

2020 Senior Spotlight: Skylar Bowman



Louisburg Sports Zone will be running senior spotlights through April and May everyday (Monday through Friday) in an effort to honor seniors who had their seasons taken away due to the spread of COVID-19.

Since joining the Louisburg girls soccer program, all Skylar Bowman has come to know is winning.

Of course, the same could be said for the 11 other seniors in the Wildcat program as that class has been a part of three consecutive final four appearances and two Class 4-1A state runner-up finishes.

“I was really looking forward to getting a chance to get to state four years in a row,” Bowman said. “I had been to state all my other years of high school, so it would have been really cool to get there all four years. I would love to get the chance to play one last time with a team that really had it all.”

Louisburg was considered one of the favorites to get back to the championship game this spring as the Wildcats returned 12 seniors and some key underclassmen from last season’s second place squad.

That is what made the news in March all that more difficult to take.

Spring sports across the country were canceled due to COVID-19 – and just like that – Bowman’s soccer career came to a close before her last season could really get started.

“I’m just trying to find a positive in everyday life,” Bowman said. “It has been super hard, but I have come to the realization that there is nothing we can do about it now and what has happened has happened. Knowing that I will never step on the field again with the team that I love was heartbreaking.”

Bowman has played a big role for the Wildcats on the defensive side of the ball and has started in 20 games for the Wildcats. Even before she became a starter, she was also vital player off the bench as she played in 58 games. She finished her career with two goals and two assists.

“Sky was a solid defender and defensive midfielder,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “She did a really good job of anticipating the play and shutting the opponent down. She did a very nice job of keeping the play in front of her and became very dependable in the back for us.”

Soccer has been a large part of Bowman’s life – ever since she can remember. Now, she is preparing for a life away from the game she loves.

“I have been playing soccer since I was 4,” Bowman said. “My mom just signed me up because we had just moved to Kansas and we didn’t know many people. I started playing on Louisburg rec teams and then went competitive when I was 7. It has always been a big part of my life because I have played it for so long.”

Preparing for life without soccer also means preparing for life away from her teammates, which for Bowman, has been difficult. Still, she will remember her time with the Wildcat program with fond memories.



Senior Skylar Bowman is a returning starter from last season's state runner-up team.

"The soccer senior class is really special because we went to state every year that we had played," Bowman said. "We got a taste of what it was like to go to state and be in the final two. We all wanted the same thing, and it made us closer as a team. The coaches are amazing. They push each and every one of us because they know what we can do. They always believe in us and never doubt us.

"I don't think I have one favorite memory about high school soccer. My favorite times are just seeing how far we had come from the beginning of the season to the end and to see how

hard everyone has worked as a team to get where we were.”

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Skylar on how she has been coping with an early end to her senior year and some of her other interests. Here are her responses from the rest of our Q&A.

LSZ: What have you been missing the most during this time away from everyone?

SB: The thing that I have missed most about being away from everyone is just having a team full of people who really care. We all always had something to laugh about and it was nice getting away from the stress of school and other things going on to just practice with a team who was really driven.

LSZ: What is your most memorable moment as an athlete or in school, and why?

SB: My most memorable moment as an athlete was getting to go to state as a freshman. Most athletes in other schools don't get that chance but I did.

LSZ: What is your favorite activity/hobby outside of sports and why?

SB: My favorite activity outside of school is probably anything outdoors. I also really enjoy art. I just find it super relaxing and to get my mind off of other things that are going on

LSZ: What are your plans for after graduation?

SB: My plans after high school are to go to Johnson County Community College and become an EMT.

LSZ: What accomplishments that don't involve athletics are you most proud of and why?

SB: One thing that I am proud of is helping others around me

and doing what I can to help the people in the community through volunteer work.

LSZ: What do you think would be something that a lot of people don't know about you?

SB: One thing that a lot of people might not know about me is that I really enjoy art. I enjoy creating art or just seeing what other people have done with their imagination.

Skylar's Favorites

Pro athlete: Tobin Heath

Pro team: US Women's Soccer

College team: Kansas State

Movie: Armageddon

TV Show: Grey's Anatomy

Song: I don't have one favorite

Band/Musician: For King and Country

Pregame meal/snack: Granola bar or orange

Class/subject: History

Teacher and why: My favorite teacher is probably Conley. He just makes learning easy and fun.

Previous Senior Spotlights

Drake Varns – Golf

Trinity Moore – Soccer

Andrew Krause – Baseball

Kayla Willey – Softball

Anthony Davis – Track and Field

Garrett Rolofson – Golf

Shayla Aye – Swimming

Allie Boles – Softball

Michael Waldron – Track and Field

Avery O'Meara – Soccer

Ryan Haight – Golf

Andie Masten – Soccer

Lauren Cutshaw – Softball

Trent Martin – Track and Field

Erin Lemke – Soccer

Luke Wickersham – Golf

2020 Senior Spotlight: Erin Lemke



Louisburg Sports Zone will be running senior spotlights through April and May everyday (Monday through Friday) in an

effort to honor seniors who had their seasons taken away due to the spread of COVID-19.

Going into the spring of her freshman season, Erin Lemke had every intention of going out for track and really didn't think about anything else.

Then it was brought to her attention that maybe she should give soccer a try.

"I played a couple of seasons when I was little, but nothing competitive," Lemke said. "I was planning on running track my freshman year, but was convinced otherwise. Soccer quickly became my favorite sport."

By the time her freshman year was over, it didn't take long for Lemke to realize she made the right decision.

During the Class 4-1A state quarterfinal game against Piper in 2017, Lemke scored the game-winning goal in overtime to put the Wildcats in the state final four for the first time in school history. It was also just the second year of the program's existence.

That goal catapulted the Louisburg girls soccer program to three state final four appearances, including back-to-back state runner-up performances in 2018 and 2019. It was a magical moment for everyone involved.

"Erin has an incredible work ethic and drive," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "She became such an impact player for us in such a brief time. She always put the team first and was a great leader for us. Erin always gave everything she had.

"Scoring that goal was incredible her freshman year. Mack (Mackenzie Scholtz) took the ball down the right side and crossed it in to Erin, and she wanted it more than her defender as she buried it in the left corner of the net to send us to our first ever state final four."

For Lemke, it led to something special as the Wildcat midfielder/forward was named a team captain in 2019 and then again for this coming season. She was a second team All-Frontier League player in 2019 and was a first team all-state selection by the Kansas Soccer Coaches Association.

Even with all the state success and the game winning goal, it was the team moments that Erin Lemke will remember most – especially an emotional victory over Spring Hill last season on Senior Night.

