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

Member Schools - 32
Range: 1854 - 1092

Wichita-East	1854
Wichita-North	1691
Wichita-Southeast	1662
Derby	1638
Garden City	1560
Dodge City	1533
Olathe South	1503
Olathe East	1477
Olathe North	1469
Topeka-Washburn Rural	1449
Wichita-South	1438
Lawrence-Free State	1411
Manhattan	1402
Topeka	1364
Olathe Northwest	1356
Kansas City-Wyandotte	1355
SM East	1353
Gardner-Edgerton	1325
Haysville Campus	1297
SM West	1277
SM Northwest	1266
Olathe West	1256
OP-Blue Valley Northwest	1233
SM North	1226
Lawrence	1221
OP-Blue Valley	1182
OP-Blue Valley West	1182
Junction City	1136
Wichita-West	1129
Kansas City-JC Harmon	1110
SM South	1106
OP-Blue Valley North	1092

5A

Member Schools - 32
Range: 1083 - 655

Liberal	1083
Hutchinson	1049
Wichita-Heights	1045
Shawnee-Mill Valley	982
Leavenworth	977
Wichita-Northwest	970
Emporia	949
Kansas City-Turner	902
Wichita-Bishop Carroll	890
Topeka West	882
Topeka-Seaman	881
Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights	876
Maize	871
Kansas City-Washington	850
Maize South	842
OP-Blue Valley Southwest	811
Salina-South	800
Newton	788
De Soto	758
Salina-Central	758
Topeka-Highland Park	757
Andover	733
Goddard-Eisenhower	725
Valley Center	699
Kansas City-Sumner Acad.	698
OP-St. Thomas Aquinas	693
Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel	693
Pittsburg	691
Hays	687
Kansas City-FL Schlagle	687
Spring Hill	668
Goddard	655

4A

Member Schools - 32
Range: 654 - 340

Lansing	654
Great Bend	651
Lenexa-St. James Academy	649
Bonner Springs	640
Arkansas City	620
Andover Central	608
Basehor-Linwood	587
McPherson	535
Kansas City-Piper	518
Ottawa	507
Buhler	497
SM-Bishop Miege	493
Augusta	491
Winfield	472
Tonganoxie	471
Independence	461
Chanute	452
Paola	447
Fort Scott	434
Louisburg	432
Towanda-Circle	429
Coffeyville-Field Kindley	409
El Dorado	400
Eudora	391
Rose Hill	381
Altamont-Labette County	377
Mulvane	375
Atchison	355
Abilene	352
Wamego	351
Wellington	345
Ulysses	340

3A

Member Schools - 48
Range: 324 - 168

Baldwin	324
Topeka-Hayden	314
Parsons	286
Andale	279
Pratt	275
Clearwater	266
Iola	256
Girard	252
Nickerson	252
Clay Center Community	247
Holton	242
Concordia	241
Kansas City-Bishop Ward	240
Garnett-Anderson County	234
Chapman	224
St. George-Rock Creek	224
Baxter Springs	223
Osawatomie	221
Columbus	220
Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail	217
Wichita-Trinity Academy	217
Hoyt-Royal Valley	216
Hugoton	216
LaCygne-Prairie View	214
Hiawatha	213
Frontenac	211
Meriden-Jefferson West	211
Holcomb	210
Burlington	203
Hesston	202
Colby	201
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-Ell-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-Maranatha 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
Rosalia-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 *(White City / Hope)*	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
Claflin-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 *(Miltonvale / Glasco)*	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

Printing Department

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		5A		4A	
Member Schools: 36		**Member Schools: 36**		**Member Schools: 36**	
Range: 2431-1312		**Range: 1305-710**		**Range: 661-312**	
Wichita-East HS	2431	↓Leavenworth HS	1305	Buhler HS	661
Wichita-North HS	2190	Wichita-Northwest HS	1260	Shawnee Mission-Bishop Miege HS	656
Wichita-Southeast HS	2164	Emporia HS	1245	Ottawa HS	653
Derby HS	2105	Maize HS	1194	Winfield HS	642
Dodge City HS	2010	Wichita-Bishop Carroll HS	1153	Kansas City-Piper HS	638
Olathe South HS	2005	Topeka-Seaman HS	1150	Augusta HS	632
Garden City HS	1985	Topeka West HS	1146	Paola HS	603
Olathe North HS	1976	Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights HS	1131	Tonganoxie HS	599
Topeka-Washburn Rural HS	1933	Overland Park-Blue Valley Southwest HS	1089	Fort Scott HS	592
Olathe East HS	1927	Kansas City-Washington HS	1084	Chanute HS	584
Olathe Northwest HS	1880	Kansas City-Turner HS	1076	Independence HS	581
Lawrence-Free State HS	1855	Maize South HS	1060	Louisburg HS	573
Wichita-South HS	1852	Salina-South HS	1046	Towanda-Circle HS	562
Manhattan HS	1823	Newton HS	1044	Coffeyville-Field Kindley HS	531
Shawnee Mission East HS	1758	Salina-Central HS	1001	El Dorado HS	528
Gardner-Edgerton HS	1729	De Soto HS	992	Mulvane HS	520
Topeka HS	1728	Andover HS	959	Eudora HS	493
Wichita-Haysville Campus HS	1712	Topeka-Highland Park HS	959	Altamont-Labette County HS	490
Shawnee Mission West HS	1638	Goddard-Eisenhower HS	952	Rose Hill HS	485
Kansas City-Wyandotte HS	1637	Overland Park-St. Thomas Aquinas HS	925	Atchison HS	472
Shawnee Mission Northwest HS	1624	Kansas City-FL Schlagle HS	909	Wellington HS	465
Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest HS	1619	Valley Center HS	904	Abilene HS	460
Lawrence HS	1601	Lenexa-St. James Academy	902	Wamego HS	446
Overland Park-Blue Valley HS	1600	Great Bend HS	884	Ulysses HS	433
Overland Park-Blue Valley West HS	1582	Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel HS	880	Baldwin HS	421
Shawnee Mission North HS	1557	Kansas City-Sumner Academy	871	Topeka-Hayden HS	408
Olathe West HS	1535	Pittsburg HS	867	Andale HS	375
Overland Park-Blue Valley North HS	1498	Hays HS	863	Clearwater HS	367
Shawnee Mission South HS	1469	Lansing HS	859	Parsons HS	363
Junction City HS	1440	Goddard HS	848	Pratt HS	355
Wichita-West HS	1421	Spring Hill HS	825	Iola HS	339
Kansas City-JC Harmon HS	1399	Andover Central HS	810	Nickerson HS	323
Hutchinson HS	1386	Bonner Springs HS	793	↑Holton HS	322
Liberal HS	1371	Basehor-Linwood HS	791	↑Girard HS	315
↑Wichita-Heights HS	1357	Arkansas City HS	765	Chapman HS	314
Shawnee-Mill Valley HS	1312	McPherson HS	710	↑Clay Center Community HS	312

