3, Blue Caplinger 3, Will Ridley 2, Kiefer Tucker 2, Christian Tosterud 1, Tucker Batten 1.

Louisburg stays perfect with win at De Soto



Louisburg quarterback Grant Harding looks for some running room after getting a block from T.J. Dover (70) on Friday in De Soto. The Wildcats scored 17 points in the second quarter and defeated De Soto 31-17.

DE SOTO – Following a scoreless first quarter, both the Louisburg and De Soto football teams were struggling to move the ball and for a while it looked like it was going to be a low-scoring affair.

Then 48 points later – the game was over.

The final three quarters presented several big plays Friday and Louisburg was on the positive side for a majority of them. Louisburg scored 17 points in the second quarter and left De Soto with a 31-17 victory.

“We just stuck to our game plan from the beginning of the week,” Louisburg senior Thomas San Agustin said. “We knew it was going to be a dogfight. We were always encouraging each other out there and I thought the coaches did a great job as well during the game and getting us prepared. We had some big plays.”

San Agustin was responsible for a couple of those big plays as he scored a touchdown as time expired in the first half and later brought a kickoff back inside the 5-yard line in the third quarter to answer a De Soto score.



Mason Koechner brings down a De Soto player for a loss Friday in De Soto.

Louisburg (3-0) got on the board first in the second quarter as sophomore Austin Moore scored on a 1-yard touchdown run with 7 minutes and 52 seconds left in the first half. The Wildcat defense then came through with their second turnover on the night when junior Garrett Lowry recovered a fumble.

“We figured out a few things and put a couple nice drives together,” Louisburg co-head coach Gary Griffin said. “The defense played really good in the first half and got us good field position, along with the special teams. We had a few short fields and were able to take advantage.”

That turnover turned into points for the Wildcats as Nick Hull connected on a 26-yard field goal to put them up 10-0. Along with the field goal, Hull was also 4 for 4 on extra point attempts.

The Wildcats weren’t done scoring in the first half as they marched down to the 38-yard line with one second left. Louisburg was able to trick the De Soto defense as it faked a hail mary attempt, but instead quarterback Grant Harding hit San Agustin on a screen pass, who broke a couple tackles and

found the endzone.

"We have some kids that can make plays and Grant and Thomas did that on the last drive of the first half," Griffin said. "The blocking wasn't great, but we made plays and it was a great play by Thomas. It was huge and thankful it happened because we ended up needing every point."

San Agustin had a good feeling he could get through the De Soto defense for the score.

"Right before the play, I just knew they weren't going to expect this." San Agustin said. "I knew I was going to score and as I got into the endzone. I just looked back and looked at everyone and saw how excited they were. That was all for them. I just love everyone on this team. We are family."

Louisburg's defense played a big role in the 17-0 lead at halftime as it held De Soto to under 100 yards of total offense and forced a pair of turnovers.

Senior Mason Koechner led the Wildcat defense with nine tackles on the night, while Lowry, San Agustin and Hull each had five tackles. Lowry also had two sacks and a fumble recovery.

De Soto didn't give up, however, as it scored on its first play from scrimmage on a 48-yard run by quarterback Bryce Mohl. Again, Louisburg used a big play to take control of the game.

San Agustin took the ensuing kickoff down to the De Soto 4-yard line and Moore scored on the next play to push the Louisburg lead to 24-7. De Soto did answer with a field goal later, but the Wildcats still led 24-10.

"I think it hurt their momentum a little bit, but then were able to come down and get a field goal," Griffin said. "Defensively, De Soto was able to find a few holes and took

advantage. We were a little undisciplined.”

De Soto drove down and scored another touchdown with under nine minutes left in the contest, but the Wildcats had one last big play left in them.

Louisburg made its way inside the De Soto 20-yard line on its next drive, but two big penalties kept the Wildcats out of the endzone – at least initially. Harding found junior Desmond Doles in the back of the endzone for a 9-yard touchdown, which turned out to be Doles’ first varsity catch.

The score put Louisburg up two touchdowns with three minutes left and the Wildcat defense was able to do the rest.

“We overcame two holding penalties and still scored,” Griffin said. “Desmond made a big catch in the endzone. The kid has some talent. He didn’t play last year, but he is getting better all the time.”



Desmond Doles hauls in the Wildcats’ final touchdown to seal the win Friday in De Soto.

