Buffington's first goal seals rout of Bonner Springs



Louisburg senior Carson Buffington finds the back of the net Thursday on this shot to record her first varsity goal. Buffington also earned the shutout as the Wildcats' goalie in the 10-0 win over Bonner Springs.

Carson Buffington knew this could be her last shot.

The Louisburg goalie had a chance to play in the field earlier this season against Ottawa in hopes of scoring her first-ever goal. Buffington came up short in her one opportunity and Wildcat head coach Kyle Conley was going to give her one final chance.

"Carson doesn't have a lot of soccer experience, but she mentioned to me that she wanted to try and score a goal," Conley said "We tried against Ottawa and couldn't get it to work. I told her she would get one more chance, but I didn't know when it would be."

That chance come on Thursday and Buffington took full advantage.

With the Wildcats up nine goals on Bonner Springs at halftime in Louisburg, Buffington battled through the Bonner Springs defense as she forced her way into the box and put a shot in the back of the net early in the second half to give Louisburg a 10-0 win.

"She was like a bull in a china

shop," Conley said. "Carson was just running through kids and bulldozing her

way in there. She is a kid who just started playing her sophomore year and was

scared to death of it at first. We got her some reps last year and has taken

full advantage of being the starting goalkeeper this year.

"Obviously this game got to the

point where we could give her a shot at it. It is a really cool moment for her

and the girls got all excited for her. It is always good to see the kids play

for something that is bigger than themselves and playing for their teammates.

That is the stuff that our program is all about."

It was an offensive explosion for

Louisburg as it started with Mackenzie Scholtz. The Louisburg junior had a hat

trick 20 minutes into the contest and finished with a gamehigh five goals as

she ripped through the Bonner Springs defense.

Junior Morgan Messer also had her

best game on the varsity level as she recorded a hat trick and the two players

accounted eight of the team's 10 goals.

"The kids have been busting their

butt," Conley said. "We talk all the time if you are the bench that you are

paying attention to what is going on and what to do, so when you get your

opportunity, you take advantage of it. Morgan took full advantage of what they

gave her. It is good to get her going again and it is a pretty

good time to do
it."



Junior Morgan Messer celebrates with her teammates Thursday after the first of her three goals against Bonner Springs.

Bonner Springs opened the game by

playing a high line and tried to frustrate the Wildcat attack by forcing them

offsides. It worked for the first few minutes of the contest, but the Wildcats

quickly figured it out.

Scholtz scored the first three goals of the match on assists from Erin Lemke and Skylar Bowman. Messer then answered with a goal thanks to an assist from Olivia Barber, and Trinity Moore won a 50-50 ball in the box for a score that led to a 5-0 advantage.

Messer answered with two more goals late in the first half on assists from Emma Christy and Moore, Scholtz added two more to make it a 9-0 halftime advantage.

"Bonner had kind of a jail break on their high line that they played," Conley said. "They would run everyone up and it took a little while for the girls to read it and understand it. They just needed to give four of five more yards, so when they come running up, then we just run right back at them. We have enough speed on top where we probably left five or six on the board in the first half. The girls played hard and I was pleased with the adjustments they made."

Buffington's goal early in the

second half ended the match with the mercy rule and gave the Wildcat keeper

another shutout. Louisburg's defense didn't give up many opportunities as

Kaitlyn Lewer, Julianne Finley, Madison Quinn, Avery O'Meara and Hallie Hutsell

all played strong in the back.

The Wildcats (10-3) have one final

week of regular season play remaining and it is a big one as they are scheduled

to play three times this week. Louisburg will begin that gauntlet at 3:30 today

when it travels to Tonganoxie.

"It is a big week and there is a

lot of spots to gain or lose, Conley said. "Looking at the seedings, we are

probably going to be a top four seed regardless of what happens but we could

slide into the two spot or just stay at a three or four and just go from there.

Hopefully we can play well."

LOUISBURG ROUTS BASEHOR-LINWOOD FOR

PROGRAM'S 50th WIN

The duo of Erin Lemke and Mackenzie Scholtz proved to be too much for Basehor-Linwood last Monday in Louisburg.

Lemke had a career night as she

finished with four goals, and Scholtz added a hat trick for herself as the

Louisburg girls soccer team rolled Basehor-Linwood, 7-0, in Louisburg.

It was also an historic showing

from the Wildcats as they recorded the program's 50^{th} win in just their

fourth year of existence.



Junior Erin Lemke puts a shot on goal last Monday against Basehor-Linwood.

"The girls came out and played pretty well," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "We worked on

our inside runs a

lot because the week before was just brutal. We just spent a lot of time in

practice on where to be and where to cut and it just really paid off. It was really

a big night and the girls played hard.

"Between Mackenzie, Erin and the two outside midfielders, we just pressed all the time. We caught defenders on their heels and we were able to play balls through. It is funny because when you get two steps on your defender, they just aren't going to catch you. We worked on that timing and worked on when to get to that run instead of standing with that last defender. It gave us a head start."

