

Wildcats suffer heartbreak in playoff loss



Louisburg senior quarterback Austin Terry outruns several Basehor-Linwood defenders during Friday's regional playoff game at Basehor-Linwood High School. The Wildcats fell 41-34 to end their season with a 7-3 record.

BASEHOR – The players and coaches knew it was going to have to come to an end one day.

Unfortunately for the Louisburg football team, the end came sooner than it had hoped. Following the Wildcats' 41-34 loss to Basehor-Linwood on Friday in the regional round of the playoffs, the realization was hard to comprehend.

Despite a rough start, the Wildcats battled to the end and took a fourth quarter lead before Basehor-Linwood followed with two late touchdowns to end Louisburg's season.

"I feel bad, but I can't imagine what they are going through right now," Louisburg coach Kyle Littrell said. "They are the ones who have put in all the work in the summer, the camps and 2-a-days and everything we do to try and make ourselves better. I commend each and every one of those kids for their level of commitment this year. They played hard all year long and were a pleasure to coach."

Both teams made their fair share of mistakes to keep the other one in the game.

Early on, Basehor-Linwood took advantage of a blocked punt, several Wildcat penalties and a kickoff return that accounted for its three first half touchdowns.



Louisburg's T.J. Dover (70) and Alex Dunn (21) team up on a tackle Friday in Basehor.

As for Louisburg (7-3), it ended the first half with a big touchdown and carried the momentum over into the second half. The Bobcats botched two kickoffs and had a fumble that led to two more Louisburg touchdowns and eventually the Wildcats took a lead with nine minutes left in the contest.

However, when it came down to it, the Wildcats couldn't keep the high-powered Basehor offense off of the field.

"They didn't punt once," Littrell said. "In the first half, our body language wasn't very good. We didn't come out and put four quarters together in all three phases, and when you do that in the playoffs you have the feeling that we have right now."

The game didn't start out like the Wildcats had hoped. Louisburg struggled to move the ball early and had a punt blocked on the game's opening possession.

Basehor-Linwood recovered on the Louisburg 11-yard line and scored its first touchdown two plays later. The Bobcats added another touchdown on a 7-yard pass with five minutes left in the first half to go up 13-0.

On Louisburg's next possession, the Wildcats took advantage of a Basehor miscue. The Wildcats punted the ball away, but the Bobcat receiver went out of bounds then came back inbounds to touch it. The penalty was 15 yards and gave the Wildcats new life.



Senior lineman Anders Vance leaps to try and knock down a pass during the Wildcats' playoff loss in Basehor.

Quarterback Austin Terry found tight end Grant Harding on a 21-yard touchdown pass to make it 13-7.

The momentum was short lived as Basehor's Jahron McPherson

took the ensuing kickoff for an 82-yard touchdown. Louisburg didn't get its head down as it came right back with a big play of its own.

Terry hit senior receiver Mitchell McLellan on a bubble screen and McLellan took off down the sideline for a 68-yard touchdown with 21 seconds left and the Wildcats trailed 20-14 at halftime.

Louisburg kicked off to start the second half and got a friendly bounce on the Basehor artificial turf. Kicker Connor Green kicked the ball on the ground, a Basehor player couldn't hold on and McLellan recovered the loose ball.

Two players later, running back Thomas San Agustin scored on a 34-yard touchdown through the Bobcats defense, and after the extra point failed, the game was tied at 20-all.

Once again, the Bobcats halted the Louisburg momentum as McPherson had his second big play of the game with a 47-yard touchdown run.

Shortly before the end of the third quarter, Louisburg's offense responded with a 14-play drive that ended on a 1-yard touchdown run from Terry, and after a failed 2-point conversion, Louisburg trailed by just one.

To start the fourth quarter, Basehor fumbled deep in Louisburg territory and the Wildcats took advantage. San Agustin scored on a 1-yard touchdown run, and after a Terry 2-point conversion run, the Wildcats held a 34-27 lead with nine minutes remaining in the game.



Senior receiver Mitchell McLellan runs down the sideline for a 68-yard touchdown in the first half Friday.

Basehor's offense came alive on its next drive as it drove 92 yards to tie the game. Then following a Louisburg interception, the Bobcats took the ball again as McPherson scored his third touchdown of the night on an 18-yard touchdown pass to put Basehor up a touchdown.

The Wildcats had the ball for one more possession with 1 minute and 18 seconds remaining, but Basehor intercepted a Terry pass down the sideline to seal the win for the Bobcats.

"We didn't execute like we should," Littrell said. "My hats off to them. They came to play all four quarters and they are a well-coached ball team. Those kids played their butts off and they deserved to win."

Junior linebacker Jake Hill led the Wildcat defense with eight tackles, while Anders Vance, T.J. Dover, Alex Dunn and San Agustin each finished with seven. Vance had two tackles for a loss and lineman Dustyn Rizzo had a sack to go along with his five tackles.

The loss also meant the final game for 12 Louisburg seniors. Kyle Haith, Austin Terry, John Hastings, Mitchell McLellan,

Alex Dunn, Cole Kramer, Dillin Roberts, Chris Turner, Anders Vance, Tristen Shrock, Jarod Woodward and Jaret Gilliland all suited up for the final time.

"I hate that these seniors have to go out like this year," Littrell said. "I don't think they will ever know how much that I love them. They were the heartbeat of this team, they were amazing leaders and kept us focused on the task at hand. It is a fun group to coach and I am going to miss that."

LOUISBURG	0	14
12	8 – 34	

BASEHOR	7	13
7	14 – 41	

FIRST QUARTER

BL: Austin Ettinger 9 run (Parker Rusk kick)

SECOND QUARTER

BL: Jackson Brimblecom 7 pass from Justin Philllips (kick failed)

L: Grant Harding 21 pass from Austin Terry (Alex Dunn kick)

BL: Jahron McPherson 82 kickoff return (Rusk kick)

L: Mitchell McLellan 68 pass from Terry (Dunn kick)

THIRD QUARTER

L: Thomas San Agustin 34 run (kick failed)

BL: McPherson 47 run (Rusk kick)

L: Terry 1 run (run failed)

FOURTH QUARTER

L: San Agustin 1 run (Terry run)

BL: Ettinger 22 run (Rusk kick)

BL: McPherson 18 pass from Phillips (Rusk kick)

STATISTICS

RUSHING: Thomas San Agustin 20-88; Austin Terry 12-55; Alex Dunn 11-37; Austin Moore 4-26

PASSING: Austin Terry 7-14-129-2-2

RECEIVING: Mitchell McLellan 4-90; Grant Harding 2-29; Cole Kramer 1-10

Wildcats punch ticket into playoffs



Louisburg senior Anders Vance brings down a Spring Hill runner during the Wildcats' final regular season contest Friday at Wildcat Stadium. Vance was one of 12 seniors honored before the Wildcats' senior night game.

As the rain poured on the Wildcat Stadium field Friday, it seemed as if Mother Nature was trying to throw one more obstacle in the way of the Louisburg football team.

The Wildcats needed to beat Spring Hill on Friday to earn a berth into the state playoffs – a position the same Bronco team took away from them a season ago. A little water and mud didn't seem to bother the Wildcat players much.

