

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 Ameer Messer. Standing is assistant coach Michael Pickman and head coach Kyle Conley.

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

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

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

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

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

Messer's life changed in such a

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

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

Scholtz looking forward to opportunity at Missouri Southern



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

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

That day finally came last

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

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

"Everyone coming just shows that I have a lot of support, not just from my family, but my friends and coaches as well," Scholtz said. "I wouldn't have been able to do this with any of them. I got this offer from playing in a high school game, which means a lot to me and that wouldn't have happened without the help of my coaches.

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

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

The Missouri Southern staff came to Louisburg more than two years ago to watch then-standout

Bailey Belcher

play, but the Lions coaches also caught a glimpse of Scholtz. It wasn't long after that the Lions offered both Belcher and Scholtz scholarship opportunities.

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

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

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



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

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

"It was a little up in the air for a while," Scholtz said. "I hadn't met the coach and he had never seen me play, so I wasn't sure he was going to offer me still. Then he texted me and said he still wanted me on the team and that was a good feeling and kind of a relief. It was a breath of fresh air."

Scholtz has a good high school

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

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

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

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

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

Louisburg girls soccer receives national award



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

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

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

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

"I was really fortunate to be able to receive the award for the team at the United Soccer Coaches Convention," Conley said. "This 2019 girls team accomplished so much and I could not be prouder to be there on

behalf of the
school and our team to receive this honor.”

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

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

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

“Mike (Pickman) and I have set a high standard in our program
to represent our school and community with our play and our
actions and this group of young ladies did just that. We
always want to do everything in our power to make the
community and school proud, and the girls did just that. I
could not be proud to be this team’s coach.”

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

its fifth year.

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

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 11th 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.

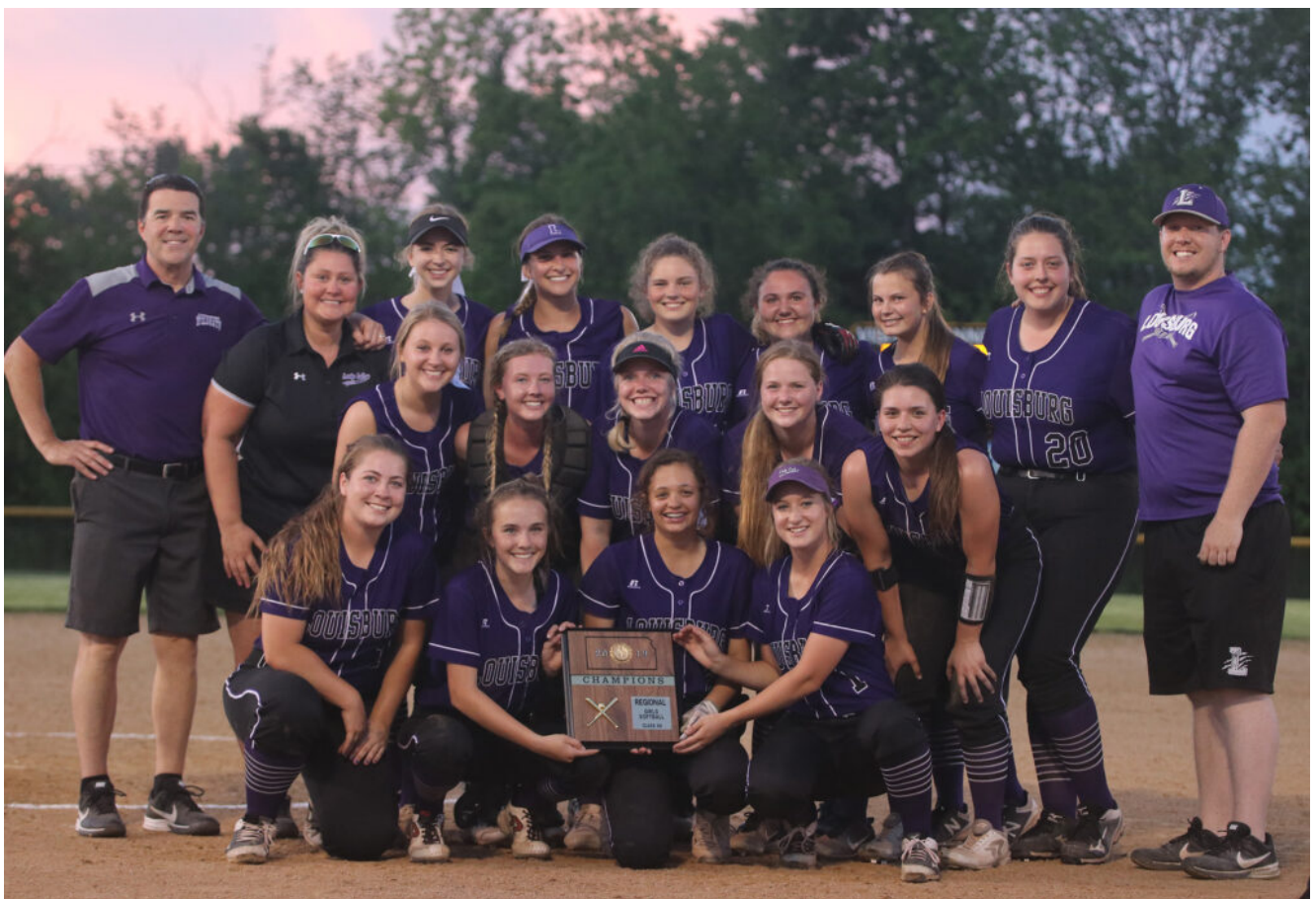
Louisburg's talent was
certainly on full display during the two-day tournament.
Brandon Doles, Blue
Caplinger and Austin Moore won regional crowns, Cade Holtzen
was a regional
runner-up, while Gabe Bonham and Ryan Owens also qualified for
state by placing
third and fourth, respectively.