“My favorite memory playing for LHS soccer was the second time we played Spring Hill last season,” Lemke said. “We had lost to them earlier in the season and it was our revenge game. It was close to going into overtime and we played so well together and it was a really fun game.”

Lemke was also looking forward to a Senior Night of her own as she was one of a 12-member senior class for the Wildcats and it was all set to be a special season. Louisburg was considered one of the best teams in Class 4-1A once again this year and the senior class had played vital roles in the team’s past successes.

It was supposed to be a perfect sendoff for Lemke and her senior teammates. Instead, they are all left wondering what could have been with the cancellation of spring sports due to the spread of COVID-19.

“When I found out it was cancelled, I just immediately started crying,” Lemke said. “I was so disappointed we couldn’t see our work pay off. The team started texting each other and the girls were thanking all of us seniors, so it made it better. Not knowing what this team could have accomplished is definitely the hardest part. I am staying positive about the situation because I know that we don’t have it the worst.

“I was looking forward to this season more than any other because it was like these past three years of taking fourth

and then second twice, were building to us winning the state championship this season. We have so many seniors and experience, and we are all really good friends, so as soon as my volleyball season ended I was looking forward to my soccer season.”



Louisburg senior Erin Lemke was a two-time captain for the Wildcats and was one of 12 seniors returning this year.

Lemke experienced a lot of success in her high school career, including on the volleyball court. She was a member of the state runner-up team in 2018 and then helped Louisburg to a fourth-place finish in 2019.

Still, she was looking forward to taking that next step on the soccer field with the rest of her senior class. Through the first couple weeks of practice, everything was headed in the right direction.

“From the very first practice, it was like we had not missed a beat, and we were all working so well together,” Lemke said. “We all felt like it was our year. We had so much experience and Conley and (Michael) Pickman felt it was gonna be our year too. They had watched us lose in the championship twice and they wanted it just as much, if not more than us.”

Lemke had a very productive career for the Wildcats as she started 48 of her 59 games and earned all-league and all-state honors as a sophomore and a junior.

She finished her career with 29 goals and 27 assists and Lemke has the second-best assist mark for a season in program history with 17 and is third in career assists. She also added seven game-winning goals.

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Erin on how she has been coping with an early end to her senior year and some of her other interests. Here are her responses from the rest of our Q&A.

LSZ: What have you been missing the most during this time away from everyone?

EL: I am missing our team dinners and home games the most because that is what I look forward to most in the spring.

LSZ: What is your most memorable moment as an athlete or in school, and why?

EL: My favorite memory as an athlete would have to be our win against Bishop Miege at Sub-State for volleyball. I love playing revenge games and losing to them the year before in the State Championship motivated our whole team. It was the

most fun I had had playing volleyball.

LSZ: What is your favorite activity/hobby outside of sports and why?

EL: I don't really have a hobby outside of sports, besides hanging out with my friends.

LSZ: What are your plans for after graduation?

EL: I plan on attending the University of Central Missouri, but I am undecided on my major.

LSZ: What accomplishments that don't involve athletics are you most proud of and why?

EL: Outside of athletics, I am most proud of my involvement in student council. I served as Vice President of Student Council this year, I assisted the President in planning homecomings, fundraisers and led meetings. It was so fun to make the homecoming videos and lead the pep rallies. It created most of my favorite memories from senior year.

LSZ: What do you think would be something that a lot of people don't know about you?

EL: That I like to paint and practice calligraphy.

Erin's Favorites

Pro athlete: I really don't have one

Pro team: Chiefs? I don't watch pro sports to be honest.

College team: I don't have a specific one, but I like watching college volleyball

Movie: Little Women

TV Show: Parks and Rec

Song: Bluebird by Miranda Lambert

Band/Musician: Kenny Chesney

Pregame meal/snack: Protein balls

Class/subject: English

Teacher and why: My favorite teacher is Conley. He's taught me for 2 years and coached me for 3, so we have developed a close relationship. He's a good mentor and coach. We usually have something, as he would say, "snarky", to say to each other.

Previous Senior Spotlights

Drake Varns – Golf

Trinity Moore – Soccer

Andrew Krause – Baseball

Kayla Willey – Softball

Anthony Davis – Track and Field

Garrett Rolofson – Golf

Shayla Aye – Swimming

Allie Boles – Softball

Michael Waldron – Track and Field

Avery O'Meara – Soccer

Ryan Haight – Golf

Andie Masten – Soccer

Lauren Cutshaw – Softball

Trent Martin – Track and Field

Pickman named as new LHS activities director



Michael Pickman (left) was hired as Louisburg High School's new activities director and assistant principal last week following the USD Board of Education meeting. Current Louisburg AD, Scott Hinkle (right), will move to the middle school to serve in the same capacity starting next school year.

Louisburg High School will have a little different look to its activities department for the 2020-21 school year.

Following the USD 416 Board of Education meeting on April 13, Michael Pickman was hired to serve as the school's new assistant principal and activities director. Pickman will replace Scott Hinkle, who has been in that position for the last two years.

Hinkle will remain in the district and will move over to the middle school to serve in the same capacity.

"I had known for a while that I wanted to continue my education by getting a second master's degree, but I didn't really know which area," Pickman said. "I talked with current administration and was both inspired and encouraged to explore administrative leadership. This is the job I wanted because it meant staying in Louisburg and continuing to work with the

staff and coaches who I know have, can and will achieve great things when it comes to our students and student athletes.

“We are a Louisburg family and I want my daughter in the Louisburg community and school system, so I wouldn’t have done this anywhere else. The atmosphere from district leadership to the building leadership is top notch and I am ready to grow as an educator and work alongside (principal) Jeremy (Holloway) and the administrative staff at the high school and the amazing coaches and support them.”

Pickman has taught English at the high school for the last seven years and has also worked in the Prairie View, West Franklin and Maur Hill Prep school districts.

He has also spent a lot of time in the athletic arena as he has served as the Wildcat boys and girls soccer assistant coach, alongside head coach Kyle Conley, for the last five-plus years.

“It will be tough to give up all aspects of it, but the magic of these soccer programs will be especially difficult,” Pickman said. “Kyle has been an amazing person to coach with and his passion is contagious. Getting to start the girls program with him and the immediate success has been amazing. State finals and big wins and the atmosphere – some don’t ever get to experience that – and lastly the players, both boys and girls who have graduated and those who remain to carry on the greatness are why I said yes to coaching. They make the whole experience amazing and fun.

“So it will be hard, but I would also not have gone anywhere else to do a different job and so I will still be able to support the soccer players and every other student and athlete through my new opportunity and to do so the Wildcat Way.”

As for Hinkle, he spent the last two years as the LHS activities director after coming from Liberal High School. He is excited that his new position at the middle school will

allow him to spend more time with family.