Louisburg used two fourth-quarter touchdowns to pull away from Spring Hill in a 37-19 victory and continued its season for at least another week.

The victory was even more special for the Wildcats as they did it on senior night as they honored the 12 Louisburg seniors and their families before the game. Kyle Haith, Austin Terry, John Hastings, Mitchell McLellan, Alex Dunn, Cole Kramer, Dillin Roberts, Chris Turner, Anders Vance, Tristen Shrock, Jarod Woodward and Jaret Gilliland all suited up for their final regular season home contest.

"We have been through quite a bit with this senior group," Louisburg coach Kyle Littrell said. "I am just so proud how these seniors have grown and committed themselves to the program. Their love for Louisburg football is undeniable. I love these seniors.

"They have provided more leadership for this program than I could have ever imagined. They just come to work every day with a good attitude and ready to accept the game plan. They are a great group to be around and I love them to death."

As for the game itself, that was something Littrell didn't love as much. Don't get him wrong, Littrell was pleased to extend the season, but he wasn't happy with some of what

happened against the Broncos.



Senior Alex Dunn tries to keep his footing in the rain to get some extra yards while he gets blocks from teammates Jarod Woodward (63), Dustyn Rizzo (60) and T.J. Dover (70) on Friday in Louisburg.

Spring Hill, which finished the season 2-7, opened the game with a 70-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to quickly give the Broncos the lead and put the Wildcats on their heels. The Broncos also broke open another big play with a 49-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

“I don’t think we were prepared mentally and that falls 100 percent on my shoulders,” Littrell said. “We didn’t play our best, but we played well enough to punch our ticket into the playoffs. If we have another performance like this though, then it will be a short stay in the playoffs.”

However, the weather conditions seemed to play in Louisburg’s favor as the Wildcats were able to use their stable of backs to pound away at the Spring Hill defense. The Wildcats (7-2) finished with two backs who rushed for more than 100 yards in the contest.

Junior Thomas San Agustin took a brunt of the load as he tallied 167 yards on 31 carries to go along with two touchdowns. Freshman Austin Moore also made a name for himself the first time this season as he carried the ball 20 times for 137 yards and two touchdowns.

Both players had big nights on the ground despite the Broncos doing their best to stop Louisburg's strength.

"They were putting nine or 10 guys in the box against our heavy bone stuff," Littrell said. "We are used to seeing eight or nine, but not 10. That is something we are going to have to get used to."

Despite the two big scoring plays from Spring Hill, the Wildcat defense was able to hold their own and made the stops when they needed them. Louisburg held the Broncos to just 157 yards of total offense.



Freshman Austin Moore races into the endzone during the Wildcats' 37-19 win over Spring Hill.

Junior lineman Dustyn Rizzo led Louisburg with seven tackles on the night, while Vance and Mason Koechner each finished with six tackles. Koechner also had a forced fumble.

Fellow junior T.J. Dover added five tackles and had a fumble recovery to help out the Wildcats.

Following the kickoff return for a touchdown from Spring Hill, the Wildcats were able to tie it up on their first possession when San Agustin scored on a 7-yard touchdown run.

Early in the second quarter, the Wildcat defense forced the Broncos to punt from their own endzone, but the snap sailed out of the endzone for the safety to give Louisburg a 9-7 lead.

On its next possession, Louisburg faced a fourth down near the redzone. The Wildcats went for it and Moore did more than get the first down. He broke several tackles for a 21-yard touchdown run to put Louisburg up 16-7.

Spring Hill then used its speed to cut the Wildcat lead to three points on the 49-yard touchdown scamper, but Louisburg answered right back before halftime when San Agustin scored on a 1-yard run.

Late in the third quarter, Spring Hill once again cut into the Louisburg lead when it scored on a 10-yard touchdown pass, and after a blocked extra punt, the Wildcats still led 23-19.

The Wildcats put it away in the fourth quarter and it started with arm of Terry, the senior quarterback. Terry found Grant Harding in the middle of the field and Harding broke away from the defense for a 45-yard touchdown pass.

Then later in the fourth, the Wildcats faced a fourth down again, and once again Moore came through. Moore scored on a 17-yard run this time to seal the win for the Wildcats with under two minutes left in the contest.

Louisburg begins its quest toward the state title game this Friday when it travels to Basehor-Linwood for a bi-district matchup. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Should the Wildcats

advance, they will play the winner of Eudora and Fort Scott next week.

LOUISBURG	7	16	0	14 –
37				
SPRING HILL	7	6	6	0
– 19				

First quarter

SH: 70 kickoff return (kick good)

L: Thomas San Agustin 7 run (Alex Dunn kick)

Second quarter

L: Safety (punt sailed out of endzone)

L: Austin Moore 21 run (Dunn kick)

SH: 49 run (kick blocked)

L: San Agustin 1 run (Dunn kick)

Third quarter

SH: 10 yard touchdown pass (kick blocked)

Fourth quarter

L: Grant Harding 45 pass from Austin Terry (Dunn kick)

L: Moore 17 run (Dunn kick)

STATISTICS

RUSHING: Thomas San Agustin 31-167; Austin Moore 20-137; Alex Dunn 6-28; Will Ridley 6-15

PASSING: Austin Terry 2-2-48-1

RECEIVING: Grant Harding 1-45; Will Ridley 1-3

Louisburg hangs with top-ranked Miego



Louisburg running back Thomas San Agustin leans toward the goal line while getting some blocks from Dustyn Rizzo (60), Garrett Lowry (68) and Alex Dunn (21) during Friday's district playoff game at Bishop Miego High School.

SHAWNEE MISSION – The task wasn't going to be easy – in fact – the obstacle seemed mountainous.

To get the chance at a district title, the Lousiburg football team had to go through the No. 1 team, and defending state champion in Class 4A, Division I – Bishop Miego. All the Stags have done is beat up on a lot of Class 5A and 6A teams.

The Wildcats didn't back down from Friday's road contest. They embraced it.

Louisburg held the Stags to just 14 first-half points and

trailed by only eight at halftime. Eventually the sheer number of players wore the Wildcats down in a 42-6 loss at Bishop Miege.

The loss was certainly nothing to be ashamed about as the Wildcats slowed down a Miege team that has put up points all season.

“At the end of the day, their platooning wore us down,” Louisburg coach Kyle Littrell said. “We just don’t have that luxury here and I understand that. The product that we put out on the field are the toughest kids in the state of Kansas and I think they proved that.”

For most of the night, the Wildcat offense was able to move the ball against a big Miege front line, but two interceptions and a partially blocked punt in the first half kept the Wildcats out of the endzone and gave Miege a short field.

In its first drive, Louisburg picked up three first downs, including a pass from Austin Terry to Grant Harding on fourth down that put the ball near midfield. The Wildcats eventually had to punt, but Louisburg’s defense rose to the occasion.

Juniors T.J. Dover and Dustyn Rizzo teamed for a sack that forced a third-and-long and an eventual Miege punt. Louisburg’s next drive also resulted in a punt that was partially blocked and set up Miege’s first score to put it up 7-0.



Louisburg juniors Dustyn Rizzo (left) and T.J. Dover team up for a sack on Bishop Miege quarterback Carter Putz on Friday at Bishop Miege High School.

