

# LHS winter homecoming royalty to be crowned Friday



*Members of the 2022 Louisburg High School winter homecoming court are (from left) Aubryn Berck, Aiden Barker, Chase Kallevig, A.J. Arriola, Corinna McMullen, Carson Kern, Reese Johnson and Isaac Guetterman.*

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 2022 winter king and queen. Eight students were selected as nominees and here are their names and profiles.

The crowning will take place on Friday during halftime of the Wildcat boys' basketball game with Spring Hill. Tipoff for that game is set for approximately 7:30 p.m. Good luck to all the participants and make sure to come out on Friday to support both the Wildcat girls and boys basketball teams.



## **Aubryn Berck and Aiden Barker**

Aubryn is the daughter of Dave and Amanda Berck. Aubryn has been involved with high school volleyball for three years, member of National Honor Society for two years, FCA for two years. She has been a part of FCCLA for one year, track for one year and volleyball manager for one year. Aubryn has

played club volleyball for eight years, shown horses for 10 years and a leader in Life Church's youth classroom for two years. Following graduation, Aubryn is planning to study nutrition sciences to become a registered dietician. She is undecided on her school at this time.

Aiden is the son of David and Gail Barker. Aiden has participated in football for four years, wrestling for four years and National Honor Society for two years. He is currently undecided on his plans following graduation.



## **Chase Kallevig and A.J. Arriola**

Chase is the daughter of Eric and Kara Kallevig. Chase has participated in volleyball for four years, FFA for three year, National Honor Society for two years, FBLA for two years and basketball for one year. Chase is currently undecided on her plans following graduation.

A.J. is the son of Juan Arriola and Shelly Gibson. A.J. has participated in golf for four years, FCA for two years, musical for two years, choir for two years and FBLA for one year. A.J. plans to major in accounting in college, but is undecided on his destination.



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## **Corinna McMullen and Carson Kern**

Corinna is the daughter of Scott and Sarah McMullen. Corinna has participated in volleyball for four years, National Honor Society for two years, Interact Club for one year and FBLA for one year. After graduation, Corinna will attend Washburn University on a volleyball scholarship and major in nursing.

with a specialization in pediatrics.

Carson is the son of Matthew and Veronica Kern. Carson has participated in basketball for three years and golf for two years. After graduation, Carson plans to attend Pittsburg State University.



## **Reese Johnson and Isaac Guetterman**

Reese is the daughter of Matthew and Tiffany Johnson. Reese has participated in soccer for four years, cross country for four years, National Honor Society for two years, band for two years and FFA for one year. Reese plans to attend the University of Central Missouri after graduation, but is undecided on a major.

Isaac is the son of Ted and Lisa Guetterman. Isaac has participated in FFA for four years, soccer for four years and basketball for four years. He has been a part of National Honor Society for two years and participated in track for one. Following graduation, Isaac plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Agricultural Engineering.









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# Top 10 Louisburg Sports Stories for 2021



It was a successful, and eventful, 2021 for Louisburg High School athletics and for those who are connected to the Wildcat program. This past year created a lot of school history for LHS and several programs brought back state hardware.

Below are the top stories from 2021, along with a brief explanation of each. Included in the explanation is the link to the actual story from the event.

When putting the list together, I took a lot of things into account – whether it was team vs. individual, popularity of the sport, historical achievements and the interest it drew on the web site.

This year was a blast to cover and I am looking forward to seeing what 2022 will bring. Thank you to everyone for their support and can't wait for it all to begin again.



## **10. Louisburg golf team qualifies for state**

INDEPENDENCE – For the second time in as many seasons, the Louisburg boys golf team qualified for the state tournament.

Except this time, the Wildcat team is made up of a completely new roster.

The Louisburg group of Johnny Eberhart, A.J. Arriola, Johnny Thompson, Sam Wheeler, Dacey Wieland and Jackson Olson shot a 392 to finish third at the Class 4A regional meet at Independence Country Club.

The Wildcats were just three strokes behind runner-up Field Kindley. Independence won the regional title with a 361.

Louisburg last went to state in 2019, but the 2020 season was canceled due to COVID-19.

Eberhart led Louisburg with an 87 and finished fourth overall and was the lone Wildcat to make the cut for the second day.



## **9. Compliment steps back from volleyball program after 15 seasons.**

When Jessica Compliment walked off the floor following her team's semifinal sub-state loss to Bishop Miege back in October of 2020, the only thought on her mind was how that match was more like a state championship battle.s

It wasn't your normal match as the two perennial state contenders had to square off so early in the postseason. She was proud of her team and was looking forward to another season of helping Louisburg volleyball get to another state tournament.

Little did she know, it would be the last time she would find herself on the Lady Cat sideline.

In late January, Compliment submitted her resignation as head volleyball coach as she will be stepping away to spend more time with her growing family.

Compliment certainly left her mark on the Louisburg volleyball program as she finished her 15th season back in October and has an impressive resume to show for it.

In the decade-and-a-half as the Lady Cat coach, Compliment guided Louisburg to eight state tournament appearances and placed in the top four of seven of them.

She also finished nine wins shy of 400 as she posted a record of 391-226 and helped Louisburg to three state championship matches.

Shortly after, the district hired assistant coach Leanna Willer to take over the program.



## **8. Wildcat boys soccer wins Frontier League title, advances to regional title**

It had the drama of a state championship match, but instead the No. 1 and 3 ranked teams in the state were playing for the Class 4-1A regional championship title.

