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.

" T

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."

0ne

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.

"Tt

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

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.

"T

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 ${\bf I}$

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 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{P}}$

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 $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

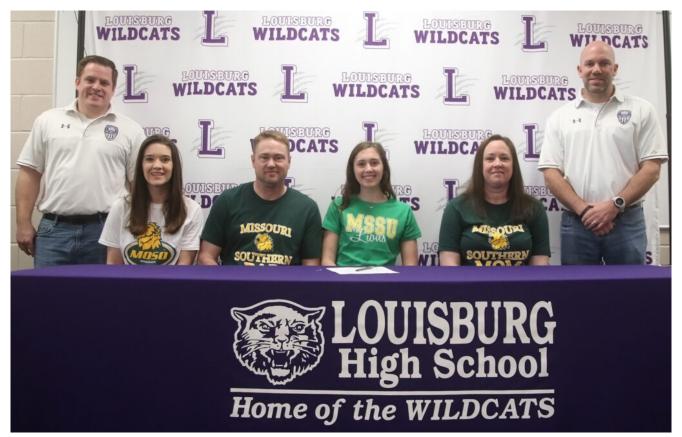
liked the best option all-around.

"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.

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.

Top 10 Louisburg Sports Stories of 2019



It was a successful, and eventful, 2019 for Louisburg High School athletics and for those who are connected to the Wildcat program. This past year created a lot of school history for LHS and several programs brought back state hardware.

Below are the Top 10 stories from 2019, along with a brief explanation of each. Included in the explanation is the link to the actual story from the event.

When putting the list together, I took a lot of things into account — whether it was team vs. individual, popularity of the sport, historical achievements and the interest it drew on the web site. There were stories that I had to leave off that normally would easily make it. 2019 was that successful of a year for Wildcat athletics.

This year was a blast to cover and I was blessed to have the opportunity to go along for the ride with many of these. As much fun as it was, I can't wait for 2020 to begin. Looking forward to it!



10. Tucker, Ratliff-Becher win powerlifting titles, Tucker breaks state record.

Two Louisburg High

School weightlifters made their way to the top of the podium in March during

the Class 4A State Powerlifting Meet at Basehor-Linwood High School.

Louisburg senior Kiefer Tucker and junior Reilly Ratliff-Becher both earned state championships in their respective weight class. Senior Jonathan DePriest finished third overall and several other Wildcats also earned individual medals.

Not only did Tucker

win a state title in the 220-pound division, he also broke a 24-year state bench

press record as he recorded a bench of 375 pounds to surpass the old mark of

365. He also won the squat competition at 505 pounds and had a total of 1,165

pounds to run away with the crown.

Tucker's total was the

highest three-lift mark at the entire state meet in all weight classes.

"I had messed around with 375

and 385 before on bench, so I was confident that I could lift it if I had the

chance," Tucker said. "I was more worried about my first lifts on bench at 345

and 365 because if I messed up on those attempts then I would not have had the

change to even attempt 375. It was definitely a sigh of relief when I finally

locked it out.

"It was a great feeling to beat the state record. To put Louisburg up on the record chart definitely brought a smile to

my face."

Ratliff-Becher had a big day

in the women's division as she won a state crown in the 180-pound weight class.

She finished with a three-lift total of 575 pounds.



The Louisburg junior took first in bench press with 155 pounds,

first in clean at 150 pounds and second in squat with a 270-pound lift.

"Winning the state title meant a lot to me," Ratliff-Becher said. "I have put in a lot of time and

effort in weights class, so it's nice to see it has paid off. But, also because

I feel as if I put out a message to girls that it's cool to be strong

physically. I know that being sometimes the only girls in a class with a lot of

strong guys is intimidating. Weightlifting is all about your own personal

growth and seeing how far you can push yourself.

"I was honestly surprised I won because there are lots of very strong girls there and it's good competition. It's also fun to meet new people

that have the same interests and motivation as you."



9. Golf qualifies for state, Dillon medals for third straight season

As the scores trickled

in to the clubhouse at Paola Country Club, the Louisburg golf team could hardly stand it.

The Wildcats were

nervously waiting to hear if they had qualified for state, but they knew it was

going to be close. Louisburg had to be in the top three of the team standings

to earn a spot and the Wildcats had some tough competition amongst them.

As it turned out, the Wildcats had nothing to worry about.

Louisburg recorded a team score of 352 during the Class 4A regional tournament in May and finished third overall by nine strokes over fourth-place Ottawa. The Wildcat team of Calvin Dillon, Drake Varns, Garrett Rolofson, Ryan Haight, Noah Hill and Colin Cook all competed in the state tournament

Topeka-Hayden won the

regional title going away with a 332 and Louisburg was just three strokes

behind runner-up Tonganoxie, which had a 349.

"It feels great,

especially with all the hard work we have put in the offseason and last few

months," Dillon said. "It was our goal coming in and we did it. I felt like we

had a good chance. It was borderline with those four teams being as close as we

are. I knew we had a chance, but it was nice to actually qualify. It was

definitely a little nerve-racking waiting for the scores to come in."

As impressive as that

feat was for the Wildcats, Dillon's performance blew away the rest of the competition.

The Louisburg junior

won his first individual regional title as he carded a 1-over 73 to win the

tournament by six strokes. Dillon's 73 was his best score on the season and he

has now won all but one tournament on the year.

Dillon went on to record his third consecutive state medal and finished 11^{th} overall in Dodge City after the tournament was postponed several times, and eventually moved due to weather.



8. Wildcat wrestling sends six to state, Moore earns first state medal

Back in early November

of 2018, Austin Moore was in a sling with a broken collarbone and he wondered

why all this was happening.

Moore suffered the

injury during the regional football playoffs and he didn't get to finish his

final high school season. Not only that, his hopes of getting his first state

wrestling medal was in serious jeopardy.

A little more than

four months later, Moore was on the medal stand with some of the state's best wrestlers in his weight class.

The Louisburg senior earned a fourth-place medal at 220 pounds during the Class 4A Kansas State Wrestling Championships in February at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina. It was his first high school state medal and it marked the end of a long journey for Moore.

"It was pretty special

for me to get a state medal, especially because it has been a goal of mine ever

since I started wrestling," Moore said. "Overall, I felt like
I wrestled pretty

well, but I just wish I could've ended it on a win."

The Wildcats qualified six wrestlers for state, had three regional champions and took third place in the team standings during the regional tournament in Paola — all while not being able to field a full team.

Louisburg's talent was

certainly on full display during the two-day tournament. Brandon Doles, Blue

Caplinger and Austin Moore won regional crowns, Cade Holtzen was a regional

runner-up, while Gabe Bonham and Ryan Owens also qualified for state by placing

third and fourth, respectively.

As a team, the

Wildcats ended up with 138.5 points and was just 2.5 points out of second

place. Ottawa won the regional with 149.5 points and Eudora was second at 141.

It was the highest regional team finish for Louisburg since 1998.