“I really enjoyed my time at the high school, even though it was only two years,” Hinkle said. “I am leaving behind a great workplace with a great culture and an unbelievable staff. It was not an easy decision.

“I made the move to the middle school to get back some evenings and weekends. I have been an athletic director for 11 years at the high school level in my career, and I was ready to free up some time. I know I am joining another great staff at LMS, and look forward to the new challenge ahead of me.”

2020 Senior Spotlight: Andie Masten



Louisburg Sports Zone will be running senior spotlights through April and May everyday (Monday through Friday) in an effort to honor seniors who had their seasons taken away due to the spread of COVID-19.

The sport of soccer and Andie Masten never really crossed paths – that is until late in her junior year.

Louisburg head coach Kyle Conley asked her if she would be a team manager and she agreed. Then as the season got closer, plans started to change.

“The first day of tryouts, he convinced me to just give it a shot,” Masten said. “I borrowed some cleats and showed up the next day. It wasn’t a part of my life at all, until Conley pushed me to tryout. He has a way of convincing people.”

To this day, she doesn’t regret the decision.

Masten played on junior varsity, but was a part of the Wildcat team that finished as the state runner-up last year at the Class 4-1A tournament in Topeka. It was a great experience for her to be a part of something special – but her favorite memory came a lot earlier in the season.

“It is definitely the first time I’ve ever scored a goal in a soccer game,” Masten said. “It was last year, in a JV game at Tonganoxie. The coaches told me to pull forward and go play up top. All of my teammates and coaches were cheering me on and it was just the greatest experience when I FINALLY kicked it in. Hearing all of them cheering and hollering was the best.”

Masten played in three varsity contests in 2019, including the regional and state championship games and was more than ready for her final season.

“Andie is a fantastic young lady who started out wanting to be a manager, but we convinced to actually play,” Conley said. “She started soccer her junior year and she worked as hard as she could to improve. She had a great attitude and always kept practice fun with her personality.”

She was a part of a 12-member senior class that had played together for several years and were a big part of the Wildcats’ three-straight state final four appearances. This year the Wildcats were ready for something special.

“I was very optimistic in what this season was going to hold for us,” Masten said. “This year’s team was something extremely special and I was looking forward to see how this season was going to pan out. Making it to state was always a

goal and eventually a priority for us, and I was really eager to see how far we'd make it."

Unfortunately, a harsh reality set in for the Wildcats, and teams across the state, as spring sports were canceled due to the spread of COVID-19. The opportunity of winning the program's first state title was no more.

It was a crushing blow – not only to Masten – but to the rest of her team.

"I was extremely upset," Masten said. "It was my only sport and I was looking forward to making great memories with the other girls and win some games. But if I'm being honest, my heart really goes out to the girls who have been preparing for this season, and soccer is their whole world. For some, it was their last season of soccer. Each day, it gets easier and we still have been reaching out to comfort one another."



Louisburg senior Andie Masten received her state runner-up medal from coach Kyle Conley following the state championship game last May.

Even though Masten only got to play one official season of soccer, it was a time she will never forget and is thankful the Wildcat coaching staff gave her the opportunity to be a part of it.

“I’m not sure I can even put into words how special the soccer program is, none-the-less how fantastic the group of senior girls are along with my coaches,” she said. “When I decided to play last year, these girls were so welcoming and encouraging. I truly had no idea what I was doing, and still am unsure of

how to actually play soccer. They were always patient and pushed me to be my best, as did the coaches, who are some of my all-time favorite people. I've never had a group of people truly believe in me like they have."

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Andie on how she has been coping with an early end to her senior year and some of her other interests. Here are her responses from the rest of our Q&A.

LSZ: What have you been missing the most during this time away from everyone?

AM: It sounds so goofy, but truthfully I have been missing the silly things like water breaks with the team, and walking to and from practice. I miss talking to each and every one of the girls, making them laugh and working hard. It could've been the last time I will ever get to talk to and play with some of the girls.

LSZ: What is your most memorable moment as an athlete or in school, and why?

AM: My most memorable moment as an athlete is definitely going to state for my first time, last year, and taking second. While the loss was disappointing and upsetting, it was one of the coolest experiences I have ever had.

LSZ: What is your favorite activity/hobby outside of sports and why?

AM: It is very boring but I love to read. Quarantine has put me in the position where I have lots of free time and I've been flying through books!

LSZ: What are your plans for after graduation?

AM: After graduation, I plan on attending Pitt State and hopefully pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy.

LSZ: What accomplishments that don't involve athletics are you most proud of and why?

AM: I guess I would have to say that an accomplishment of mine would be my grades, as of right now. I try my best to take school seriously and work hard to maintain pretty good grades.

LSZ: What do you think would be something that a lot of people don't know about you?

AM: I guess something a lot of people don't know about me is that I'm ambidextrous. I write with my left hand but switch it up on other things or tasks.

Andie's Favorites

Pro athlete: Patrick Mahomes

Pro team: Texas Rangers

College team: Pitt State

Movie: Step Brothers

TV Show: The Office

Song: Butterflies by Kacey Musgraves

Band/Musician: Khalid

Pregame meal/snack: Rice Krispie treats before every game!

Class/subject: Spanish

Teacher and why: Definitely Mr. Hinkle (assistant principal), although he isn't technically a teacher. I was his T.A. this past year and he and I just built a great relationship!

Previous Senior Spotlights

Drake Varns – Golf

Trinity Moore – Soccer

Andrew Krause – Baseball

Kayla Willey – Softball

Anthony Davis – Track and Field

Garrett Rolofson – Golf

Shayla Aye – Swimming

Allie Boles – Softball

Michael Waldron – Track and Field

Avery O'Meara – Soccer

Ryan Haight – Golf

2020 Senior Spotlight: Avery O'Meara



Louisburg Sports Zone will be running senior spotlights through April and May everyday (Monday through Friday) in an effort to honor seniors who had their seasons taken away due to the spread of COVID-19.

Avery O'Meara has had more than her fair share of special

memories when it comes to the Louisburg girls soccer team.

O'Meara has started for the Wildcats since her freshman season and has been a part of three Class 4-1A final four appearances and two state runner-up finishes. It has been a ride full of amazing moments.

"Honestly, I don't think I can pinpoint a single memory that was the best because they are all amazing," O'Meara said. "The whole experience has just been amazing."

The Louisburg senior is coming off a strong junior campaign herself as she was named to the Class 4-1A all-state second team as a midfielder. She was hoping to use the momentum of that second place state finish to possibly go even further this season.

"I was really looking forward to this season because this season was supposed to be special, and not just because we are seniors," O'Meara said. "We all worked so hard in the off-season and during conditioning to get better – underclassmen included – and this was the year that I truly believe we could've been a powerhouse of a team. I believe with all my heart that we would've made it to the state final four again and that we may very well have won."