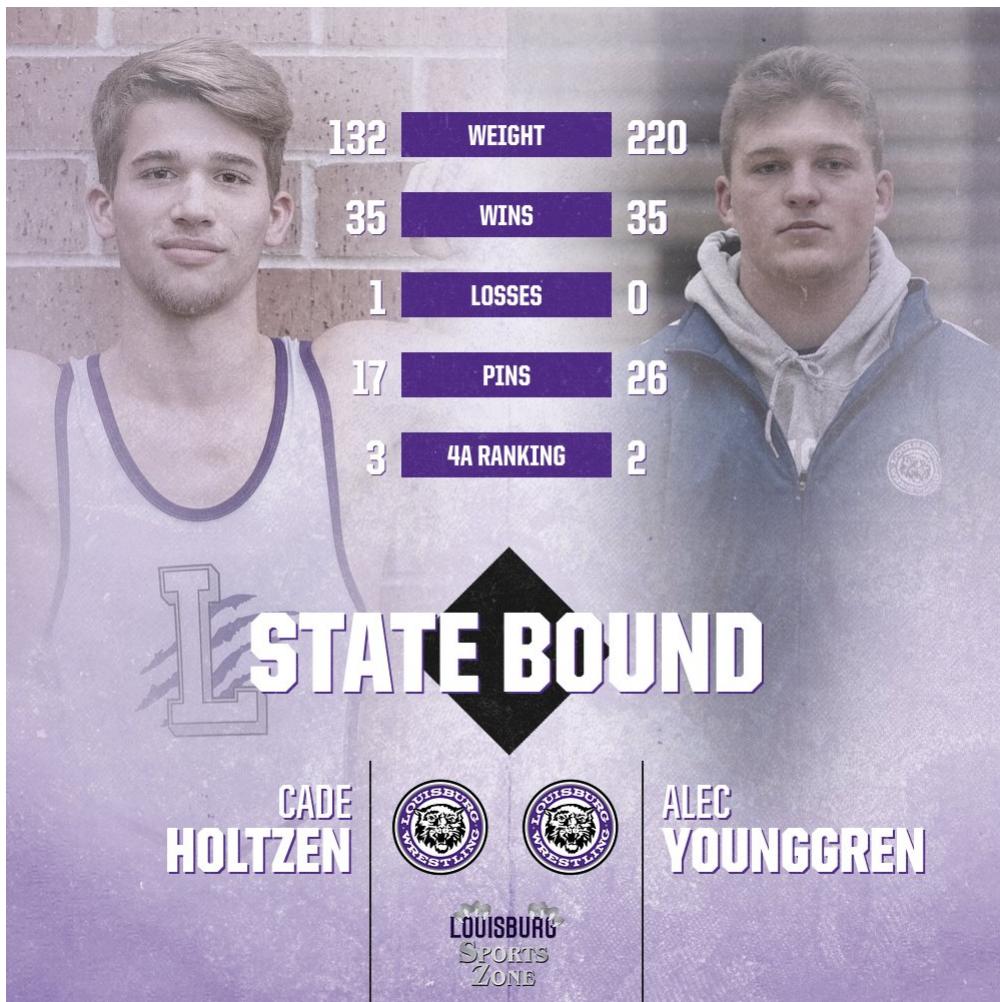
Louisburg hosted Bishop Miege in hopes ending the Stags' string of consecutive state championships.

Instead, the Wildcats once again saw their season come to a close after a 2-0 loss to the Stags at Wildcat Stadium and ended their season with a 12-5-1 record.

The loss was heartbreaking defeat for the Wildcats, who had

their sights set on another state final four – and possibly – a state title. To make matters worse, it was to a Miege team that has handed Louisburg a loss in five of the last six postseasons.

Earlier in the season, the Wildcats were crowned as co-champions of the Frontier League with Spring Hill.



## 7. Wildcat wrestling medals two

SALINA – Cade Holtzen and Alec Younggren didn't get to leave Salina with what they were hoping to earn.

Only a select few get to leave with the title of "state champion," and both Louisburg seniors were close to reaching their goal. Despite that, both wrestlers helped the Wildcat team to their best state finish in nearly 11 years.

Younggren reached the championship match, only to finish second at 220 pounds, while Holtzen rallied back to medal third at 132 during the Class 4A Kansas State Wrestling Championships at the Tony's Pizza Events Center. The two wrestlers combined to score 30 points, which put them 14th in the team standings.

Louisburg hadn't finished that high since 2010, when Austin Hood won his first of three state titles and his brother Bryce, took second. The Wildcats were 10th that year.



## **6. Louisburg cross country qualifies both teams for state, medals four.**

WAMEGO – It wasn't the finish Louisburg wanted following the Class 4A state cross country meet, but the Wildcats left with more than their fair share of hardware.