"The way these guys

wrestled this weekend shows that the program has been doing so many things

right this season," Louisburg coach Bobby Bovaird said. "We've had the obstacle

of low numbers, which hurt us in our duals, but when it comes to tournament

time, we have a bunch of guys who are placing high and that gives us a lot of

team points. Taking six to state feels pretty encouraging, and finishing third

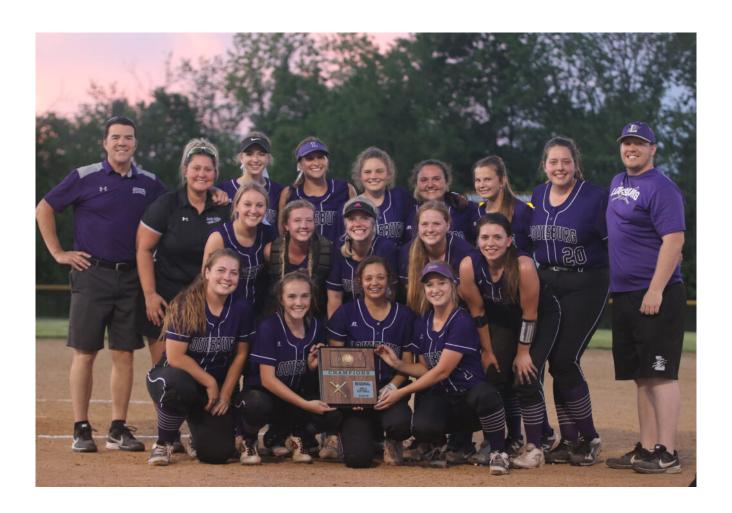
at regionals is an awesome statement for this team.

"If a few things had

gone the other way, we would have been in second as a team. On paper, we

weren't supposed to be in the race for a regional plaque. Almost all of our

guys stepped up and scored huge team points for us."



7. Louisburg softball captures regional title

OTTAWA - Madison

Svoboda could feel her heart starting to come out of her chest.

Karson Griggs was a feeling a little nauseous.

Those are some of the

same feelings that were flooding the Louisburg softball's team dugout during the

final inning of the Class 4A regional championship game against Chanute on Tuesday in Ottawa.

Louisburg held a one

run lead, but Chanute had the tying run on third, two outs, and a trip to the

state tournament was on the line. On the mound was sophomore

Brooklyn

Diederich, and with two strikes, the Chanute batter fouled five straight pitches.

The tension was mounting.

Finally, on the 10^{th} pitch of the at-bat, Diederich got what she was looking for — a swing and miss.

The strikeout sealed the Lady Cats' trip to state with a 6-5 victory over No. 7 seed Chanute and sent shockwaves throughout Class 4A softball.

"I want to cry, but at

the same time I am just really happy," Griggs said. "It is exciting because I

never thought something like this could happen, especially this year. It feels

really nice and now maybe people will actually start taking us seriously."

Not many gave people

gave the Lady Cats a chance as they entered the Class 4A regional tournament

with just five wins and were forced to begin tournament action in the play-in game.

After a 17-2 win over

Parsons last Monday in the play-in game, No. 15 Louisburg advanced to the

regional semifinals and upset No. 2 seed Ottawa, 9-7, which helped set up the

Lady Cats' first state tournament appearance since 2014.

"I think a lot of

other teams underestimated us," Diederich said. "The fact that we came out and

played our hardest ball showed what type of team we actually are. It is just crazy."

At the state tournament in Salina a week later, the Lady Cats faced off against Andale and lost to the eventual state champion in the first round, 10-0.



6. Cross Country qualifies for state, Moore breaks school record and takes third at state

BALDWIN CITY — One by one,

members of the Louisburg girls cross country team crossed the finish line and

coach John Reece was unsure whether or not his team did enough

to qualify for state.

The Lady Cats had made

school history by qualifying the last two seasons, but the third time was a

little bit in jeopardy — that was until the results were released.

As it turned out,

Reece didn't need to be so worried.

Louisburg finished third overall with 96 points in October at the Class 4A regional meet at the Baldwin Golf Course, and beat out Bishop Miege by six points to earn a spot at the state meet this weekend in Wamego.

The team of Trinity

Moore, Carlee Gassman, Reese Johnson, Claire Brown, Ruth Minster, Kennady

Wilkerson and Bree Gassman competed for the Lady Cats at state.

"This group of girls runs

well, they race well and they train well together," coach Reece said. "They are

a good group and this is just as exciting as the other two times. The

competition was a lot tougher than the previous two times. We had to run our

races and we did. From our third to fifth runners was about an eight point spread."

Trinity Moore has left a

lasting impression on the Louisburg cross country program over the last four

years, but she saved the best moment for her final act.

Moore broke her own school record with a time of 19 minutes and 39 seconds to finish third overall at the Kansas Class 4A State Cross Country Championships at the Wamego Country Club a week later.

The Louisburg senior

recorded the program's best ever state finish as she eclipsed her fourth-place state

medal from a season ago.

"It meant so much to

me to finish with such a great race for my high school career," Moore said.

"Going into the race, I didn't know how well I would finish. This race had the

best competition that I have ran against all year and I think that is what $\begin{tabular}{ll} \end{tabular} \label{table}$

really pushed me.

"When I saw my time

crossing the finish line, I was ecstatic. I felt great the entire race and was

able to control everything I did. Finishing third was icing on the cake. I was

surprised but so incredibly happy to be able to place in such a great spot, but

I also knew that this what I had worked for all year."

This made the fourth

state medal for Moore in her high school career and she improved on her state

finish every year. Last season, she took fourth overall and bested her state

time from a year ago by more than 30 seconds.



5. Boys Soccer wins league, regional titles to earn No. 1 seed in playoffs.

For more than 70 minutes, the goals for Louisburg were hard to come by and it started to leave an eerie feeling on Halloween night.

However, the Wildcats got their treat when it was all over.

Louisburg scored two goals in the final seven minutes of the match to earn a 2-0 victory over Kansas City Christian in the Class 4-1A regional championship game Thursday. The Wildcats (16-2-1) earned their third regional title in the last four years and advanced to the state quarterfinals.

"This group is special," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "It is going to be tough when it is

all over. This group has changed our culture. They came back to what this

program believes and they have bought in to what we are teaching them. They

have worked so hard since June. For these seniors, this is their third title in

four years and I think it is a lot of fun for them.

A school record 16

wins, a Frontier League championship and a regional title are all something

worth celebrating, but following the state quarterfinal match with Bishop

Miege, all Louisburg could think about was the finality of it all.

Despite all those

accomplishments, the Wildcats fell one win short of their main goal — a spot in the state final four.

Louisburg saw its season come to a close with a 3-0 loss to Bishop Miege at the Wildcat Sports Complex. The Wildcats lost to the eventual state champion, as Miege went on to defeat Wichita-Trinity on Saturday, 3-1, for the Class 4-1A state championship — the Stags' fourth in a row.

As difficult as the

loss was for Louisburg, there was no forgetting how big of a jump the Wildcats

made from the season before as they went from a 6-win team to one that earned

the East's No. 1 seed in the state playoffs.

"Going 6-11 last year

and seeing this Miege team almost mercy-ruling us in the regional championship

last year in the rain, was a program changer," Louisburg coach

Kyle Conley

said. "After that was over, we talked about how things needed to change and it

starts now. For our first practice in June, I told them that they are the ones

that has to change them. Since day one, they have played for each other, played

hard in practice and it was a total mindset change. When someone got hurt, it

was the next guy up. We missed two starters for half of the year and it was

always the next guy up taking advantage of his opportunity to fill in. The

freshmen stepped up huge for us.

"This team is special.

16 wins is a school record and only two losses is probably a school record.

This team is incredible, played so hard and did everything I asked them to do.

They were always there to pick each other up and that is what this soccer

family is all about. It will be tough to say goodbye to these kids."