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 10th 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 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 was 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 Miego to win regional title, takes fourth at state

ATCHISON – The sub-state semifinal game between Louisburg and Bishop Miego had all the feels of a state tournament match.

Partially because a year ago, it was.

Louisburg met Miego 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, Miego dispatched of Louisburg in two sets.

However, Bishop Miego 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 Miego to end the Stags' season. It marks the first time in at least 12 years, if not longer, that Miego will not be at the state tournament.

Since the state tournament began in 1971, Bishop Miego 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 Miego, 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.

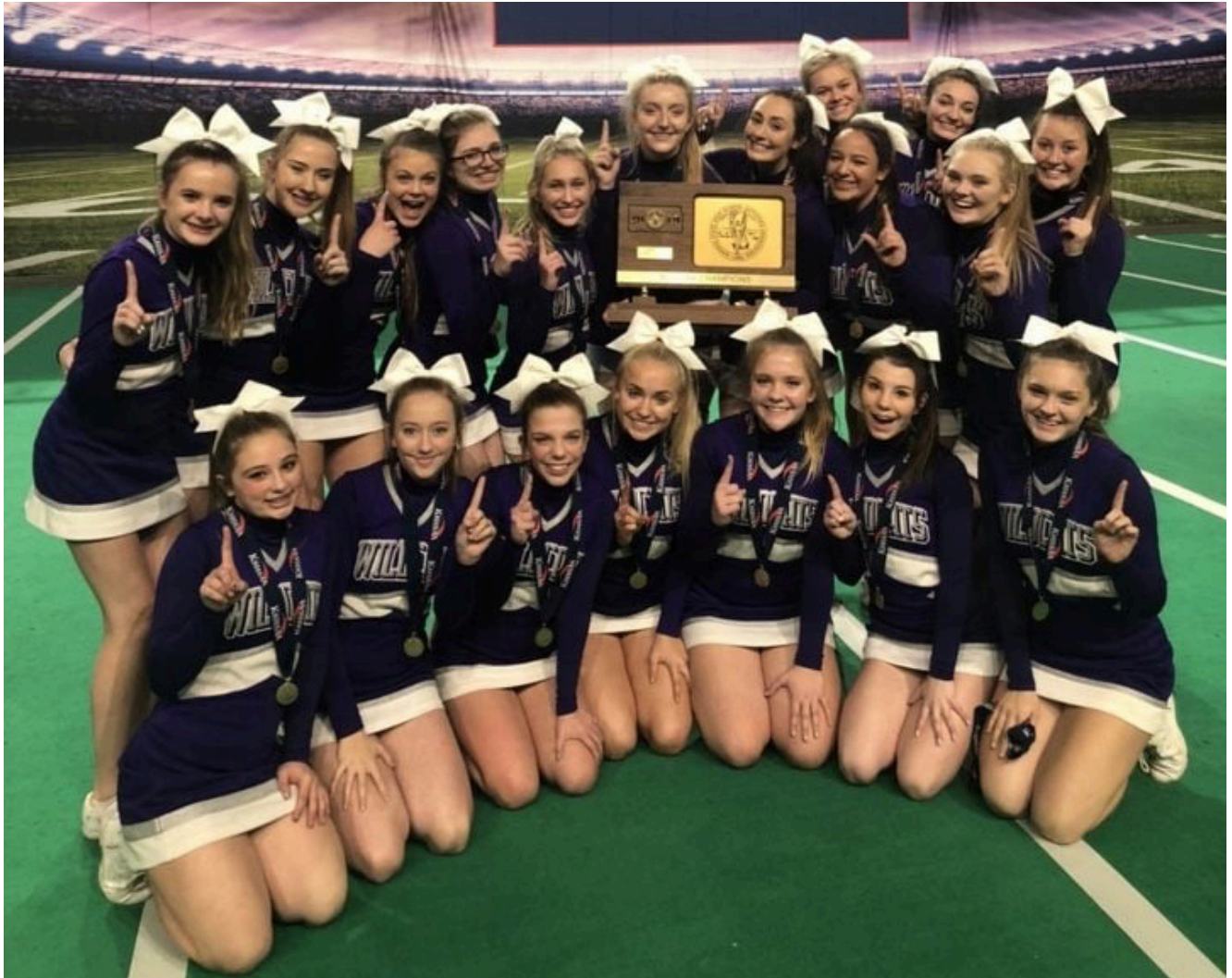
Louisburg lost its final two matches of the season, but those setbacks didn't take away from what the Lady Cats accomplished during the Kansas Class 4A State Championships.