The Wildcats didn't need much of a

head start with the speed they have up top as Scholtz and Lemke each scored two

goals to put Louisburg up 4-0 at halftime. The Wildcats didn't slow down much

as Lemke opened the second half with a pair of scores to all but seal the win.

Wildcats get pair of shutouts to continue winning streak



Louisburg defender Madison Quinn tries to dribble past an Ottawa player Tuesday in Louisburg. The Wildcats picked up a pair shutout victories last week, including a 1-0 win Thursday in Eudora.

The Louisburg girls soccer team had to deal with two different opponents Thursday when the Wildcats traveled to Eudora.

Not only did the Wildcats have to contend with the Cardinals, but they also had to go against a blustery wind that didn't give them many chances in one half of Thursday's match. Despite that, Louisburg found a way to get a big road win.

The Wildcats used a second-half goal from Erin Lemke to leave Eudora with a 1-0 victory and they have now won three consecutive matches.

"It was a game of two halves against

Eudora," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "The wind was blowing 25 miles-per-hour

in our face and we did a nice job of handling their pressure. We were able to

have 3 or 4 fantastic opportunities but struggled to capitalize in the first half.

"The second half the wind died down

compared to the first half, but we controlled the game and had tons of chances,

but just couldn't find the back of the net. I think the girls did a nice job of

limiting their offensive chances, but we struggled at times with our execution."

Early in the second half, Louisburg (8-3)

was awarded a corner kick and Lemke was in the right place at the right time as she put the attempt away and found the back of the net.

The Wildcats had plenty of other

opportunities throughout the match, but the Cardinals (4-7) packed their

defense in and didn't allow many good looks at the goal.

Still, Louisburg was able to leave with

Eudora with a victory as it put together a solid defensive effort, including a

second consecutive shutout from goalie Carson Buffington.

"I like how hard we played and the

amount of energy we played with," Conley said. "I think it was a wake-up call

to our girls not to take anything for granted. We didn't play our best game,

but we were able to survive. Sometimes you need to win ugly games and we did just that."

Louisburg has a busy week ahead of

itself as it hosts Basehor-Linwood at 4:30 p.m. today and then will travel to

Tonganoxie tomorrow for a match. The Wildcats will conclude their week with another

home game Thursday when they will host Bonner Springs.

"It is a big week for us," Conley said. "We have three games with

teams that play really hard, with a lot of energy. I think this week will show

us where we are at and what we are made of. It is going to be a challenging

week, and I think that it will help us for a playoff run."

Wildcats blank Ottawa

It truly was a team effort Tuesday when Louisburg hosted Ottawa at Wildcat Sports Complex.

The Wildcats scored six times and never looked back in what was a 6-0 victory over the Cyclones. Although the Wildcats were dealing with some injuries, Louisburg head coach Kyle Conley was able to get all 22 players into the game at one point and a lot of them saw significant minutes.

"We played pretty well and moved the ball very nicely for a majority of the first half," Conley said. "We worked on some things and put some players in positions we do not usually play, but the girls played hard. I felt we got a little complacent at the start of the second half, but the girls played pretty well for from about the first five minutes of the second half and on.

"We were able to get all 22 kids into the game and let them continue to get varsity experience. The defense did a great

job limiting them to just one shot, while the offense had 47 shots."



Junior Trinity Moore tries to beat the Ottawa goalie to the ball Tuesday in Louisburg.

Juniors Mackenzie Scholtz and Trinity Moore were a problem for the Cyclones all night as the two combined for five of the six Louisburg goals.

Moore scored the game's first and final goals, while Scholtz had three straight scores as she had a hat trick in the first half. Sophomore Olivia Barber also had a nice goal for the Wildcats late in the first half to give them a 5-0 lead at halftime.

Goalies Carson Buffington and

Sierra Hahn combined for the shutout and Buffington nearly got her first career

goal late in the match. Buffington had three shots on goal, including a penalty

kick opportunity, but was turned away but the Ottawa goalie.

Wildcats snap losing skid with win over Heritage Christian



Louisburg junior Erin Lemke (right) battles a Baldwin defender during the Wildcats' April 15 home match. The Wildcats bounced back with a win over Heritage Christian on April 16.

The Louisburg girls soccer team was in the midst of a frustrating two-game losing skid in which it saw one missed opportunity after another.

So when the Wildcats traveled to Heritage

Christian on April 16, they took full advantage of all their chances and they

had plenty of them. Louisburg scored the first three goals and didn't look back

in a 4-3 victory that provided the Wildcats with the positive momentum they $\,$

were looking for.

That didn't mean it wasn't without some drama.

Heritage Christian scored two late goals in the match to cut the Louisburg lead to one after the Wildcats had to change their lineup due to injuries.

"I thought for 60 or 65 minutes we played really, really

well,"

Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "We passed and moved the ball pretty

well. We were aggressive and played very hard.