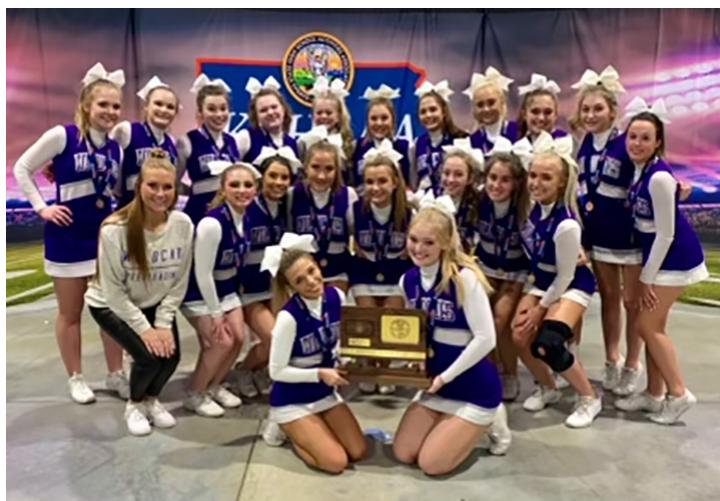
Louisburg was awarded four state medals following the meet at

Wamego Country Club, including three on the girls side for the second straight season.

The Lady Cats had hoped to earn a team plaque for the second year in a row, but took fifth overall with 144 points. Eudora won the girls championship with 56, Baldwin was second with 64 and Winfield was third with 93.

Sophomore Emma Vohs led the charge for Louisburg as she finished sixth overall. Sophomore Maddy Rhamy and senior Reese Johnson also medaled for the Lady Cats.

In his first year with the boys program, senior Jaden Vohs had a strong final run for the Wildcats as he medaled 12th overall.



## 5. Louisburg cheer finishes runner-up at state competition

TOPEKA – The Louisburg High cheer program knows a thing or two about being one of the last teams left standing at the Game Day Showcase.

Louisburg, which won a state title in 2019 and took third in 2020, found itself one of the two teams left standing.

When the final results were announced in November, the judges

awarded the Wildcat cheer squad the state runner-up plaque. Paola won the state title, while Baldwin made it a Frontier League sweep as it took third.



## 4. Wildcat girls take fourth at state soccer

WICHITA – The Louisburg girls soccer team may have left the Class 4-1A Kansas State Girls Soccer Championships with a pair of losses, but the Wildcats took a lot of pride in what they accomplished.

For the fourth straight season, Louisburg advanced to the state final four and the Wildcats finished fourth in the state – a far cry where many people thought they would end up. The Wildcats lost a pair of 2-1 matches to Mulvane and then to McPherson in the third-place match at the Stryker Sports

Complex in Wichita.

Louisburg, which lost 12 seniors from a season that didn't happen due to COVID, returned just three varsity players. Despite all that, they ended up being one of the top teams in the state.



### **3. Louisburg girls basketball snaps 47-year state drought, takes third at state**

SALINA – The tears were abundant following Louisburg's loss to McPherson in the Class 4A state semifinal game.

The Lady Cats saw their season come to an end after their 58-46 loss to the Bullpups in Salina, but as hard as the finality of it was to take, they know what is the bigger

picture.

Before the game even started, Louisburg already wrapped up its best finish in program history and became the first Lady Cat team to place at state as it finished third.

A season that finished with a 19-5 record and a third place state trophy, is one that will always be remembered in Louisburg history.

"It means the world to me to finish third at state," senior Megan Foote said. "Obviously it wasn't how we wanted to finish, but that's okay. I'm still beyond proud of this group and the accomplishments we have made. We are the best girls basketball team in Louisburg history. I'd say to be a part of that, is pretty awesome. I'm honored."

For the last three quarters of the game, Louisburg actually outscored McPherson 43-37, but it was the first quarter that the Lady Cats weren't able to overcome.

McPherson scored the first 15 points of the first quarter and took a 21-3 lead going into the second period.



## 2. Wildcat basketball advances to first-ever state title game, finish runner-up

SALINA – The result of the state championship game is not what the Louisburg boys basketball team will focus on several years from now.

The fact that the 2020-21 Wildcats recorded the best finish in school history, will be more than enough for them to fondly reminisce about.

Louisburg, which played in its first-ever state championship game in Salina, fell to state power Bishop Miege, 94-40. As disappointing as the result was, many of the Wildcats were looking bigger picture.

"We will forever live in history with this senior class and with this team," senior Weston Guetterman said. "Until someone

wins it at least, we are going to be the bar that everyone looks to. It is a proud moment for all of us."

In the state semifinal, the Wildcats got a revenge victory with a come-from-behind 58-55 win over Augusta to advance to the state title game.



## 1. Wildcat track wins second state championship; Wright wins three state titles.

WICHITA – On the 10th anniversary of the Louisburg boys' first state track championship, this year's team wanted to do something to commemorate the historic event.

The Wildcats decided they wanted to win one of their own.

Louisburg edged out Andale for the state championship Friday during the Class 4A Kansas Track and Field Championships at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

It is just the second track championship for Louisburg and just the fourth team state championship in school history.

The first one was a golf title in 1977, and then football won its first state title in 2010. The track team followed with its first later that school year in 2011 and the Louisburg cheer squad won a state title in 2019.

“There are no words to describe how incredibly proud I was of the entire team,” Louisburg coach Andy Wright said. “It was a total team effort. It was a moment I will never forget as a coach, and how exciting that it came down to the final race. Everyone gave it their all, and I just couldn’t be happier as a coach to see all of that hard work pay off for them with the greatest reward.”

Tom Koontz led the Wildcats with four state medals, including a state championship in the 110-meter hurdles.



On the girls side, Delaney Wright made some history of her own.

Wright was the favorite to win state titles in her three events at the Class 4A State Track and Field Championships.

She didn't disappoint.