The Wildcats picked up their first win in Frontier League play

and third consecutive win to start the season. Louisburg returns home this Friday when the Wildcats host Eudora for a 7 p.m., kickoff. Eudora is currently 2-1 on the season.

“We are going to continue to work hard and we won’t look past any team,” San Agustin said. “We just want to keep improving and do better than what we did (Friday).”

LOU	0	17	7	7 – 31
DES	0	0	10	7 – 17

Second quarter

L: Austin Moore 1 run (Nick Hull kick)

L: Nick Hull 26 FG

L: Thomas San Agustin 38 pass from Grant Harding (Hull kick)

Third quarter

D: Bryce Mohl 48 run (Ethan Rodriguez kick)

L: Austin Moore 4 run (Hull kick)

D: Rodriguez 26 FG

Fourth quarter

D: Trevor Watts 2 run (Rodriguez kick)

L: Desmond Doles 9 pass from Harding (Hull kick)

STATISTICS

OFFENSE

RUSHING – Korbin Hankinson 12-72; Thomas San Agustin 13-70;

Grant Harding 8-25; Jake Hill 4-19; Austin Moore 4-5.

PASSING – Grant Harding 4-10-56-2

RECEIVING – Thomas San Agustin 1-38; Desmond Doles 1-9; Jake Hill 1-5; Dalton Ribordy 1-5.

DEFENSE

TACKLES – Mason Koechner 9; Thomas San Agustin 5; Nick Hull 5; Garrett Lowry 5; Connor Green 4; Grant Harding 4; Austin Moore 4; Dustyn Rizzo 4; T.J. Dover 4; Lyndon Smith 4; Dalton Ribordy 3; Blue Caplinger 2; Jake Hill 2; Korbin Hankinson 2; Kiefer Tucker 2; Christian Tosterud 1; Ben Hupp 1

SACKS – Lowry 2; Koechner 1; Ribordy 1

Delay doesn't stop Wildcats in win over Piper



Louisburg running back Thomas San Agustin (right) gets a big hole to run through thanks to a block from teammate Jake Hill (24) on Saturday at Wildcat Stadium. Weather forced Louisburg High School officials to suspend Friday's home opener and move it to Saturday. The Wildcats rolled Piper 39-6.

It took almost an entire day for the Louisburg football team to finish its home opener with Piper – but for the Wildcats – it was well worth the wait.

Rain and lightning postponed the game Friday late in the first half and the contest was finished up Saturday afternoon. All the waiting around didn't seem to bother Louisburg much as it scored 25 unanswered points Saturday as the Wildcats rolled Piper 39-6 at Wildcat Stadium.

Playing in the bright afternoon sunshine, rather than the Friday night lights, seemed to suit the Wildcats.

"It was a huge win," Louisburg co-head coach Jeff Lohse said. "Piper is a good football team. It was a tale of two different days, really. (Friday) night both teams were winded, humidity was taking its affect and we had to have kids come out. But (Saturday), with fresh legs, coach (Gary) Griffin challenged the offensive line and they got after it today. That really was the difference in the game."

The Wildcats (2-0) marched up and down the field on the Piper defense Saturday as they tallied 313 yards of total offense and scored four touchdowns in just more than two quarters of play behind the offensive line of T.J. Dover, Garrett Lowry, Mason Koechner, Dalton Frazier and Dustyn Rizzo.

Before the rain came Friday, the Wildcats got off to a strong start against Piper as quarterback Grant Harding scrambled for a 12-yard touchdown run and then Harding found Korbin Hankinson for a 27-yard touchdown on a screen pass. The Wildcats ran the same play to Hankinson to get the 2-point conversion and held a 14-0 lead into the second quarter.

Late in the second quarter, with its offense stalling, the Pirates pulled out a trick play as they scored on an 80-yard touchdown run on a hook and ladder play to cut Louisburg's

lead to 14-6 with 2 minutes and 54 seconds left before halftime.



Senior Ben Hupp brings down a Piper running back Saturday at Wildcat Stadium.

It was then the lightning showed up and forced the postponement till Saturday. All the momentum Piper had was quickly halted by Mother Nature.

“It was great call by them,” Lohse said. “For the most part on Friday we shut down their rushing attack and for them to have to score on that trick play, you have to tip your hat to them. It was a good play and there wasn’t much we could do about it.”

As the Wildcats sat in the locker room Friday waiting out the delay, they wanted to come out and make a statement and get a good kickoff return. They had to wait to Saturday to do it, but Louisburg got the boost it was looking for.