The Wildcats (6-2) didn't back down as they answered on their next possession. Running back Thomas San Agustin broke free for a 19-yard run to midfield, then Terry found Harding for a 15-yard pass to put the Wildcats in scoring position.

Louisburg faced another fourth down, but Terry converted the quarterback sneak to set up a first-and-goal. San Agustin eventually scored on a 3-yard touchdown run, and after a missed extra point, trailed just 7-6.

Miege was forced to punt once again on its next possession and the Wildcat offense appeared ready to take the lead right before halftime. Terry found receiver Cole Kramer on a 44-yard pass, and after a run from San Agustin and a pass play to Alex Dunn, the Wildcats had the ball in the redzone.

However, the Stags picked off a Louisburg pass with just more than a minute remaining. Miege didn't waste any time as they moved the ball quickly up the field that ended with a 27-yard touchdown pass as time expired.

"Our kids did a great job on defense," Littrell said. "They have some good pass blockers on their line, but we got some holding penalties to go our way and that helped. The kids executed our game plan well and we were there to make tackles. There is a reason why they are the No. 1 ranked team in the state."

For the game, the Wildcats racked up 227 yards on the ground and 338 yards of total offense for the game, that included 15 first downs.

"We did a great job of running the football," Littrell said. "They have a kid on the (defensive) line that is going to North Carolina State for a reason and he is good. It took us awhile to figure out what their defensive ends were going to do and we struggled on our sweep play a little bit, but I thought our iso was good, our traps were good, our powers were good and even at times our passing was good."

Defensively, the Wildcats were strong as they forced a turnover and had four tackles for a loss. Senior Mitchell McLellan led the way with a team-high nine tackles and linebacker Jake Hill finished with seven.

Rizzo added six tackles, including two for a loss. Terry also had an interception for Louisburg.

Bishop Miege opened the second half with a big play and used that final score at the end of the first as some momentum. The Stags struck for a 75-yard touchdown pass to make it a two touchdown lead and the Wildcats were unable to get any closer.

"They just wore us down in the second half," Littrell said. "When you hold a team that averages 60 points a game to 28 in the first three quarters, you are doing something. I think those last two drives our kids were just completely exhausted and for good reason. They left everything they had out on the field and as a coach that is what you want to see. I am happy with how our kids represented their school and community with

how tough they were.”

Louisburg will now try to make its way back to the state playoffs after falling short last season. The Wildcats will host Spring Hill on senior night Friday at Wildcat Stadium.

The Wildcats were the same situation a year ago when they traveled to Spring Hill and needed a win to get into the playoffs, but left with a rough loss.

“I am looking forward to it and I know the kids are looking forward to it because we walked off the field with a sour taste in our mouth,” Littrell said. “We knew it wasn’t our best football game and it wasn’t our best effort and I think everyone was ashamed of that. That is not going to happen this time around. It is a chance to get into the playoffs and beat a team that ended your season last year, and if you can’t get up for that, then don’t bother showing up.”

LOUISBURG	0	6
0	0 – 6	
MIEGE	7	7
14	14 – 42	

First quarter

M: Dawson Downing 3 run (Jake Heyen kick)

Second quarter

L: Thomas San Agustin 3 run (kick failed)

M: Jafar Armstrong 27 pass from Carter Putz (kick good)

Third quarter

M: Armstrong 75 pass from Putz (kick good)

M: Cameron Clark 14 pass from Putz (kick good)

Fourth quarter

M: Downing 3 run (kick good)

M: Downing 19 run (kick good)

STATISTICS

RUSHING: Thomas San Agustin 14-66; Will Ridley 18-65; Austin Terry 9-46; Austin Moore 7-23; Alex Dunn 4-22; Jake Hill 1-5

PASSING: Austin Terry 9-16-111-0-2

RECEIVING: Cole Kramer 1-44; Grant Harding 2-29; Mitchell McLellan 2-21; Alex Dunn 2-12; Thomas San Agustin 1-5

Louisburg runs away from Sumner



Louisburg's Grant Harding gets a block from teammate Alex Dunn and runs down the sideline for a touchdown during Friday's district playoff game against Sumner Academy at Wildcat Stadium. The Wildcats won going away, 63-6.

The Louisburg football team left a lasting impression on Sumner Academy during Friday's district playoff opener at Wildcat Stadium.

Sumner Academy couldn't seem to shake the image of the back of the Wildcat jerseys. It was what the Sabres saw most of the night.

Louisburg scored early and often and racked up 56 first half points and came away with a 63-6 victory. The Wildcats picked up their third consecutive victory as well as they are one win away from making the state playoffs.

"The thing about this whole week was getting better," Louisburg coach Kyle Littrell said. "It didn't matter who our opponent was, we just wanted to make sure that we got better."

It is hard to dispute that Louisburg (6-1) didn't get better.

The Wildcats ran up and down the field on the Sabres and they couldn't be stopped, especially in the first half. Louisburg accumulated 387 yards on the ground and 446 total yards despite having a running clock the entire second half.

Louisburg had several different options in the backfield as 11 different players had rushing attempts for the Wildcats. Junior Korbin Hankinson led the way with 91 yards on just seven carries with two touchdowns, while teammate Thomas San Agustin had 88 yards on just four carries with a pair of touchdowns.

"That is a luxury that we have right now," Littrell said. "We have some tough running backs back there that have a little bit of speed and they enjoy the physical style of play. Most smaller backs would like to be on the perimeter running a lot sweeps, but our backs love to run iso and they love to run in

the middle of the field. We have done a good job of opening holes for them. The thing I have been most impressed with is they are protecting the football and that is key."



Louisburg's Austin Moore (48), Nick Hull (44), Matthew Rison (56) and Tucker Batten (80) surround a Sumner Academy player Friday.

The Wildcats took off running from the opening kickoff as junior Jake Hill broke free for a 44-yard return that set up a short field. Two plays later, San Agustin found the endzone on a 29-yard run to put Louisburg up a touchdown less than a minute into the game.

It was Hankinson's turn on Louisburg's next possession as he ended the Wildcat drive with a 3-yard touchdown to go up two scores.

Defense was also key for the Wildcats as they forced four turnovers, including an interception by Cole Kramer after Hankinson's touchdown.

Louisburg's offensive line of Anders Vance, Dustyn Rizzo, Garrett Lowry, Mason Koechner, T.J. Dover and Jarod Woodward opened holes all night for the running game and San Agustin took advantage on the Wildcats' next possession. San Agustin

scored on a 40-yard touchdown run to put Louisburg up 21-0 that was set up by a 21-yard pass from Austin Terry to Grant Harding.

Right before the end of the first quarter, the Wildcats added more points when Hankinson scored on a 15-yard touchdown run to put the game out of reach.

The Wildcat defense forced three turnovers in the second quarter. Linebacker Alex Dunn recovered a fumble and then was rewarded with a 3-yard touchdown run.

On Sumner's next possession, Dover forced a fumble on the line of scrimmage and Vance picked it up. Hill then scored the team's sixth touchdown of the night on a 9-yard run to go up 42-0.