Wright not only won three state championships, but she won them in convincing fashion, breaking two school records in the process. The Louisburg junior won the long jump, 400-meter dash and the 200-meter dash on her way to an historic day in Wichita.

"My experience at state track this year was amazing," Wright said. "The people competing there were super nice and my teammates made it more fun. It meant a lot to pull off winning three state titles."

Wright became the first female Wildcat athlete to win three state titles in the same year as she helped the Lady Cats to a fifth place finish in the team standings – also the highest finish for Louisburg girls track and field.

"I can't say enough how awesome of a competitor Delaney is," Louisburg girls coach John Reece said. "I know she went to state with one thing on her mind – win. She did just that and truly performed to her best. Winning three different events is an incredible feat."

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## **Conley earns national award from United Soccer Coaches**



*Louisburg boys and girls soccer coach Kyle Conley was awarded the The High School Coach of Significance Award by the United Soccer Coaches earlier this week.*

Louisburg soccer coach Kyle Conley added another award to his mantle on Monday.

The United Soccer Coaches awarded Conley with The High School Coach of Significance Award. Conley was one of 33 recipients of the award throughout the country and was the honoree from the state of Kansas.

"Receiving that award is very humbling," Conley said.

“Being awarded an honor like that is much more than one person. It is the coaches I get to, or have worked with. It is a fantastic support group. I have fantastic parents that are all in, all the time. The community is always there for our programs regardless if they have kids that play soccer or not, and my wife (Kelli Conley) is super supportive and always there to help out regardless of the task.

“Most importantly, none of this could be achieved without fantastic student-athletes, both past and present, that I get to work with. They give me everything they have each and every night. I am just trying to be a servant leader and teach my players to be the same on and off the field. Louisburg is our town and we want to always represent it in the best way possible.”

The High School Coach of Significance Award, which is in its fifth year, recognizes members who are coaching for character and using the soccer field to teach life lessons at the high school level.

It is an opportunity for each state, in conjunction with United Soccer Coaches, to recognize coaches who are making an impact within their schools and communities well beyond their records of wins and losses.

The fifth annual class represents a total of 33 states. The goal, according to the United Soccer Coaches, is to annually recognize a recipient from all 50 states.

Each of the High School Coach of Significance Award nominees are reviewed by the selection committee comprised of national, regional, and state representation.

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# OPINION: Wildcat success provides getaway from 'real world' problems



There hasn't been a whole lot of good to talk about in the last year or so.

Our life has changed around us. We are having to deal with a new normal and there are a lot uncertainties as to what our future holds.

It is an unnerving time for a lot of people and our country seems more divided than ever. Still, to get by in this difficult time, you have to look for positives.

For me, the last school year brought me some of the best moments in my journalistic life. The 2020-21 school was arguably one of the most successful seasons in Louisburg High School history from top to bottom, and I was more than grateful to be there for it all.



Just look at what was accomplished last year:

- Boys cross country qualified for state for the first time in school history.
- Girls cross country placed at state for the first time in its history as they took third in Class 4A. Maddy Rhamy, Lola Edwards and Reese Johnson also earned medals.
- Boys soccer had its best finish in school history with a 3rd place state finish.
- Boys basketball advanced to the state championship game for the first time and took second.
- Girls basketball advanced to the state tournament for the first time in 47 years and recorded its best finish in third.

- Wrestlers Alec Younggren and Cade Holtzen took second and third, respectively, at the state tournament.
- Boys golf qualified for state as a team.



- Girls soccer made an improbable run to advance to its fourth straight state final four and the Wildcats took fourth.
- Delaney Wright won three state track titles in the long jump, 200 dash and 400 dash and broke all three school records in the process.
- Maybe perhaps the best accomplishment of all, the Louisburg boys track and field team won the Class 4A state championship as they edged out Andale for the title.

Just a year removed from losing their spring season due to COVID-19, the Wildcats came back stronger than ever and it showed. It was an exciting time to be a Louisburg sports fan.

However, with so much positivity from last season, it is time to turn the page and focus on what the 21-22 season has in store.



First day of fall practice begins this Monday and the football, volleyball, cross country and boys soccer team all have a chance to do some special things this season. I am fortunate I will be able to be there once again to cover it all.

As I talked about earlier, there is a lot of negativity going on in the world right now, but I am more than thankful to have a job where I can get away from all that and cover all the special moments.

Last season was a much-needed get away for me and it was an unbelievable journey to see all the Wildcat history that was made.

This year has another chance to be a special one. There is no way to predict what will happen, but I do know there is a chance for even more history and records to fall this upcoming year.

Football numbers are up and the Wildcats are poised for a big season, while the cross country, volleyball and boys soccer team all return several key pieces to make a run in the postseason – and that is just what the fall will hold.

The seasons can't get here soon enough and I am ready to cover it all once again. Hope to see you all out there supporting the Wildcats and maybe you can forget all those stresses in life – even if it is just for a few moments.

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## **Wildcats earn four spots on all-state soccer team**



***Senior Olivia Barber (left) and junior Reese Johnson were named to the Class 4-1A all-state first team by the Kansas High School Soccer Coaches Association.***

With any kind of success comes recognition, and the Louisburg

girls soccer team has gotten more in the last week.

Louisburg, which finished fourth at the Class 4-1A state tournament, earned four spots on the Kansas High School Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team.

Senior Olivia Barber and junior Reese Johnson were named to the Class 4-1A all-state first team, while freshmen Hailey Sword and Lola Edwards earned second team honors.