"We had several kids hurt/ sick and had to make adjustments. We

had to move kids around in the last 20 minutes or so and put kids in positions

that they usually don't play to sort of plug holes. They scored two goals

rather quickly and we were just holding on. I think Heritage is a quality side

and it was a good win for us. It was a stressful ending, but a positive result

nonetheless."

The Wildcats (6-3) got out to big lead early and junior Leia Shaffer got the scoring started for Louisburg. Shaffer scored her first goal of

the season on an assist from Emma Christy to put the Wildcats up 1-0.



Junior Avery O'Meara passes the ball up to teammate Leia Shaffer at home against Baldwin on April 15.

Junior Trinity Moore maneuvered past the Heritage defense later

in the first half and she found the back of the net to give Louisburg a 2-0 $\,$

advantage and it stayed that way until halftime.

Moore added another goal early in the second half to put Louisburg up 3-0, but Heritage Christian didn't back down. The Chargers

followed with their first goal, before Louisburg junior Mackenzie Scholtz found

the back of the net on an assist from Moore to give Louisburg a 4-1 lead.

Heritage answered with two quick scores late in the first half,

but the Wildcats were able to hold on and snap their losing skid.

Louisburg returns to action tonight when it hosts Ottawa in a

varsity-only matchup. The match is set to begin at 5 p.m.

Wildcats fall to Baldwin, Piper

On April 15, the Louisburg girls soccer team had a chance to hand Baldwin its first loss of the season when it hosted the Bulldogs on their home field.

In what was an up and down match, it was Baldwin that was able to take advantage of its chances as it gave Louisburg a 5-2 loss. Baldwin took

a two-goal lead into halftime, and despite a couple quick scores from Louisburg

in the second half, the Bulldogs kept adding onto its lead.

Baldwin scored four minutes into the contest to jump out on top

and later scored again before halftime to take the 2-0 lead.



Senior Camdyn Clark clears the ball away against Baldwin last week.

Louisburg responded with an early second half goal from Trinity

Moore to try and give the Wildcats some momentum. Baldwin didn't waste any time

as it scored another goal a minute later.

The Wildcats didn't back down as Lily McDaniel scored her first

varsity goal to make it a 3-2 match, but Baldwin was able counter on several

different occasions and that led to two more Bulldog goals and Louisburg couldn't come back.

"We had the possession, we had more chances, but they just counter attacked every time and just got us," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley

said. "The girls played hard and played well. We did a good job of doing what

we needed to do. We just missed our chances. We hit the post three times, had a

breakaway and their keeper barely gets to it and just nicked it away. It could

have easily went the other way, but it just didn't this time. I think they had

like six shots on goal and they got five to go in."

It was the same type of match against Piper on April 11 as the Wildcats also fell on the road in a 2-0 defeat.

"We had two games like this back-to-back with Piper too," Conley said. "We had the better of play, better chances, had

four or five breakaways and just couldn't get one to go. We go through these,

and it stinks to go through them right now, but it is a

learning lesson and we will get better."

Wildcats bounce back with shutout of Eudora



Louisburg junior Morgan Messer pulls back on the ball to beat a Eudora defender Tuesday during the Wildcats' 7-0 victory over the Cardinals.

Coming off its first loss of the

season, the Louisburg girls soccer team made sure it didn't turn into two

Tuesday when the Wildcats hosted Eudora.

Louisburg had four different

players score and the Wildcats took care of business in a 7-0 win over the

Cardinals. Despite being up just one goal at halftime, Louisburg dominated the

second half as it scored six times and recorded its fifth shutout in six games.

"I though the girls played well,"

Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "The first half was a little rough because we

weren't executing or getting things done. The second half they

started

executing and doing what we asked them to do. They played the ball, had some

give-and-go's and played off each other.

"They were struggling a little early

because we had nine kids gone the last few days and it was a little tough to

get things done at practice. The second half, they executed and figured out

what I was asking them to do and they looked pretty good."

Junior Mackenzie Scholtz got

things started for the Wildcats with a goal midway through the first half and

the Wildcats took a 1-0 lead into halftime. In the second half, the flood gates

opened for Louisburg as it dominated possession.

Scholtz, who finished the match

with a hat trick, scored shortly after halftime and then assisted on the Wildcats'

next goal when junior Erin Lemke found the back of the net.

The combination of Scholtz and

Lemke struck again. Midway through the second half, Scholtz took a shot on

goal, which was knocked out by the Eudora goalie, but Lemke was there for the

rebound near the net and put it away for a 4-0 advantage.



Junior Haley Cain goes up for a header Tuesday during the Wildcats' home match with Eudora.

A few minutes later, Scholtz

completed her hat trick thanks to an assist from junior Morgan Messer. Junior

Trinity Moore followed with a goal of her own late in the second half.

With under a minute left, the

Wildcats sealed the win as senior Hallie Hutsell scored her first goal of the

season and the celebration was on.

