

2020 Senior Spotlight: Ashley Moore



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.

Ashley Moore wasn't exactly sure what to expect when she decided to join the Louisburg girls soccer team.

She had heard good things about the program, but Moore had never really played soccer much before high school. Still, it was a way for her to stay involved with something.

"I started playing soccer my sophomore year," Moore said. "I just decided that I wanted to try something new and coach (Kyle) Conley had asked me to play."

As it turned out, Moore has not regretted the decision since. Her faith in Conley and the rest of the Wildcat program allowed her to be a part of the state runner-up team in 2019.

Moore remembers the day vividly, as do many other members of the team.

The Wildcats were set to play Topeka-Hayden in the semifinals on a Friday, but torrential rains postponed it to Saturday. Louisburg went on to win the match in penalty kicks and would have to face defending state champion Bishop Miege just a couple hours later in the championship match.

"My favorite memory was state last year," Moore said. "We all bonded so much, and even after a long day of playing two games, we never got tired of each other."

It is that family aspect that Moore will treasure the most and it was something she was looking forward to for the 2020 season. She was one of 12 seniors on the team that was looking forward to breaking through and winning the program's first state title.

They were already more than two weeks in, when the season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Just like that, Moore's senior year was ended prematurely.



Louisburg senior Ashley Moore (left) was one of 12 returning seniors for the Wildcats this season.

"We all look forward to senior year since freshman year," Moore said. "Everything fun that goes with senior year happens

during fourth quarter and it sucks that we have to miss out on it. We also don't get any closure with the school we have known for four years, and the kids we have been with since kindergarten. Still, I think we have been handling it really well.

"I love this team and this family," Moore said. "Going to practice every day and playing games with all my best friends was always the best time and I couldn't wait to end it with the best season yet."

Even though Moore had only played soccer for three years, she has grown to love her fellow senior teammates and she realizes what they have all meant to the program after the Wildcats to the state final four the last three years.

"This senior class was really going to do something so special this year," Moore said. "Even though it was a short time, during this season we have all bonded so much and I think that is why it is so hard to be away from each other because we are family."

Moore played in four varsity games in 2019 after spending a majority of the season on junior varsity, but Conley was anxious to see what Moore could do in her senior year.

"Ashley was an athlete we recruited to give soccer a try," Conley said. "She is a really good athlete and worked her butt off. Ashley was really fit and prepared to make an impact this season."

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Ashley 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: I have just been missing being with my friends every day at school and seeing all my teachers.

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

AM: My most memorable moment would probably be Friday night football games with all my best friends screaming as loud as we can.

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

AM: Netflix

LSZ: What are your plans for after graduation?

AM: I will be attending Pittsburg State University and my major is undecided.

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

AM: I am proud of getting into National Honor Society at LHS because I work very hard for my grades and that was something I really wanted.

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

AM: Something people might not know about me is that I love flaming hot Cheetos.

Ashley's Favorites

Pro athlete: Patrick Mahomes

Pro team: Kansas City Chiefs

College team: K-State

Movie: Aquamarine

TV Show: Criminal Minds

Song: More Than My Hometown by Morgan Wallen

Band/Musician: Luke Combs

Pregame meal/snack: Subway

Class/subject: Math

Teacher and why? Conley, because he always gives me food.

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

Skylar Bowman – Soccer

Gabby Dugger – Softball

Sydni Keagle – Track

Olivia Chase – Soccer

Colin Cook – Golf

Morgan Messer – Soccer

August Daniels – Softball

Carter Anglin – Track and Field

Hannah Straub – Soccer

Reilly Ratliff-Becher – Softball

Madden Rutherford – Baseball

Lily McDaniel – Soccer

Garrett Harding – Track

Mackenzie Scholtz – Soccer

Calvin Dillon – Golf

Kat Coolidge – Softball

Charlie Koontz – Track

2020 Senior Spotlight: Mackenzie Scholtz



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.

Mackenzie Scholtz had a season to remember in 2019.