O'Meara was one of 12 Wildcat seniors that won't get that final opportunity to reach the state's highest prize as the spread of COVID-19 shut spring sports down across the state, along with the closure of schools.

The news was a shock to O'Meara and the rest of her teammates. It prevented one final run at a state title, but more importantly, a chance to play with a team and coaching staff that have played vital roles in her life the last several years.

"The senior class in general is so special," she said. "I feel like we are all family, we all get along and support each

other. The soccer senior girls are on a whole other level though. The majority of us actually grew up playing on the same team. We didn't always get along, but we always supported each other no matter what. We got to know each other better than anyone else, and we could say one word or give one look and know the exact meaning behind it. Sure, some of us didn't grow up playing soccer, but we were all sisters as soon as we hit the field. We were truly a family.

"As for the coaches, they are the best coaches a girl could ask for. They have really made me into the player and person I am today. They have some kind of superhero power that allows them to see what you can be and give you the confidence and direction needed to get you there."

Head coach Kyle Conley appreciated what O'Meara gave to the team, especially with her presence as a holding midfielder. She was reliable player in critical moments for the Wildcats.

"Avery was one of the hardest working kids on the field each and every time we played," Conley said. "She worked her butt off and never backed down or said she was tired. She never complained and always gave everything she had. Avery would have been a four-year starter for us and she played extremely hard each and every game."



Louisburg senior Avery O'Meara was slated to be a four-year starter for the Wildcats in 2020.

With the cancellation, O'Meara will now put a sport behind her that she has competed in since she was little and will focus on her future. However, it was soccer that has helped her get to where she is today.

"I have been playing soccer since I was old enough to play on the Louisburg rec team," O'Meara said. "My step dad played soccer most of his life and got my older sister to play, so I decided to follow suit. Soccer has been a huge part of my life. It has been my outlet my whole life. Practice was always the one place where I could just be me without feeling

judged.”

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Avery on how she has been coping with an early end to her senior year and some of her other interests. Here are her responses from the rest of our Q&A.

LSZ: What have you been missing the most during this time away from everyone?

AO: The laughter. Both during school and soccer there was always someone who would make everyone laugh or, at least, lighten the mood. It made everything seem fun, and work felt a little less like work.

LSZ: What is your most memorable moment as an athlete or in school, and why?

AO: This would definitely be the first time I was a varsity starter my freshman year. It was the second game of the season and I had finished the junior varsity game to go right in to warmups. During pre-game huddle with Conley he apparently told me to start, but I was not paying one lick of attention. It wasn't until the national anthem that anyone realized I was not on the field with the rest of the starters so I had to run out to the middle of the field with everyone watching. According to the entire team during pre-game huddle, Conley had told me I was starting multiple times and every time I nodded my head to say that I had heard him but I don't remember any of it.

LSZ: What is your favorite activity/hobby outside of sports and why?

AO: I really enjoy hiking. It gives me an escape from reality, fresh air, and likely a good view.

LSZ: What are your plans for after graduation?

AO: I will be attending Colorado State University with the

intent to earn a Bachelors in Equine Science.

LSZ: What accomplishments that don't involve athletics are you most proud of and why?

A0: I am proud of my academic standings. My GPA, grades and ACT got me accepted into my dream college.

LSZ: What do you think would be something that a lot of people don't know about you?

A0: That I absolutely hate running. As a soccer player, that sounds very counter intuitive.

Avery's Favorites

Pro athlete: Bezie Madden

Pro team: USA Equestrian Team

College team: Colorado State Rams

Movie: The Sandlot or The Little Rascals

TV Show: Outlander

Song: I Hope by Gabby Barrett

Band/Musician: Luke Bryan

Pregame meal/snack: Pop Tarts

Class/subject: Either Math or Science

Teacher and why: All of them. They are all so supportive and fun.

Previous Senior Spotlights

Drake Varns – Golf

Trinity Moore – Girls Soccer

Andrew Krause – Baseball

Kayla Willey – Softball

Anthony Davis – Track and Field

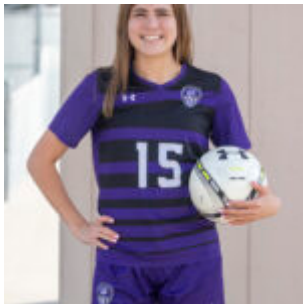
Garrett Rolofson – Golf

Shayla Aye – Swimming

Allie Boles – Softball

Michael Waldron – Track and Field

2020 Senior Spotlight: Trinity Moore



Louisburg Sports Zone will be running senior spotlights through April and May everyday (Monday through Friday) in an efforts to honor seniors who had their seasons taken away due to the spread of COVID-19.

Trinity Moore was already having a senior year to remember.

Moore cemented herself as the most decorated cross country runner in Louisburg High School school history last fall when she finished third at the Class 4A state meet and broke her own school record in the process.

She ended her career with four state medals and later signed to run cross country and track for Pittsburg State University. Everything was falling into place.

Moore, along with the rest of the Louisburg girls soccer team, was preparing for another run at a state title after finishing the last two seasons as the Class 4-1A state runner-up. It was set up to be a season to remember and a perfect conclusion to her high school career.

“I was very much looking forward to this soccer season,” Moore said. “I’d been looking forward to it the entire school year and have been very hopeful for what it would’ve brought. To think we could’ve made it to the state championship for the third year in a row seemed so unreal, yet so achievable for our team.”

Then came the middle of March when Moore, and the rest of the Wildcats, were burdened with the news that spring sports across the state of Kansas were canceled due to the spread of COVID-19.

It was heartbreaking news for all of them, but especially for Moore and the other 11 seniors on the Wildcat team. Louisburg was supposed to take the pitch on March 17 for its season opener against Harmon, but instead, they are all forced to wonder what could have been.

“The cancellation of my senior soccer season and the other events I won’t get to have this year has been extremely difficult,” Moore said. “The first few days were the worst and I found myself crying multiple times because it felt so unreal. I got a little better after talking with teammates and friends.

“Then came the day that was supposed to be our first game. That made my heart sink, but I knew that I just needed to keep my head high. It is very heartbreaking that I won’t get to experience this season and many other things to end up my

senior year at LHS.”

Even though her athletic career will continue in a different sport, soccer has always been a big part of Moore’s life and the fact it has been taken away prematurely has been tough to handle at times. Still, she is grateful for the role soccer has played in her life.

“I have been playing soccer since I was 4-years-old,” Moore said. “My parents both played in soccer in college and they put me into the sport as early as possible. Soccer is one of the most important aspects of my life. It has turned me into a determined, hardworking and strong athlete I am today. It has shown me how much hard work goes into something you love and want to exceed at.”