Harding picked off a Sumner pass on the Sabres' next drive, and then entered as quarterback for the rest of the quarter. Harding ran the option for a 30-yard touchdown and then found the endzone with a 13-yard run just minutes later to put Louisburg up 56-0.

The Wildcats put in a lot of their reserves with a running clock in the second half, but that didn't make anything less exciting. With the chant of "Owen" from the crowd, Littrell put in backup running back Owen Staver in the fourth quarter and he scored his first varsity touchdown on a 3-yard run to seal the win.

Staver was greeted by an excited sideline after his score as it was hard to wipe the smiles off the faces of his teammates and coaches. It was just one of many moments that the starters had a chance to watch the reserves in action.

"It is awesome because those kids do the same amount of work those kids do that get to play every Friday night," Littrell said. "They do the summer work and 2-a-days and their role on this team is just as important as anyone else's."

"One thing I mentioned to the kids at halftime was that this was an opportunity for them to provide leadership. When they are out there, help them out and make sure they are in the right place or help them out if they have done something wrong. That is leadership. That is what we want to establish from top to bottom. I thought our kids responded well and supported each other great."

The challenge will be far greater this coming Friday when Louisburg travels to No. 1-ranked, and defending state champion, Bishop Miege.

"It is a huge challenge, but it is another ballgame," Littrell said. "We can't make it bigger than what it is. I think that is maybe what our problem was in the Paola game is we got too amped up. It is district play and I get that, but at the same time it is not the state championship game. It is just a game. We are going to do all our usual stuff and try to put the pieces of the puzzle together.

"I just want to be as physical as we can with them. We are not scared of them. If they get us, they get us. If they don't, then they don't. We are going to go out and play the most physical brand of football we know how to play and let the chips fall where they may. I know our kids are going to play their rear ends off and they are going to give it everything they have."

LOUISBURG		28	28
0	7 - 63		
SUMNER		0	0
0	6 - 6		

First quarter

L: Thomas San Agustin 29 run (Alex Dunn kick)

L: Korbin Hankinson 3 run (Dunn kick)

L: San Agustin 40 run (Dunn kick)

L: Hankinson 15 run (Dunn kick)

Second quarter

L: Alex Dunn 3 run (Dunn kick)

L: Jake Hill 9 run (Dunn kick)

L: Grant Harding 30 run (Dunn kick)

L: Harding 13 run (Dunn kick)

Fourth quarter

L: Owen Staver 3 run (Dunn kick)

S: 58 run (kick failed)

STATISTICS

RUSHING: Korbin Hankinson 7-91; Thomas San Agustin 4-88; Grant Harding 2-43; Jake Hill 5-37; Alex Dunn 4-28; Will Ridley 5-22; Nick Hull 2-21; Kyle Allen 4-19; Austin Moore 2-18, Owen Staver 3-18; Austin Terry 1-4.

PASSING: Austin Terry 3-3-59

RECEIVING: Grant Harding 2-55; Mitchell McLellan 1-4

Victory puts Wildcats in a tie for first in league



Louisburg junior T.J. Dover sacks the De Soto quarterback Friday night at Wildcat Stadium in Louisburg. Dover and the Wildcats picked up their second straight win with a 43-28 victory over De Soto.

It was a must-win game for Louisburg on Friday night.

Sure, it was only the Wildcats' sixth game of the season. District playoffs haven't even started yet and there is still a long way to go.

However, if Louisburg wanted to claim at least a share of the Frontier League title, they needed to beat De Soto, which was undefeated in the league.

Louisburg rose to the challenge and did so with a lot of flair.

The Wildcats put away De Soto with big plays in their 43-28 win at Wildcat Stadium. Louisburg scored on plays of 20 yards or more on four different occasions and put De Soto in a big hole in a hurry.

Louisburg (5-1, 4-1) is now tied with De Soto and Paola at the top of the league standings and the Wildcats only have one

more league game remaining.

“It was a big win,” Louisburg coach Kyle Littrell said. “It was two 4-1 teams going at it and they got a win against a team (Paola) that we lost to. We just wanted to come out and establish our physicality today and that was the bottom line.”

Scoring wasn't a problem for Louisburg as it was able to do whatever it wanted for most of the game. Whether it was through the air or on the ground, the Wildcats were able to pick up big chunks of yards.



Junior running Korbin Hankinson (left) waits to get a block from teammate Thomas San Agustin on Friday in Louisburg.

Senior quarterback Austin Terry provided a lot of that firepower as he accounted for four touchdowns, included three on long pass plays. Terry found seniors Mitchell McLellan and Cole Kramer on touchdowns of 52 yards or more.

Terry finished the night 9 of 12 passing for 241 yards to go along with those three scores. McLellan had five catches for 137 yards and two touchdowns, while Kramer had four catches for 104 yards and a score.

“Those are our guys,” Littrell said. “We want to get them the ball and give them the opportunity to do their thing. I thought we did that a few times. If we throw the hitch enough times they are going to bite on it and they did.”

Louisburg also welcomed back junior running back Korbin Hankinson as he returned to the backfield for the first time in three weeks. Hankinson didn't have much rust to shake off as he led the Wildcats with 132 yards on the ground on 18 carries.

As a team, the Wildcats gashed De Soto for 278 yards rushing with the combination of Hankinson, Thomas San Agustin, Alex Dunn and Terry. Louisburg also put in a different wrinkle to its offense as it ran a wishbone set and had three backs in the backfield.

“We put in a little bit of bone this week,” Littrell said. “It was nice to have Korbin back, but even if he wasn't back, we still probably would have run a little bit of it. We wanted to give them something that they haven't seen a whole lot out of us and we were able to score some nice things with that in the first half.”

Defensively, the Wildcats were just as good through the first three quarters. Louisburg held a good De Soto offense to two touchdowns – one on a 72-yard run on a missed assignment and the other where De Soto had a short field. Overall, Louisburg held De Soto to just 159 total yards of offense.

Junior lineman T.J. Dover had a big night on the defensive line. Dover led Louisburg with seven tackles to go along with two sacks.

Dustyn Rizzo and McLellan each finished with five tackles and Rizzo also forced a fumble. Jake Hill and Dunn also had four tackles each from the linebacker spot.

Louisburg set the tone early as it opened the game with a 13-

play, 80-yard scoring drive that ended with a 1-yard touchdown run from Terry.

The Wildcat defense responded to hold De Soto on its first possession thanks to a Dover sack. Five plays later, Louisburg made it a two score game when Terry found McLellan on a 52-yard touchdown pass.

Right before halftime, the Wildcats put together another long 11-play, 80-yard drive that ended with a 1-yard touchdown run from San Agustin to put Louisburg up 21-7.

Terry and Kramer connected on a 72-yard touchdown pass down the sideline to open the third quarter. Kramer caught the pass near the sidelines, stopped to let the defender fly by and then ran the rest of the way untouched.

De Soto added a score to cut the Wildcat lead in half, but Louisburg opened with two touchdowns to start the fourth quarter, including a 20-yard touchdown run from Hankinson and a 68-yard score from Terry to McLellan.

The Wildcats open district play Friday when they host Sumner Academy. The top two teams in each district then advance to the state playoffs and the Wildcats hope to continue the momentum they have built.