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 Miego 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 10th 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 400-meter 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 unbelievable 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 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 100th 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 quarterfinals.

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

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		Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 48	
Range: 1854 - 1092		Range: 1083 - 655		Range: 654 - 340		Range: 324 - 168	
Wichita-East	1854	Liberal	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	649	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 Heights	876	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	1233	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.	698	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. Carmel	693	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
						Goodland	182
						Riley County	182
						Russell	181
						Council Grove	180
						Sabetha	173
						Gypsum-Southeast of Saline	171
						Halstead	168

* *Note: Per classification Rule 5-2-2, enrollment ties are broken by using the previous classification cycle count.*

2A**Schools - 48****Range: 168 - 112**

Cimarron	168
Lyons	168
Wellsville	167
Haven	166
Hoisington	162
Osage City	161
Seneca-Nemaha Central	161
Fredonia	159
Silver Lake	158
Easton-Pleasant Ridge	156
Riverton	155
Neodesha	153
Norton Community	153
Beloit	150
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral	148
Kingman	148
Eureka	147
Pomona-West Franklin	144
Douglass	142
Kismet-Southwestern Hts.	141
Lakin	141
St. Marys	141
Hays-TMP-Marian	140
Oskaloosa	140
Minneapolis	139
Ellsworth	137
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mt Acad.	135
Rossville	135
Effingham- Atchinson Co Comm.	130
Erie	130
Hillsboro	129
Humboldt	129
Mound City-Jayhawk Linn	128
Phillipsburg	128
Wathena-Riverside	127
Belle Plaine	124
Syracuse	121
Garden Plain	120
Ellis	119
Cherokee-Southeast	118
Belleville-Republic County	117
McLouth	117
Eskridge-Mission Valley	116
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic	116
Leon-Bluestem	112
Marion	112
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan	112
Sterling	112

1A**Schools - 28****Range: 111 - 62**

Whitewater-Remington	111
Conway Springs	110
Horton	110
Sedgwick	108
Arma-Northeast	106
Brookville-Eli-Saline	106
Richmond-Central Heights	106
Wabaunsee	105
Wichita-The Independent	102
Lyndon	99
Sublette	99
Ellinwood	98
Oakley	98
Salina-Sacred Heart	98
Uniontown	98
Johnson-Stanton County	96
Winchester- Jefferson Co. North	94
Inman	93
Elkhart	90
Plainville	89
Pleasanton	86
Allen-Northern Heights	85
Blue Rapids-Valley Heights	82
Smith Center	82
Holton-Jackson Heights	78
Troy	70
Olpe	69
Centralia	62