Scholtz was named the state's Co-Offensive Player of the Year in Class 4-1A and she helped the Louisburg program to a state runner-up finish for the second year in a row. Still, something was missing and Scholtz had one more year to get what she really wanted – a state championship.

After the Wildcats lost to Bishop Miege in the state championship game in back-to-back years, they were hoping the third time was going to be the charm.

"I was looking forward to this season more than any other," Scholtz said. "I was so excited to play one last time with all my best friends and I knew we would've had a great chance at returning to the state championship. I believed this was our year to win it all and go out with a bang."

Scholtz was one of 12 seniors that were planning to make that goal a reality this year, along with the rest of the Wildcat team. It was a senior class that has been close even before high school and helped take the Wildcats to the state final four the last three years.

“This senior class is like no other,” Scholtz said. “On top of growing up together, we bonded over something we all love; soccer. Most of us also played soccer on the same team growing up so we have known nothing different then having each other’s backs. I love these girls so much.

“Coach Conley and Coach Pickman had such good bonds with us. It’s hard to grasp the fact that they won’t get to coach us anymore but I’m thankful for every second that they did. They really knew how to make a team become a family and how to be there for one another no matter what, and I’m forever grateful for that.”

The hopes of a magical season were unfortunately dashed to the COVID-19 pandemic and left many of the players and coaches wondering what could have been. It was a heartbreakin end to an historic career for Scholtz.

“At first finding out my senior year had essentially been canceled, I did not take it well,” Scholtz said. “I sat in my room crying non-stop just wondering why this had to happen. It has gotten better, but sometimes I think about how I won’t get to play with my teammates or go to prom or maybe even not walk the stage of graduation after working SO hard my whole life. It gets rough, but I try to stay positive and hope that all of this will be gone by summer.”

Scholtz put together an historic career that will be difficult to match, even in just her three years. Along with her player of the year honor, Scholtz was a 3-time All-Frontier League and all-state first team selection.

She holds the school record with 98 career goals and 39 assists and was named a team captain for the upcoming season. Scholtz also holds a program record for assists in a season with 18 and game-winning goals with 10.

Scholtz also holds the school record for hat tricks in a season with nine and in a career with 18, along with points in

a season and career with 84 and 235, respectively.

"Mackenzie is going to go down as one of the best players, if not the best player to ever play at Louisburg High School," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "Since day one, Mackenzie could find the back of the net. Since her freshman year, she was virtually man marked all over the field or even double teamed. She excelled regardless. She has grown so much."



Mackenzie Scholtz will leave LHS as the most decorated girls soccer player in school history.

Soccer is a sport Scholtz has played for as long as she can remember and has been a fixture in her life, but it is not something she is going to give up. She will continue playing the sport she loves in the fall at Missouri Southern.

"I have played soccer since I was 4 years old," Scholtz said. "I started playing rec soccer through Louisburg because my

older siblings did it and then I fell in love with it. I played club starting at age 7 or 8 after rec and have continued to play since then. Soccer is a huge part of my life. My weekends have always consisted of games and my weekdays filled with practices. Then in high school, my weeks became games and practice. There isn't really a time that I'm not playing soccer. I am also playing soccer in college, so I get to continue playing for four more years."

Still it has been tough for Scholtz to leave a team behind that she created so many memories with the last three-plus years – including one in particular.

"My favorite moment playing LHS soccer was beating Spring Hill last season at home," she said. "They have always been a tough competitor and we had lost almost every time we had played them. It was senior night, which made it even better, and the way we celebrated you would've thought we won state. We were beyond proud of ourselves and just ecstatic to have beat one of the toughest teams in our league."

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Mackenzie 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?

MS: I miss soccer the most during this time. It was such an escape to be able to laugh and play with my team. Sure I miss school and going out and doing regular stuff that I should be doing as a senior, but soccer is the most important thing to me and I just wish I could be back out there on the field.

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

MS: My most memorable moment as an athlete would be receiving

the honor of being named the Kansas 4a offensive player of the year. It's one thing being voted that by your teammates, but being named that out of all of Kansas 4a teams, was something that I was and am still so proud of. I really tried my hardest last season and it payed off.