“The four girls we had recognized for all-state were very valuable to our success,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “Once again, when any individual accomplishes any individual award, it is usually because their teammates help put them in a position to succeed.”

Johnson was one of the team’s main facilitators on offense as she was second on the team with nine assists and also had seven goals.

Barber also had a big final season for the Wildcats as she finished the year with 11 goals and 11 assists.

“Reese and Olivia did a fantastic job for our team’s attack,” Conley said. “They created a massive amount of opportunities for our team and played at such a high level. Olivia had such great vision and did a fantastic job of finding her teammates. Reese was such an unbelievable threat attacking the right side. She was so good all season long.”



***Freshmen Lola Edwards (left) and Hailey Sword were named to the all-state second team.***

Edwards was also another valuable piece to the Wildcat offense as she was second on the team with 15 goals to go along with six assists.

Sword was a big part of the Wildcat defense as she took away the other team's best players from her defensive midfield spot. She also had three goals on the year.

"Hailey and Lola did a great job for us as well," Conley said. "As freshmen, they stepped up big time and took on the challenge of replacing some really tough players. Not only did they step up, but they excelled. Hailey took away the middle of the field and Lola played with a massive amount of energy up top for our team. Both these young ladies have a lot of great things ahead of them in their careers."

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# 2021 Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Year nominees



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

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

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

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

## ATHLETES OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

### FEMALE



## **Reese Johnson – Junior – Cross Country, Soccer**

Junior Reese Johnson made history in a couple different sports for Louisburg this past season.

In the fall, Johnson played a big role on the girls cross country team. The Lady Cats finished third in Class 4A, as that was the first time a team had placed at state in girls cross country. Johnson also medaled 15th individually and was one of three Lady Cats to earn state medals that day.

In the spring, Johnson was one of the leaders on the girls soccer team that advanced to the Class 4-1A state final four this past season. Johnson earned second team All-Frontier League honors after she finished the season with seven goals and nine assists as the Wildcats finished fourth at state.



## **Alyse Moore – Senior – Volleyball, Basketball, Track**

Alyse Moore ended her senior season as one of the most accomplished athletes in Louisburg High School history. Moore is the first female athlete in school history to compete at the state level in four different sports, including both softball and track in the same season in 2019.

In the spring, Moore earned her second straight track state medal in the javelin as she finished fourth in the Class 4A meet. Earlier in the year, Moore broke a 20-year-old school record with a throw of 149 feet.

Moore was also a starter on the girls basketball team and helped the Lady Cats to their best finish in school history. Moore and the Lady Cats advanced to state for the first time in 47 years and took third overall. Individually, Moore eclipsed the 500-career rebound mark and was an honorable

mention all-league player. She led the team in rebounds with 8.6 boards a game and also averaged 7.3 points and 1.7 steals.

On the volleyball court, Moore started as an outside hitter for the Lady Cats and was second on the team with 174 kills and 195 digs.



### **Delaney Wright – Junior – Basketball, Track**

Delaney Wright ended the 2020-21 school year with a bang as she became the school's first athlete to win three state championships in track in one season.

At the Class 4A state meet in Wichita last month, Wright won state titles in the long jump, 400-meter dash and 200-meter dash. She broke her own 200 and 400 school records to reach those accomplishments. On the season, Wright set new school

records in each of those events.

Wright was also a key player on the girls basketball team and helped the Lady Cats to their best finish in school history. Wright and the Lady Cats advanced to state for the first time in 47 years and took third overall at the Class 4A state tournament. Wright was one of the team's best defensive players as she averaged two deflections and a steal per game. She was also assigned to the team's best player.

## MALE



## Weston Guetterman – Senior – Football, Basketball

Weston Guetterman played big roles for both the Wildcat football and basketball teams this past season.

On the gridiron, Guetterman was the starting quarterback for

Louisburg, which finished 4-3 and tied for third in the Frontier League standings. Guetterman earned honorable mention All-League honors on defense for his play in the secondary. He finished the year with 32 tackles, two interceptions, three tackles for a loss and seven batted balls. He also finished with 548 yards rushing and six touchdowns.

Guetterman was one of the team leaders on the boys basketball team that advanced to its first state championship in school history and took second at the Class 4A state tournament. He was a second-team All-Frontier League selection from the point guard spot and averaged 12.5 points, 4.3 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 2.2 steals a game. He was also an all-state selection by the Topeka Capital-Journal, Wichita Eagle and Sports in Kansas.



## **Cade Holtzen – Senior – Cross Country, Wrestling, Track**

Cade Holtzen was a three-sport athlete this past season for Louisburg and became the first male athlete (that is known) to participate in state competitions in all three sports, in the same season.

Holtzen helped the Wildcat cross country team to qualify for state for the first time in school history as they finished third at regionals. At state, Holtzen took 56th overall in 18 minutes and 46 seconds.

On the wrestling mat, Holtzen had a year to remember as he finished his career with a 155-19 record and a third-place state finish at 132 pounds. He was a four-time state qualifier for the Wildcats and a three-time state placer. Holtzen served as the team captain this past season and currently holds eight program records, including most season victories and most career wins. He was also chosen to participate in the 2021 Metro Classic.

In the spring, Holtzen earned his second state medal of the year as he helped the 4x800-meter relay team to a third place finish. He also helped the Wildcats to their second team Class 4A state track championship in school history.