8-Player Division I**Schools - 48****Range: 98 - 66**

Herington	98
Bennington	97
Hoxie	97
Yates Center	96
Medicine Lodge	95
Hill City	94
Howard-West Elk	93
Pratt-Skyline	93
Leoti-Wichita County	90
Spearville	90
WaKeeney-Trego Community	89
Moundridge	88
Sedan	88
Cottonwood Falls-Chase Co.	84
Stockton	84
Attica/Argonia	82
Valley Falls	82
Burlingame	80
Canton-Galva	79
Goessel	79
Meade	79
Ness City	79
Washington County	79
Little River	78
Shawnee-Marana	77
Christian Academy	77
Cedar Vale/Dexter	76
Burden-Central	75
Langdon-Fairfield	75
Madison/Hamilton	75
Solomon	75
Udall	74
Atwood-Rawlins County	72
Highland-Doniphan West	72
La Crosse	72
Oswego	72
Kinsley	71
Clyde-Clifton Clyde	70
Oberlin-Decatur Community	70
Rosalie-Flinthills	70
Jetmore-Hodgeman County	69
Lincoln	69
Macksville	69
Oxford	69
Moran-Marmaton Valley	68
Greensburg-Kiowa County	67
St. John-Hudson	67
Montezuma-South Gray	66
Pretty Prairie	66

8-Player Division II**Schools - 52****Range: 66 - 29**

Sylvan-Lucas Unified	66
Rural Vista (<i>White City/Hope</i>)	65
Peabody-Burns	64
Bucklin	61
Minneola	61
Victoria	61
Caldwell	60
Satanta	60
Kensington-Thunder Ridge	59
Onaga	59
Downs-Lakeside	58
Mankato-Rock Hills	58
Coldwater-South Central	57
Lebo	57
Quinter	57
Beloit-St. John's/Tipton	54
Osborne	54
South Haven	53
Wakefield	52
Hutchinson-Central Christian	51
Ingalls	51
Sharon Springs-Wallace Co.	51
St. Francis	51
St. Paul	51
Claffin-Central Plains	50
Hartford	50
Norwich	50
Scandia-Pike Valley	50
Colony-Crest	49
Frankfort	49
Melvern-MDCV	49
Buffalo-Altoona Midway	48
Dighton	48
Hanover	47
Leroy-Southern Coffey Co.	47
Chetopa	46
Logan/Palco	46
Lost Springs-Centre	46
Otis-Bison	46
Linn	43
Waverly	42
Southern Cloud	
(<i>Miltonvale/Glasco</i>)	40
Stafford	40
Wetmore	39
Grainfield-	
Wheatland/Grinnell	38
Randolph-Blue Valley	38
Kiowa-South Barber	37
Winona-Triplains/Brewster	36
Chase	33
Axtell	30
Tescott	30
Wilson	29



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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.

2019-2020 Classifications and Enrollments

Enrollment figures as of September 20, 2019 based on ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades.

Note: Schools are listed in descending order

- ↑ School Moved Up in Class
- ↓ School Moved Down in Class

[Printable View](#)

[Sort By School](#)

6A

Member Schools: 36

Range: **2431-1312**

Wichita-East HS
Wichita-North HS
Wichita-Southeast HS
Derby HS
Dodge City HS
Olathe South HS
Garden City HS
Olathe North HS
Topeka-Washburn Rural HS
Olathe East HS
Olathe Northwest HS
Lawrence-Free State HS
Wichita-South HS
Manhattan HS
Shawnee Mission East HS
Gardner-Edgerton HS
Topeka HS
Wichita-Haysville Campus HS
Shawnee Mission West HS
Kansas City-Wyandotte HS
Shawnee Mission Northwest HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest HS
Lawrence HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley West HS
Shawnee Mission North HS
Olathe West HS
Overland Park-Blue Valley North HS
Shawnee Mission South HS
Junction City HS
Wichita-West HS
Kansas City-JC Harmon HS
Hutchinson HS
Liberal HS
↑ Wichita-Heights HS
Shawnee-Mill Valley HS

2431 ↓ Leavenworth HS
2190 Wichita-Northwest HS
2164 Emporia HS
2105 Maize HS
2010 Wichita-Bishop Carroll HS
2005 Topeka-Seaman HS
1985 Topeka West HS
1976 Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights HS
1933 Overland Park-Blue Valley Southwest HS
1927 Kansas City-Washington HS
1880 Kansas City-Turner HS
1855 Maize South HS
1852 Salina-South HS
1823 Newton HS
1758 Salina-Central HS
1729 De Soto HS
1728 Andover HS
1712 Topeka-Highland Park HS
1638 Goddard-Eisenhower HS
1637 Overland Park-St. Thomas Aquinas HS
1624 Kansas City-FL Schlegle HS
1619 Valley Center HS
1601 Lenexa-St. James Academy
1600 Great Bend HS
1582 Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel HS
1557 Kansas City-Sumner Academy
1535 Pittsburg HS
1498 Hays HS
1469 Lansing HS
1440 Goddard HS
1421 Spring Hill HS
1399 Andover Central HS
1386 Bonner Springs HS
1371 Basehor-Linwood HS
1357 Arkansas City HS
1312 McPherson HS