3A

Member Schools: 64

Range: 305-172

↓Garnett-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
Neodesha 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
Ellsworth 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
Eskridge-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-Wabaunsee HS	139
Brookville-Ell-Saline HS	139
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan HS	139
Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian HS	136
Medicine Lodge HS	134
Lawrence-Bishop Seabury 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
Ellinwood 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
↑Spearville 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
Burden-Central HS	97
Troy HS	97
Macksville HS	96
Atwood-Rawlins County HS	95
Rosalia-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
Burrton 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
Melvern-Marais Des Cygnes Valley HS	65
St. Paul HS	65
Claflin-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
Wetmore 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.

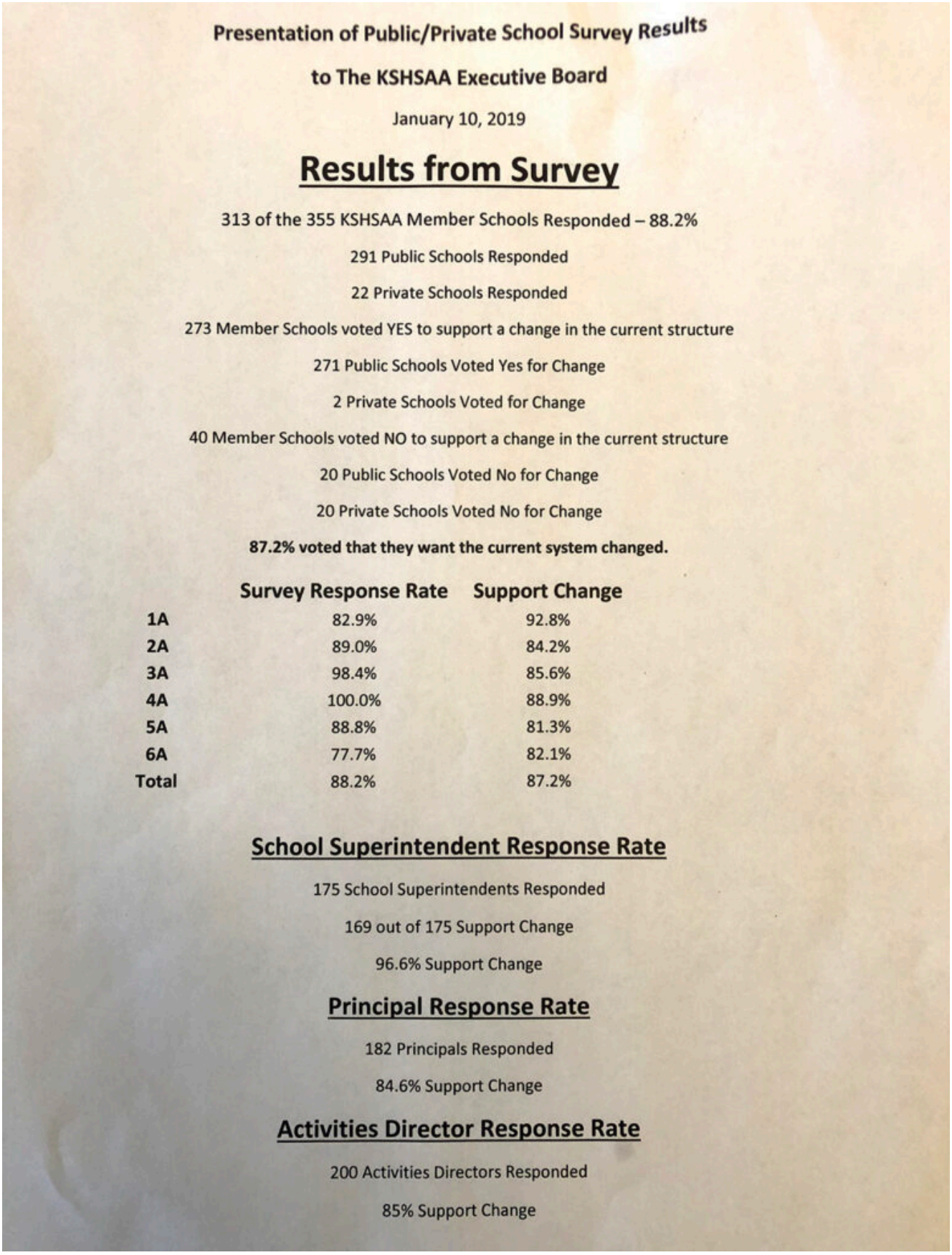
“Am I all about state championships? Absolutely not. But we also know the reality of it in the current system. Winning state championships is important for communities and is always a goal. I am not ever going to give up on this idea and neither will the Frontier League.”