4. Volleyball knocks off Miege to win regional title, takes fourth at state

ATCHISON - The

sub-state semifinal game between Louisburg and Bishop Miege had all the feels

of a state tournament match.

Partially because a year ago, it was.

Louisburg met Miege in

the state championship match only to see the Stags send the Lady Cats to a

runner-up finish in two sets. Then three weeks ago the two teams met again, and

like before, Miege dispatched of Louisburg in two sets.

However, Bishop Miege

saw a different Louisburg team during the sub-state tournament at Atchison High

School — one they didn't expect.

The Lady Cats came out on fire and never let up in a 25-18 and 25-22 win over Miege to end the Stags' season. It marks the first time in at least 12 years, if not longer, that Miege will not be at the state tournament.

Since the state

tournament began in 1971, Bishop Miege has made 39 state appearances during

that time in either Class 5A or 4A and is the most in Kansas history.

"Our energy was going

to be the difference in that match, so we knew we had to bring it," Louisburg

senior Erin Lemke said. "We knew we had the same skill set as Miege, but our

energy was what was going to pull us through there in the end. To get there, we

just had to believe in ourselves and work hard this past week to give us the

confidence that we needed."

However, even after

pulling off a big revenge win that expended a lot of energy, the Lady Cats

still had a sub-state championship match to play against No. 2 seed Atchison.

The No. 7 seed Lady Cats took care of business as they won in straight sets,

25-12 and 25-15, at Atchison High School.

Louisburg lost its final two matches of the season, but those setbacks didn't take away from what the Lady Cats accomplished during the Kansas Class 4A State Championships.

For the third straight

season, the Lady Cats were among the last four teams playing

and brought home a

little hardware for their efforts. Louisburg took fourth overall after losing

its third place match to Towanda-Circle, 2-1, in October at Hutchinson Sports
Arena.

"Every season our goal

is to put ourselves in the best position to qualify for state and then to

hopefully advance to bracket play on Saturday," Louisburg coach Jessica

Compliment said. "Leading up to state, we talked about how nothing is

guaranteed and in order to make it to bracket play, we have to show up and play

our best from the first whistle to the last whistle. If we play our game, then

hopefully the winning will take care of itself and we'd advance.

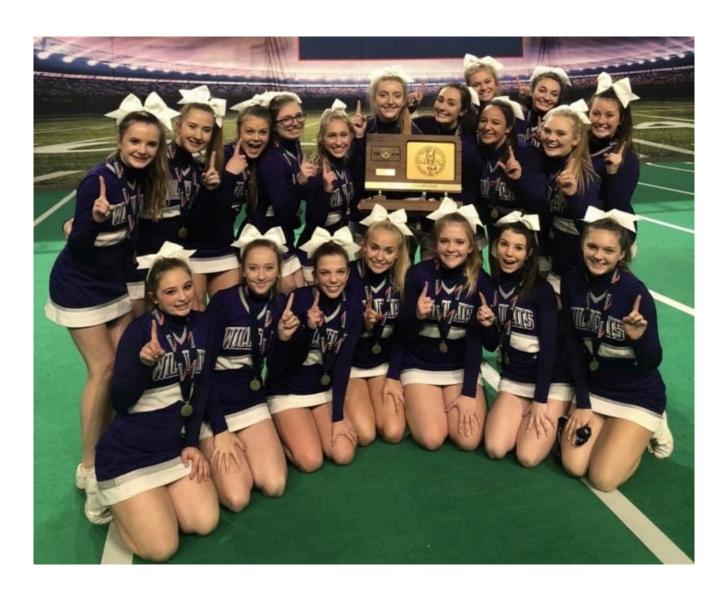
"The eight teams at

state this year were all very talented. I was happy that we qualified for the

semifinals because that put us one step closer to the championship. Even though

we didn't reach the championship match and finished fourth, I was still very

proud of how the team played throughout the tournament."



3. Louisburg cheer wins first state championship

The Wildcat

cheerleaders competed at the Class 4A KSHSAA Game Day Spirit Showcase

Competition on Nov. 23 at the Stormont Vail Events Center in Topeka and came

back home with a big trophy in tow.

Louisburg edged out runner-up Augusta with a point total of 82.25 to 81 in the finals to secure what is just the third athletic team state title in school history.

"I was so nervous at

the awards," Louisburg senior Lauren Vincent said. "We were all holding hands

and had our heads down. We thought that we would get second

place at best, most

likely third. We were content because we put everything out on the mat and did

the best we could. But when they called out second place and it was Augusta, we

screamed, cried, and hugged each other because we knew that we had just won.

"When our name was

called for first, we jumped up and hugged each other. Then I ran out onto the

mat and grabbed the trophy and we held it up and jumped around victoriously. It

was the best feeling in the entire world. Knowing that all of our hard work had

finally paid off was indescribable feeling of joy."

The Louisburg

cheerleaders that competed are Lexi Pena, Lauren Vincent, Ashlyn McManigal,

Brooklyn Mitchell, Gabby Tappan, Andrea Gaza, Eleanor Willming, Jayden Trester,

Lacie Kallevig, Sammy McDaniel, Mable Graham, Anna Morrison, Bella Feikert,

Audrey Anderson, Sydney Dudzik, Kaitlyn Vest, Jolie Hendrickson, Abby Bradley

and Zoe Cutshaw. Louisburg's head coach is Jayna Guerra.

Not only were the

Wildcats the third team to win a state title in school history, they were also

the first female squad to win a team crown as well. All the history just added

to what was a special day for the program.

"It means so much to

me and all my teammates," Tappan said. "As someone who's been a part of a variety

of sports my entire life, I know how hard each of our teams work to do their

very best in whatever sport they're a part of. We are so thankful that we got

to make history for Louisburg and it is something that I can guarantee that

each and every one of us will remember it for the rest of our lives."



2. Girls soccer takes second at state, Conley named coach of year and Scholtz, Buffington awarded players of year.

When it was all said and done, the Louisburg girls soccer team held its trophy high in front of the Wildcat faithful and the tears were easy to spot.

After nearly 200

minutes of soccer in a nine-hour time period, including one

match that ended in

penalty kicks, the Wildcats were spent. They gave everything they had.

For the second consecutive season, Louisburg earned the Class 4-3-2-1A state runner-up trophy after a wild victory over Topeka-Hayden in the semifinals and then were shutout by Bishop Miege in the championship game, 4-0. It was the third consecutive state final four appearance for Louisburg.

Frustration and

sadness was easy to see following the Wildcats' loss to the defending state

champion, but the team realizes what they have accomplished in just four years

of existence is to be celebrated.

"Being in this

situation two years in a row is something that doesn't happen very often,"

Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "There are a bunch of teams that haven't been

to a state final four and we have been to three in three years. It is pretty cool and it is special."

It was a wild 24 hours

for the Wildcats. Louisburg was supposed to play Hayden on Friday in the

semifinals, but severe weather forced the postponement to early Saturday morning.

The Wildcats battled

Hayden through four overtimes and eventually led to penalty kicks. After an

intense first five penalty kicks that left the match still tied, senior goalie

Carson Buffington recorded a big save and then senior Hallie Hutsell converted

the sixth penalty kick to break the tie and give Louisburg a 2-1 win over Hayden.

"We usually play 80 minutes, but this time we

had to play 110 minutes and we were gassed," Conley said. "We were holding on

and had some chances at the end to win it, but then we went to overtime and

then to penalty kicks. It was all about to see if we could survive. Emotionally

it was just a high for us and an unbelievable response and a great finish.