4A

Member Schools: 36

Range: **661-312**

1305 Buhler HS
1260 Shawnee Mission-Bishop Miege HS
1245 Ottawa HS
1194 Winfield HS
1153 Kansas City-Piper HS
1150 Augusta HS
1146 Paola HS
1131 Tonganoxie HS
1089 Fort Scott HS
1084 Chanute HS
1076 Independence HS
1060 Louisburg HS
1046 Towanda-Circle HS
1044 Coffeyville-Field Kindley HS
1001 El Dorado HS
992 Mulvane HS
959 Eudora HS
959 Altamont-Labette County HS
952 Rose Hill HS
925 Atchison HS
909 Wellington HS
904 Abilene HS
902 Wamego HS
884 Ulysses HS
880 Baldwin HS
871 Topeka-Hayden HS
867 Andale HS
863 Clearwater HS
859 Parsons HS
848 Pratt HS
825 Iola HS
810 Nickerson HS
793 ↑ Holton HS
791 ↑ Girard HS
765 Chapman HS
710 ↑ Clay Center Community HS

661
656
653
642
638
632
603
599
592
584
581
573
562
531
528
520
493
490
485
472
465
460
446
433
421
408
375
367
363
355
339
323
322
315
314
312

3A**Member Schools: 64****Range: 305-172**

Garrett-Anderson County HS	305
Concordia HS	303
Wichita-Trinity Academy	303
Kansas City-Bishop Ward HS	300
Columbus HS	296
Osawatomie HS	296
St. George-Rock Creek HS	294
Baxter Springs HS	286
Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail HS	286
Hoyt-Royal Valley HS	283
Hugoton HS	280
Hesston HS	279
Frontenac HS	276
Meriden-Jefferson West HS	275
Hiawatha HS	273
Galena HS	270
LaCygne-Prairie View HS	270
Holcomb HS	266
Marysville HS	266
Wichita Collegiate HS	266
Scott Community HS	265
Caney Valley HS	263
Lindsborg-Smoky Valley HS	263
Colby HS	262
Burlington HS	260
Perry-Lecompton HS	252
Goodland HS	246
Wellsville HS	243
Larned HS	242
Russell HS	239
Cheney HS	238
Sabetha HS	237
Riley County HS	231
Council Grove HS	229
Cherryvale HS	225
Gypsum-Southeast of Saline HS	223
Halstead HS	221
Haven HS	220
Riverton HS	214
Fredonia HS	213
Lyons HS	213
Silver Lake HS	213
Beloit HS	212
Seneca-Nemaha Central HS	210
Cimarron HS	207
Hoisington HS	205
Norton Community HS	204
Osage City HS	204
Easton-Pleasant Ridge HS	203
Kingman HS	202
Nesdesha HS	200
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral HS	199
Pomona-West Franklin HS	192
Kismet-Southwestern Heights HS	190
Eureka HS	188
Lakin HS	185
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mount Academy	184
Minneapolis HS	184
Hays-Thomas More Prep-Marian HS	182
St. Marys HS	182
Douglass HS	178
Effingham-Atchison Co Community HS	174
Humboldt HS	174
Phillipsburg HS	172