"We are 0-0 like everyone else," Littrell said. "We aren't going to forget what we have done these last six weeks. We are just going to try and build on this win and get better. If we can eliminate our mistakes, then maybe we can turn into the team that we want to be. With that being said, it is going to take four quarters to get that done and we haven't done that yet. I am still looking for that game."

DE SOTO

7

0

7 14 – 28

First quarter

L: Austin Terry 1 run (Alex Dunn kick)

L: Mitchell McLellan 52 pass from Austin Terry (Dunn kick)

D: Anthony Slaughter 72 run (kick good)

Second quarter

L: Thomas San Agustin 1 run (Dunn kick)

Third quarter

L: Cole Kramer 72 pass from Austin Terry (Dunn kick)

D: Cole Schmitt 8 run (kick good)

Fourth quarter

L: Korbin Hankinson 20 run (Dunn kick)

L: Mitchell McLellan 68 pass from Austin Terry (Terry run)

D: Schmitt 19 run (Kick good)

D: Noah Wilson 11 pass from Nate Thompson (kick good)

STATISTICS

RUSHING: Korbin Hankinson 21-132; Thomas San Agustin 18-84; Austin Terry 10-28; Alex Dunn 6-23; Mitchell McLellan 1-9; Jake Hill 1-2

PASSING: Austin Terry 9-12-241-3

Wildcats end losing streak against Baldwin



Louisburg linebacker Alex Dunn (21) brings down a Baldwin runner while Anders Vance looks to clean up the play Friday in Baldwin City. The Wildcats defeated Baldwin 24-7 to go to 4-1 on the season.

BALDWIN CITY – It had been a while since the Louisburg football team had left Baldwin City with a smile on its face.

After Friday's game with the Bulldogs, the Wildcats couldn't help but flash a few grins.

For the first time since 2006, Louisburg defeated Baldwin on the road with a 24-7 win at Baker University. It was also the first time since 2010 since the Wildcats had defeated Baldwin at all.

"Now we have that monkey off our back," Louisburg coach Kyle Littrell said.

It was a big win for the Wildcats after coming off a heartbreaking one-point loss to rival Paola the week before. Facing another physical team in Baldwin gave the Wildcats another tough test, but this time they walked away with a crucial win.

"We preached all week that we didn't want Paola to beat us twice," Littrell said. "Last year I think they beat us two or three times. We were determined to get back to our physical style of football.

"I got away from what I thought we could do last week against Paola. I think the kids responded and appreciated the honesty on my part, but I also think they take responsibility. That is what family does when they screw up – they admit it, move on and try to get better."



Mitchell McLellan looks to haul in a pass Friday in Baldwin. McLellan made the 37-yard pass that helped set up a touchdown.

The Wildcats (4-1) seemed to get better as they were able to move the ball against the Bulldogs thanks to several different

options. Louisburg had five different players carry the ball, while quarterback Austin Terry carved up the Bulldog defense on a lot of screen passes to Cole Kramer and Mitchell McLellan.

Terry completed 12 of 16 passes for 155 yards and a touchdown. McLellan led the way 84 yards receiving, while Kramer was responsible for one of the Wildcats' four touchdowns.

"Their corners were seven yards out and backpedaling before the snap, and if they are going to do that, I trust our quarterback to throw it, I trust our receivers to catch it and get an outside shoulder and make a play," Littrell said. "Kramer did a good job on that first touchdown. We ask our receivers that when we run any hitch is to get five yards or make a move and be an athlete. I thought our kids were athletic tonight and made plays."

Louisburg started the game off with a 14-play drive and were able move the ball at will, but Baldwin intercepted a pass at the goal line to stall the drive. The Wildcats defense responded as they forced the Bulldogs to turn the ball over on downs on their first possession.

On the Wildcats' next drive, they didn't make any mistakes as they used a 13-play drive that ended with a 3-yard touchdown run from Thomas San Agustin to put Louisburg up 6-0 after the missed extra point.

It looked like the Wildcat defense was going to have a stop again as they had Baldwin on a fourth-and-1, but the Bulldogs' Justin Howard was able to break free for a 38-yard touchdown run to put Baldwin up 7-6.

Terry and the Wildcats responded right before halftime as the Louisburg quarterback hit McLellan on two big gains, including a 37-yard pass to the Baldwin 13-yard line. It was there Terry hit Kramer on a screen pass and he ran for the 13-yard score

to give Louisburg a 12-7 lead at the break.



Anders Vance (above) and Grant Harding bring down a Baldwin running back Friday.

Despite the late score, Littrell didn't like what he was seeing from his team.

"At halftime we had a nice, pleasant talk and I thought we responded well with the way we tackled and played defense," Littrell said.

The Wildcat defense shut out Baldwin in the second half and didn't let the Bulldogs cross the 50-yard line until late in the fourth quarter. Mason Koechner led the Wildcats with nine tackles on the night and Terry finished with eight.

Linemen Dustyn Rizzo and Anders Vance each added a sack, while Terry forced a fumble and Kramer got the fumble recovery in the win.

After the Wildcats gave a bulk of their carries to San Agustin and Alex Dunn in the first half, Littrell decided to put some new faces in the backfield – most notably Will Ridley. The Louisburg sophomore rushed for a team-high 70-yards in the second half to go along with his first touchdown of the season.

The line of Vance, Rizzo, Koechner, Garrett Lowry and T.J. Dover gave the Wildcats holes to run through as they racked up 205 yards on the ground.

"Thomas does some really nice things for us," Littrell said. "He had 38 carries in the Piper game and I didn't want to get up there close again to that. We have been repping Ridley and (Austin) Moore in practice so I just wanted to get some fresh eyes and legs in there.

"Will Ridley has paid his dues, and while he is a sophomore and has more dues to pay, he has had a positive attitude about the whole thing. He gave us a shot in the arm, fresh legs and ran tough. Hopefully we will get Hank (Korbin Hankinson) back next week, and if we can keep a fresh stable of backs, we can wear teams out throughout the season."

The Wildcats seem to wear the Bulldogs out a little bit as they put together two fourth-quarter drives to put the game away. Louisburg used an 11-play drive that ended on a 1-yard touchdown run from Terry to put the Wildcats up 18-7 after several big runs from Ridley.

Ridley found the endzone a few minutes later as he scored on an 8-yard touchdown run that was set up thanks to a Baldwin fumble.

"Anytime you can go on the road and win in this league it is extra special," Littrell said. "The way that we physically did it makes it even better because that is a physical ball team with some good-size kids and tough hard-nosed kids. I respect Coach (Mike) Berg and his program, always have. He is one of the best coaches in the state and he always has his team ready to play."