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.”

Wildcats place seven on all-league girls soccer team



Louisburg juniors Mackenzie Scholtz (left) and Trinity Moore were recently named to the All-Frontier League first team. They were two of seven Wildcats selected to the all-league squad.

The Louisburg girls soccer team
had another historic season as the Wildcats advanced to the

Class 4-1A state championship match for the second year in a row and they had several key pieces that helped them along the way.

Those pieces caught the eye of the Frontier League coaches when they recently sat down to vote on the all-league team. When all was said and done, the Wildcats had seven players on the all-league squad and two first team selections.

“All-league was productive for us, but I felt we could have done better to be quite honest,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “These awards are only possible because of a fantastic group of girls around them. These type of individual awards are only possible with a team.”

Juniors Mackenzie Scholtz and Trinity Moore were selected to the first team and were two of the team’s main offensive threats. Scholtz was named to the all-league squad as a forward and Moore as a midfielder.

Scholtz had her best season as a Wildcat as she set a school record with 39 goals on the season to go along with six assists. She also had nine hat tricks, which is also a new school record.

“Mackenzie was an absolute beast for us up top,” Conley said. “She took great strides this season and has set the bar extremely high for herself going forward. I am really excited to see what next year holds for her.”

Moore was an all-league defensive player last season, but made to the move to the outside midfield spot and handled her new

position well. She finished the year with 12 goals and six assists.

“Trinity really adjusted well after a position change last year,” Conley said. “She was very explosive and attacked a lot. She has a ton of endurance and that made her very explosive attacking the outside.”

Louisburg’s second leading scorer, Erin Lemke, was also recognized for her effort. Lemke was named as a second team forward after she finished with 14 goals and a team-high 17 assists on the season. She was one assist away from tying a school record.

“Erin is one of the hardest working kids I have ever coached,” Conley said. “She has only played soccer for three years and she has grown so much. She is a handful to defend and plays with such a high motor. She is a coach’s dream with her work ethic and how coachable she is.”



Louisburg junior Erin Lemke (left) and senior Carson

Buffington were named to the all-league second team.

The Wildcats' defense had a big presence on the all-league squad as senior Kaitlyn Lewer, sophomore Madison Quinn and senior goalie Carson Buffington were also named to the second team. Senior defender Camdyn Clark was selected as an honorable mention.

Louisburg recorded 13 shutouts on the season
and a .952 goals against average, which are both school records.

"Carson is in her third year ever playing soccer," Conley said. "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. This is her first year as our starting varsity goalkeeper and she was incredible.

"Kaitlyn has been a shutdown defender for
us all season. She started at outside back, but was moved to centerback after
Camdyn got hurt. She shows up each and every day and plays as hard as she can.
She played fantastic. Madison is in her second year of playing soccer, and has
excelled at outside back. She at times might have a rare issue, but it's only
because of her inexperience. She has a great work ethic and that happy go lucky
attitude. She played almost every minute of every game for us this season.



Sophomore Madison Quinn (left), senior Kaitlyn Lewer (middle) were named to the all-league second team and senior Camdyn Clark was selected as an honorable mention.

“Camdyn was our starting centerback, but her season was once again cut short in our game against Baldwin,” Conley continued. “She hurt her meniscus and will have surgery within the next couple weeks. She helped our team to 5 of our 11 shutouts. She was having a fantastic year until her injury. She started every game of her high school career from her freshman year until this injury. She put her heart and soul into this program and was voted by her teammates as captain the past two years. I feel she earned this nomination because of her play over the first eight games of our season.”

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE SOCCER

FIRST TEAM

MIDFIELD – Caitlin Countryman, Baldwin, senior; **Trinity Moore, Louisburg, junior**; Mallory Smith, Spring Hill, senior

FORWARD – Anna Burnett, Baldwin, junior; **Mackenzie Scholtz, Louisburg**, junior; Kaylen Dawson, Spring Hill, junior

DEFENSE – Josie Boyle, Baldwin,
junior; Bianna Andrade, Piper, senior; Jalyn Stevenson, Spring Hill, sophomore

UTILITY – Kate Erpelding, Eudora,
sophomore

GOALKEEPER – Paige Ellis, Baldwin,
senior

SECOND TEAM

MIDFIELD – Kassandra Green, Bonner
Springs, senior; Ryia Richardson, Piper, sophomore; Anna Stockman, Tonganoxie,
sophomore

FORWARD – **Erin Lemke, Louisburg, junior**; Jessica Thomas, Piper, sophomore; Anna Soetaert, Tonganoxie, senior

DEFENSE – Lauren Russell, Baldwin, sophomore; **Kaitlyn Lewer, Louisburg**, **senior; Madison Quinn, Louisburg, sophomore**

UTILITY – Riley Smith, Baldwin,
freshman

GOALKEEPER – **Carson Buffington, Louisburg, senior**

HONORABLE MENTION

MIDFIELD – Emelynn Cruce, Ottawa;
Lexi Miles, Piper, sophomore; Grayson Murphy, Spring Hill, junior; Mallory
Putnam, Spring Hill, sophomore

FORWARD – Cambria Crowe, Baldwin,
sophomore; Trinity Jones, Bonner Springs, senior; Lexi Dillon, Spring Hill,
sophomore

DEFENSE – Mercedes Madlock, Bonner Springs, freshman; **Camdyn Clark, Louisburg, senior;** Kaylin Wisdom, Ottawa

UTILITY – Emma Tucker, Bonner
Springs, senior; Olivia Morton, Ottawa, freshman; Riley

Porter, Piper,
sophomore

GOALKEEPER – Emery Mounce, Spring Hill, junior

2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Year nominees



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

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

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

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

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



CARSON BUFFINGTON – SENIOR – BASKETBALL, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL

Carson was a 3-time letter winner in her senior season and was named as a team captain in volleyball, basketball and soccer.