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

MS: My favorite activity outside of sports is going to country concerts. I love them so much and just like soccer, they help me escape from everything else going on around me.

LSZ: I know you are going to Missouri Southern to play soccer, but how hard has it been to stay in shape during a time like this?

MS: It has been very difficult to stay in shape during this time. I try my best to get outside and go for a run and do workouts inside every day but it gets hard trying to get up after just laying around all day and the coaches at my college have been reminding us to stay in shape and figure out our classes and things to get us ready for next year."

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

MS: My accomplishments outside of sports that I am proud of would be my grades. I've always tried to keep them up and I've been able to maintain a good GPA throughout high school and I'm thankful for that.

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

MS: Something not a lot of people know about me is that I'm musically inclined. I can play the piano pretty well and the trumpet and baritone really well

Mackenzie's Favorites

Pro athlete: Neymar Jr.

Pro team: Paris Saint-Germain

College team: Texas Longhorns

Movie: Dear John

TV Show: All-American

Song: My First Everything by Riley Green

Band/Musician: Riley Green

Pregame meal/snack: Chicken Strip Sandwich from Sonic

Class/subject: Peer Tutoring

Teacher and why? Mr. Brown – although he always seems mad, I am always laughing when I'm around him.

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

Skylar Bowman – Soccer

Gabby Dugger – Softball

Sydni Keagle – Track

Olivia Chase – Soccer

Colin Cook – Golf

Morgan Messer – Soccer

August Daniels – Softball

Carter Anglin – Track and Field

Hannah Straub – Soccer

Reilly Ratliff-Becher – Softball

Madden Rutherford – Baseball

Lily McDaniel – Soccer

Garrett Harding – Track

2020 Senior Spotlight: Lily McDaniel



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.

Lily McDaniel was entering her fourth year with the Louisburg girls soccer program, but it feels like it just got started.

That is because it kind of has.

McDaniel suffered season-ending injuries her freshman and sophomore seasons and never really got a chance to play with her teammates. That all changed her junior season as she helped the Wildcats on their memorable run to the state championship game, where they finished second.

That all set up another promising season for Louisburg as McDaniel was one of 12 returning seniors.

"I was really looking forward to this season especially because my freshman year I had a very bad injury and my sophomore year I repeated the same injury," McDaniel said. "So I have really only had one full season to play. I was really looking forward to this season as my last season ever playing soccer."

It was supposed to be one final run in a sport that she has grown up in. Instead, she saw her senior season wither away as

the spread of COVID-19 cancelled spring sports and ended her senior year prematurely.

The loss of a season has been difficult to bear at times for McDaniel, but she is appreciative of the sport that has taught her a lot growing up.

“Soccer has always been the biggest part of my life,” McDaniel said. “Both my parents played soccer and all of my siblings play. I would say that we are a soccer family. I have been playing soccer since U6 and it has made me the person I am today. I am very grateful to play.”

McDaniel saw a lot of time for the Wildcats in the midfield last season and was an integral part of their state runner-up team. She finished her career with two goals and an assist.

“Lily had two major injuries her freshman and sophomore year,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “She worked extremely hard to come back and prepare for last season, but was really focused this season. Lily appeared in 16 games and the majority of them were from the 2019 season.”



Lily McDaniel was one of 12 seniors of this year's Louisburg girls soccer team.

However, what has been even more difficult was the opportunity to be able not to play with her senior teammates – many of which have played together in one form or another since the rec level.

"This senior class is amazing," McDaniel said. "Most of us seniors have played soccer together since U8 and we were all really looking forward to finishing our last season together. Our class would have been the second class to have played four full seasons with Coach Conley and Pickman.

"I was really excited for this season. Coming out of last year's season with the state runner up under our belt really gave the team the energy and confidence for this season and the state championship game this year."

McDaniel has been a part of, and seen, many memories with the Louisburg program. She has been a member of three straight state tournament teams, along with back-to-back state runner-up finishes.

Still, there are many other parts of the team she has enjoyed over the years and that is something that McDaniel can take with her as she leaves LHS.