"For Hallie, we just played the

ball down the middle and she was able to just beat the girl and it worked out

pretty well," Conley said. "Hallie hasn't had one for a while, so that was a

good to see her get one there."

Eudora didn't have many chances of

its own as the Louisburg defense turned away whatever runs the Cardinals tried

to make. It was also the fifth shutout for Wildcat goalie Carson Buffington on the season.

The large second half lead allowed

Conley to move players around to different positions and give his bench players

more varsity time — something he has been able to do in several matches this year.

It is something that he hopes pays off in the long run on both levels of the team.

"I think we were able to get 20 kids into the game and that is great," Conley said. "We are able to get kids in and getting them used to being out there and what to expect. I think it also helps them on the junior varsity level because the game is faster up here. I hope it pays dividends because you never know what injuries we might have later in the year. We are just trying to put kids into different spots and see what they can do."

Louisburg (5-1) will face a tough

road test today when the Wildcats travel to Piper for a 6 p.m. match. The

Pirates are 7-1 on the season and Conley knows his team is going to have to be ready to play.

"They have a new coach so it is going to be vastly different from last year," Conley said. "They are very

talented up top and on the outside and we are going to have to

deal with that.

I think it is going be a really good game. They have a really talented

centerback and a solid goalkeeper, so it will be another dogfight. It should be

another great game and hopefully we will be ready to go."

Wildcats suffer first loss with setback at Spring Hill



Louisburg goalie Carson Buffington comes out for save Wednesday during the Wildcats' road contest at Spring Hill. The Wildcats fell to Spring Hill 4-2, which is their first loss of the season.

SPRING HILL — The Louisburg girls soccer team had been unstoppable going into Wednesday's road match with Spring Hill.

Louisburg won its first four

matches to start the season and did so by outscoring its opponents by 19 goals.

The Wildcats were on cruise control, but came up against a talented Spring Hill

squad that tested them in every facet of the game.

Although the Wildcats took an

early lead, and were in a tie match late in the contest, the Broncos used two

late goals to give Louisburg its first defeat of the season in a 4-2 loss at

Spring Hill High School.

"I thought our girls played their tails

off," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "We played with a massive amount of

energy and played really hard. Spring Hill is a quality team. In fact, they one

of the best teams we will face all year. Not only were they very skilled, but

they had speed a lot of positions. The game gave us a lot to work on and things

for us to improve on. I am proud of how we competed."

The Wildcats (4-1) got on the board first

when junior Mackenzie Scholtz received a through ball from teammate Trinity

Moore. Scholtz then beat the Bronco defense and placed the shot in the back of

the net to give Louisburg a 1-0 lead midway through the first half.

Spring Hill tied it up with three minutes

remaining before halftime and then carried that momentum into the second half

when it scored two minutes in off a corner kick to take a 2-1 advantage.

With 25 minutes left in the match, the

Wildcats evened the score when junior Erin Lemke beat the Spring Hill goalie to

the ball near the top of the box and then put away an emptynetter.



Louisburg junior Erin Lemke beats the Spring Hill goalie to the ball and scored the tying goal in the second half.

The Broncos, however, put the game away

in the final minutes. Spring Hill took the lead on a goal with six minutes

remaining and then added another four minutes later to all but seal the win.

Spring Hill controlled the possession at times, but the Wildcat defense was able to turn away several Bronco scoring attempts and goalie Carson Buffington had some big saves. It was a match that was closer than the score indicated and Conley was pleased with the effort his team showed.

"This team has a massive amount of team chemistry," he said. "They are extremely competitive and play for each other. The girls play hard from start to finish. I was so excited with our fight and not backing down. We talked about the quote, 'Bend, don't break.' Regardless if something negative or positive happens, we need to stay level headed and keep competing. The girls did just that. We made a few mistakes that Spring Hill capitalized on. We will work to clean those

up and get better at practice."

Their four-game winning streak may have gone away, but the Wildcats accomplished a lot during that stretch and it

started with their defense.

Louisburg shut out each of its four

opponents thanks to the back five of Kaitlyn Lewer, Camdyn Clark, Madison

Quinn, Avery O'Meara and Hallie Hutsell, along with the efforts of Buffington.

"The defense was absolutely lights out so

far to start our season," Conley said. "Even against Spring Hill, I think we

defended well and gave them shots from distance. We did a nice job of executing

our game plan. The first four games we were extremely impressive. The defense

and goalkeepers had 356 minutes and 4 seconds of shutout soccer. That's

incredible. I am extremely happy with our defensive core and their improvement

each and every day."

Offensively, the Wildcats also got good

production from Scholtz and she was on a goal-scoring tear during that stretch.

Scholtz scored 13 goals in her first four matches and currently has 14 for the season.

"Mac has been on fire for us the first

five games," Conley said. "It will be hard to imagine anyone in the state having

that many goals so far this season. She is absolutely on fire. To make that

stat even more impressive, she has been limited in minutes because the games

were so lopsided. She is off to a terrific start and is going to have a great year."