Carson making a big save, Hallie putting it in for the win — it was just a great game."

In the championship match,

the Stags were just too much for the Wildcats and junior Sophia Stram provided

a big spark. Stram scored all four goals for Miege in the title game, all of

which came in the first half, and the Wildcats didn't have an answer.

"They are just so freaking good," Conley said. "I think the girls were mentally ready, but I don't think their legs were quite ready, but

we lost to one of best teams in the state of Kansas. They have great players,

they are well-coached, but our girls played their butts off.

Coming off its second

consecutive state runner-up appearance, Louisburg had some positive

repercussions from its historic season.

However, none bigger

came when the all-state teams were released by the Kansas Soccer Coaches

Association. Not only did six Wildcats earn all-state selections, but they were

honored with some of the highest awards out there.

Junior Mackenzie Scholtz was named as the Co-Offensive Player of the Year in Class 4-1A with Bishop Miege's Sophia Stram after she led the Wildcats in scoring.

Louisburg was also

recognized on the other side of the ball as senior Carson Buffington was named

the Class 4-1A Goalkeeper of the Year.

"Seeing Mackenzie and

Carson recognized for their positional player of the years was fantastic,"

Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "They both had incredible years."

The Wildcats weren't

done, as for the second consecutive season, Conley was named as the Class 4-1A

Coach of the Year as he guided Louisburg to a 17-4 record. He also led the

Wildcats to three consecutive final four appearances.



1.4×400 boys wins state championship, Wright wins four state medals and team breaks six school records at regional meet.

Three days after

arriving in Wichita for the Kansas State Track and Field Championships, Justin

Collins, Blue Caplinger, Ben Wiedenmann and Chris Williams finally got the chance

to get on the Cessna Stadium track.

The four Wildcat

runners had the top time in Class 4A going into the 4×400-meter relay, but

weather threw a little wrench into their plans. The meet, which was supposed to

end on a Saturday, was postponed to Sunday morning and all

races were judged by times with no preliminaries.

It wasn't the ideal situation, but they made it work — and it worked well.

Collins, Caplinger, Wiedenmann and Williams won the state championship in a time of 3 minutes and 25.39 seconds as they edged Chapman at the finish line, which ran a 3:25.61. It was the first state track championship for Louisburg since 2015 when Connor McMullen won the discus.

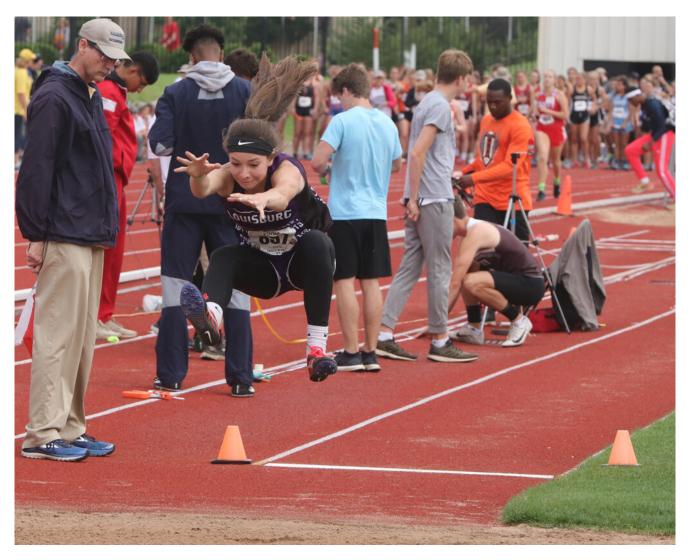
That was just one event in what was an historic week for Louisburg track.

Louisburg freshman Delaney Wright earned four state medals, while junior teammate Carlee Gassman finished with three as the Lady Cats went on to finish $10^{\rm th}$ in the team standings. The Lady Cats earned several other medals at the state meet coming off an impressive performance at regionals.

During the Class 4A

regional meet at Paola High School, Wright qualified for state in four events,

broke two school records and earned a regional title in her first postseason track meet.



Wright won a regional

title in the long jump and finished second in the 200 and 400meter dashes. She

also helped Carlee Gassman, Rain Pugh and Sydni Keagle to a second place finish

in the 4×400 -meter relay.

"I am so grateful for

everything," Wright said. "I had been having trouble with my hip this week and

I just wanted to come out and make state in at least one event. I didn't

realize I would make it in four. It is an unbelieveable feeling."

Wright's day was just one of the many positives for the Lady Cats as they broke four school records, had four regional champions and qualified for state in 10 events.

As a team, the Lady Cats nearly earned the regional runner-up trophy as they racked up 86.5 points and finished a half a point behind second place Baldwin and Bishop Miege, who tied for second. Paola won the regional title with 107 points.

The Wildcat boys also broke two school records and would end up qualifying for nine spots at the state meet.

Belcher earns athletic, academic All-MIAA honors



Missouri Southern sophomore, and Louisburg graduate, Bailey Belcher had another successful season with the Lions soccer program on and off the field.

JOPLIN, Mo. — Bailey Belcher faced a big transition more than a year ago when she graduated from Louisburg and joined the Missouri Southern soccer program.

As a freshman, Belcher seemed to settle right in as she earned All-MIAA honors in her first year. It was a big

step for Belcher at the time, but several months later she faced another

transition.

Missouri Southern hired a new coach and Belcher saw a lot of new players enter the program. She wasn't quite sure what to expect in her sophomore campaign, but she more than held her own.

Belcher earned All-MIAA honorable

mention honors for the second consecutive season at the forward position for a

Lions team that finished with a 3-14-1 record.

She led the Lions with 50 shots on

the season, 27 of which were on goal after she started all but one match in

2019. She was second on the team in points and finished the year with three goals.

"It meant a lot to get all-conference recognition again this year and I was really happy with it," Belcher said. "I wasn't expecting anything this year with half the girls on the team being new and a new coach. There is a lot of transitioning that's still in the process, but I am really grateful that I was recognized again."

The awards didn't stop there for

Belcher as she also earned a spot on the All-MIAA Academic Honor Roll. On top

of that, Belcher was one of 15 student athletes to be named an Academic

Excellence honoree, which goes to student-athletes that achieve a 4.0 grade

point average and had attended their current institution for at least two terms.

Belcher, who is majoring in biology, also qualified for the Scholar-Athlete Award after

making the All-MIAA

team as an honorable mention and earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

"The academic honors makes me so

happy," Belcher said. "I've put so much into school and getting all my work

done since I've got here, and being an athlete, makes it so much harder to stay $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$

on top of school because of the commitment we put into soccer and everything

else we have going on in our lives.

"It's really hard to keep up depending on how far you've gotten into school and I've made my class load pretty difficult to make sure that I graduate a year early. I'm right on track to graduate two springs from now, and as long as I keep putting in the work that I have been, I have no doubt I'll achieve my goal."

Conley notches 100th career victory as Wildcat head coach



Louisburg head coach Kyle Conley earned his 100th career win Tuesday in the Wildcats' overtime victory over Tonganoxie.

Kyle Conley has been a part of

many close matches during his time as the Louisburg boys and girls head soccer coach.

Conley has pulled out his fair share of wins during his four years between the two programs, so it only seemed

fitting that his milestone victory would come with a little excitement.