“It would be really hard to pinpoint a favorite memory with this amazing team because everything we do is amazing and well worth the memory,” she said.

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Lily 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?

LM: The one thing I miss the most is my team. Our team was a family. We were there for each other no matter what and we always had each other’s backs – that is the hardest part about the cancellation.

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

LM: The most memorable moment is getting to know all of the players you play with and the coaches. You can learn a lot from the people you spend every day with.

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

LM: I really love painting. I have always loved it and it helps me get my mind off of everything.

LSZ: What are your plans for after graduation?

LM: I am really looking forward to going to college and getting my degree and coming into bigger and better things in my life.

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

LM: I would say my love for helping others. I really got into helping out classrooms at Rockville these past two years and getting to grow with those kids really made me feel like a better person.

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

LM: I am a really quick learner. I am always up for something new and really only because I can learn it a lot faster than others. Sounds weird, but I am a really quick learner.

Lily's Favorites

Pro athlete: Carli Lloyd

Pro team: USA Women's Soccer Team

College team: North Carolina Tar Heels women's soccer

Movie: Forever My Girl

TV Show: Criminal Minds

Song: Cover Me Up by Morgan Wallen

Band/Musician: Morgan Wallen

Pregame meal/snack: Pickles

Class/subject: Math or science Teacher and why? All of the teachers are amazing teachers who know what they are doing, but if I had to pick one it would be Mrs. Butts just because she and I got along very well and I just love her.

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

Skylar Bowman – Soccer

Gabby Dugger – Softball

Sydni Keagle – Track

Olivia Chase – Soccer

Colin Cook – Golf

Morgan Messer – Soccer

August Daniels – Softball

Carter Anglin – Track and Field

Hannah Straub – Soccer

Reilly Ratliff-Becher – Softball

Madden Rutherford – Baseball

LHS sports preparing to start back up in June with summer workouts



Kansas high school sports has been absent since the middle of March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but that all could change very soon.

During its board of directors meeting earlier this month, the Kansas State High School Activities Association made a change to its summer regulations. Starting on June 1, school employed coaches may begin summer programs as long as it is permitted by the community's health authorities and the school district.

Coaches at Louisburg High School are making plans to move

forward beginning the first of June, but they must meet some guidelines to do so.

In the first two calendar weeks in June, athletes will need to attend a conditioning session each day. Those must be completed to be able to participate in a coach's camp or organized competition.

If an athlete is playing football, they must complete an extra five days of conditioning before being able to participate in competition.

The first two weeks of conditioning sessions will not involve weights, indoor facilities or sporting equipment to ensure safety. Masks will be optional at workouts, but six feet of distance will be in place along with no more than the 90 gathering restriction under the phase 3 guidelines put out by the state.

Then on June 15, barring no setbacks, conditioning will include indoor weight sessions and indoor facilities will be allowed. Coaches will also be able to hold camps and competition throughout the summer.



Louisburg football coach Robert Ebenstein has plotted out summer workouts for his football team beginning with three weeks of conditioning starting June 1

"I think the guidelines were set to help ensure the safety of all student athletes accords the state, along with their physical health as well as the preparation for the season," Louisburg football coach Robert Ebenstein said. "Challenges may be there, but overall they are irrelevant as all the teams in the state have to follow the same guidelines. Our school administrators have been very supportive throughout this process."

Along with the new changes, KSHSAA also lifted the moratorium period at the end of the summer and will allow teams to practice all the way up to the beginning of the school year. Fall sports, however, will take precedence from Aug. 1 through Aug. 15.

For some programs, the changes won't be much different as what they have experienced in the past, other than practicing social distancing through the first two weeks of conditioning.

"We are still allowed to compete in leagues and camps after all athletes have completed 10 days of conditioning/training," Louisburg volleyball coach Jessica Compliment said. "Our summer weights program is changing some this summer, so it gives the players a chance to acclimate back into workouts before putting a ball in their hands.