In volleyball, Buffington earned second team All-Frontier League honors as she helped lead the Lady Cats to a Class 4A state runner-up
performance. She also moved from her starting setter position to the outside
hitter spot and had a lot of success for the Lady Cats as she tallied 130 kills

in her new position. With all that success, Buffington was also selected to the
Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches Association Senior All-Star Match.

Buffington also wrapped up a strong career for the Louisburg basketball team as she averaged eight points and seven rebounds to go along
with three steals a contest. She was named as a Frontier League honorable
mention this past season, and she also was selected as an all-state honorable
mention.

In girls soccer, Buffington was the starting goalie for Louisburg in all 20 games. She posted 13 shutouts, which is a school record and had a .952 goals against average, which is also a school record. Buffington had 90 saves on the season that ended as a Class 4-1A state runner up for the second consecutive year. For her efforts, she was also selected second team All-Frontier League. Buffington was also named first team all-state goalie and was named Goalkeeper of the Year.



ANNA DIXON – SENIOR – VOLLEYBALL

Anna wrapped up her fourth volleyball season as a varsity starter for the Lady Cats and guided Louisburg to its second consecutive Class 4A-state runner-up finish.

Dixon, who is currently with the Kansas State volleyball team, ended her senior season with 584 kills and had a hitting percentage of .260. She also added 325 digs, 50 aces and 42 blocks as she played all six rotations. With those lofty numbers, Dixon earned several big time honors in her final season.

She was selected as an All-Frontier League first team player and was also named to the 4A State All-Tournament Team. Those honors continued as she was named the Kansas Volleyball Coaches Association Class 4A Player of the Year and earned a spot on KVA All-State First Team.

Following the season, Dixon was also named as an Under-Armour All-American also earned MaxPreps/American Volleyball Coaches Association Player of the Week honors.



ALYSE MOORE – SOPHOMORE – BASKETBALL, SOFTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD

Alyse is a 3-sport varsity letter-winner this past year as she earned letters for the basketball, softball and track and field teams. This past spring season, Moore went to state in two different sports and became the first Wildcat athlete in recent memory to do so.

In her first season in track and field, Moore threw the javelin for the Lady Cats and went on to become regional champion as she

eclipsed her personal best throw by almost 25 feet in just her third
competition of the season. The following week, she medaled fourth at the Class
4A state tournament with a personal best throw of 131 feet and 9 inches.

Moore was also the starting shortstop for the Lady Cats as she helped Louisburg to its first regional championship since 2014.

During the basketball season, Moore was a starter for the Lady Cats and averaged six points, five rebounds and three steals a game.



TRINITY MOORE – JUNIOR – CROSS COUNTRY, SOCCER

Trinity is 2-sport letter-winner for Louisburg this past year as she had state performances in both cross country and soccer.

During the fall, Moore was the top runner on the Louisburg

girls cross country team as she helped the Lady Cats to a regional runner-up finish and qualified for state as a team for the first time in school history. Moore medaled fourth at the Class 4A state meet in Wamego and currently holds the school record for the fastest time in program history. She also earned first-team All-Frontier League honors for her third place finish at the league meet.

In soccer, Moore was a starter on the Wildcat team that recently finished as the Class 4-1A state runner-up for the second consecutive year. At the midfield spot, she finished the season with 12 goals and six assists and was also named to the All-Frontier League first team.



DELANEY WRIGHT – FRESHMAN – BASKETBALL, CROSS

COUNTRY, TRACK AND FIELD

Delaney is a 3-sport letter-winner as she took part in cross country, basketball and track and field and competed at the state level in two of those.

Wright found most of her success in track and field as she earned four medals at the Class 4A Kansas State Track and Field Championships in Wichita this past month. She medaled in the long jump, 400-meter-dash, 200-meter dash and as a member of the 4×400-relay.

During the regional meet, Wright broke two school records (long jump, 400 dash) and earned a regional and Frontier League title in the long jump. She also earned a medal in the long jump at the Kansas Relays earlier in the season.

In cross country, Wright was a member of the Louisburg team that finished as a Class 4A regional runner-up and qualified for the state meet as a team for the first time in school history. In basketball, Wright saw playing time at the varsity level as a freshman at different points throughout the season.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



BLUE CAPLINGER – SENIOR – BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WRESTLING

Blue is a 4-sport letter-winner in football, wrestling, baseball and track and field and competed at the state level in two of the sports.

In football, Caplinger was an All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball as he was named to the first team defense as a defensive back and second team offense as a multi-purpose player. On defense, Caplinger, who helped Louisburg to a 10-1 record and a regional championship, had 31 tackles from the safety spot and also had two tackles for a loss, two fumble

recoveries and an interception. Offensively, he had 544 total yards and six touchdowns.

On the wrestling mat, Caplinger was a regional champion at 170 pounds and finished his season with a 33-5 record. The Louisburg senior fell one match short of state medal with a 2-2 record at the Class 4A state tournament. He currently holds the school record for most career reversals (72) and most career escapes (86). Following the season, he was also named to the KWCA Academic All-State first team.

Caplinger split time between baseball and track and field in the spring. Although he spent time as a reserve and pinch-runner on the baseball team, Caplinger found a lot of success on the track.

He qualified for state as a member of two relays. Caplinger was a member of the 4×400 relay team that won the Class 4A state championship in 3 minutes and 25 seconds. Caplinger also helped the 4×100 relay to a fifth place finish and went on to garner two state medals.