2A**Member Schools: 64****Range: 171-109**

Mound City-Jayhawk Linn HS	171
Oskaloosa HS	171
Belle Plaine HS	170
Rossville HS	169
Elsworth HS	168
Erie HS	166
Wathena-Riverside HS	164
Conway Springs HS	160
Belleville-Republic County HS	158
Garden Plain HS	158
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic HS	158
Cherokee-Southeast HS	157
Esbridge-Mission Valley HS	156
Arma-Northeast HS	155
Hillsboro HS	155
Olathe-Heritage Christian Academy	155
Ellis HS	154
Syracuse HS	153
McLouth HS	152
Whitewater-Remington HS	152
Horton HS	150
Sterling HS	147
Marion HS	146
Leon-Bluestem HS	144
Wichita-The Independent HS	142
Richmond-Central Heights HS	141
Sedgwick HS	140
Alma-Wabaussee HS	139
Brookville-Elk-Saline HS	139
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan HS	139
Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian HS	136
Medicine Lodge HS	134
Lawrence-Bishop Seebury Academy	132
Salina-Sacred Heart HS	131
Winchester-Jefferson County North HS	130
Bennington HS	128
Johnson-Stanton County HS	128
Lyndon HS	127
Oakley HS	127
Plainville HS	127
Sublette HS	127
Inman HS	126
Yates Center HS	126
Elinwood HS	124
Pratt-Skyline HS	123
WaKeeney-Trego Community HS	122
Uniontown HS	120
Herington HS	119
Smith Center HS	119
Pleasanton HS	118
Elkhart HS	117
Hill City HS	117
Hoxie HS	116
Allen-Northern Heights HS	115
Howard-West Elk HS	115
Sedan HS	114
Cottonwood Falls-Chase County HS	113
Holton-Jackson Heights HS	113
Canton-Galva HS	112
Blue Rapids-Valley Heights HS	110
Moundridge HS	110
Shawnee-Maranatha Christian Academy	110
Leoti-Wichita County HS	109
Spearsville HS	109

1A**Member Schools: 117****Range: 108-14**

Stockton HS	108
Elbing-Berean Academy	105
Little River HS	105
Meade HS	103
Ness City HS	103
Washington County HS	103
Udall HS	102
Goessel HS	101
Valley Falls HS	101
Oswego HS	98
Burdett-Central HS	97
Troy HS	97
Macksville HS	96
Atwood-Rawlins County HS	95
Rosalie-Flinthills HS	95
La Crosse HS	94
Solomon HS	93
Burlingame HS	92
Lincoln HS	92
Oberlin-Decatur Community HS	91
Oxford HS	91
St. John-Hudson HS	91
Clyde-Clifton Clyde HS	90
Jetmore-Hodgeman County HS	90
Peabody-Burns HS	90
Kinsley HS	89
Langdon-Fairfield HS	89
Highland-Doniphan West HS	87
Olpe HS	87
Centralia HS	86
Montezuma-South Gray HS	86
Moran-Marmaton Valley HS	86
Greensburg-Kiowa County HS	85
Wichita-Classical School Of Wichita	83
Onaga HS	82
Caldwell HS	80
Lebo HS	79
Minneola HS	79
Bucklin HS	78
Pretty Prairie HS	78
Sylvan-Lucas Unified HS	78
Norwich HS	77
Victoria HS	77
Coldwater-South Central HS	76
Mankato-Rock Hills HS	76
Satanta HS	76
Kensington-Thunder Ridge HS	75
Osborne HS	75
Madison HS	74
Dexter HS	72
Hanover HS	71
Burton HS	70
Hutchinson-Central Christian HS	69
St. Francis HS	69
Ingalls HS	68
McPherson-Elyria Christian HS	68
Downs-Lakeside HS	67
Wakefield HS	67
Hartford HS	66
Quinter HS	66
Dighton HS	65
Frankfort HS	65
Melvorn-Marais Des Cygnes Valley HS	65
St. Paul HS	65
Clafin-Central Plains HS	64
Colony-Crest HS	63
Randolph-Blue Valley HS	63
Scandia-Pike Valley HS	63
Lost Springs-Centre HS	62
South Haven HS	62
Rexford-Golden Plains HS	61
Chetopa HS	60
Sharon Springs-Wallace County HS	60
Buffalo-Altoona Midway HS	59
Leroy-Southern Coffey County HS	58
Otis-Bison HS	58
Grainfield-Wheatland/Grinnell HS	57
Stafford HS	57
Ashland HS	56
Linn HS	56
Tribune-Greeley County HS	55
Beloit-St. John's HS	54
Waverly HS	54
Wellmore HS	51
Attica HS	50
Deerfield HS	49
Argonia HS	48
Cunningham HS	48
Kiowa-South Barber HS	48
Rolla HS	46
Moscow HS	45
Axtell HS	42
Bird City-Cheylin HS	42
Chase HS	42
Hope HS	42
Cedar Vale HS	40
Rozel-Pawnee Heights HS	40
Tescott HS	40
Wichita-Central Christian Academy	40
Almena-Northern Valley HS	39
White City HS	39
Logan HS	38
Wilson HS	35
Fowler HS	32
Natoma HS	30
Ransom-Western Plains HS	29
Weskan HS	29
Brewster HS	28
Palco HS	28
Glasco HS	27
Longton-Elk Valley HS	26
Hamilton HS	25
Miltonvale HS	22

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.”