"When you really look at the schedule, we lost the first two weeks in June (in terms of volleyball skill work), but we gained the moratorium week and have full contact until August 16. The fall season starts on August 17. Normally, we can't have contact, outside of weights and conditioning, after mid-July. This actually gives us about four weeks on the back end of summer to work with the athletes."



Louisburg volleyball coach Jessica Compliment has her normal summer scheduled planned out despite a different start.

Still, the new-look summer won't be without its challenges – especially in the first 10 days of the summer calendar. However, the coaches and athletes will gladly work around the new rules in order to get back together and competing again.

"I think the new guidelines will help kids get back to some normalcy as long as everything continues to get better, but the six feet of social distancing could be challenging when you are coaching a team sport," Louisburg soccer coach Kyle Conley said. "We will find a way to overcome these challenges and help the kids develop as much as possible."

Coaches have already altered their camp schedules for the summer, and that information, along with a list of camps, can be found [here](#).

As for Louisburg cross country, the runners will also be going through a conditioning period like everyone else. They will meet at the football practice field at 7 a.m. for an hour every morning beginning June 1 and that will continue through the summer.

Since school has been out since the middle of March, coaches have tried to find a way to stay in touch with their players – and like with online schooling – the zoom platform has been a big help for coaches.

“Football has been doing online zoom workout together for those currently in high school every Monday, Wednesday and Friday while we have been out of school, so I have still been seeing them and they have been doing some cardio,” Ebenstein said. “We have as normal of a summer planned as possible. We will have our weights sessions, our team camp, review/skills night, and we will have our contact camp that KSHSAA is allowing.”

With everything going on around the state and the country, everything is still in limbo and dates could have to be altered once again depending on what local officials decide. Even with all that, the coaches believe there will be a fall season.



Louisburg soccer coach Kyle Conley has tried to keep many of his same events for both the boys and girls teams.

"I am confident our fall season will be played," Conley said. "It may have some things that are different, but we will play. I know that the boys are very anxious in having conversations with some of them."

Many of the coaches and players are just ready to return to some kind of routine following the spread of COVID-19 and they hope sports can give that to them.

"As of right now, our season is scheduled, and we'll plan accordingly if told differently," Compliment said. "But for right now, (activities director Michael) Pickman has stressed that for most of the athletes, a return to summer weights/conditioning/activities will be their first taste of 'normalcy.' I'm excited to get back at it and see the athletes

and students again."

2020 Senior Spotlight: Hannah Straub



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When the news came down that spring sports were cancelled for the 2020 season, members of the Louisburg girls soccer team were in a state of disbelief.

The Wildcats were considered to be one of the top teams in Class 4-1A again after making the state championship game in back-to-back seasons. Louisburg also had a roster of 12 seniors who had no idea they had played their final game.

However, for senior Hannah Straub, she had no idea that her final game would be played her sophomore year. Straub spent all of last season recovering from an ACL tear and she had been looking forward to this final year of soccer.

"I was extremely excited to be able to play this year, especially since I sat out last year," Straub said. "Getting a chance to go to state again and play with my family would have

been the perfect end to my senior year.”

That perfect scenario isn’t a reality anymore as Straub and the rest of her teammates are left to wonder what could have been. The current reality has been difficult to take at times.

“In the beginning I was extremely upset about the cancellation of senior year and soccer, but I’ve been trying to make the best out of a bad situation,” Straub said. “I feel like the realization that it’s all actually over keeps coming in as I realize what we’re missing out on. I’m in denial that it was all taken away so quickly.”

Straub was a key defender on the Wildcats’ first two state final four teams, and as a sophomore, helped to Louisburg to a second-place state finish. She was all set to return to that role again this year after starting all 42 games she played in her first two years.

“Hannah was a great player for us,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “She would have been a player who would have played every minute of every game if she was healthy. Hannah tore her ACL towards the end of her sophomore year, but still completed that season. Before that injury, Hannah really excelled for us.”

Not being able to play in her final season has hurt her, but for Straub, she will also miss the team comradery with her fellow seniors and being able to be with her coaches.