The Wildcats will try and get back on the winning track Tuesday when it hosts Eudora. The match is set to begin at 6 p.m. at the Wildcat Sports Complex.

LOUISBURG SHUTS OUT KANSAS CITY CHRISTIAN

The day before Louisburg was supposed to play its toughest match on the road against Spring Hill, the Wildcats hit the road Tuesday to square off with Kansas City Christian.

As it turned out, it was a nice tune-up for the Wildcats as they shut out KCC, 6-0, at Johnson County Community College.

The Wildcat offensive attack was on full

display from the get-go as they scored in the first minute on a goal from

junior Mackenzie Scholtz and never looked back. In fact, the Wildcats got four

goals from Scholtz as she recorded her fourth consecutive hat trick.

Louisburg also had a pair of goals from junior Erin Lemke and assists from junior Trinity Moore, sophomore Olivia Barber and freshman Reese Johnson. It was as an all-around strong performance from the Wildcat offense.

"We came out slow in the previous week against Bonner Springs, so we focused a lot on being ready to

play," Louisburg

coach Kyle Conley said. "The moment the girls got off the bus the girls were

ready. We come out and had some great combination play and scored in the first

30 seconds of the game. Our girls played extremely hard and aggressive.

"I was really pleased with how well we

worked and battled. We played very well and did a fantastic job limiting dangerous

opportunities. We got the opportunity to get a lot of people in the game and get

some reps. It was nice because those kids work so hard in practice to get their

chance to get some varsity time."

The defense was also a strong point for

the Wildcats as senior goalie Carson Buffington earned her fourth consecutive

shutout and the back line of Kaitlyn Lewer, Camdyn Clark and Madison Quinn

helped limit the chances.

Wildcats record third straight shutout in win over Tonganoxie



Louisburg junior Mackenzie Scholtz scored three goals Wednesday in the Wildcats' 5-0 win over Tonganoxie in Louisburg.

It may just be a little more than a week into its season, but the Louisburg girls soccer team couldn't have asked for a better start.

The Wildcats picked up two wins

this week, including a 5-0 shutout of Tonganoxie on Wednesday in Louisburg, and

have played dominant soccer in its first three games. Louisburg has outscored

its opponents, 13-0, to begin the year and the defending state runner-ups have yet to be tested.

Louisburg (3-0) dominated

possession against Tonganoxie in what was its second game in as many days. The Wildcats

had several chances on goal, and when the Chieftains tried to push up the

field, the Louisburg defense was there to turn it away.

It was a balanced effort from the Wildcats as it was a match that saw several players get into the game and get some varsity experience.

"The girls played hard," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "To be quite honest, I think for the first 40 minutes

we were just going through the motions. We just talked to the girls about

playing our game, and Tonganoxie played a little different by putting five

girls in the back and three kids in the middle to take away how we play.

"We were solid, but we just needed to move the ball a little better and I think we did fine. It was a good night to get everyone in and get good reps for everyone. When we played our game, it was much cleaner so that was good to see."

Junior Mackenzie Scholtz continued

her scoring tear against the Chieftains as she scored the game's first three

goals and gave the Wildcats a 3-0 halftime lead. It was the third consecutive

hat trick of the season for Scholtz and she currently has nine goals on the year.

Trinity Moore got into the scoring

action in the second half. Moore, who was also celebrating a birthday

Wednesday, gave herself a couple nice presents.

The Louisburg junior took a shot

toward the goal that bounced over the goalie's head and rolled just across the

line to put Wildcats up 4-0. About 30 seconds later, Moore struck again with

another goal and all but sealed the win for Louisburg.



Senior Leia Shaffer goes for a flip throw Wednesday during the Wildcats' home game against Tonganoxie.

Several Wildcats had good looks at

the goal, including junior Erin Lemke, who had a nice through ball to Schultz

in the first half that led one of her three goals.

The Wildcats also had to make some

adjustments throughout the game as the Chieftains played several players back

to try and limit the Louisburg runs. It might have slowed them down a little,

but the Wildcats figured it out.

"The best part is the progression that we made," Conley said. "We constantly kept moving and we were problem solving and changing formations a little bit in the midfield. We made some different runs because of what Tonganoxie took away and it was

good to see the girls learning and adapting to how it is being played. We had a bunch of good looks at the end and we got to play a bunch of kids. The girls just played hard and had great attitudes."

Defensively, the Wildcats also

played well in their limited opportunities as Carson Buffington had her third

shutout of the season, while seniors Kaitlyn Lewer, Camdyn Clark and sophomore

Madison Quinn didn't let much through in the back.



Senior defender Kaitlyn Lewer sends the ball up the field Wednesday against Tonganoxie.

Louisburg will have back-to-back games again next week when it travels to Kansas City Christian on Tuesday and then will go to Frontier League power Spring Hill on Wednesday.