## **Kolby Kattau – Junior – Football, Baseball**

Kolby Kattau was a two-sport athlete this past season and had a good year for both the football and baseball program.

In the spring, Kattau helped the Wildcats to their first regional championship game since 2009 as he played both first base and pitcher. Kattau finished the year with a .444 average and racked up 32 hits for the Wildcats to go along with a .560 on-base percentage. He finished with five doubles, two triples, 16 RBIs, scored 26 runs and stole nine bases. He was a first team All-Frontier League selection and was an honorable mention all-state selection by the KBCA.

On the football field, Kattau played on both sides of the ball for a team that finished with a 4-3 record and tied for third in the Frontier League. He finished with two touchdowns from

the running back spot and had 41 tackles at linebacker.



## **Alec Younggren – Senior – Football, Wrestling**

Alec Younggren was a two-sport athlete for Louisburg as he shined on the football field and on the wrestling mat.

Younggren, who missed part of the football season with an injury, still played well-enough on the offensive and defensive lines to earn All-Frontier League honors on both sides of the ball. Younggren was named as a first-team offensive lineman and an honorable mention lineman on defense.

He was a key fixture on the Wildcat offensive line that amassed more than 2,400 yards of total offense and 20 touchdowns. He also had 23 tackles on defense. Younggren was also an all-state honorable mention selection.

The Louisburg senior had an historic season in wrestling as he advanced to the 220-pound Class 4A championship match, where he finished runner-up. He finished the year with a 37-1 record and had Louisburg's highest state finish since 2012.



## **Braden Yows – Junior – Soccer**

Louisburg junior Braden Yows was vital part of the Wildcats' best finish in school history this past season. Yows helped the Wildcats to a third place finish in the Class 4-1A state tournament.

Yows was a first-team All-Frontier League and all-state selection from his midfield spot. He broke a program record with 21 assists and also finished with seven goals on the year.

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# Wildcats earn seven spots on All-Frontier League Soccer Team



The Louisburg girls soccer team just finished a memorable season that led the Wildcats to their fourth straight Class 4-1A final four.

Due to all that success, the Wildcats were recognized by the league coaches and earned seven spots on the All-Frontier League team that was recently released.

Although seven players were honored, it didn't sit well with the program as the Wildcats were shutout of the first team and five players were named honorable mention.

"Honestly I felt compared to teams we beat we did not receive the representation I felt the girls deserved," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "Usually, I don't tell the girls all-league stuff until our banquet and like it being a surprise, but I felt we had some kids who should have been first team players and some second team players. We used that as our motivation for the rest of the year to keep proving those people who don't believe in us wrong."

Junior midfielder Reese Johnson was second team selection, along with freshman midfielder Hailey Sword.

Senior midfielder Olivia Barber and senior defender Madi Quinn were named honorable mention, as was sophomore midfielder Adyson Ross. Freshmen forwards Lexi Hampton and Lola Edwards, the team's leading scorers, were also named to the honorable mention team.



***Louisburg junior Reese Johnson was a second-team all-league selection.***

Johnson was one of the team's main facilitators on offense as she was second on the team with nine assists and also had seven goals.

As for Sword, she was assigned to the opposition's best player

on many occasions from her defensive-mid spot. She also had three goals on the season.

"Hailey and Reese played really well," Conley said. "They played vital roles for us and our team. They both stepped up and played really well for us and helped us a lot in key moments of the game. I was really proud of them and how hard they played each and every night."



***Freshman Hailey Sword was a second-team All-Frontier League selection.***

The team's top three scorers – Hampton, Edwards and Barber – were named to the honorable mention team despite have double digit goals on the year.

Hampton finished the season with 16 goals to lead the way for Louisburg, while Edwards had 15 goals and six assists. Barber reached double figures in both goals scored and assisted with

11.

Ross was a big factor for the Wildcats from her midfield spot and also finished the year with two goals and two assists.

Quinn was one of the team captains along with Barber and Ruth Minster. Quinn was also one of the team's leaders on defense from the center back position.

"The honorable mention girls deserved better in my opinion," Conley said. "Just based on their position and stats alone, but it wasn't meant to be. These girls came ready to play and made some fantastic plays this year. This group absolutely stepped up as we had to replace 12 seniors and 4 other players for the 2021 season.

"This group never made excuses and just battled. They worked so hard and truly earned this recognition, regardless if I felt they deserved better. These girls had a fantastic season and I am very proud of all of them."

## **ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE GIRLS SOCCER**

### **First Team**

Ashtin Barnes, Tonganoxie; Lauren Russell, Baldwin; Riley Smith, Baldwin; Sierra Montez, Piper; Ryann Clark, Piper; Lexi Dillon, Spring Hill; Mallory Putnam, Spring Hill; Brooke Powell, Spring Hill; Mackenzie Hood, Spring Hill; Jayla Erpelding, Eudora

GOALIE: Allie Harrington, Spring Hill

### **Second Team**

Kate Erpelding, Eudora; Alex Pasqua, Eudora; Mallory Vickers, Eudora; Hailey Sword, Louisburg; Reese Johnson, Louisburg; Cambria Crowe, Baldwin; Ryla Richardson, Piper; Reagan Downes, Spring Hill; Payton Vogelbacher, Spring Hill; Emelynn Cruce, Spring Hill