“The soccer senior class is extremely special because we have gone to state every year that we have been on the team,” Straub said. “This group is always willing to give their all and make any sacrifice needed for the good of the team. The coaches have always pushed us to be our best and work our hardest no matter the outcome. They find a positive with every experience and always support us.”



Senior Hannah Straub missed her junior season with an ACL injury, but was ready to rake the field one last time with her team.

Soccer has been a fixture in Straub's life ever since she was in elementary school and has never given up on it. However, playing the sport almost did happen.

"I have been playing soccer since I was in second grade and I honestly signed up just because one of my friends played," she said. "I started playing competitively in fourth grade and since then it has been a major part of my life. I'm always playing year round."

Even though Straub won't get the opportunity to close out the sports she loves the right way, she still has plenty of good memories with a Louisburg program that accomplished a lot in the last three years.

"My favorite memory of LHS soccer would just be seeing the progress we made each year and how much closer we all really became," Straub said. "I think it really showed on the field."

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Hannah 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?

HS: I miss how close everyone gets during the season. Throughout the year we really do become a family and we can rely on each other for anything and I'm going miss that.

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

HS: The most memorable moment I had as an athlete for the school was being a starting player on varsity as a freshman. Making an impact on the team in such a way was a rare privilege most wouldn't get as a freshman going to any other school.

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

HS: During the school year I don't typically have any hobbies really since I'm so busy and would much rather relax. I do enjoy reading, which is a hobby I've been able to take up again with this time off.

LSZ: What are your plans for after graduation?

HS: After I graduate I plan to attend KU and major in accounting and pursue that career.

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

HS: My proudest accomplishment other than athletics would probably be my grades and being able to keep them up while being busy.

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

HS: A lot of people don't know that I am the hair stylist of the team and I do almost everyone's hair before every game.

Hannah's Favorites

Pro athlete: Becky Sauerbrunn

Pro team: US Women's Soccer

Movie: On the Basis of Sex

TV Show: Brooklyn 99

Song: I don't have one

Band/Musician: Taylor Swift

Pregame meal/snack: Granola Bar

Class/subject: Accounting

Teacher: Mrs. Lane

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

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Avery O'Meara – Soccer

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2020 Senior Spotlight: Morgan Messer



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Morgan Messer didn't make the move to Louisburg till the fifth grade, but little did she know, she was going to be a part of something special.

Messer and her parents, along with several other families in Louisburg, banded together to help raise money to start the girls soccer program at the high school. Many of those players and their families were a part of the 12-member senior class this spring season that helped the Wildcats to three straight state final appearances and two back-to-back state runner-up finishes.

Over the past seven years, Messer still remembers the time where it all began for her in Louisburg.

"This senior class is really special," Messer said. "These are some of the girls that started up the program and made everything happen. I am truly grateful to have been one of those families that started it all. I moved here in the fifth grade and I was still playing soccer up in Overland Park. One

evening my sister had a practice at Broadmoor, and as I was walking in with my mom and sister, I had some of my friends playing soccer against a brick wall. I asked if I could join them and so I did. I quit my club team up in the city and joined what was called the Miami County Legends.

"This senior class has been together for so long and we have played ever since we were little and I think it is amazing that none of us have ever stopped loving the game. We have stuck with each other through thick and thin."

That has included dealing with a canceled spring season that was supposed to bring many more memories to a senior class that has helped the program reach new heights in just a short amount of time.

Louisburg was considered one of the favorites to reach the state final four once again and were poised to try for its first state championship.

"I was really looking forward to this season," Messer said. "It is the season with so many lasts and it just amazes me still that we are not having it. I have been waiting for this year for so long and we had a really good team this year and the chemistry on the team, I think personally, was already outstanding. I really believed this year was the year we would go back to that state championship game and potentially beat Miege."

It is the lack of closure that hurts Messer and the rest of the Wildcat team. Along with their lost season, the Louisburg seniors also lost the rest of their final year of high school and everything that goes along with it.