"The girls are doing a good job,"

Conley said. "Getting three wins early is a good thing, but we just have to

keep progressing. Next week is going to be tough. Kansas City

Christian is

really good and Spring Hill is really, really good. We are going to have our

work cut out for us and we are going to have to do that playing back-to-back games.

"We just have to be ready to go.

KCC plays a tough schedule and Spring Hill has a bunch of studs on their team.

We will see what we are made of. The girls have done a good job so far and we

have executed the way we are supposed to. I think we can be a pretty tough team to play."

LOUISBURG SHUTS OUT BONNER SPRINGS

Louisburg hit the road for the

first time Tuesday when the Wildcats traveled to Bonner Springs and the time

away from home didn't seem to bother them.

The Wildcats got three goals from

junior Mackenzie Scholtz as Louisburg pulled away for a 3-0 victory.

"The girls played their butts off," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said.

"Bonner came out with a massive amount of energy and played very hard. We

struggled for the first 15 minutes or so. We might have been a little sluggish

with a week off since our first game. We knew we needed to match their

intensity and I think we did a good job of doing so."

Scholtz didn't have much of a problem finding the back of the

net as she added a hat trick and she also got some help with that as sophomore

Olivia Barber assisted on two of those goals.

Defensively, the Wildcats also shined as Bonner Springs had few

chances on goal and Louisburg was able to control the possession.

"We changed our formations at halftime that really limited their attack and allowed us to press them more and force more turnovers," Conley said. "Yeah the girls played their hearts out and all played very hard. I was extremely happy we handled the changes throughout the game. Our back line played very, very well. I'm very pleased with the way this team is progressing so far."

Wildcats blank Harmon to win season opener



Junior Trinity Moore beats a Harmon player to a 50-50 ball Thursday during the Wildcats' season opener in Louisburg. The Wildcats defeated Harmon, 5-0.

It may be a new season for the Louisburg girls soccer team, but they looked like the same Wildcats that found

their way to the state title game a year ago.

Even with a few different pieces,

Louisburg was able to jump on Harmon from the start during Thursday's season

opener and the Wildcats came away with 5-0 shutout on their home pitch.

It was the start of a long journey for Louisburg, but the Wildcats took a step forward — albeit a small one — in starting off their season with a win.

"It was good," Louisburg coach

Kyle Conley said. "We played a lot of kids in a lot of different spots and they

came and played hard. I think we dominated the game and Harmon might have had

one shot, if that. The kids did what we asked them to do, but we still have

plenty to work on this week in practice."

The Wildcats (1-0) were able to

get off to a good start thanks to the feet of junior Mackenzie Scholtz. The

Louisburg forward recorded a hat trick in her first time out and those three

goals helped ease what nerves there were to begin the match.

Scholtz scored two of those goals in the first 11 minutes of action to help give the Wildcats the momentum they were looking for. With three minutes left in the first half, Scholtz completed the hat trick as she converted a penalty kick to put Louisburg up 3-0 at halftime.

"She did a good job," Conley said of Scholtz. "She was moving a little bit and we have put her in more of a leadership role to do a little bit more talking and coaching out there. Mackenzie knows, and has been in the program long enough, that she knows the expectations and she can help relate that to the younger players. I think it was a good first game for her."



Junior Avery O'Meara sends the ball up the field Thursday against Harmon.

Louisburg continued putting

pressure on Harmon in the second half and were awarded another penalty kick

when freshman midfielder Reese Johnson was tripped up in the box. Johnson took

the kick and found the back of the net for her first varsity goal to put the

Wildcats up 4-0.

The Wildcats sealed the win late

in the second half when junior Trinity Moore hit a shot from just outside of

the box and it curled into the net for the final goal.

As well as the offense played at times, the Wildcat defense also played well in its limited chances. The back line of Camdyn Clark, Kaitlyn Lewer and Madison Quinn didn't let many

balls get through and goalie Carson Buffington protected the net for the shutout.



Defender Madison Quinn controls the ball Thursday in the Wildcats' win over Harmon.

The Louisburg midfield controlled

possession, in what was a physical game between the two teams, and were able to

get several good looks at the goal. The big lead also allowed several players

to see the field and get some experience on the varsity level.

"The best part is that this game

allowed them to figure out what they are supposed to do and where they are

supposed to be," Conley said. "That helped quite a bit. I think we actually

played better later in the game, but we just scored goals quick and were able

to get out to a lead. We struggled at first to figure out where our runs are

supposed to be, but then we settled down and did what we were supposed to do.

"It was good to get all the kids some minutes and get them some time on the varsity level and get their feet wet. It was a good first game and I think the girls learned some things, but we have a lot of work to do still."

Louisburg will try to make it two

wins in a row Tuesday when it travels to Bonner Springs for its first road

match of the season. Varsity is set to begin at 6 p.m. The Wildcats will return

home Thursday for a matchup with Tonganoxie.