Caplinger will join the Benedictine football team this fall.



AUSTIN MOORE – SENIOR – FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WRESTLING

Austin is a 3-sport letter winner in football, wrestling and track and field and was among the state's best in two of the sports.

Moore thrived on the football field for the Wildcats as he helped Louisburg to a 10-1 record and a regional championship. Moore was a first team All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball and was the league's leading vote-getter. He went on to rack up all-state awards as the Louisburg senior earned Class 4A first team all-state honors as a running back from the Topeka Capital-Journal and the Kansas Football Coaches Association. Moore was also named as a Class 4A first team all-state linebacker from the Wichita Eagle.

When the season was all said and done, Moore tallied 1,554 total yards from the running back spot, including 1,428 yards on the ground,
and had 21 touchdowns before he broke his collarbone during the regional
championship game.

With those numbers, he was named the Kansas Small Class Player of the Year by 810 Varsity and was All-Purpose Player of the Year by Kpreps.com. Earlier this year, Moore was also named to the Kansas Shrine Bowl roster.

On the wrestling mat, Moore missed more than half of the season with his broken collarbone, but came back in a big way. Moore won his first 14 matches when coming back at 220 pounds, which included a regional championship. He went on to earn his first state medal as he finished fourth at the Class 4A state tournament with a 3-2 record. He was also named to the KWCA Academic All-State first team.

During the spring, he was a member of the Louisburg track and field team and threw the javelin for the Wildcats. He was also on the throwers relay that ranked Top 5 nationally at one point in the season.

Moore will join the Kansas State football team this fall.



KIEFER TUCKER – SENIOR – FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WEIGHTLIFTING

Kiefer is a 2-sport letter winner in football and track and field and also went to state competition in two activities.

Tucker was a presence on the line of scrimmage for the Louisburg football team as he was a first team All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball and helped the Wildcats to a 10-1 record and a regional championship.

The Louisburg senior was among on the leaders on the offensive line as he helped pave the way for more than 3,500 yards of total offense. On defense, Tucker recorded 55 tackles from the defensive end spot, including three tackles for a loss, three forced fumbles, a fumble recovery and a sack. Those numbers helped earn him honorable mention all-

state honors and was
also named to the all-state team by the Kansas Football Coaches Association.
The honors kept coming for Tucker as he was recently selected to participate in
the Kansas Shrine Bowl.

During the winter, Tucker was a member of the Louisburg powerlifting team and certainly made his mark there as well. Tucker won the Class
4A state championship in the 220-pound class and broke a 24-year-old record in
the bench press with a lift of 375 pounds.

In track and field, Tucker qualified for state for the first time in the discus. He finished as a regional runner-up and went on to take ninth at the Class 4A state meet in Wichita, just one spot away from earning a state medal.

Tucker will join the Emporia State football team this fall.

OPINION: Wildcats' journey a more impressive feat than state title



Members of the Louisburg girls soccer team break it down

shortly before the Wildcats' state championship game Saturday against Bishop Miege.

On the surface, Bishop Miege's string of four straight state girls soccer titles is an impressive one. Anytime a program can win the final game of the season in four consecutive years is an admirable feat.

The Stags have a great program, with very talented players and a tradition that is second to none as far as Class 4-1A programs go. They are the crème of the crop.

However, if you dig a little deeper, you see a program – during the same four year period – that you could say has made even bigger strides without ever winning a state title. I think you all can take a guess where I am going with this.

A little more than four years ago, a group of soccer parents helped raise $39,000 in less than 12 months in order to have a girls soccer program at Louisburg High School. That, in itself, is an achievement worth celebrating.

Those parents and community members would immediately see a return in their investment.

In the program's first season, the Wildcats would go on to win a regional title and finish one game short of a state final four appearance.

Louisburg wouldn't have to wait long as it would win its first state quarterfinal game in 2017 and went on to

finish fourth at state. It was one of those improbable beginnings to a program
that are rarely seen.

As it turned out, the Wildcats
were just getting started. In the last two seasons, they have advanced to the
state championship game only to come up short both times thanks to the big
obstacle of Bishop Miege.

What makes it all the more
impressive is the Wildcats have done this in a small town setting. The
Louisburg school district probably has an estimated population of 4,000 (give
or a take a few hundred) from which it can draw students.

Miege, a private school, can draw athletes
from both sides of the state line and all over the Kansas City metro area. They
aren’t breaking rules, but they are using a system to their advantage (which is
a different column for a different day).

So, I ask, what is the bigger accomplishment
here?

Since the program’s inception,
everything has seemed to have gone right for Louisburg. The school made the
right coaching hires in head coach Kyle Conley and assistant Michael Pickman.

Both coaches have been invaluable to
the growth of the team and they have helped create a connection with the town
that I couldn’t have imagined when it all began. They have great relationships

with their players, and the respect is mutual.



Louisburg senior Hallie Hutsell gets a hug from head coach Kyle Conley as she comes off the field for the final time, while fellow senior Leia Shaffer goes to hug teammate Mackenzie Scholtz.

It was all the more evident
Saturday as time was winding down and Conley began to sub his seniors out of
the game – one at a time – giving them one final farewell. Carson Buffington,
Hallie Hutsell, Kaitlyn Lewer, Leia Shaffer and Julianne Finley all left the
field knowing what they had accomplished.

After it was all over, senior Camdyn Clark – a four year starter – who was forced to sit out with an injury midway through the season, also said her goodbyes to her coaches and teammates.

Clark was in the starting lineup
four years ago at Harmon High School when the Wildcats played

their first-ever
game, and it all came full circle when it was all over last weekend.