When the game resumed, Hankinson received the kickoff and returned it 73 yards for a touchdown and put Louisburg up 20-6 and the Wildcats stole the momentum right back.

“It set the tone for us,” Lohse said. “We preached that Friday and we preached that when we brought them in (Saturday)

afternoon. If we could run that one back and give us good field position right before halftime that was something we knew could break their back. Coach (Robert) Ebenstein does a great job with special teams and that was definitely a big kickoff return for us."

Piper had a chance to score before halftime as it drove the ball down the field, but the Wildcat defense held firm and kept the Pirates out of the endzone. Piper had a fourth-and-goal, but Lowry sacked the Piper quarterback to end the threat.

In the third quarter, special teams then came into play again for Louisburg as a host of Wildcats sacked the Piper punter and they took possession at Piper's 19-yard line. Senior running back Thomas San Agustin, who led the Wildcats in rushing with 104 yards on the ground, scored his first touchdown on a 3-yard run to extend the lead to 26-6.

With 3:28 left in the third, Harding found Hankinson for the second time in the game, this time for a 22-yard touchdown and Louisburg led 32-6 going into the fourth quarter. Harding had a big game for the Wildcats as he passed for two touchdowns and rushed for another after he racked up 101 yards on the ground.

"It was different because it felt like playing a JV game, coming back and playing in the daytime," Harding said. "It was definitely weird, but it was a huge win for us. We had a good first quarter offensively on Friday, but (Saturday) it seemed like it was almost perfect. It was pretty good."

San Agustin capped off the Wildcats' scoring in the fourth quarter when he found a big hole and ran for a 25-yard touchdown.

Louisburg's defense caused Piper fits as it held the Pirates to 248 yards of total offense, with 80 of it coming on their big scoring play Friday.

Senior linebacker Nick Hull was all over the field as he finished with a team-high 10 tackles, while Koechner and Connor Green each added five. San Agustin, Jake Hill and Lowry each added a sack.

Junior Dalton Ribordy had three tackles for a loss and senior Ben Hupp added two.

"I thought the guys flew around a little bit today," Lohse said. "They played with a lot more emotion. We did some good things on Friday, but they showed up as the team we thought we had (Saturday). We were running sideline to sideline and playing with a lot more emotion."

Louisburg will try for its third consecutive win Friday when it travels to De Soto for a 7 p.m. kickoff. De Soto is also 2-0 on the season and the Wildcats are looking forward to the challenge.

"When we see Piper beat a good Paola team the week before, our kids knew what type of challenge we were in for," Lohse said. "Now we have to focus our attention to a very good 2-0 De Soto team and it doesn't get any easier. We will learn from this and see what happens."

To view a photo gallery from the game, make sure to click [here](#).

LOU	14	6	12	7 – 39
PIP	0	6	0	0 – 6

First quarter

L: Grant Harding 12 run (run failed)

L: Korbin Hankinson 27 pass from Harding (Harding pass)

Second quarter

P: 80 run (kick failed)

L: Hankinson 73 kickoff return (kick failed)

Third quarter

L: Thomas San Agustin 3 run (run failed)

L: Hankinson 22 pass from Harding (kick failed)

Fourth quarter

L: San Agustin 25 run (Nick Hull kick)

STATISTICS

RUSHING — Thomas San Agustin 12-104; Grant Harding 11-101; Austin Moore 5-29; Will Ridley 5-16, Jake Hill 4-13, Korbin Hankinson 3-7.

PASSING — Grant Harding 3-5-56

RECEIVING — Korbin Hankinson 2-49; Jake Hill 1-7

Big plays help Louisburg rout Wyandotte



Senior Jake Hill (24) puts a hit on a Wyandotte player and gets some help from teammates Austin Moore (21), Nick Hull (44) and T.J. Dover (70) during Friday's season opener at Wyandotte High School. The Wildcats rolled to a 48-0 victory.

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – Everyone got involved in some form or another for the Louisburg High School football team Friday in its season opener against Wyandotte.

The Wildcats marched up and down the field as five different people found the endzone in Louisburg's 48-0 victory over the Bulldogs at Wyandotte High School. It was everything the Wildcats could have hoped for to begin the season.

Despite a few hiccups, the Wildcats came up with several big plays and racked up 27 points in the second quarter before they forced a running clock in the second half. Defensively, the Wildcats forced five turnovers.