Louisburg girls soccer has high aspirations after state runner-up finish



Louisburg junior Mackenzie Scholtz led the Wildcat girls soccer team in scoring last season with 32 goals and hopes to do the same this year. Scholtz and the Wildcats open their season Tuesday at home against Harmon.

Entering its fourth year of existence, the Louisburg girls soccer team has already set a high bar for itself.

The Wildcats advanced to the state semifinals in back-to-back seasons, and they made it to the championship match last year against Bishop Miege and finished as a state runner-up. Despite all that success, there are a couple things Louisburg has yet to accomplish.

Other than a state championship,

the Wildcats have yet to garner that allusive Frontier League title and that is

their first of many aspirations as they enter the 2019 season.

"We have our team goals, but this year we

want to focus on competing for a league title," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley

said. "We were close in the past, but unfortunately not close enough. We play

in one of the best 4A soccer leagues in Kansas and it is always a tough test

each and every night. We have our work cut out for us, but this team is capable

of being special as long as they continue to play for each other."

Louisburg has a good opportunity to do that, even though the Frontier League has added three new schools to its slate. The Wildcats return a bulk of their players from their state team a year ago as they try to make a run at a league crown.

The team may feature a little different look, however, as it will have to replace the program's all-time leading scorer in Bailey Belcher. Belcher was a big part of the Wildcats' success as she controlled the middle of the field and drew a lot of attention from opposing defenses.

"Losing Bailey is going to leave some big shoes to fill," Conley said. "In our existence as a program, she is the most decorated player we have ever had. We understand what she meant to this team

and program, but we have some girls ready to step up and play their game. It

will be fun to watch this team grow and mature. I think this team could

potentially be more dangerous offensively that we were last year."

A big reason for that optimism is forward

Mackenzie Scholtz. The Louisburg junior had a big season up top for the

Wildcats as she led the team with 32 goals on the year and had 15 assists in 21

games. She was also a first team all-league and all-state player and Conley

believes she is poised to have another big season.

"Mac has had a fantastic first two years

in our program," Conley said. "She has set the bar incredibly high for herself.

I think this year, she will truly show what kind of player she is. She has

worked hard to get stronger in the off-season and it has shown with her play

throughout our preseason. She will be able to show everyone what type of

player she truly is and I think she is ready for that challenge."

As dangerous as the Wildcats appear to be up top, they are pretty balanced across the pitch, including with their back line.



Senior Kaitlyn Lewer is one of two returning all-league players to lead the Louisburg defense.

Seniors Kaitlyn Lewer and Camdyn Clark return to anchor the Louisburg defense as both players earned all-league honors a year ago and Lewer was a second-team all-state player. Junior Skylar Bowman, senior Julianne Finley and sophomore Madison Quinn also figure to see time in the back.

Junior Hannah Straub, who started last season, will have to miss time due to injury to start the season, but Conley

hopes to have her back later in the year.

In the midfield, junior Erin Lemke will

help lead that spot as she was second team all-state and all-league selection a

season ago. Lemke had 12 goals last season and five assists and is one of the

team's top returning scorers.

Seniors Leia Shaffer and Hallie Hutsell, juniors Trinity Moore, Haley Cain, Avery O'Meara, Morgan Messer and sophomore

Olivia Barber also figure to see a lot of time in the midfield as several

players started or saw a lot of varsity action in 2018. Moore, who was an

all-league player on defense last year, will see more action in the middle.



Junior Erin Lemke, who scored 12 goals for Louisburg last season, will look to help lead the midfield this year.

"This group of girls are returning a lot

of senior and junior experience, with some talented underclassmen sprinkled in,"

Conley said. "With all the injuries we faced last year, a lot of players got an

opportunity to get their feet wet. This year, they will get their shot. A lot of these girls have been starting since they joined our program. It is important we show what type of

team we are and let these girls create their own impact on our program.

"I think our midfield will be pretty solid as well as our experienced defense. It will be interesting to see when it's all said and down

which group stands out the best. If these groups push each other like I know

they can at practice this group is going to be a lot of fun to watch."

The Wildcats will have a new look in goal this year as senior Carson Buffington takes over for a three-year starter in Shay Whiting. Buffington did see some varsity time last season and Conley is excited to see what his new goalie can do on a full-time basis.

"Carson will have some big shoes to fill

this season, but I think she is more than capable," he said. "She got some

starts last year and showed what we can expect from her. She has grown so much

since playing soccer for the first time as a sophomore. Her work ethic is

second to none. We have high expectations for her this season, because of those

factors."

Louisburg will begin the 2019 season

Tuesday when it hosts Harmon for a 6 p.m. matchup. That is when the Wildcats

begin their journey to what they hope is another state semifinal berth, but

they also realize it gets more and more difficult every year.

"I think whenever you have such a historic run like that girls

have the past two years you need to appreciate it and reflect on it, but this

is a new season," Conley said. "No one is going to fear us, and everyone is

going to be prepared for us. For a lot of the schools we play, we will be their

biggest game. The girls need to be prepared for everyone's best shot day in and day out.