Louisburg soccer has provided Moore with plenty of memories to look back on as well. Maybe none more than last year’s run to the state championship game after an exciting semifinal win against Topeka-Hayden that ended in penalty kicks.

“My favorite memory in all of high school soccer would probably be last season when we went into penalty kick’s to make it to the championship game,” Moore said. “I had to make my PK because we were tied and I had to score to get us to another round, and then Hallie Hutsell started the second round of the PK’s and scored the goal we needed to advance to the championship game. When this happened we all ran together and it was an amazing experience and created such an awesome memory.”



Senior Trinity Moore finished her Louisburg soccer career with 18 goals and eight assists over four years.

Moore played several different positions for the Wildcats over the years and was voted as a team captain for the upcoming season. She also earned first team All-Frontier League and all-state honors in 2019.

She started 43 games for the Wildcats and concluded her career with 18 goals and eight assists. She is fifth in school history with 44 points.

“Trinity was a fierce competitor and played all out each and every game and practice,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “She never took a day off and was a player who would play anywhere to help the team. She has played multiple positions at the varsity level and excelled at all of them.”

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to

catch up with Trinity on how she has been coping with an early end to her senior year and some of her other interests. Here are her responses from the rest of our Q&A.

LSZ: What have you been missing the most during this time away from everyone?

TM: I have really been missing soccer practice and getting to spend three hours every day with the best teammates and family. Practice is such a great part of my day that makes me happy and spend with other people doing what we love. I love to train and get better at the sport so it has been hard to not have it every day.

LSZ: What is your most memorable moment as an athlete or in school and why?

TM: My most memorable moment in high school as an athlete is being able to go to state multiple times with such great teams. In my time on the cross country and soccer teams I have got to create such amazing memories and experiences and accomplish going to state multiple times with them!

LSZ: What is your favorite activity/hobby outside of sports and why?

TM: My favorite hobby outside of school is probably cooking. I love to make homemade meals and spend time with my family in the kitchen. I'm very passionate about it and I can use my creative and fun side when I cook. It is another way besides working out that I can relieve stress, have fun, and do something for the people I love!

LSZ: I know you are going to Pitt to run next year, but how have you been trying to stay in shape during a time like this?

TM: To stay in shape during this time I have been following a very routine running/training program as well as many home workouts. It's time for me to start preparing to run at Pitt

next year, so I've been doing various long runs, workouts, and even taking my dog with me when I exercise every day to make sure I stay healthy, get outside, keep in shape and have fun!

LSZ: What accomplishments that don't involve athletics are you most proud of and why?

TM: The accomplishments I am most proud of outside of athletics are probably my service work and success in school. I love to serve others in this, as well as other communities on mission trips or doing community service. I am also very proud of how hard I work in the classroom to get honors such as a 4.0 GPA every year and things like honor roll. These require the same passion, determination and drive as sports, so I am very proud of them!

LSZ: What do you think would be something that a lot of people don't know about you?

TM: Something a lot of people might not know about me is I love to clean all the time. People know I am very organized at school and with all my work, but when I get home I spend hours cleaning. Even though my house and my room are very clean I like to organize and clean things because it's how I relieve stress. It's a very weird thing about me but I can stay up until 2 a.m. and not realize it because I love to be so organized!

Trinity's Favorites

Pro athlete: Carli Lloyd

Pro team: USA Women's Soccer

College team: Pitt State, of course!

Movie: 16 Candles

TV Show: Grey's Anatomy

Band/Musician: I love and listen to all different types of music such as rock, rap, pop, and country.

Pregame meal/snack: Any type of pasta the night before and homemade protein balls the day of.

Class/subject: AP Biology- it is a high level college class that pushes me to work and think more complex and prepare me for college. I am going into the science field so it is a very interesting class that I enjoy going to.

Teacher and why: I have so many to choose from because I have learned a bunch from them and they have rubbed off so much good in my life, but I am forever a Quinncredible!

Players, coaches mourn loss of spring sports season



Louisburg softball, along with the rest of the Wildcat spring sports teams, saw their season come to a close with the spread of COVID-19.

It has been almost a week since Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly closed all schools for the rest of the 2019-20 school year due to the spread of COVID-19.

When most students hear school has

been closed, especially in the winter, cheers erupt. In this case, however, the tone was much more somber – especially among the senior class.

Proms were canceled. Any plans they had for a graduation ceremony were put on hold, and for more than 30 seniors, their last opportunity at playing a sport at Louisburg High School was taken away.

In fact, close to 200 students were planning on participating in an activity in the spring, but with no school, the Kansas State High School Activities Association followed suit and canceled the spring season the day after Gov. Kelly's declaration.

Students, parents and coaches alike have had to come to grips that a season they had been looking forward to all year, was never going to happen. Tears flowed, walls were punched in frustration and some were left speechless.

There would be no game days, no Senior Nights and no postseason runs. Athletes had to figure out how to cope with this fact – and in many cases – are still trying to do so.

GIRLS SOCCER

Mackenzie Scholtz didn't spend as much of her Spring Break relaxing with family and friends as she wanted.

Instead, she found herself focused on social media, constantly checking updates on what was going to happen with the rest of her senior year. She was scared that her final soccer season was going to be taken away from her.

Turns
out, those fears became a reality.

“When
I read it for the first time, I just couldn’t believe it,”
Scholtz said. “I
immediately broke down in tears. I think I cried for about
four hours non-stop
just thinking that I would never get to step on that field
with my best friends
ever again. I had such high hopes for this season too and had
been so excited
all year.”

Before
this all came about, none of the 12 Louisburg seniors had any
idea they had
already played their last match as a Wildcat.

The
senior class of Scholtz, Avery O’Meara, Erin Lemke, Lily
McDaniel, Ashley
Moore, Trinity Moore, Skylar Bowman, Haley Cain, Hannah
Straub, Olivia Chase,
Andie Masten and Morgan Messer provided Wildcat coach Kyle
Conley with a lot of
good memories, which left the news even harder to stomach.

Louisburg
was looking for its fourth consecutive state final four
appearance after
earning second place finishes the last two seasons.

“The decision absolutely broke my heart,”
Conley said. “I couldn’t in a million years fathom something
like this could
happen. I honestly felt the cancellation was harsh this early,
but would have

rather like to have seen a postponement and then reevaluate at a later date.

This group of 12 seniors was going to be very special. If they would have

returned to the state final four this season, they would have been one of only

two 4A-1A teams to do this improbable feat. This group was 44-18-1 in their

three years. I would be willing to bet this is the most successful program over

those three years in regards to win percentage. Obviously, winning state

championships would trump that, but we were extremely successful."