This was the first starting lineup for the Louisburg girls soccer team when the program began in 2016. Clark (No. 7) was a four-year starter for the Wildcats.

“I think what makes our program so
unique is that every year it’s different,” Clark said. “The dynamic changes,
the chemistry is new, but through our coaching and hard work that each girl gives,
we are successful. Our amount of skill, numbers and talent has varied every year,
but our determination and hard work is what makes our team so hard to beat.

“I knew our team would do big
things from the start because we had things to prove and we wanted to make our
community proud. They fought for this program and everyone who is on our team
knows we couldn’t have done it without them.”

They were the first group of
seniors who had the opportunity to stay with the program all four years. All of
them played roles on a team that won 17 games this season, but

also helped
contribute to the team’s past successes.

“It was extremely hard to step off
the field,” Hutsell said. “I couldn’t believe it was our last time playing
together. Everyone was hugging and crying – it was a bittersweet moment. I
cannot express how proud I am of everything the program has accomplished in
four short years. That is more than my freshman year self could have dreamt of
at my first high school practice.

“I remember the first game in
program history and being so unsure about the season. But the past four years
has wiped away any doubt about the LHS girls soccer team. I think we have
showed everyone that we should never be underestimated and we have earned the
respect of other teams in the state. It wouldn’t have been possible though
without Coach Conley and Coach Pickman and I can’t imagine a better pair to run
a program.”

It is that bond between players,
coach and community that has helped the Wildcats rise to the level where they
are today. Sure, a few good players certainly help the cause, but the belief in
each other is what carries the load.

“When you look at our community,
they raised $39,000 to start a soccer program four years ago and that is what
we do,” Conley said. “We are playing for all of those people.

We are playing
for the town, we are playing for all the people on Facebook or Twitter that are
trying to follow along because we know that without those people that this
doesn’t happen. We want to try and honor them the best way we know how, and
that is playing hard and doing things the right way. It is unbelievable. The
community is everything to us and everything to me.”

So as the clock hit zero, their season was officially over. It didn’t take long for realization to set in that this was it for the Wildcat seniors



Louisburg coach Kyle Conley huddles his team up following their state quarterfinal win earlier this month. Conley has guided Louisburg to a 58-22-2 record since the program’s inception.

“Every year I looked forward to
soccer season to start and this year my season was cut short, so it was kind of
over before everyone else’s,” Clark said. “Having to accept

that my knee would
render me from being out there with my girls, made me feel so guilty and
helpless. I was supposed to be there for my team and I wasn’t.

“The hardest part, however, was
watching them earn their second place state medals. It hit me then that that I
wouldn’t be doing this again. I wouldn’t have another chance to fight for a
plaque at state, I wouldn’t huddle with my team before each game and I wouldn’t
be with these girls next year. My fellow seniors and I were done and this was
our final mark on Louisburg girls soccer history.”

So to recap, in four years time
the Wildcats started a program from scratch, captured four straight regionals
titles, made it to the state quarterfinal in its first season and then rattled
off three consecutive state final four appearances and two state runner-up
finishes.

But for some that isn’t the bigger
story. Winning it all ultimately trumps everything in our society.

Not for this group, though. Sure,
winning a state title will be great, but it is the family atmosphere that is
the Wildcats’ biggest asset – starting with their coaches.

“We are a family and we will
always be there for each other,” Clark said. “That is my favorite part of the
whole thing. The coaches have made a lasting impact on me and

will always be a
reason I am who I am today. Both of them have pushed me to be the best I can be
and have helped me through more than they know.

“From the start, I credit a lot of
our success to them. People who have never played soccer in their life have
become varsity players because of what Conley and Pickman have done. I had no
idea how to play soccer coming into the program and they have taught me
everything I know. They have been incredible influences on me and our team.
They’re what make us a family.”

Because when it comes down to it,
family is what truly matters.

Louisburg girls soccer finishes second at wild state tournament



Louisburg captains Erin Lemke (left) and Carson Buffington hold up the Class 4-3-2-1A state runner-up trophy Saturday following the Wildcats 4-0 loss to Bishop Miege in the

championship game at Hummer Sports Park in Topeka.

TOPEKA – When it was all said and done, the Louisburg girls soccer held its team 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.



Trinity Moore battles a Bishop Miege player for a 50-50 ball Saturday during the state championship game in Topeka.

“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."

The two teams battled to a scoreless first half, but Louisburg junior Mackenzie Scholtz changed all that as she found the back of the net with 28 minutes left in the match to give the a Wildcats a 1-0 advantage.



Junior Mackenzie Scholtz tries to beat the Bishop Miege defense Saturday in Topeka.

In what was a physical contest on both sides, Hayden eventually found a crack in the Wildcat defense and tied it all up with 10 minutes remaining in regulation. Neither team could get a score in the first two 10-minute overtime periods, and then played

two five-minutes
overtimes with the game still tied at 1-all.

“Each side really wanted to win
for a chance to play in the championship,” Hutsell said. “Hayden had not
forgotten that we beat them for that chance last year and it showed throughout
the entire game and four overtimes. Everyone was exhausted, but the team kept
pushing and motivating each other and I think that’s what helped us eventually
win.”

It all forced penalty kicks as
Scholtz, Trinity Moore and Morgan Messer helped Louisburg make three of its
five opportunities. On the other end, Buffington recorded two pivotal saves to
keep the Wildcats’ hopes alive.

“We were not very effective in
taking PK’s in practice so I was a little worried,” Conley said. “We talked to
Carson on how to do things the right way, what to prep for, how to read it and
what is going on. She made three huge saves and there aren’t many goalies in the
state that will make two of those saves in the bottom corner. It was a great
opportunity and a lot of fun.”