Louisburg will try for another win Friday when it hosts De Soto. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

LOUISBURG	0	12
0	12 - 24	

BALDWIN	0	7
0	0 - 7	

Second quarter

L: Thomas San Agustin 3 run (kick failed)

B: Justin Howard 38 run (kick good)

L: Cole Kramer 13 pass from Austin Terry (pass failed)

Fourth quarter

L: Austin Terry 1 run (kick failed)

L: Will Ridley 8 run (run failed)

STATISTICS

RUSHING: Will Ridley 10-70; Thomas San Agustin 17-53; Alex Dunn 9-38; Austin Terry 9-27; Austin Moore 4-14

PASSING: Austin Terry 12-16-155-1

RECEIVING: Mitchell McLellan 5-84; Cole Kramer 4-38; Grant Harding 1-21

Paola edges Louisburg in rivalry contest



Louisburg's Cole Kramer pins the ball to the back of a Paola defender Friday at Wildcat Stadium. Kramer later came down with the catch and ran for a 62-yard touchdown. It was the Wildcats' lone touchdown in the 11-10 loss to Paola.

Friday night's homecoming matchup between the Louisburg and Paola football teams was much of the same the two fan bases have enjoyed in recent years.

It was a close, hard-hitting, grind it out football game.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, the result wasn't any different.

Thanks to a fourth quarter touchdown and 2-point conversion, Paola edged Louisburg 11-10 at Wildcat Stadium for the Panthers' fifth-straight victory over the Wildcats. Louisburg had the ball two different times late in the fourth quarter to try and win it, but both drives came up empty.

"It was a classic Louisburg/Paola football game," Louisburg coach Kyle Littrell said. "Both teams played hard and physical, but the difference was Paola made one more play than we did. Both defenses played well, but they shut our run game down completely and it was hard for us to get anything going."

After rushing for more than 300 yards the week before against Piper, the Wildcats (3-1) managed just 29 yards on the ground and they didn't have many holes to run through.

Louisburg looked to quarterback Austin Terry as he opened up the offense through the air and gave the Wildcats a lot of momentum going into halftime thanks to the hands of his receiver Cole Kramer.

Late in the second quarter, Terry lofted a pass down the sideline and Kramer reached over a Paola defender to try and make the catch. As Kramer came down with it, he pinned the ball to the back of the Paola defender, maintained control and raced 62 yards for the Wildcats' lone touchdown and a 7-3 halftime lead.



Mason Koechner (53) signals Louisburg ball while T.J. Dover holds the ball up after he recovered a fumble Friday in Louisburg.

"It was a fantastic catch by Cole and that did give us a lot of momentum going into halftime, which was something we needed because we couldn't get much going on offense," Littrell said. "With his speed, Cole is able to get behind most defenders he plays against and he did a great job of making that catch."

Offense was hard to come by in the first half as Paola dominated the time of possession. The Wildcats had just three offensive plays in the first quarter and another 12 in the second quarter.

Despite that, the Louisburg defense held strong and kept the Panthers at three points until the fourth quarter. It was the Wildcats defense that gave their team ample opportunity to put the game up two scores late in the third quarter.

Junior lineman T.J. Dover forced, and recovered a fumble at Paola's 20-yard line and gave the Wildcat offense their best field position of the night. It looked like they were going to take advantage as Terry scrambled for what appeared to be a touchdown run

However, the score was called back due to a holding penalty and the Paola defense held, forcing a field goal. Senior Alex Dunn connected on the 35-yard field goal to give Louisburg a seven-point lead.

"That was a big sequence there for us," Littrell said. "A touchdown would have put us up 14-3, and the way we were playing, I think that might have been enough and it would have forced Paola to do some different things on offense.

"Looking at the hold on tape, it looked very minimal to me, but you have to go with what the official called and we needed to do a better job of executing."

Paola got new life and they took advantage. The Panthers went on a 14-play drive, that ate up nearly seven minutes on the clock to start the fourth quarter, and scored on a Ryan Gleghorn 2-yard touchdown run.

The Panthers lined up for the extra point to tie the game with five minutes remaining, but Louisburg was called for offsides, which moved the ball close to the 1-yard line. Paola elected to go for the 2-point conversion and got it to take the 11-10

lead.

Louisburg was able to drive the ball to midfield on its next possession after a couple of completions from Terry to Mitchell McLellan, but the Wildcats eventually turned the ball over on downs.

The Wildcat defense forced the Panthers to punt one last time and got the ball back with a little more than a minute remaining. But with no timeouts, Louisburg didn't have enough time left.



Seniors Ben Brummel and Cate Stambaugh were crowned the 2015 Fall Homecoming King and Queen before Friday's game with Paola.

"The play calling at the end of the game wasn't very good and that is my fault," Littrell said. "It was just hard to get into any kind of rhythm when we didn't have the ball that much. We just couldn't get Paola off the field and they did a good job running the ball and eating up a lot of clock."

Louisburg will try and get back on the winning track Friday

when it travels to Baldwin for another Frontier League matchup. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

PAO	3	0	0	8
– 11				
LOU	0	7	3	0
– 10				

First quarter

P: 29-yard FG

Second quarter

L: Cole Kramer 62 pass from Austin Terry (Alex Dunn kick)

Third quarter

L: Alex Dunn 35 FG

Fourth quarter

P: Ryan Gleghorn 2 run (Gleghorn run)

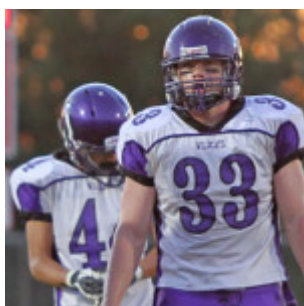
STATISTICS

RUSHING: Thomas San Agustin 12-31; Austin Terry 4-6; Alex Dunn 1-3

PASSING: Austin Terry 10-16-156-1

RECEIVING: Cole Kramer 4-95; Mitchell McLellan 2-48; Thomas San Agustin 3-11

Hupp earns spot on Oklahoma State football team



After months of training, Luke Hupp, a Louisburg High School graduate, earned a walk-on spot on the Oklahoma State football team last August. Hupp, who will redshirt this season, will lineup as a 'Cowboy Back' which is hybrid position of a fullback and tight end.

Luke Hupp made quite the jump in the football world in the last year, and did all of it without playing a single snap.

Hupp, a 2014 Louisburg High School graduate, went from intending to play football at Fort Scott Community College to finding himself on the campus of a Division I program in a matter of months. It turned out to be quite the journey for Hupp as he transformed himself to compete at the highest level.

He saw his hard work pay off when he was told in August that he was invited to walk-on to the Oklahoma State football program and officially became a member of the Cowboys.

"I just realize how blessed I am to have this opportunity,"

Hupp said. "A lot of kids, especially from small towns like Louisburg, don't get to experience what this is like and play at this level. I am not where I want to be yet, though. I want to eventually get on the field."

Hupp's road to Oklahoma State started in Fort Scott, where he originally signed to play football out of high school. However, when Hupp arrived, he was having second thoughts and wondered about giving up football entirely.

"When I left there I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," Hupp said. "I just wanted to take some time to think about things. Football is one of the things I truly did love and sometimes it takes you awhile to realize that."

His love definitely came back to him, but Hupp had to work for it.

When he realized he wanted to play football again, Hupp went to train at Simoneau Sports Performance in Overland Park, a training facility that is run by the former Kansas State linebacker Mark Simoneau.

For the next seven months, Hupp made the trek almost every day to train and get in better shape. While he was there, he would train alongside NFL players like Andy Studebaker, Chase Coffman and Ryan Mueller.