If 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.”

**Buffington named 2019
Louisburg Sports Zone Female
Athlete of the Year**



Not many athletes had the opportunity to experience the success Carson Buffington did during the 2018-19 school year.

Buffington found herself in two state championship matches and was a team captain in all three seasons. The 2019 Louisburg High School graduate played at a high level in all the sports she competed in and did so with the respect of her teammates of coaches.

Those are just a few of the reasons why Buffington was chosen as the 2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year.

The award, which is in its second year, is to recognize an outstanding LHS student athlete. Louisburg Sports Zone asked the head coaches at LHS to submit nominations and those nominations were then organized and submitted back to the coaches for a vote.

The coaches then submitted their top three choices and the number of votes were added up, which decided the winner.

Buffington began her memorable senior year on the volleyball court as she helped the Lady Cats to a state runner-up finish for the second consecutive season. She was an outside

hitter on the 2018
squad, which was a position she had to learn on the fly.

She spent the last two seasons as
the team's starting setter and Buffington made the move to the
front line –
which gave her team the best chance to win.

Along with her state runner-up
finish, Buffington also earned second team All-Frontier League
honors and was
named to the Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches
Association Senior All-Star
match.

“Carson was a great leader again this
past season and played a vital role on the team,” Louisburg
coach Jessica
Compliment said. “She handled transitioning to a new position
with a lot of
grace and was bound and determined to learn the ins/outs of
being a hitter,
than a setter. She previously ran our offense as the setter
for two years. But
as with each new season, new players are added to the mix and
the possibility
of changing positions/rosters arises.



(From left) Louisburg girls assistant soccer coach Michael Pickman, Louisburg head volleyball coach Jessica Compliment, Carson Buffington, Louisburg head girls basketball coach Shawn Lowry and Louisburg head girls soccer coach Kyle Conley

"I was very proud of how she 'handed' over the reins of the offense to two freshmen and how she encouraged and pushed them every day in practice. She was a great role model. Carson added a lot of emotional energy when we needed it and made huge plays at important times throughout matches."

Buffington was also a big part of the Lady Cat basketball team this past season, despite finishing short of a state tournament. She earned all-league and all-state honorable mention honors after she averaged eight points, seven rebounds and three steals per game.

She currently holds a school record with 864 career rebounds and was an all-league player for her entire four year stint with the Louisburg basketball team.

“Carson is one of the hardest working players that I have worked with coaching basketball, boys or girls,” Louisburg girls basketball coach Shawn Lowry said. “She never took a day off and always led by example. Carson was relentless as a player and was always the first one on the floor for a loose ball. As good an athlete, she is an even better young woman with great character, integrity, unselfishness and passion.”

Buffington might have had her most successful season, both team-wise and individually, in the spring as the Wildcats’ starting goalkeeper on the Louisburg girls’ soccer team.

For the second year in a row, the Wildcats were the Class 4-1A state runner-up and Buffington was a big reason why. She started all 20 games and set school records in shutouts (13), saves in a season (115), goals against average (.952) and wins (17).

With all that success, Buffington was named the Class 4-1A Goalkeeper of the Year by the Kansas Soccer Coaches Association.

“Carson in her first year as the starting goalkeeper was unbelievable,” Louisburg girls soccer coach Kyle Conley said. “She kept us in a lot of games and even won us a few. Carson is in her third year ever playing soccer as well. She started her sophomore year and has grown so much. She is a gifted three sport athlete and it shows in her ability to play goalkeeper. She has a fantastic attitude and work ethic.”

Conley named 4-1A Coach of the Year; Scholtz, Buffington players of year



Louisburg coach Kyle Conley was named as the Class 4-1A Coach of the Year by the Kansas Soccer Coaches Association for the second straight season.

Coming off its second consecutive state runner-up appearance, the Louisburg girls soccer team has had some positive repercussions recently from its historic season.

However, none bigger came last week 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.

"It is a great honor to be the coach of the year for the second straight year," Conley said. "It is extremely humbling to be recognized and voted by my peers. The part that gets left out of these awards is my assistant Michael Pickman. Without Mike, none of this is possible. He is there by my side, each and every day. He is as devoted and supporting as any friend I have. He's a fantastic coach in his own right. Especially, what he does with our goalkeepers has been outstanding. Our goalkeepers have been exceptional since the beginning and at all levels."