"I have been really upset, frustrated, and confused," she said. "Senior year is like no other time of your life. You have your prank day, skip day, prom, graduation, last sports season, or even just hanging out in the halls. I never would have thought that any of this would get cancelled. I thought I

would be going to FBLA state a week or so after getting back from spring break, but that got cancelled. I never would have thought Friday, March 13 was my last day with my full team and playing with them. I never would have thought March 12 was my last day in the hall or in the classroom with my teachers and classmates.

"I truly wish it did not have to end like this at all because this is some of the the worst pain anybody could go through in my opinion, especially if you have a spring sport and love that sport dearly. I wish it did not have to end so abruptly, but it does and we cannot change that. Yes, I have been quite upset and have many other emotions, but we have to find ourselves and come to a realization that our administration and staff members will do the best they can to make any of this up to us that we have lost and they are greatly appreciated during these times."



Senior Morgan Messer finished her Wildcat career with nine goals and five assists.

Messer was a forward on the Wildcat team a year ago and was set to play the same position this season as she has played a vital role on the Louisburg team the last couple of years. In her career, Messer played in 53 games and finished up with nine goals and five assists.

“Morgan was always a happy go lucky kid,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “She is a young lady who played in a variety of positions for us. Last year, we finally decided she would play forward for us. She had to learn the position, but did just that. She always had an open mind about playing a new position.”

Soccer has played a big role in Messer’s life as she has competed in it since she was 5-years-old and is now preparing for a life of collegiate soccer at Highland Community College.

The sport has given her things that are irreplaceable.

"Soccer has always been my sport since I was little," Messer said. "I fell in love when I was younger and the love for it has grown and grown. I honestly do not even know how or why I fell in love with the game. I told my parents I wanted to try a bunch of different sports out and when I played soccer it just stuck with me until now, 13 years later. I would say it is a big part of my life and I obviously did not want to stop playing, because I am now going to be playing in college."

Even as she prepares for life in college, Messer can't help but look back at the all memories she had with the Wildcat program.

"Well I have a lot of great memories, but the LHS girls soccer team is truly one of the best environments that you probably could ever be placed in," she said. "My favorite moment for me personally was when I was a freshman on the team and we were on the road headed towards a team in the KCMO area and Conley put me in. I was so nervous, but I received a through ball and I had dribbled all the way to the endline in line with the goal and I went to go shoot it and I scored. At that moment, I was so happy it was my first ever varsity goal."

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Morgan 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?

MM: I have been missing soccer the most. I have been so hyped up about this season for so long and just getting that taken is heartbreaking.

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

MM: Honestly, I cannot choose a favorite at all because the amount of stuff I have done as a student is so much and everything was just amazing.

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

MM: Probably FBLA. I have worked really close with Mrs. Lane this past year and being in FBLA is an amazing opportunity to have not only for the great people involved but for really preparing ourselves for what is yet to come in the future for us in the real world. It is an amazing thing to have to practice new things and even conquer some fears you may have had before such as public speaking or presenting.

LSZ: I know you are going to Highland next year, but how have you been trying to stay in shape for soccer during a time like this and how tough is it to be able to work on soccer skills during this time?

MM: So, it actually has not been too hard for me personally. I work out once a day, every day whether that be in my house or outside in my yard. It really is not as tough as I thought it would be to work on soccer skills during this time of quarantine.

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

MM: Some big accomplishments I have received are being a photo editor of the yearbook my junior year and the commander in chief this year. I also was the reporter for FBLA as well as the conference coordinator.

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

MM: That I was born in Indiana.

Morgan's Favorites

Pro athlete: Mia Hamm

Pro team: Kansas City Chiefs

College team: K-State

Movie: A Star is Born

TV Show: The Flash

Song: Damn Good Goodbye – Mike Ryan

Band/Musician: Kenny Chesney

Pregame meal/snack: Bang (energy drink)

Class/subject: History

Teacher and why: Mrs. Lane because she has helped me so much with everything and I can always count on her to be there when I need her.

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

Skylar Bowman – Soccer

Gabby Dugger – Softball

Sydni Keagle – Track

Olivia Chase – Soccer

Colin Cook – Golf

2020 Senior Spotlight: Olivia Chase



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.