"It was great training against those guys because I would just push myself to try and keep up with them because I knew I would be facing that type of competition at Oklahoma State," Hupp said. "They gave me a little bit of advice on what to expect, but just training with him helped me out a great deal."

At the same time, he was checking out possible programs to walk-on to and Hupp had family in the Stillwater, Okla., area.

He contacted the Oklahoma State coaches and sent them film but

never heard anything back. Hupp sent them another email, and again, nothing.

That didn't stop him.

"I think I probably emailed their recruiting coordinator every day," Hupp said. "I know they probably gets lots of email from kids with film so they have to pick out who they pay attention to, but I wanted them to know that I was going to school here and that I was serious. This was something that I really wanted."

Hupp's persistence paid off as he was one of 110 players that were invited to the walk-on tryouts. The coaches recorded his 40 time, bench press numbers and also did some route running drills among other things.



Hupp was welcomed to the Oklahoma State football team and given his own locker for earning a walk-on spot.

Based on the sheer number of participants, the odds were stacked against Hupp. Then a few days later, he received a

phone call.

Hupp got the news he was waiting for as he was officially a member of the Oklahoma State team. He was one of just seven players to earn walk-on spots.

"I was just very excited to get the call," Hupp said. "I was beyond thrilled. But after I hung up the phone, it was strictly business right after that. I didn't want to celebrate too much because this was just one step on where I want to go, and that is on the field. Honestly, the whole time I was thinking that I had no other option but to make the team."

The joy of making the team was quickly doused when he went to his first college football practice against some of the top players in the Big 12 Conference and the nation.

"I hadn't put on the pads since I left high school probably," Hupp said. "Then when I get there, it is an eye-opening experience. The hardest hit I ever got in football in high school – that is what it is like every time they hit you in college, if not harder."

As for his spot on the field, the Cowboys have slotted Hupp as a "Cowboy back" which is a hybrid fullback and tight end in their offense. He is one of nine players on the roster at that position.

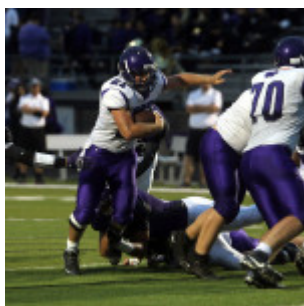
The coaches also told Hupp that he will redshirt this year to help him get acclimated to Division I football.

"I just need to keep working hard and getting stronger," Hupp said. "It is very hard to be a college football player because you are either in class, practice or in the weight room. There isn't much time for anything else. I just love it down here. The atmosphere around the program is great and they are excited for football.

"I am in it for the long run. I put in a lot of hard work to

get to this point and I want to keep going and eventually see the field one day. I have been given a good opportunity, and I am not going to give this up.”

Louisburg runs over Piper to stay perfect



Louisburg senior Alex Dunn sheds a couple Piper tacklers for a 10-yard touchdown run during Friday’s road contest at Piper High School. The Wildcats rushed for 384 yards as a team and rolled the Pirates 29-7.

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – The game plan was a pretty simple one.

It was to run the ball, run it again and then run it some more. The plan wasn’t necessarily creative, but it didn’t have to be. It worked to perfection, especially in the first half.

Louisburg ran up and down the field on Piper Friday and scored 23 first-half points on its way to a 29-7 win at Piper High School. The win gives the Wildcats three straight victories to start the season.

“We challenged them to be more aggressive in the first half,

pin their ears back and be physical,” Louisburg coach Kyle Littrell said. “I thought they responded well and I was happy to see the way we came out.”

The Wildcats (3-0) racked up 384 yards on the ground and a bulk of that was thanks to Thomas San Agustin. The Louisburg junior running back carried the ball 38 times, tallied 249 yards and a touchdown.

San Agustin had some big holes to run through thanks to his offensive line of Anders Vance, Dustyn Rizzo, Jarod Woodward, Garrett Lowry, T.J. Dover, tight end Grant Harding and fullback Alex Dunn. San Agustin also added several yards after contact as he became difficult for the Pirates to bring down.

“Thomas is starting to learn,” Littrell said. “Every time he plays, the blinders are becoming a little wider and a little bit wider. I love the fact that he always finishes runs moving forward. The thing with him is that he has to stop getting in the air because you end up getting hurt when you get in the air like that. He is improving every day in practice, he is improving out here and he is doing good work.”

Louisburg made a statement on its opening drive. The Wildcats marched down the field and took more than eight minutes off the clock and scored on a 15-play drive.



Thomas San Agustin rushed

for 249 yards and a touchdown to help Louisburg to a win over Piper on Friday.

Dunn, who finished the game with 82 yards on the ground, ended the drive with a 10-yard touchdown run to give the Wildcats an early 7-0 lead, and they took off from there.

“That first drive was really key for us,” Littrell said. “We came out and put together a long drive that ate up about eight minutes of the first quarter. That was all just linemen blocking hard and running backs running hard.”

Piper started driving down the field its first drive, but the Wildcat defense came up big as senior Mitchell McLellan intercepted a pass. Louisburg would drive down the field itself, but turned the ball over on downs at the 1-yard line.

The Wildcats still managed to find points, however. Dover broke through the Piper offensive line and recorded a safety to make it 9-0.

On the ensuing kickoff, senior Cole Kramer had a long kickoff return that set up a 35-yard touchdown run from San Agustin to make it 15-0. After the Wildcat defense forced a Piper punt, Louisburg added another touchdown right before halftime.

Louisburg quarterback Austin Terry found McLellan for a 13-yard touchdown. Terry then faked the extra point and ran it in for two points to give the Wildcats a 23-0 halftime lead.

The Wildcats tacked on a touchdown late in the fourth quarter when Terry scored on an 8-yard run to all but seal the win for the Wildcats.

Defensively, the Wildcats did their job as they held Piper to just 171 total yards of offense and gave up just the late touchdown in the third quarter. It was a big turnaround after

giving up 42 points and nearly 500 yards of total offense the week before against Eudora.

“Our defense heard it all week long about the 42 points we gave up last week,” Littrell said. “Our defensive coaches challenged them. Linebackers played better and our tackling got a little bit better as well, but just like on offense, we aren’t where we want to be yet. We are 3-0 and that is great, but we have to pay attention to detail.”

McLellan led the Wildcats with five tackles, while Terry, Rizzo and Kramer each added four. San Agustin registered a sack and Harding added an interception for the Wildcat defense.

After two weeks on the road, the Wildcats return to Wildcat Stadium, which is also homecoming. Louisburg will face rival Paola for a 7 p.m. kickoff Friday.

The Wildcats have lost four straight to the Panthers, including the last two years that were decided by a touchdown or less.

“If you can’t get jacked up for this one then you don’t have a heartbeat,” Littrell said. “I remember, our coaching staff remembers, and our players remember how the last two years went down. That is going to fuel our week of practice.”

LOUISBURG		7	16
0	6 – 29		
PIPER		0	0
7	0 – 7		

First quarter

L: Alex Dunn 10 run (Dunn kick)

Second quarter

L: T.J. Dover safety

L: Thomas San Agustin 35 run (kick failed)

L: Mitchell McLellan 13 pass from Austin Terry (Terry run)

Third quarter:

P: 10 run (kick good)

Fourth quarter

L: Terry 8 run (kick failed)

STATISTICS

RUSHING: Thomas San Agustin 38-249; Alex Dunn 15-82; Austin Terry 10-53

PASSING: Austin Terry 5-9-43-1

RECEIVING: Mitchell McLellan 2-24; Thomas San Agustin 2-9; Grant Harding 1-10.