Louisburg rallied for a 3-2 overtime win over Tonganoxie, and as a result, the Wildcats gave Conley his 100^{th} career victory. Following the match, Conley was recognized in front of the crowd and presented with a banner from his players commemorating the special moment.

"I have been blessed with great

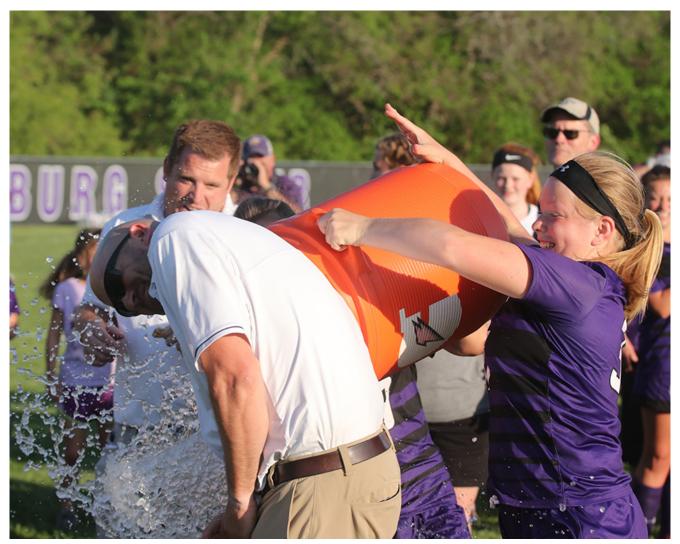
kids," Conley said. "They play their tails off and they work hard, boys or

girls, it doesn't matter. If you don't have kids that play hard, then none of

this is possible. Having quality kids who do the things you ask and work so

hard, makes it fun to coach and positive things happen. I am really lucky to be

in Louisburg right now."



LHS girls soccer coach Kyle Conley has had a lot of things to celebrate in four seasons, including back-to-back state runner-up finishes.

In his four years as head coach, Conley has posted a 100-46-4 record and has helped the Wildcats to several big time wins.

On the girls side, Conley was named the girls' first-ever coach when the program started in the spring of 2016. He led them to a 14-win season that first year and they reached the state

From there, the Louisburg girls would go on to a fourth place state finish in 2017, followed

quarterfinals.

by back-to-back

state runner-up finishes in 2018 and 2019 — losing to Bishop Miege in the both

state championship games. Conley has also been named the Class 4-1A Coach of

the Year the last two years.

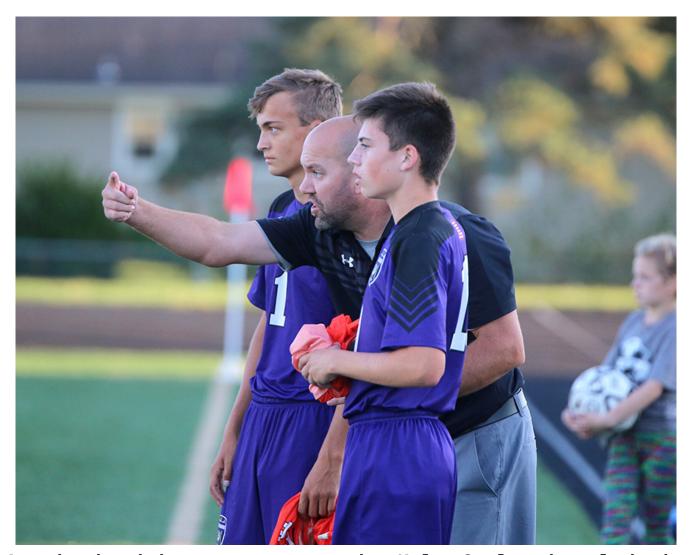
In his first season as the boys

head coach in the fall of 2016, he guided Louisburg 14-6-1 record and its first

appearance in the state final four. The Wildcats went on to finish fourth in

Class 4A, and then would reach the state quarterfinals the following year with a 13-win campaign.

Currently, the Wildcats are 9-1-1 this season and have the best record in Class 4-3-2-1A.



As the head boys soccer coach, Kyle Conley has led the Wildcats to two regional championships and a fourth place finish at state.

"Starting the girls program and going 14-4-1 that first year and have a chance to go to state was a wonderful memory, but losing to De Soto in the quarterfinals on this field that same year kinda sticks with me," Conley said. "You know, 100 wins is great, but I probably dwell more on those 46 losses more than I do the wins. There are so many of those games that could have went either way. When you have kids that have heart and passion, it makes it fun to coach.

"Then you have the first boys team to make a state final four in 2016 was a great one, and I will remember the team that played McPherson at home in the state quarterfinals and lost a close 2-1 game that had two shots go off the post in the final five minutes. That was a special team as well. Just honored to

be able to coach all of them."

With so many highs and lows that teams encounter throughout a season, Conley realizes the people are what makes his job enjoyable — not necessarily the wins.

"There are so many memories and I have

been able to coach so many good kids," he said. "I am just blessed to be in

Louisburg and have the opportunity to interact with these student athletes and

hopefully have a positive impact on them. It is an awesome place to be."

KSHSAA releases classifications for 2019-20 school year



The Kansas State High School Activities Association released its classifications for the 2019-20 school year, along with the football classifications for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons.

There were a few changes in both areas, but more so on the football side.

Football classifications are determined based on enrollment figures in ninth, 10th and 11th grade. Louisburg is still in 4A with 432 students and is toward the lower half of the classification.

Entering Class 4A beginning in the 2020 school year will be St. James Academy, Lansing and Great Bend, who have all moved down from Class 5A. Wamego also made the jump back in from Class 3A.

Kansas State High School Activities Association

Football Classifications and Enrollments-Descending Order 2020 & 2021

Enrollment figures are based on ninth, tenth and eleventh grades only.

Enrollment figures are as of September 20, 2019.