One of those goalkeeping students has been Buffington as she took advantage of her first full season starting in net. Buffington broke a school record with 13 shutouts, saves in a season (115), only allowed 20 goals all season and recorded 17 wins.

Buffington's biggest moment of the season came in the state semifinals when she saved three Topeka-Hayden penalty kicks that helped give Louisburg a 2-1 win over the Wildcats and a spot in the state championship.

"When I saw I was goalkeeper of the year, I was extremely surprised," Buffington said. "I had absolutely no idea I would

get it. It is such an honor. It feels so amazing to receive this award, but without my defense it would've been impossible. I thought I had my best season yet and I was very confident and determined. It was definitely the most fun season I've ever had and I'm upset it has to be over already."



Louisburg senior Carson Buffington was named the Class 4-1A Goalkeeper of the Year last week.

The honor came as a surprise for Buffington as she was named a second-team all-league goalkeeper in the Frontier League just days earlier. For Conley, the all-state honors is what Buffington deserved.

"Carson, in her first full season, just had an impressive year,"

Conley said. "She broke and set some records that may never be touched. She saved three big penalty kicks against Hayden for us. I have

been in the game a long time, and in penalty kick shootouts more than my fair share, and it's extremely rare to see a keeper at this level save three out of six. I honestly felt with her stats she should have been first team all-league goalkeeper, but it is what it is I guess."

Scholtz 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).

The Louisburg junior shared the award with Stram, who scored four goals against Louisburg in the state championship game and has committed to Saint Louis University.

"To win offensive player of the year with an SLU commit was really amazing," Scholtz said. "What that meant to me was it said that I played just as hard as her and competed just as well. I felt really proud of myself and I felt like I gave it all I had.

"I was really determined to make it back to the final four and I was going to do whatever it took to get us there."



Louisburg junior Mackenzie Scholtz was named the Class 4-1A Co-Offensive Player of the Year.

Conley also liked what he saw from his junior forward that had a big season in the Frontier League.

“She had an incredible year,” Conley said. “Mac broke so many records and they were all impressive. It was truly a special season for her.”

Along with Buffington and Scholtz, the Wildcats had three other players earn first team all-state honors. Juniors Erin Lemke and Trinity Moore were named as a forward and midfielder, respectively, while defender Kaitlyn Lewer was also selected to the first team.



Juniors Erin Lemke (left) and Trinity Moore were first team all-state selections.

Junior defender Avery O'Meara was also recognized for her play in the back as she earned second team all-state honors.

"It is truly unbelievable to see so many Louisburg Wildcats receive this tremendous honor," Conley said. "There are 25 teams in the classification of 4-1A girls soccer, which is roughly 500-550 kids that could be eligible for this award and based on our win percentage, we had six student athletes eligible to represent our school. Every one of these young ladies truly earned this tremendous honor. Mackenzie and Carson were fantastic. Erin and Trinity attacked and had really, really good seasons.

"Kaitlyn and Avery were so good for us defensively all season. The defensive players do not always have the eye-popping statistics, only allowing 20 goals all season and posting 13 shutouts speaks volumes what our defensive group has accomplished. These honors are absolutely so deserving for these young ladies. They deserve so much in what they have accomplished as a team in our journey this year."



Louisburg senior Kaitlyn Lewer (left) was a first team all-state selection on defense, while junior Avery O'Meara earned a second team honor.

It is a journey that Conley knows couldn't have happened without the help from people throughout the community.

"These awards are fantastic, but all this comes back to the community raising all that money to start this program five years ago," he said. "When I took the job here at Louisburg High, Mr. (Darin) Gagnebin hired me as the head coach to start the program. He told me of the challenges we will have and to always be prepared to handle anything. If the community didn't raise all that money, none of this is possible. Over the past four years, I told the girls we are always playing for them. Everything we do is to represent our community. We do not take anything for granted. So I feel I need to do everything in my power to honor those people that raised the money, players that played in our program, and for the community members that pack the stands each and every night.

"Regardless where we go, we ALWAYS have the most fans. All those people who go out of their way to support this team is what motivates us. As a

program, we talk about honoring those who wore the crest and those who support the crest. Our play is how we can honor them. I could not be prouder of this group of kids and their motivation to live up to our standard. This program statistically has been one of the top programs over the past four years regardless what classification you look at, but you have to keep in mind that this is only the fourth year of our programs history. What these young ladies have accomplished is been remarkable. I could not be more proud to be their coach."