Photo courtesy of Bryan Frank

The Louisburg girls soccer team celebrates on the field after Hallie Hutsell converted the final penalty kick in the Wildcats' 2-1 win over Hayden.

Both teams chose their next five players to take the next set of penalty kicks, but Buffington recorded her third save on Hayden's first try on the second round of kicks.

Hutsell ended it all as her shot found the upper left corner of the net to end it for Louisburg and the Wildcats were onto the championship match.

"When my name was called I was so nervous," Hutsell said. "I actually had no idea my kick was for the win. I was just worried that I would miss the shot. When I stepped up to the ball though, some of my nerves went away because I knew the team had my back no matter what.

“When I made the shot I was confused because the team stormed the field. I remember thinking, ‘We still have four more kickers.’ But when the ref blew his whistle I knew and started freaking out. I was so proud of my team for battling it out and earning a place in the championship.”



Louisburg goalie Carson Buffington runs in front of a Bishop Miege player for a save Saturday in Topeka.

Bishop Miege went on to defeat
Buhler, 4-0, in the next semifinal match and the Wildcats had a little break
before meeting the defending state champion.

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.

“(Stram) is a Division 1 kid and
she is special. They have a team full of kids who understand how to play and
they are good.”



The Louisburg girls soccer team poses with its state runner-up trophy following the state tournament Saturday in Topeka.

Louisburg had won 10 straight matches going into the championship game and the Wildcats finished their season with a 17-4 record. Other than the final result, it was a season to remember for the Wildcats, but they know they can take pride in what they have accomplished.

“It was a fantastic season, but it
stinks right now,” Conley said. “I hate losing, the kids hate losing and I hate
saying bye to kids who aren’t going to be a part of our program anymore. Once I

have time to reflect on how everything transpired with 10 straight wins to
basically end the season, there will be a lot of positives. We broke a lot of
records this year that are going to be really, really tough to beat and this is
a really special group.”

Wildcats advance to state semis for third straight year



The Louisburg girls soccer team celebrates its 3-0 win over Kansas City Christian on Tuesday at Wildcat Stadium. The Wildcats’ win in the state quarterfinals puts them in the state semifinals for the third consecutive season.

The celebration was a little more
muted this time around.

For the third straight season, the
Louisburg girls soccer team earned a spot in the Class 4-3-2-1A state
semifinals after the Wildcats’ 3-0 victory over Kansas City Christian on
Tuesday in Louisburg.

The finish was anti-climatic,

unlike the past two years where the Wildcat secured a semifinal berth with golden goals. Tuesday's match might not have had the same excitement, but Louisburg is thrilled to be able to reach the state's final four for the third year in a row.

"It is a lot of fun," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "This was our goal, and that is what the kids wanted, which was to get back and try and do better than they did last year. I appreciate the kids and their effort and it is really cool. It is powerful and it is a tribute to the kids and how hard they play.

"The kids just go at it every day and it is just an incredible run they have been on. There aren't many teams in the state that can say they have been to the state tournament three years in a row."

Louisburg, which defeated Kansas City Christian 6-0 earlier in the season, went up against a more determined Panther team this time around. The Panthers got the first shot on goal and nearly had the game's first score, but goalie Carson Buffington got the save.

It also took a little time for the Wildcat attack to get going, but Louisburg was able find the back of the net 13 minutes into the match.

Junior Mackenzie Scholtz scored

her first of two goals after junior Avery O’Meara sent a long pass over the
Panther defense and Scholtz raced to the ball and beat the Panther goalie for
the score.

Ten minutes later, the Wildcats
struck again. Junior Erin Lemke sent a through ball to fellow junior Morgan
Messer, who found the back of the net and the Wildcats took their 2-0 lead into
halftime.



Junior Mackenzie Scholtz races down the field on Kansas City Christian on Tuesday at Wildcat Stadium.

Despite the lead, it wasn’t the
type of play the Wildcats were looking for.

“The first half we had no purpose and we were just kicking the ball,” Conley said. “The second half, we moved the ball and were attacking a lot more. We had plenty of good chances, we just couldn’t bury one. The second half was much better and we

did a good job to get back on track.”

Defensively, the Wildcats were stingy in giving the Panthers opportunities to score. Buffington recorded her eighth shutout in the last nine matches.

“I know we came out with a win, but I know we could have done a lot better,” Buffington said. “We probably could have beaten them by a little bit more, but we are just going to have to keep our heads straight, especially with the semifinals coming up.

“We were just more focused last time around when we played them. I think we were playing hard this time, but I don’t think we played as smart as we could have like coach said.”



Louisburg defender Kaitlyn Lewer clears the ball out of the

back Tuesday at Wildcat Stadium.

Louisburg controlled possession in the second half and had several opportunities on goal. One of those found the net as sophomore Olivia Barber played a through ball to Scholtz and she put the shot away for the game’s third goal.

The Wildcats also had the opportunity to play on the new turf at Wildcat Stadium, and while the team had been practicing on it, it still took some getting used after playing on grass most of the season.

“It was nice,” Conley said of the turf. “It was fast, actually it was really fast. I think our girls struggled a little bit with it. When we are playing on grass, the ball likes to hold up a little bit and we are ok to go. On here the ball just takes off and it is a really quick surface. I think it will be good for us moving forward and help us prepare for the surface out at state.”



Sophomore Olivia Barber (10) wins a 50-50 opportunity with the help of teammate Trinity Moore on Tuesday.

Louisburg (16-3) will square off with Topeka-Hayden (13-4-2) in the state semifinals at 5 p.m. today at Hummer Sports Complex in Topeka.

The Wildcats knocked off Hayden, 1-0, in last year's state semifinal game and the Wildcats realize nothing is going to be easy from here on out.