6A		5A		4A		3A	
Member Schools - 32 Range: 1854 - 1092		Member Schools - 32 Range: 1083 - 655		Member Schools - 32 Range: 654 - 340		Member Schools - 48 Range: 324 - 168	
Wichita-East	1854		1083	Lansing	654	Baldwin	324
Wichita-North	1691	Hutchinson	1049	Great Bend	651	Topeka-Hayden	314
Wichita-Southeast	1662	Wichita-Heights	1045	Lenexa-St. James Academy		Parsons	286
Derby	1638	Shawnee-Mill Valley	982	Bonner Springs	640	Andale	279
Garden City	1560	Leavenworth	977	Arkansas City	620	Pratt	275
Dodge City	1533	Wichita-Northwest	970	Andover Central	608	Clearwater	266
Olathe South	1503	Emporia	949	Basehor-Linwood	587	Iola	256
Olathe East	1477	Kansas City-Turner	902	McPherson	535	Girard	252
Olathe North	1469	Wichita-Bishop Carroll	890	Kansas City-Piper	518	Nickerson	252
Topeka-Washburn Rural	1449	Topeka West	882	Ottawa	507	Clay Center Community	247
Wichita-South	1438	Topeka-Seaman	881	Buhler	497	Holton	242
Lawrence-Free State	1411	Tecumseh-Shawnee Height		SM-Bishop Miege	493	Concordia	241
Manhattan	1402	Maize	871	Augusta	491	Kansas City-Bishop Ward	240
Topeka	1364	Kansas City-Washington	850	Winfield	472	Garnett-Anderson County	234
Olathe Northwest	1356	Maize South	842	Tonganoxie	471	Chapman	224
Kansas City-Wyandotte	1355	OP-Blue Valley Southwest	811	Independence	461	St. George-Rock Creek	224
SM East	1353	Salina-South	800	Chanute	452	Baxter Springs	223
Gardner-Edgerton	1325	Newton	788	Paola	447	Osawatomie	221
Haysville Campus	1297	De Soto	758	Fort Scott	434	Columbus	220
SM West	1277	Salina-Central	758	Louisburg	432	Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail	217
SM Northwest	1266	Topeka-Highland Park	757	Towanda-Circle	429	Wichita-Trinity Academy	217
Olathe West	1256	Andover	733	Coffeyville-Field Kindley	409	Hoyt-Royal Valley	216
OP-Blue Valley Northwest		Goddard-Eisenhower	725	El Dorado	400	Hugoton	216
SM North	1226	Valley Center	699	Eudora	391	LaCygne-Prairie View	214
Lawrence	1221	Kansas City-Sumner Acad.		Rose Hill	381	Hiawatha	213
OP-Blue Valley	1182	OP-St. Thomas Aquinas	693	Altamont-Labette County	377	Frontenac	211
OP-Blue Valley West	1182	Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carme		Mulvane	375	Meriden-Jefferson West	211
Junction City	1136	Pittsburg	691	Atchison	355	Holcomb	210
Wichita-West	1129	Hays	687	Abilene	352	Burlington	203
Kansas City-JC Harmon	1110	Kansas City-FL Schlagle	687	Wamego	351	Hesston	202
SM South	1106	Spring Hill	668	Wellington	345	Colby	201
OP-Blue Valley North	1092	Goddard	655	Ulysses	340	Wichita Collegiate	201
						Lindsborg-Smoky Valley	200
						Galena	199
						Scott Community	198
						Caney Valley	192
						Perry-Lecompton	192
						Larned	188
						Cherryvale	186
						Marysville	183
						Cheney	182
* Note: Per class						Goodland	182
Rule 5-2-2, enr	ollme	nt ties are broken by t	ising	the previous		Riley County	182
classification of			ೆ			Russell	181
crassification (June	(Contractive)				Council Grove	180
						Sabetha	173
						Gypsum-Southeast of Salin	e 171
						Halstead	168

2A		1A		8-Player Division I		8-Player Division II	
Schools - 48 Range: 168 - 112		Schools - 28 Range: 111 - 62		Schools - 48 Range: 98 - 66		Schools - 52 Range: 66 - 29	
Cimarron	168	Whitewater-Remington	111	Herington	98	Sylvan-Lucas Unified	66
Lyons	168	Conway Springs	110	Bennington	97	Rural Vista (White City / Hope	e) 65
Wellsville	167	Horton	110	Hoxie	97	Peabody-Burns	64
Haven	166	Sedgwick	108	Yates Center	96	Bucklin	61
Hoisington	162	Arma-Northeast	106	Medicine Lodge	95	Minneola	61
Osage City	161	Brookville-Ell-Saline	106	Hill City	94	Victoria	61
Seneca-Nemaha Central	161	Richmond-Central Heights	106	Howard-West Elk	93	Caldwell	60
Fredonia	159	Wabaunsee	105	Pratt-Skyline	93	Satanta	60
Silver Lake	158	Wichita-The Independent	102	Leoti-Wichita County	90	Kensington-Thunder Ridge	59
Easton-Pleasant Ridge	156	Lyndon	99	Spearville	90	Onaga	59
Riverton	155	Sublette	99	WaKeeney-Trego Community		Downs-Lakeside	58
Neodesha	153	Ellinwood	98	Moundridge	88	Mankato-Rock Hills	58
	153	Oakley	98	Sedan	88	Coldwater-South Central	57
Norton Community		Salina-Sacred Heart	98	Cottonwood Falls-Chase Co.	84	Lebo	57
Beloit	150		98	Stockton	84	Quinter	57
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral		Uniontown	175000	Attica/Argonia	82	Beloit-St. John's/Tipton	54
Kingman	148	Johnson-Stanton County	96	** TO TO SEE THE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE S	82	Osborne	54
Eureka	147	Winchester-		Valley Falls	80	South Haven	53
Pomona-West Franklin	144	Jefferson Co. North	94	Burlingame	200000		52
Douglass	142	Inman	93	Canton-Galva	79	Wakefield	_
Kismet-Southwestern Hts.	141	Elkhart	90	Goessel	79	Hutchinson-Central Christia	
Lakin	141	Plainville	89	Meade	79	Ingalls	51
St. Marys	141	Pleasanton	86	Ness City	79	Sharon Springs-Wallace Co.	51
Hays-TMP-Marian	140	Allen-Northern Heights	85	Washington County	79	St. Francis	51
Oskaloosa	140	Blue Rapids-Valley Heights	82	Little River	78	St. Paul	51
Minneapolis	139	Smith Center	82	Shawnee-Maranatha		Claffin-Central Plains	50
Ellsworth	137	Holton-Jackson Heights	78	Christian Academy	77	Hartford	50
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mt Acad	. 135	Troy	70	Cedar Vale/ Dexter	76	Norwich	50
Rossville	135	Olpe	69	Burden-Central	75	Scandia-Pike Valley	50
Effingham-		Centralia	62	Langdon-Fairfield	75	Colony-Crest	49
Atchinson Co Comm.	130			Madison/Hamilton	75	Frankfort	49
Erie	130			Solomon	75	Melvern-MDCV	49
Hillsboro	129			Udall	74	Buffalo-Altoona Midway	48
Humboldt	129			Atwood-Rawlins County	72	Dighton	48
Mound City-Jayhawk Linn				Highland-Doniphan West	72	Hanover	47
Phillipsburg	128			La Crosse	72	Leroy-Southern Coffey Co.	47
Wathena-Riverside	127			Oswego	72	Chetopa	46
Belle Plaine	124			Kinsley	71	Logan/Palco	46
Syracuse	121			Clyde-Clifton Clyde	70	Lost Springs-Centre	46
Garden Plain	120			Oberlin-Decatur Community		Otis-Bison	46
				Rosalia-Flinthills	70	Linn	43
Ellis	119			Jetmore-Hodgeman County	69	Waverly	42
Cherokee-Southeast	118			Lincoln	69	Southern Cloud	**
Belleville-Republic County				Macksville	69	(Miltonvale / Glasco)	40
McLouth	117			Oxford	69	Stafford	40
Eskridge-Mission Valley	116			Moran-Marmaton Valley	68	Wetmore	39
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic						1 / C + 7 / C C C C C C C C C C	33
Leon-Bluestem	112			Greensburg-Kiowa County	67 67	Grainfield-	38
Marion	112			St. John-Hudson		Wheatland/Grinnell	
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan				Montezuma-South Gray	66	Randolph-Blue Valley	38
Sterling	112			Pretty Prairie	66	Kiowa-South Barber	37
						Winona-Triplains/Brewster	36
						Chase	33
						Axtell	30
						Tescott	30
						Wilson	29

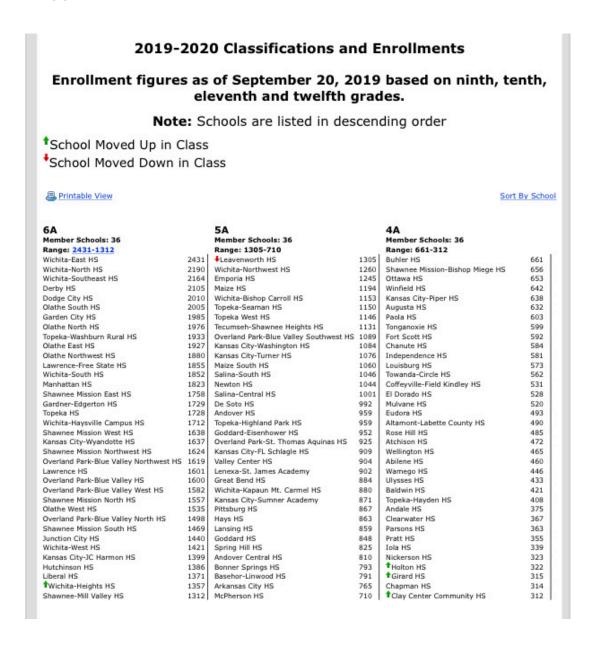


Goddard, Pittsburg and Spring Hill all saw their enrollment grow and will be moving up from 4A to 5A next year. Baldwin

saw their enrollment decline and will move down to Class 3A in football the next two years.