Olivia Chase had never really given soccer a second thought.

Chase, who hadn't played soccer before high school, was approached by LHS assistant coach Michael Pickman during summer weights. He asked her to give the sport a try and thought she would make a good addition to the team.

More than two years later, Chase has a second place state medal to show for it and many memories that she will take with her for the rest of her life.

"I am very grateful that he pushed me to do so, because soccer was a huge part of my high school career," Chase said. "I gained self-confidence by trying something completely new and working to get better at the game."

Chase, who played mainly junior varsity last season, got the opportunity to suit up on the varsity squad for their state tournament run a season ago and saw some playing time in the state quarterfinals and state championship game.

"Olivia was very new to soccer," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "She is an incredibly smart young lady who always had a fantastic attitude and worked as hard as she could each and every day. Olivia was working hard to learn the game as much as she could to be prepared."

The senior midfielder/defender was looking forward to her final season with the Wildcats and had every intention of helping Louisburg to reach its ultimate goal – a state championship.

"Soccer season was something I had been looking forward to since the start of senior year," Chase said. "I was really excited for all the fun times and memories to be made with such a great group of people. It was going to be especially

memorable to be seniors with 11 other girls, as we have formed a strong bond over the years and work great together on the field. Our ultimate goal was to go to state again, and I truly believe we would have made it happen."

Chase was a part of a big senior class, many of whom played big roles in the Wildcats' three straight final four appearances and back-to-back state runner-up finishes. It was a group of teammates that helped her along in a game she hardly knew.

"The senior class in the girls' soccer program is very special," Chase said. "I started playing my sophomore year, and had never played soccer before. One thing I can say is that the girls in my class always helped me out and taught me so much about the game when I was new to it all. The group of seniors on the team really looked out for each other on and off the field."

That closeness became even more important more than a month ago when Chase and her teammates found out their season was cancelled due to the spread of COVID-19. They were able to help each other deal with a big loss to what was supposed to be a special season.

"Dealing with the cancellation of senior year has been difficult," Chase said. "It has definitely been emotional, but the team has been able to pick each other up. We had just gotten started with our soccer season and I could tell it would have been one of the best yet. It is disappointing to have such meaningful times be taken away but I know that our health and safety is the most important."



Olivia Chase was one of 12 Louisburg seniors this year and was a three-year member of the Wildcat program.

Although she is left to wonder what this season could have been, Chase is thankful for her time with Wildcat program.

"There have been so many great moments and memories playing on the LHS soccer team, but one of my favorites was when we went to state during my junior year," she said. "We worked so hard to be at state, and even though we got second we were still proud of ourselves and our program."

Other than soccer, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Olivia 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?

OC: I miss my friends and going to soccer practices the most during this time away from everyone. I even miss running sprints (haha). I miss game days and team dinners and being able to laugh and make jokes with everyone.

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

OC: My most memorable moment as an athlete was getting a medal at state because that was the first time I experienced something like that.

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

OC: My favorite activity/hobby outside of sports is spending time with friends and family because it helps me relax and have fun

LSZ: What are your plans for after graduation?

OC: After graduation, I will be attending Pittsburg State University and intend on majoring in the Nursing program.

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

OC: An accomplishment outside of sports that I am proud of is my grades. It might sound simple but I have put a lot of effort into my grades and it has paid off in the end!

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

OC: Something that people may not know about me is that I love

dogs and I want to have a golden doodle when I am older.

Olivia's Favorites

Pro athlete: Alex Morgan

Pro team: Kansas City Chiefs

College team: Pitt State

Movie: The Help

TV Show: Friday Night Lights

Song: Independent Woman by Destiny's Child

Band/Musician: Luke Combs

Pregame meal/snack: Sliced apple with peanut butter

Class/subject: Biology or Psychology

Teacher and why: Mrs. Quinn, because I learned the most in her class and she works hard.

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

Skylar Bowman – Soccer

Gabby Dugger – Softball

Sydni Keagle – Track

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."