The one thing that has helped players get

past this disappointment is that there are so many seniors to lean on and they

have done a lot of that this past week.

"The amount of support from this team has

helped me so much," Scholtz said. "As soon as we found out that we would no

longer play, all of us seniors were sending nothing but love to one another as

well as to the whole team. Individually, there were many messages sent showing

how much we love each other and that this would get better. Coach Conley and

the younger girls also shared a lot of great messages as well. Hearing positive

words is really helping me get through this whole thing."



The 2020 Louisburg High School girls soccer team

Many of the 12 seniors and their parents were a part of the group that helped raise money to start the Louisburg program nearly five years ago. They had always dreamed of winning a state title, but the wondering what could have happened is the worst part for a lot of them.

“This group had three goals: they wanted to win a league title, to win a regional championship and finally win a state championship,” Conley said. “This would have been our program’s fifth year and everything was built for this season. I believed in this group and I felt we were going to compete for that league title and we were going to go back to the state final four. We wanted three banners: league title, regional championship, and a state championship. It’s so sad that we will never get the opportunity to show the state what this team is capable of accomplishing.”

BASEBALL

Kade Larson was all set to begin his first season as the head baseball coach at Louisburg High School.

Larson, who was hired late last spring, was looking forward to leading his alma mater and had high expectations for a group that was young, but returned experience from the year before.

Then came the news from KSHSAA to cancel spring activities, which left Larson, and the rest of the Wildcat program, speechless – including seniors Madden Rutherford, Andrew Krause and Kaden Oehlert.

“To say I am disappointed is an understatement,” Larson said. “I was very excited for this upcoming year. Being my first year as head coach I was more than ready to get the season underway and see what kind of team we had. I thought we could do some great things this year with the group that we were working with. For the short time we were able to practice, they had a great chemistry and worked super hard.

“I feel terrible for all the players having to lose a season like this, especially the seniors. Madden Rutherford and Andrew Krause were showing great leadership skills and I hate that they had their final season taken away. They are unprecedented times that I never thought would happen.”

Rutherford, who is a two-time All-Frontier

League player himself, was ready to make one final run with the Wildcats. Even though he has signed to play baseball for Washington University in St. Louis, he regrets not being able to have one final run in high school.

“Personally I was just ready to just play ball again,” Rutherford said. “My football season ended with an injury, and two surgeries later I was just starting to get back into the swing of things. I was excited for the baseball team this season; we had a different looking coaching staff and a different mentality which was evident at practice. I’ll always be left wondering what could have happened.”



Senior Madden Rutherford, along with fellow seniors Andrew Krause and Kaden Oehlert, all saw their high school careers come to a close with the spread of COVID-19.

As

difficult as it was for the seniors, the junior class will also have some

obstacles to overcome – especially for those who are wanting to play at the college level.

“To go with the seniors, this is also horrible for the juniors,” Larson said. “Junior year is a big recruiting time and a lot of these guys are missing that. So all around this just is a bad time for an athlete, but I know they will work through it and come back next year ready to go.”

Even with all the hardships athletes are facing, including the loss of a season, several are trying to find the silver lining in it all.

“The whole COVID-19 situation has made me appreciate what I have,” Rutherford said. “It’s hard to truly recognize how nice you have things until they’re taken away. I just hope and pray that things don’t escalate further.”

TRACK AND FIELD

Carlee Gassman and Sydni Keagle were ready for the seasons of their lives on the track this season.

Gassman, who is a returning a state medalist in the hurdles, was considered one of the best returning 300-meter hurdlers in Class 4A. As for Keagle, she finished one spot away from a state medal last year in the 100 hurdles.

Both Louisburg seniors had high hopes, as did the rest of the Lady Cat track team that was ranked high in Class 4A in the preseason. That made the news of canceling spring sports all the more crushing.

“I honestly couldn’t believe it,” Keagle said. “At first I was in shock and then I was just incredibly sad at this loss of opportunity and it’s taken a while to come to terms with the fact that I won’t be able to compete in my favorite sport one last time.”

Gassman felt much the same way as she earned three state medals as season ago. Along with sophomore Delaney Wright, who garnered four state medals, the two athletes figured to score a lot of points for the Lady Cats this season.

“When I heard the last quarter of my senior year was cancelled and knowing track would be over as well, I found myself crying about not having school,” Gassman said. “I never thought I’d find myself crying over school. I am just trying to keep my head high – there are better things to come.”

Girls coach John Reece said there were 34 out for track before the team departed for Spring Break, which was one of the bigger groups the Lady Cats have had in several years.



The Louisburg 4×400 relay of (from left) Carlee Gassman, Rain

Pugh, Sydni Keagle and Delaney Wright were some of several returning Lady Cats trying for a big state performance.

“It is a huge bummer that everything got nixed,” Reece said. “We had a chance to do some great things this track season on the girls side. We could have been a top three team at state with a handful of very talented girls. My heart goes out to the girls and the missed opportunity for them.”

The same could be said for the boys as the Wildcats featured a big roster of 74 athletes and Louisburg would have been competitive in most events throughout the season.

“I am just extremely disappointed,” boys coach Andy Wright said. “We had 74 boys out, which is the biggest number we have had in several years. We had multiple state qualifiers returning as well as some newcomers that could have helped contribute to a successful year.”

One of those qualifiers was javelin thrower Michael Waldron. The Louisburg senior finished just a few feet away from earning a state medal a season ago, and now his attempt at getting there has been dashed.

“It’s really hard to describe the disappointment I had when I heard that I wouldn’t be able to throw javelin this year,” Waldron said. “It was tough and very hard to wrap my mind around, it’s tough

knowing that I had about a week of practice under my belt and a lot of preparation for the first meet of the year. Just finding out I wouldn't be competing at all was crushing."

The season was an important one, not only to Waldron, but to the rest of the track seniors as well. Anthony Davis (distance), Trent Martin (pole vault), Charlie Koontz (sprints, relays), Carter Anglin (discus), Garrett Harding (shot put) and Indy Strumillo (jumps) were all in their final year and were excited with what lied ahead. A few of them had already made plans to work out together over Spring Break to get some extra work in.

"I texted Carter Anglin and Garrett Harding about the fact that our season was over, since we all threw together," Waldron said. "It was tough for Carter because I knew he was thinking about a possible state appearance this year. For Garrett, it was his first year but he had some good success in the first few weeks with throwing shot put, so I know he was excited. It's just a bummer and we have texted each other, and comforted one another. We are just still in shock – it was like a slap in the face."

GOLF

Calvin Dillon has already had the best career in Louisburg High School golf history, and he accomplished that after his junior season.