In the rest of the sports, not much changed with regards to Class 4A for this year.

Enrollment figures for all grades in Louisburg this year is 573, which puts the school in the upper half of Class 4A. The biggest school is Buhler with 661 and Bishop Miege is the second biggest at 656 and Ottawa is third at 653.



3A Member Schools: 64		2A Member Schools: 64		1A Member Schools: 117	
Range: 305-172	1995	Range: 171-109	167	Range: 108-14	
Garnett-Anderson County HS Concordia HS	305	Mound City-Jayhawk Linn H5 Oskaloosa H5	171	Stockton HS Elbing-Berean Academy	108
Wichita-Trinity Academy	303	Belle Plaine HS	170	Little River HS	105
Kansas City-Bishop Ward HS	300	Rossville HS	169	Meade HS	103
Osawatomie HS	296 296	Elisworth HS	168	Ness City HS Washington County HS	103
St. George-Rock Creek HS	294	◆Wathena-Riverside HS	164	Udall HS	102
Saxter Springs HS	286	Conway Springs HS	160	♣Goessel HS	101
Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail HS toyt-Royal Valley HS	286 283	Belleville-Republic County HS Garden Plain HS	158	Valley Falls HS Oswego HS	101
lugoton HS	280	Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic HS	158	Burden-Central HS	97
lesston HS	279	Cherokee-Southeast HS	157	Troy HS	97
rontenac HS feriden-Jefferson West HS	276	Eskridge-Mission Valley HS Arma-Northeast HS	156	Macksville HS Atwood-Rawlins County HS	96 95
liawatha HS	273	Hillsboro HS	155	Rosalia-Flinthills HS	95
ialena HS	270	Olathe-Heritage Christian Academy	155	La Crosse HS	94
aCygne-Prairie View HS lolcomb HS	270 266	Ellis HS Syracuse HS	154	Solomon HS Burlingame HS	93
farysville HS	266	McLouth HS	152	Lincoln HS	92
Vichita Collegiate HS	266	Whitewater-Remington HS	152	Oberlin-Decatur Community HS	91
cott Community HS	265 263	Horton HS Sterling HS	150	Oxford HS St. John-Hudson HS	91
aney Valley HS indsborg-Smoky Valley HS	263	Marion HS	146	Clyde-Clifton Clyde HS	90
olby HS	262	Leon-Bluestern HS	144	Jetmore-Hodgeman County HS	90
urlington HS	260	Wichita-The Independent HS	142	Peabody-Burns HS	90
erry-Lecompton HS oodland HS	252 246	Richmond-Central Heights HS Sedowick HS	141	Kinsley HS Langdon-Fairfield HS	89
fellsville HS	243	Alma-Wabaunsee HS	139	Highland-Doniphan West HS	87
arned HS	242	Brookville-Ell-Saline HS	139	Olpe HS	87
ussell HS heney HS	239	Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan HS Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian HS	139	Centralia HS Montezuma-South Gray HS	86
abetha HS	238	Praine Village-Kansas Oty Christian HS Medicine Lodge HS	136	Montezuma-South Gray HS Moran-Marmaton Valley HS	86
lley County HS	231	Lawrence-Bishop Seabury Academy	132	Greensburg-Klowa County HS	85
ouncil Grove HS	229	Salina-Sacred Heart HS	131	Wichita-Classical School Of Wichita	83
herryvale HS ypsum-Southeast of Saline HS	225	Winchester-Jefferson County North HS Bennington HS	130	Onaga HS Caldwell HS	82 80
elstead HS	221	Johnson-Stanton County HS	128	Lebo HS	79
aven HS	220	Lyndon HS	127	Minneola HS	79
iverton HS redonia HS	214	Oakley HS Plainville HS	127	Bucklin HS Pretty Prairie HS	78 78
yons HS	213	Sublette HS	127	Sylvan-Lucas Unified HS	78
ilver Lake HS	213	Inman HS	126	Norwich HS	77
eloit HS eneca-Nemaha Central HS	212	Yates Center HS Ellimecod HS	126	Victoria HS Coldwater-South Central HS	77 76
eneca-Nemaha Central PG imarron HS	207	Pratt-Skyline HS	123	Mankato-Rock Hills HS	76
oisington HS	205	Wakeeney-Trego Community HS	122	Satanta HS	76
orton Community HS	204	Uniontown HS	120	Kensington-Thunder Ridge HS	75
sage City HS aston-Pleasant Ridge HS	204	Herington HS Smith Center HS	119	Osborne HS Madison HS	75 74
ingman HS	202	Pleasanton HS	118	Dexter HS	72
esdesha HS	200	Elkhart HS	117	Hanover HS	71
nthony/Harper-Chaparral HS omona-West Franklin HS	199 192	*Hill City HS Hoxie HS	117	Burrton HS Hutchinson-Central Christian HS	70 69
ismet-Southwestern Heights HS	190	Allen-Northern Heights HS	115	St. Francis HS	69
ureka HS	188	Howard-West Elk HS	115	Ingels HS	68
Lakin HS tchison-Maur Hill-Mount Academy	185	Sedan HS Cottonwood Falls-Chase County HS	114	McPherson-Elyria Christian HS Downs-Lakeside HS	68
Inneapolis HS	184	Holton-Jackson Heights HS	113	Wakefield HS	67
ays-Thomas More Prep-Marian HS	182	Canton-Galva HS	112	Hartford HS	66
t. Marys HS	182	Blue Rapids-Valley Heights HS Moundridge HS	110	Quinter HS	66
ouglass HS Effingham-Atchison Co Community HS	178	Shawnee-Maranatha Christian Academy	110	Dighton HS Frankfort HS	65
Humboldt HS	174	Leoti-Wichita County HS	109	Melvern-Marais Des Cygnes Valley HS	65
hillipsburg HS	172	*Spearville HS	109	St. Paul HS	65
				Claffin-Central Plains HS Colony-Crest HS	63
				Randolph-Blue Valley HS	63
				Scandia-Pike Valley HS	63
				Lost Springs-Centre HS South Haven HS	62
				Rexford-Golden Plains HS	61
				Chetopa HS	60
				Sharon Springs-Wallace County HS Buffalo-Altoona Midway HS	60 59
				Leroy-Southern Coffey County HS	58
				Otis-Bison HS	58
				Grainfield-Wheatland/Grinnell HS	57
				Stafford HS Ashland HS	57 56
				Linn HS	56
				Tribune-Greeley County HS	55
				Beloit-St. John's HS Waverly HS	54
				Waverly HS Wetmore HS	51
				Attice HS	50
				Deerfield HS	49
				Argonia HS Cunningham HS	48 48
				Kiowa-South Barber HS	48
				Rolla HS	46
				Moscow HS Axtell HS	45
				Bird City-Cheylin HS	42
				Chase HS	42
				Hope HS	42
				Cedar Vale HS Rozel-Pawnee Heights HS	40
				Tescott HS	40
				Wichita-Central Christian Academy	40
				Almena-Northern Valley HS	39
				White City HS Logan HS	39
				Wilson HS	35
				Fowler HS	32
				Natoma HS Ransom-Western Plains HS	30
				Weskan HS	29
				Brewster HS	28
				Palco HS	28
				Glasco HS Longton-Elk Valley HS	27
				government with the	-
				Hamilton HS	25