BOUNCE BACK: Big second half propels Louisburg



Louisburg junior Thomas San Agustin runs into the endzone with the football on his back in the fourth quarter to bring the Wildcats to within one point of Eudora on Friday in Eudora. The Wildcats rallied for a 50-42 win.

EUDORA – Louisburg quarterback Austin Terry got his team in the huddle before what was a critical 2-point conversion try.

The Wildcats trailed Eudora by one with four minutes left in the game and had been trailing the entire night. He had one simple message for his teammates.

“Austin said that plays like this is what wins games,” junior running back Thomas San Agustin said. “We don’t say stuff like that many times in the huddle, but that is when the line gave it their all, like it was their last play.”

Technically, Terry was right.

Terry gave the Wildcats the lead with a run up the middle to get the 2-point conversion and the Wildcats came through in the 50-42 victory Friday in Eudora. Terry broke two different tackles before following his offensive line to sneak into the endzone.

The Louisburg defense came up with its biggest stop of the night on Eudora’s next drive and the Wildcats responded with a big touchdown run from San Agustin to put the game away.

“That was just amazing,” Terry said. “I had some help from

some teammates to help me get in there. I was definitely a little nervous before the play, but you just have to trust your teammates and do what you have been taught.”

The touchdown to bring the Wildcats within one was almost as memorable. San Agustin was trying to break free from a couple Eudora tacklers when the ball popped out and rolled on his back.

The Louisburg junior reached behind to secure the ball and ran in for the 14-yard touchdown run. About five of those yards featured San Agustin holding the ball on his back as he ran into the endzone.

It was the second half Louisburg coach Kyle Littrell had wanted to see coming out of halftime. The Wildcats trailed by 14 points coming into the third quarter and had given up a lot of big plays on defense.

Eudora had 320 yards of total offense in the first half alone and Littrell knew his team had to change the way they did a lot of things, especially on defense. All the Wildcats did was outscore the Cardinals 36-14 in the second half and played with a different mindset.

“I just told them at halftime that I related it to my second favorite sport, which is a UFC fight,” Littrell said. “The first two rounds are over, you are sitting on your chair and are you going to answer the bell? We put up 36 points in the second half, so offensively we answered the bell. Defensively we did better, especially only giving up 14 points, but we had too many big plays, too many missed assignments. We need to get better at that.”



Senior Mitchell McLellan hauls in a pass in the second half Friday against Eudora.

It was a game that featured big play after big play in both halves. Eudora jumped out to a 28-14 halftime lead and all four of the Cardinals' scoring plays were over 47 yards.

The Wildcats had a couple big plays of their own. After Eudora's first score of the game, San Agustin answered as he scored on an 83-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to tie it at 7-all.

On Eudora's first play of its next drive, it scored on a 47-yard run from its quarterback, Grant Elston. The Wildcats drove the ball to start the second quarter and eventually scored on a 1-yard touchdown run from Alex Dunn to tie the game again.

The Cardinals put some distance between themselves and the Wildcats with two long touchdown runs to put Louisburg in a hole thanks to some missed tackles.

"It boils down to blocking, the desire to tackle and protecting the football," Littrell said. "The second half we had a desire to tackle. In the first half we were arm tackling, going down to our knees to tackle. We weren't clubbing up and accelerating on our feet, and when you get a

team that is as good as they are, with the athletes that they have, you can't arm tackle. They were breaking those and that is what they did in the first half."

Louisburg opened the second half with a long drive that ended with a 3-yard touchdown run from San Agustin to cut the Eudora lead in half. The Wildcat defense held firm to hold Eudora on its first possession of the half.

The Wildcat offense responded again to tie the game when Terry found tight end Grant Harding for a 62-yard touchdown catch and run. The play swung all the momentum to the Wildcat sideline.

Both teams traded touchdowns on two different occasions, late in the second half that eventually led to Terry's 2-point conversion try.



Running back Alex Dunn looks for some extra yards in the first half against Eudora on Friday.

"It was just one of those things where we have been playing from behind all night long and I wasn't sure if we ever would have the opportunity to touch the ball again," Littrell said. "I just trust my kids to execute any play that I call."

Louisburg defense forced the Cardinals to turn the ball over on downs on their next possession and San Agustin responded with a 39-yard touchdown run. Terry intercepted a pass with just seconds left in the game to seal the win.

San Agustin had a big game for the Wildcats as he finished with 110 yards rushing and three touchdowns. He had a fourth if you include the kickoff return.

"The thing I like about Thomas is that he gets tougher as the game goes on," Littrell said. "He gets so emotional, and is so tightly wound that sometimes his emotions drain his gas tank. When he learns to control that emotion, and not get gassed after the first two or three plays, he is just tough as nails. He is getting better and better all the time."

The Wildcats did have a scary moment as junior Korbin Hankinson, who finished with more than 100 yards on the ground, had to leave the game in the second half with a concussion. Before that time, Hankinson keyed the Wildcats on a couple of their scoring drives.

"Hankinson is as tough as nails," Littrell said. "He ran the ball great for us. Hopefully we can get him back as soon as possible, but we are not going to rush anything. We are going to take care of him just like any family member."

Terry also had one of his better games as the Wildcat quarterback as he completed 11 of 17 passes for 233 yards. Cole Kramer and Mitchell McLellan each had more than 70 yards receiving to lead Louisburg.

Defensively, San Agustin led Louisburg with seven tackles, while juniors Dustyn Rizzo, Jake Hill and Harding each added six. Rizzo also finished with the team's only sack.

Louisburg returns to action Friday when it travels to Piper for its second road game of the year. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

EUDORA		14	14
7	7 - 42		
LOUISBURG		7	7
14	22 - 50		

First quarter

E: Travis Neis 60 run (Grant Elston kick)

L: Thomas San Agustin 83 kickoff return (Alex Dunn kick)

E: Elston 47 run (Elston kick)

Second quarter

L: Dunn 1 run (Dunn kick)

E: Elston 65 run (Elston kick)

E: Lee Andrews 56 run (Elston kick)

Third quarter

L: San Agustin 3 run (Dunn kick)

L: Grant Harding 62 pass from Austin Terry (Dunn kick)

E: Ryan Verbanic 10 pass from Elston (Elston kick)

Fourth quarter

L: Terry 2 run (Dunn kick)

E: Austin Downing 6 run (Elston kick)

L: San Agustin 14 run (Terry run)

L: San Agustin 39 run (Dunn kick)

STATISTICS

RUSHING: Thomas San Agustin 22-110; Korbin Hankinson 13-107; Austin Terry 8-16; Alex Dunn 4-12; Mitchell McLellan 1-1

PASSING: Austin Terry 11-17-233-1

RECEIVING: Cole Kramer 3-73; Mitchell McLellan 5-72; Grant Harding 1-62; Alex Dunn 2-26.