Still, he wanted a lot more.

Dillon, who is a three-time state medalist, was looking for that elusive state championship this year and was considered one of the favorites going into the season. With the cancellation of spring sports it left Dillon, like many others, wondering 'What if?'

"It was definitely hard to hear that the regular season, as well as postseason were canceled," Dillon said. "It seemed like it happened all of a sudden. When you hear of professional and collegiate seasons being cancelled, you feel some remorse and disappointment for them, but when your own season gets cancelled, it becomes real."

The remorse for his own season wasn't what Dillon was feeling. It was the fact that he had hoped to lead a team – full of seniors – to its second consecutive state tournament appearance.

Seniors Drake Varns, Garrett Rolofson, Ryan Haight and Colin Cook all returned from that team, while other seniors like David Perentis, Deven Wieland and Luke Wickersham were also trying to vie for the final spots.



Five of the six golfers from Louisburg's state team returned in 2020 to try and make another trip to the state tournament. (From left) Colin Cook, Drake Varns, Calvin Dillon, Ryan Haight and Garrett Rolofson.

"We definitely had high expectations for this season," Dillon said. "With the heavy amount of seniors on the team, as well as our regional and state experience last year, we were really excited. I think the most disappointing thing for all of us is going to be the lack of closure. We were all looking forward to one last go-around, and to have our season disappear in a matter of days is devastating."

Like with every other conflict in life, the Wildcats are trying to make sense of it all and find a positive side to what has been a forgetful week.

“One positive that comes from this situation is the gratitude we will now have for our everyday lives,” Dillon said. “You never know when something catastrophic like this can happen, and we need to be thankful for the life we do have.

Although this situation is disappointing for us, it was ultimately God’s plan.

He is the one that is in control, and if we seek him in this time of discomfort, we will find the closure and satisfaction that we lost along with our senior season.”

GIRLS SWIMMING

It was an historic season before it even started as Louisburg would join the Osawatomie-Paola girls swim team for the first time this year.

Unfortunately, thanks to the pandemic spreading across the country, history will have to take a back seat for another year.

Head coach Maddie Carrigan was in her first year with the program after assisting with the boys team last winter, so finding out the news with everyone else was a little tough to take.

“It was really upset when I heard the news,” Carrigan said. “Obviously, I understand the reason for the cancellation of school and

sports season, so I completely back the decision. It was still a huge bummer for me because this was my first time having a high school head coaching role. It was a pretty big honor since I'm only 23 and I was super excited to try some fun new things I came up with for the girls. The first two weeks were already so much fun and the girls improved so much, so I can't imagine how great the whole season would have been."

Osawatomie-Paola-Louisburg had three seniors swimmers this season, including Shayla Aye from Louisburg and Brayden Hanf and Grace Shore from Paola.

In all, Louisburg had eight swimmers on the team including Aye, Claire Brown, Bailey Hallas, Sydney Keaton, Dana Mattison, Anna Morrison, Dagen Page and Reese Reitz.

"Everyone is really bummed, especially the seniors," Carrigan said. "We had a lot of first time swimmers, as well, so I hope this doesn't deter them from joining the team again next year."

SOFTBALL

Last year was a special season for the Louisburg softball team as the Lady Cats made a run to a regional championship and a state tournament appearance.

It was a great last part of the season for several of the Lady Cats.

Unfortunately, with the news of COVID-19, this year's version of Louisburg softball team will never get another chance at a magical season.

"When I found out my season was canceled, I was devastated," senior Reilly Ratliff-Becher said. "It would be the last time I ever played softball and it's just taken away from me."

The seven Lady Cat seniors were excited to begin this season, as was their coach, Nick Chapman. Chapman was in his first year as head coach with the program after spending last season at the junior varsity level.

After a couple weeks of practices, Chapman had barely gotten a chance to get to know his new team. Then he had to deliver the news that no one wanted to hear.

"This was not easy news to get," Chapman said. "It was even harder to have to tell the girls and even worse that I had to do it over the phone. It's still not real. Next week, we were going to get back to work and prepare for a special season. The girls had bought into what we were trying to accomplish. Just in two weeks, the culture was changing and girls were understanding what it meant to play team softball and do what is best for the team. The end of last week we had our first team bonding night.

The seniors set their team expectations and goals for the year. I listened to each of them say how excited they were for this specific year and to make one last run at it.

“I was crushed to have to tell them they weren’t going to get that chance. All seven of them helped mold this team into something special and set the tone for what Louisburg softball should be. I was excited for the product we were going to put on the field game one. I thought this year was going to be a season full of success.”

The seven seniors consisted of Ratliff-Becher, Allie Boles, Lauren Cutshaw, Kayla Willey, Kat Coolidge, Gabby Duggar and August Daniels. Some of those seniors were a big part of the Lady Cats’ state run a year ago, while others were looking to make an impact on the varsity level this year.

“I had very good expectations for this year,” Ratliff-Becher said. “As much as I feel bad for myself, teammates and my fellow seniors, I feel especially bad for Chapman. He worked so hard once he found out he got this job. I was so ready to learn and make him proud this season.

“I tell myself is that I have to think of other people in this situation. This could all be much worse. We are just containing this virus and protecting the

ones at the most risk, although it's going to be hard on everyone for a while."

Messer excited to be a part of Highland's inaugural soccer program



Louisburg senior Morgan Messer signed her letter of intent to play soccer at Highland Community College this fall.

Five years ago, Morgan Messer and her parents were one of several Louisburg families that helped raise money to begin the Louisburg High School girls soccer program.

Messer, along with many others, helped start something new that turned into a powerhouse program in Class 4-1A rather quickly that produced three state final four appearances and two state-runner-up finishes.

It was a time that was special to the Louisburg High School senior and she is hoping that same success translates to the college level.

In front of family and friends in a signing ceremony at Louisburg High School, Messer signed her letter of intent on March 11 to play soccer at Highland Community College. She will be a member of Highland's first women's soccer team as it begins its inaugural season this fall.

"I think it is kind of cool that my family was one of the ones that helped start Louisburg girls soccer and now I am going for the start of Highland's program," Messer said. "All of the players will be freshmen and it is cool to make history again like that.

"As I go in it is a brand new program. The thing that stuck out to me was the coach's passion for the game. He pointed out some things that I didn't see in myself and it really showed that he cared. It is cool to see how small their class sizes were and that you would have a lot more 1-on-1 time with professors. It all just seemed like a family."



LHS senior Morgan Messer signed her letter on intent with Highland Community College during a ceremony on March 11. Seated next to Messer (from left) is her sister Brianna, and her parents David and Amee Messer. Standing is assistant coach Michael Pickman and head coach Kyle Conley.