GOALIE: Leah Williams, Eudora

**Honorable Mention**

Charity Seaton, Bonner Springs; Jenna Knight, Bonner Springs; Lola Edwards, Louisburg; Adyson Ross, Louisburg; Lexi Hampton, Louisburg; Olivia Barber, Louisburg; Madi Quinn, Louisburg; Katherine Wombwell, Tonganoxie; Heather Wombwell, Tonganoxie; Abby Patterson, Baldwin; Emma Hawley, Piper; Alexis Simpson, Piper; Alexis Miles, Piper; Samantha Trumbo, Piper; Emma Banks, Spring Hill; Veronica Farris, Spring Hill; Taylor Reynolds, Ottawa; Olivia Morton, Ottawa; Paige Hirecheta, Ottawa; Johnannah Jahn, Ottawa

GOALIE: Sara Lake, Piper; Molly Atchley, Ottawa

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## Wildcats finish fourth at Class 4-1A state tournament



*Members of the Louisburg girls soccer team are (front row, from left) Lexi Hampton, Missy Meigs, Liz Guzman, Kennady Wilkerson, Sierra Hahn, Macy Lemke, Olivia Barber, Emma Christy, Madi Quinn, Kassidi Lomax, Tehya Harvey; (back row) manager Weston Frank, head coach Kyle Conley, Nova Ptacek, Catie Lemke, Lola Edwards, Bronwynn Williams, Bree Gassman, Adyson Ross, Ruth Minster, Hailey Sword, Reese Johnson, Brianne Kuhlman, Sammy McDaniel, assistant coach Jordan*

***Roquemore and manager Reece Jones.***

WICHITA – The Louisburg girls soccer team may have left the Class 4-1A Kansas State Girls Soccer Championships with a pair of losses, but the Wildcats took a lot of pride in what they accomplished.

For the fourth straight season, Louisburg advanced to the state final four and the Wildcats finished fourth in the state – a far cry where many people thought they would end up. The Wildcats lost a pair of 2-1 matches to Mulvane and then to McPherson in the third-place match at the Stryker Sports Complex in Wichita.

Louisburg, which lost 12 seniors from a season that didn't happen due to COVID, returned just three varsity players. Despite all that, the ended up being one of the top teams in the state.

"Playing in another state tournament was everything I could have dreamed of," Louisburg senior Olivia Barber said. "We may not have won either game, but just making it there is a great accomplishment because we were still one of the top four teams in the state."

On Friday in the state semifinals, the Wildcats were just minutes away from playing in the state championship. Against Mulvane, freshman Lexi Hampton scored to give Louisburg a 1-0 lead early in the second half.



***Louisburg senior Madi Quinn heads the ball out during Saturday's third-place game in Wichita.***

It didn't stay that way for long.

Mulvane answered with a goal 10 minutes later to tie it, and then late in the second half, scored the go-ahead goal.

Louisburg had chances close to goal to tie it, but the Wildcats couldn't find the back of the net and were sent to the third-place match to play McPherson.

"Mulvane has two really good players and I thought we did a good job of taking away their opportunities," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "They just got a good backside ball that we weren't prepared for, then the other one was just a bad bounce and they were able to run through it and get one."

"We had a couple chances inside the six to at the very least

tie it, and maybe win the game, but we just couldn't get it to go. You know I thought we were the better team overall, but for one reason or another it just didn't work out for us."



***Louisburg freshman Lexi Hampton battles a McPherson player for the ball Saturday in Wichita.***

The Wildcats faced a McPherson team that had just come off a double-overtime loss to Bishop Miege in their semifinal game, and once again, the Wildcats struck first.

After a penalty just outside the box, Barber took the direct kick early in the match and the shot sailed over the goalie's outstretched arms to give Louisburg the 1-0 lead.

"I'd scored goals before, but I'd never felt the way I did when I scored against McPherson," Barber said. "Making that goal definitely made all of us play harder because it proved to all of us that we were in it."

"Going into the game against McPherson we were exhausted. We left it all on the field the night before and were a bit nervous because we knew how tough they were. I was so proud of us for staying in the game against McPherson and not giving up."



***Olivia Barber sends a shot over a wall of McPherson players and into the back of the net Saturday for the Wildcats' lone goal.***

McPherson started to take control of the possession midway through the first half, but junior goalie Sierra Hahn kept them scoreless with several diving saves. The Bullpups eventually broke through to tie the match right before

halftime.

Then with 15 minutes left in the second half, McPherson scored the game-winning goal to hand the Wildcats their second straight 2-1 loss.

"We all were so admired and proud of each other going to the third place game as we knew we easily could've not been in the tournament at all," senior captain Madi Quinn said. "Out of all the teams I have played with, I have never been so motivated to work hard for the girl next to me.

"I am so excited to see what these girls accomplish in the coming years in the program. I have been so honored to be a part of this program as I have gained another family."



*Louisburg goalie Sierra Hahn slides on her knees for a save against McPherson.*

Louisburg, which finished its season with a 12-8-1 record, will have several returning players back from this team. However, the fight and never quit attitude is what Conley appreciated the most.

"They just came out and battled all year long and they never quit no matter what the score was," Conley said. "As a coach, I know that these girls gave me everything they had and they took us pretty far. They didn't quit entire season and that is what got them to this point. I am so proud of these group of girls."