"We have our work cut out for us," Conley said. "They are a really good group of teams and the ones in the West are pretty solid. We are just going to have to bear down and hopefully our experience kicks in and we understand what it is expected.

"Hopefully their heads are right in regards to our expectation and what the state atmosphere is like. We are

experienced enough where I don’t think we will have that deer in the headlights
look anymore. We have to play a much better game and be more aggressive.”

The winner of that match will play
the winner between Buhler (15-4) and Bishop Miege (11-7-1) at 2 p.m. on
Saturday in the championship match. The loser of each game will play for third
at noon.

“I want to play in the
championship game and win state and the other girls feel the same way,”
Buffington said. ‘It would be amazing to win a state title, but we are going to
have to play well.”

REGIONAL CHAMPS: Wildcats knock off Piper to advance to state



The Louisburg girls soccer team celebrated its fourth straight Class 4-3-2-1A regional title Thursday with a 2-0 victory over Piper in Louisburg.

The Louisburg girls soccer team is one of the youngest tenured programs in the state, but at the same time, it is one of the more accomplished.

Louisburg added to its list of accolades Thursday when it hosted Piper for the Class 4A regional championship. The Wildcats' 2-0 victory over the Pirates, not only avenged a loss from earlier in the season, but gave them their fourth consecutive regional title.

Add to the fact that the Wildcats are currently just in their fourth year of existence, makes each of these regional titles special in their own way.

"The feeling is amazing," junior Mackenzie Scholtz said. "Winning a regional title shows everyone how much work we have put in all season and lets us prove to everyone that we work hard all of the time.

"The feeling hasn't really changed over these three years. It's so much fun getting to win in front of half of the town and seeing everyone so proud of us. I don't think it will ever get old because it is so exhilarating every time."

Louisburg finds itself in familiar territory as the Wildcats (15-3) host Kansas City Christian (9-6-1) on Tuesday for the Class 4-3-2-1A state quarterfinals. The Wildcats have advanced to the state semifinals the last two seasons, including a state

runner-up finish last
year.

Although the Wildcats have had plenty of success in past seasons, they realize they should celebrate the journey, and the win against Piper was no less special than the three previous regional titles.



Junior captain Erin Lemke puts a shot on goal Thursday against Piper.

“It is absolutely incredible what the
young ladies within this program has created in our first four years as a
program,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “I could not be happier with how
hard these girls play and how they play for our community. The girls in our
program acknowledge how much we owe the community for creating this opportunity
for these young ladies. We have been very spoiled here at Louisburg with the

success we have had. Four straight regional championships is unbelievable.

“We have our goals as a program and playing for a regional championship is on our list every year. These girls understand the importance of the work it takes to achieve something like this and to not take it for granted. The girls were ecstatic with our win over a really quality team in Piper. We felt that we had something to prove after losing to them earlier in the year.”

The Wildcats used that loss earlier in the year to the Pirates as motivation and it was evident early in the match that Louisburg wasn’t going to let the same result happen this time around.

Louisburg was aggressive on the attack as the Wildcats had several early opportunities on the Pirate defense, but couldn’t find the net in the first 20 minutes. From there, things opened up for Louisburg.



Louisburg senior Julianne Finley pushes the ball up the field against Piper.

Junior Morgan Messer got a pass from midfielder Erin Lemke near the top of the box and Messer took the shot and found the right corner of the net to put the Wildcats up 1-0.

Late in the first half, the Wildcats struck again as Scholtz had a breakaway opportunity down the left side of the field and beat the Piper goalie for an open net and the Wildcats led 2-0 at halftime.

“It was nice to get some goals early, but 2-0 is the worst lead to have because as you get up two, you start to get comfortable and stop playing as hard or as aggressive,” Conley said. “We did a nice job of playing pretty well in the second half, but the last 10 minutes was a little nerve-racking. We made some adjustments but struggled to stay aggressive in the

midfield. The
girls played hard and did a really nice job with having pressure and cover all
over the field.”



Junior Trinity Moore takes a shot in the second half of the Wildcats regional title matchup against Piper.

Piper did put some shots on goal in the second half to try and get back in the match, but the Wildcat defense held firm as goalie Carson
Buffington recorded her seventh shutout in her last eight matches.

The Louisburg defense of Kaitlyn Lewer, Madison Quinn, Skylar Bowman, Avery O’Meara and Hallie Hutsell has been a stabilizing force in recent
weeks and that includes senior captain Camdyn Clark, who was recently lost for
the season due to an injury.

“Our defense has been fantastic,” Conley said. “Those young ladies all have played incredible. The defense has posted 12

shutouts and a
.882 goals against average. The girls are playing aggressive and being
fundamentally sound. I love how hard they are playing and the intensity they
are playing with. They have been fantastic all year."

Before the Wildcats' match against Piper, they were just coming
off an upset win over Spring Hill at home and they believed that helped them
against the Pirates and will continue to do so moving forward.

"We played a really good first half against Piper and our win over Spring Hill before that gave us momentum," Lemke said. "Both teams beat us
earlier in the year, so to pull off wins so late in the year, and in the
postseason, is exciting.

"The win against Piper was huge. We went into that game feeling like we had something to prove. We wanted the regional title, and another shot at state to motivated us through the game."



The Louisburg girls soccer team poses with the Class 4-1A regional title trophy following its 2-0 win over Piper.

Louisburg will have its shot at the state semifinals Tuesday against Kansas City Christian. The Wildcats, who will host KCC at 5 p.m., defeated the Panthers, 6-0, earlier in the season.

“It is going to be a big game,” Conley said. “Kansas City Christian is a very dangerous team and have some really talented players down the middle of the field. We will need to play our game and play well to win. They are very fast up top as well.”