Before this all came about, however, Messer wasn't even sure if she wanted to play soccer in college. She didn't know if the opportunity was going to be there, but decided to play in one last showcase tournament about a month ago.

That tournament changed Messer's future for the better. Highland coach James Ross got a chance to watch Messer during the tournament and offered her a spot if she wanted it.

"I told him I had to think about it and talk with my parents because I had already told myself that I wasn't going to play," Messer said. "I went to go visit the next week and I just fell in

love with the campus and the people.”

Shortly after her commitment, Messer began to connect with several other Highland players that would be a part of the school’s first women’s soccer team. She is not wasting time as she is already helping prepare for the historic season.

“I am hoping to be a leader on the team,” Messer said. “I have already started doing some of those leadership type roles in talking with the girls. I just want to try and have a positive attitude throughout the season as a team.”

Messer’s life changed in such a short time, and instead of preparing for life without soccer, she gets the chance to play her favorite sport a little bit longer.

“At first I didn’t think I would be playing college soccer,” Messer said. “I never had the mentality that I would be going to a big university or something like that, but my coach gave me this opportunity to pursue what I loved. He saw some different things that coaches usually don’t see in me, so it is very exciting.”

Scholtz looking forward to

opportunity at Missouri Southern



Louisburg senior Mackenzie Scholtz recently signed her letter of intent to play soccer at Missouri Southern this coming fall.

It had been a long time coming for Mackenzie Scholtz and it was a day she thought would never arrive.

That day finally came last Wednesday in front a room full and friends and family to celebrate her dream of playing collegiate soccer, becoming a reality. During a ceremony at Louisburg High School, Scholtz signed her letter of intent to play soccer at Missouri Southern beginning this upcoming fall for the NCAA Division II program in Joplin, Mo.

Scholtz, who has played soccer since she was 4-years-old, will now get the chance to compete at the collegiate level in a matter of months.

“Everyone coming just shows that I have a lot of support, not just from my family, but my friends and coaches as well,” Scholtz said. “I wouldn’t have been able to do this

with any of them. I got this offer from playing in a high school game, which means a lot to me and that wouldn't have happened without the help of my coaches.

"I have always wanted to play soccer in college, so getting to continue that is great. Having a scholarship really helps and then I get to continue what I love when I get down there. It will be almost like a job for me, but I am really looking forward to it."

The story of her getting that offer is a good one and it happened partly because Scholtz was at the right place, at the right time.

The Missouri Southern staff came to Louisburg more than two years ago to watch then-standout Bailey Belcher play, but the Lions coaches also caught a glimpse of Scholtz. It wasn't long after that the Lions offered both Belcher and Scholtz scholarship opportunities.

Belcher has spent the last two years with the Lion program and the two Louisburg standouts will reunite on the pitch soon.

"They were originally coming to watch Bailey, but then the coach liked how we played together and then he invited down to the campus to play," Scholtz said. "I really enjoyed all the girls and the campus and everything. I had offers from schools in other states, but this is close to home and I get to play with one of my best friends. It just seemed liked the best option all-around."

“Bailey really helped me out during this whole process, about whether to accept the offer. I am so excited. I love playing with her and I think we play really well together. I am looking forward to see how we work together on the college level.”



Mackenzie Scholtz (middle) signed to play soccer for Missouri Southern during a signing ceremony last Wednesday. Seated next to Mackenzie (from left) her sister Ashton and her parents Christian and Samantha. Standing is Louisburg assistant coach Michael Pickman and head coach Kyle Conley.

However, it wasn't always a given that Scholtz would go to Missouri Southern as there was a coaching change in the program last season. Scholtz wasn't sure if the staff was going to honor her scholarship and what her other opportunities could be.

“It was a little up in the air for a while,” Scholtz said. “I hadn't met the coach and he had

never seen me play,
so I wasn't sure he was going to offer me still. Then he
texted me and said he
still wanted me on the team and that was a good feeling and
kind of a relief.
It was a breath of fresh air."

Scholtz has a good high school
resume as she heads off to the college ranks. Last season,
Scholtz was named
the Class 4-1A Co-Offensive Player of the Year by the Kansas
Soccer Coaches
Association.

She also
had a record-setting season for the Wildcat offense as there
were times during
the 2019 season that she couldn't be stopped. She set school
records for goals
in a season (39), goals in a career (98), hat tricks in a
season (9), hat
tricks in a career (18), points in a season (84), points in
career (235) and
game-winning goals (10).

Scholtz has also been named to the
All-Frontier League and all-state first team the last three
seasons.

As for her college career has in
store for her, Scholtz knows it is going to be a lot of work
between school and
athletics. Still, she is looking forward to the challenge.

"I want to try and be and starter,"
she said. "It is going to take a lot of hard work because
there are a lot of
good girls coming in and there are already good girls down

there. I am just excited for the opportunity.”

Louisburg girls soccer receives national award



The Louisburg girls soccer team were recently honored with the Pinnacle Award from the United Soccer Coaches Association. The award was handed out to just 36 high school across the country.

Kyle Conley ventured to Baltimore earlier this month and made his way to the United Soccer Coaches convention, and the Louisburg High School girls soccer coach was able to bring a little something back with him.

Conley accepted the Pinnacle Award on behalf of the girls soccer program for their accomplishments during the 2019 season.

The award is handed out to different programs throughout the country by the United Soccer Coaches and honors the athletes for their work on and off the field. Only 36 programs across the United States earned the honor.

“I was really fortunate to be able to receive the award for the team at the United Soccer Coaches Convention,” Conley said. “This 2019 girls team accomplished so much and I could not be prouder to be there on behalf of the school and our team to receive this honor.”

To be eligible for the Pinnacle Award, the team had to earn a certain GPA, display team ethics and sportsmanship and have high win percentage.

The Wildcats checked all those boxes as they had a team GPA of 3.73 and they were on the Bronze Level according to the United Soccer Coaches Association for the amount of yellow cards received. Louisburg also finished with a 17-4 record and had a win percentage of .805.

“These young ladies were so exceptional this past season and this only confirms that,” Conley said of the award. “These ladies were not just quality soccer player that made it to the state championship for the second year in a row, but fantastic students in the classroom and displayed exceptional sportsmanship throughout the season.

“Mike (Pickman) and I have set a high standard in our program to represent our school and community with our play and our actions and this group of young ladies did just that. We always want to do everything in our power to make the community and school proud, and the girls did just that. I

could not be proud to be this team's coach."

The 2019 team finished as a state runner-up for the second year in a row after losing to Bishop Miege and the Wildcats have built a history of winning as the program enters its fifth year.

Louisburg won a regional title in its first year of existence and they followed it up with a final four appearance in year two and took fourth, before finishing second the last two years.