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## **Improbable run leads Louisburg girls to state final four**



*The Louisburg girls soccer team was all smiles following its 3-0 victory Tuesday over Heritage Christian in the Class 4-1A state quarterfinals.*

OVERLAND PARK – The Louisburg girls soccer team is defying the odds – which is saying something considering its history.

The Wildcats, which have won five regional titles in their five seasons of existence to go along with two state runner-up finishes, have possibly done something more extraordinary.

On Tuesday in the Class 4-1A state quarterfinals at Heritage Christian, Louisburg left with a 3-0 victory and a spot in its fourth state final four. The way the Wildcats got there was the unexpected part.

Louisburg had to say goodbye to 12 seniors from a team that lost their season due to COVID in 2020 and were expected to vie for a state championship. In 2021, the Wildcats replaced many of those seniors with freshmen and sophomores and it was considered to be a rebuilding season.

Instead, Louisburg has a chance to win its first state championship in school history Friday and Saturday in Wichita as the Wildcats (12-6-1) will face Mulvane (15-4) at 5 p.m. Friday in the state semifinals.

“It is incredible,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “The last time we played in 2019, we lost six seniors. Then in 2020, COVID took our season and we lost 16 kids (12 seniors). This was literally like a rebuild and these kids have done nothing but step up and live up to these expectations. They are beat up to no end and they are still out there battling. We are kind of a MASH unit right now, but we live to see another day.”



***Freshman Lola Edwards makes a move toward the goal Tuesday in the Class 4-1A state quarterfinals.***

The Wildcats do have a few players from their last state runner-up team, including senior Olivia Barber who has advanced to the state final four in all three of her seasons. She realizes this season was a little different than most.

"Not many people can say that they've gone to state every year so it really makes this year even more special," Barber said. "To be completely honest back in March I wasn't really sure what this season was going to look like, but we've defied so many odds and grew so much as a team."

"I really wasn't sure if we would make it to where we are now, but I am so proud of us for facing so much adversity and getting to this point. Our first couple weeks of practice we were looking a bit rough, but once we figured it out we didn't look back."

It didn't take long for the Wildcats to get on the board against Heritage Christian.

About 15 minutes into the match, Barber crossed ball into the box. The Heritage goalie dove, missed it and senior Emma Christy was there to tip it in to score the game's first goal.

It was a 1-0 game at halftime, but with 25 minutes left in the match, sophomore Adyson Ross knocked a shot from close to 25 yards away to double the Wildcats' lead.

"We wanted to attack the flanks cause their goalie plays high near post," Conley said. "If we hit it hard to the back side, we worked on just running through and hitting it and Emma did just that. We missed a couple early, but Emma got there and buried it.

"On Adyson's goal, she just hit it hard. She has a powerful left foot, and we just told the girls to hit it hard and low, and it would create problems for them and we did just that."



***Louisburg junior Reese Johnson makes a pass Tuesday against Heritage Christian.***

Barber sealed the win for the Wildcats with a goal of her own late in the match and the celebrations ensued.

Junior Reese Johnson, who had three shots on goal of her own, was also a part of that state runner-up team in 2019 and is looking forward to going back.

“It really means a lot to me to be able to go to state again,” Johnson said. “I’m very proud of us and although Louisburg soccer always seems to find their way into state, nothing is ever guaranteed, so being able to go means the world.”

Louisburg was strong on the back side as well as the Wildcat defense limited the Chargers’ opportunities. Captains Madison Quinn and Ruth Minster cleared a lot of balls away, while goalie Sierra Hahn earned the clean sheet, including a diving

save in the second half.



***The Louisburg girls soccer team celebrates its fourth straight trip to the Class 4-1A state final four following their win Tuesday at Heritage Christian.***

“I thought the back line did really well and didn’t let much get through,” Conley said. “Madison did a good job of going straight to the ball and sticking it hard. I thought maybe this was her best game of the year.

“Heritage has a really good, young team and they are very athletic. They are going to be good for years to come, but I thought we did a good job standing them up.”

The Wildcats will try to make their third consecutive state championship match at 5 p.m. Friday when it squares off with Mulvane at Stryker Soccer Complex in Wichita. The championship and third place matches will be played Saturday.

“I’m extremely excited for this weekend and know that we can

do great things," Barber said. "It's gonna be tough, but if we show up and play our game we'll be a force to be reckoned with."

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## **Week 9 Athlete of the Week: Reese Johnson**



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week nine of the spring sports season, sponsored by Dr. Laura's Orthodontics.

### **Reese Johnson, Junior, Girls Soccer**

Louisburg junior Reese Johnson has been one of the veteran leaders for the Wildcat girls soccer team and it showed up at the right time last week. The Wildcats were tied with Eudora in double overtime of the regional championship match, but with 12 seconds left Johnson got the game-winning assist on a goal from Lexi Hampton to help the Wildcats to their fifth regional title.

On the season, Johnson has initiated a lot of the attack for Louisburg as she is second on the team with eight assists and also has nine goals on the year. Johnson and the Wildcats will compete in the Class 4-1A Final Four this weekend in Wichita.

The athlete of the week award is announced every Wednesday morning during the spring season and the winner is selected by Louisburg Sports Zone with the help of nominations from coaches.

### **Previous winners:**

Week 1: Lexi Hampton

Week 2: Kolby Kattau

Week 3: Jaden Vohs

Week 4: Mia Wilson

Week 5: Johnny Eberhart

Week 6: Alyse Moore

Week 7: Brandon Doles

Week 8: Delaney Wright



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