"It was good," co-head coach Gary Griffin said of the win. "I thought our kids did a lot of good things, but we were a little sloppy at times. It was pretty typical for a first game. We are leaning hard right now on our offensive line. We rushed for close to 400 yards and that is what we want to do. We are working on our passing game, but I wanted to run the football and we did a good job."

Louisburg's offensive line of Mason Koechner, Dustyn Rizzo, Garrett Lowry, Dalton Frazier and T.J. Dover, along with tight ends Ben Hupp and Dalton Ribordy, provided a lot of holes for the Wildcat backs to run through. Overall, Louisburg rushed for 394 yards as a team as it reeled off big play after big play.



Mason Koechner brings down Wyandotte quarterback Marcus Jones on Friday.

Senior running back Thomas San Agustin led Louisburg with 147 yards on the ground, including an 82-yard run for a touchdown to begin the onslaught in the second quarter.

Another senior, Korbin Hankinson, had a big game on both sides of the ball. Hankinson had touchdown runs of 23 and 39 yards in the first quarter to give the Wildcats an early lead and finished with 122 yards for the game.

"It feels good to get this first game under our belt because you are always nervous for that first one," Hankinson said. "We all had a pretty good game. I really have to give it to my linemen for all the good runs I had. I couldn't have done it without them."

Defensively, Hankinson was also responsible for three of Wyandotte's turnovers. Hankinson intercepted three passes from the cornerback spot.

"Korbin is a heck of an athlete," Griffin said. "He really hasn't played a ton of defensive back for us, but when the ball is in the air he goes and gets it and that is really nice to see."

After San Agustin's touchdown in the second quarter,

quarterback Grant Harding got a couple good blocks and broke free for a 29-yard touchdown run.

Senior Jake Hill also reeled off a pair of big runs in the second quarter as he scored on runs of 26 and 27 yards, respectively, to put Louisburg up 41-0 at halftime.

Sophomore Austin Moore added a 3-yard touchdown in the third quarter to force the running clock and sealed the win for the Wildcats.

"We have some stuff to fix, but overall I think we played pretty well," Hankinson said. "We had about four or five plays where we had touchdowns called back and had a bigger lead, but I think we did really well overall."

Defensively, the Wildcats had to deal with Wyandotte quarterback Marcus Jones, who was a threat to run or throw on every snap. Still, Louisburg limited Wyandotte to 122 yards of offense.

"He is an athletic kid," Griffin said of Wyandotte's quarterback. "They ran some different stuff than what we were expecting, but I thought Coach (Jeff) Lohse did a good job with adjustments and the kids responded well. We just have to keep plugging away. We have a lot of room for improvement but that is probably a good thing."

Seniors Nick Hull and Koechner led the Wildcats with seven tackles each, while Rizzo added five tackles and two sacks. Moore finished with six tackles, while Hill and Dover tallied five tackles.

The Wildcats also got a good performance from the second team defense as sophomore Kohl Vogel intercepted two passes in the second half to keep the shutout intact.

Louisburg gets an opportunity to play in front of its home crowd Friday as it hosts Piper in its home opener. Piper

defeated Paola 23-13 in week one and the Wildcats know it will be challenge to get that second straight win.

“Our schedule outside of (Wyandotte) is pretty brutal,” Griffin said. “We just have to convince the kids that hard-nosed football is what wins games. Piper is going to be a tough, physical game. They have a lot of athletes and returning players. They beat us two years ago and we beat them last year, so this is going to be a rubber game. It will be a good test for us and we need that.”

To view a photo gallery from the game, please [click here](#).

LOU	14	27	7	0 – 48
WYAN	0	0	0	0 – 0

First quarter

L: Korbin Hankinson 23 run (kick failed)

L: Hankinson 39 run (Ben Hupp pass from Grant Harding)

Second quarter

L: Thomas San Agustin 82 run (Harding run)

L: Harding 29 run (run failed)

L: Jake Hill 26 run (Hill kick)

L: Hill 27 run (kick failed)

Third quarter

L: Austin Moore 3 run (Hill kick)

STATISTICS

RUSHING – Thomas San Agustin 9-147; Korbin Hankinson 8-122; Jake Hill 3-52; Grant Harding 5-29; Austin Moore 7-27; Nick Hull 1-9, Brian Houck 4-4, Blue Caplinger 1-0. Totals: 40-394.

PASSING – Grant Harding 1-1-3

RECEIVING – Ben Hupp 1-3