Three schools will make the move up to Class 4A this year. Clay Center, Girard and Holton all saw their enrollment increase and will come back to 4A, while Osawatomie, Anderson County and Wichita-Trinity Academy will move out of 4A to 3A this year.

Frontier League sends proposal to KSHSAA to separate private schools



A big change to the Kansas High School

Activities Association (KSHSAA) postseason could be coming sooner rather than

later if a proposal, submitted by the Frontier League, passes the KSHSAA Board

of Directors and its member schools.

Last month the Frontier League,

led by Paola High School principal Jeff Hines and Louisburg superintendent Dr.

Brian Biermann, petitioned KSHSAA to separate public and private schools into

their own postseason competitions.

In order for it pass, the petition must be signed by 20 percent of the 355 member schools

according to KSHSAA

bi-laws. The Frontier League got the 71 needed petitions and have now submitted

this to appear in front of the KSHSAA Board of Directors for vote in their

Sept. 18 meeting.

The board of directors would then

have to pass it by simple majority of those in attendance to bring the proposal

to a vote from all the member schools.

"Kansas needs to catch up with

the rest of the country and get this competitive imbalance under control in our

state," Hines said. "The longer we wait then more students will be negatively

impacted. We have a responsibility as educators to create the best

opportunities possible for our students. No one can honestly say we have

the best system possible right now. It can definitely be improved."

The proposal submitted by the Frontier League is the same one the state of Texas uses that keeps the schools in their same classification, but only separates the schools come postseason.

Other options were discussed

before submitting the proposal, such as implementing a multiplier on all

private schools like Missouri currently does. In fact, it is the most popular

proposal among the schools that were surveyed by Hines last January.

They also talked about the "Oklahoma

model" where schools are bumped up a classification based on success for competitive balance.

Seventy-four percent of the

schools said they would support a population multiplier, 64 percent would

support competitive balance factors and 51 percent would support separate divisions.

However, KSHSAA would not be able

to make this change with a multiplier due to state statute K.S.A. 72-130 that

states a high school association "must establish a system of classification of

member high schools according to student attendance."

KSHSAA would not be able to pass a

new bi-law that goes against state statute, and therefore, the Kansas State

Legislature would have reword the statue to allow the association to make those changes.

The Frontier League believes the Texas model, or separate postseason divisions, does not deal with classifications. Also, this model had more support from 5A and 6A schools as neither classification would likely vote for a multiplier.

"We don't view that as a classification decision as we are not affecting classification, but KSHSAA and their lawyers view that it is," Biermann said. "5A and 6A schools that we talked to really wanted us to push for the Texas model because they don't want to play them (private schools) either. The biggest thing for me is if 5 and 6A schools don't want to play them, then why do we? As a superintendent, I am supposed to create opportunities for kids. We had four teams last year in both

soccer teams, football and volleyball that all saw their season end to Bishop Miege. It is not right that we have kids and coaches that work their tails off and they don't have the opportunity to win.

"Am I all about state

championships? Absolutely not. But we also know the reality of it in the

current system. Winning state championships is important for communities and is

always a goal. I am not ever going to give up on this idea and neither will the

Frontier League."

The public versus private school

debate has been going on for the last several years and Hines has been leading

the charge since 2015 when he put together a study that displayed the disparity

of state championships won by private schools.

In 2018-19, private schools won 32

percent of the state championships in Classes 5A through 1A. There are currently

no private schools in 6A. Twenty-one of those 24 state titles were won by

private schools in Class 4A and 5A.

That is a high number considering

that out of the 355 member schools, only 27 of them are private.

The Frontier League wanted to see change, so Hines surveyed the 355 member schools late last year and presented his findings to KSHSAA in January. More than 88 percent of the schools responded, that included 22 private institutions, and 87 percent said they want the current system changed.

Presentation of Public/Private School Survey Results

to The KSHSAA Executive Board

January 10, 2019

Results from Survey

313 of the 355 KSHSAA Member Schools Responded - 88.2%

291 Public Schools Responded

22 Private Schools Responded

273 Member Schools voted YES to support a change in the current structure

271 Public Schools Voted Yes for Change

2 Private Schools Voted for Change

40 Member Schools voted NO to support a change in the current structure

20 Public Schools Voted No for Change

20 Private Schools Voted No for Change

87.2% voted that they want the current system changed.

	Survey Response Rate	Support Change
1A	82.9%	92.8%
2A	89.0%	84.2%
3A	98.4%	85.6%
4A	100.0%	88.9%
5A	88.8%	81.3%
6A	77.7%	82.1%
Total	88.2%	87.2%

School Superintendent Response Rate

175 School Superintendents Responded

169 out of 175 Support Change

96.6% Support Change

Principal Response Rate

182 Principals Responded

84.6% Support Change

Activities Director Response Rate

200 Activities Directors Responded

85% Support Change

Although most schools said they would support the multiplier model more, Hines and the rest of the league schools, believe it is the best way to proceed at this time.

"Our

survey indicated that separate divisions was the least popular option among

member schools, however as a league we feel like it is the most appropriate

option," Hines said. "A multiplier will pass through and will be our next

option if this does not go through. A multiplier will impact many private

schools that are not quasi sports academies that are not very successful in athletics. The

separate divisions avoids this situation."

Ιf

the proposal does pass the board of directors, KSHSAA will then put it to a

vote with all 355 member schools and it must pass by a simple majority and by

four of the six classes.

From

there, KSHSAA executive director Bill Faflick would take it to the Kansas

Legislature before change could be implemented.

"We

know it won't happen overnight," Biermann said. "Even if this passes, nothing

will change this year and probably not the following year. It could be three

years out with the way football schedules take shape. We are honestly ok with

that if we knew that there was light at the end of the tunnel. If this would

not pass, we would turn right around and do the multiplier one."

Despite what happens at the

upcoming board of directors meeting, Hines believes changes to the system will happen sooner rather than later.

"I am now confident something will get done," Hines said. "I think it will ultimately take a multiplier to get something done. If the

separate divisions fails then we will propose a multiplier for the spring board of directors meeting."

A lot of obstacles are still in the way for change to happen, whether it has to deal with state statues or member votes, but none of the schools in the nine-member Frontier League are going to stop until they see a more even playing field.

"I am very proud of the Frontier League, and even though we compete against each other, we are very unified on this," Biermann said. "It is about fairness and equality and I am tired of having my kids at Louisburg High School not having the same opportunity as some others. The throttle is down and it is going to stay down."