"We have talked a lot about living in the moment and making the

most of our opportunities. This group of girls have a great opportunity to do

something special, but it's on them. They need to be mentally ready for a long

season and prepared to deal with any adversity that might be thrown at them."

Top 10 Stories of 2018



It was a successful, and eventful, 2018 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 to Louisburg.

Below are the Top 10 stories from 2018, along with a brief explanation of each. Included in the explanation is the link to the actual story from the event.

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 2019 to begin. Looking forward to it!



10. Dillon medals at state golf for second straight year

EMPORIA — All season,

Calvin Dillon had been atop or near the front of leaderboard and that didn't

change in what was his biggest tournament of the season.

The Louisburg High School sophomore went up against the state's best during the Class 4A state golf tournament on May 19 at the Emporia Municipal Course and did more than old his own. Dillon earned a state medal as he finished 11thoverall

with a 3-over par 74.

It was the second consecutive state medal for Dillon after he finished 10^{th} overall last season at Wamego as a freshman.

"It is a real honor to earn another state medal, especially with the quality players that were at the state tournament," Dillon said. "There were lots of good players and lots of good teams."

Ιt

was another notch on Dillon's list of accomplishments that included a Frontier

League title and six straight tournament victories during the 2018 season.



Louisburg football coach Robert Ebenstein



Louisburg girls soccer coach Kyle Conley

9. Conley, Ebenstein named Class 4A Coach of the Year

Louisburg

girls soccer coach Kyle Conley and Wildcat football coach Robert Ebenstein both

led their respective teams to special seasons.

Those seasons were special enough for both coaches to earn two big awards.

Conley was rewarded for all his hard work in June when it was announced that he was named as the Kansas Soccer Coaches Association's Girls Coach of the Year for Class 4-1A.

He guided the Wildcats to a 14-7 record and a spot in the state championship match, where the Lady Cats finished second

overall. The

finish was something to remember for Wildcat fans as that was accomplished in

just the program's third year of existence.

He has posted a

41-18-2 record during his time as the Wildcat girls head coach and also guided

the Louisburg boys soccer team to its best finish in program history in 2017

with a fourth place finish at state.

As for Ebenstein, he

guided the Wildcats to 10 straight victories and a regional championship to

start the 2018 season, before getting knocked out in the sectional round

against eventual state champion, Bishop Miege.

Following the season, the Kansas Football Coaches Association named Ebenstein as the Class 4A Coach of the Year. Ebenstein, who is just in his second season as head coach, has a 16-4 record with the Wildcats as he guided his team to a Frontier League championship this year.



8. Holtzen finishes Louisburg career with 12 varsity letters

Once Isabelle Holtzen

received her diploma and walked out of Louisburg High School for the last time

as a student, she officially became one of the most decorated female athletes

in school history.

No, she doesn't have any individual state championships, or even

one as part of a team. Holtzen's decorations aren't ones in the form of

trophies or all-state honors, but instead, they can be found on the front of

her letter jacket.

Holtzen became the first female athlete in at least 20 years to earn 12 varsity letters, which means she lettered on the varsity level in three sports in each of her four years of high school.

In research done by Louisburg Sports Zone, it was unable to find

the last athlete to accomplish the feat, which could mean Holtzen could be the

first Lady Cat to do so. She competed in cross country, basketball and track and field

The last athlete to come close was in 2001 when Krystal Bowes earned 10 varsity letters before moving on to a collegiate track career at Wichita State.

"The biggest thing that it means to me is to just have an opportunity to participate in three sports at a school like Louisburg," Holtzen

said. "The bigger the school that you go to, the harder it is to play multiple

sports at the varsity level and I think Louisburg is unique in that fact. The

best part of this whole journey was I think my freshman year because there was

no pressure and no one was expecting anything from me. It was surprising and

exciting to be able to letter in all three sports."

Holtzen is currently at

Northern Iowa, where she received a scholarship to pole vault for the Panther

Track and Field Team.



7. Dixon earns All-American, Player of the Year honors, signs with Kansas State

Louisburg

senior Anna Dixon led the Lady Cat volleyball program all season and she was recognized for her play on the court.

Dixon was named to the Under Armour Volleyball All-American team as she received a spot on the honorable mention squad when the list was released in November.

Dixon, the 6-foot-3 outside hitter, was recently named the Class 4A Player of the Year by the Kansas Volleyball Association, and along with that was also selected to the all-state first team.

It was the second year in a row Dixon was named player of the year, as she had to share the honor last season with Rose Hill's Gracie Van

Driel.

The honors certainly didn't stop there as Dixon was all named to the All-Frontier League first team as she helped guide the Lady

Cats to an undefeated league season.

Dixon led the Lady Cats in kills with 584 in 105 sets played. She also finished with 325 digs, as she played all six rotations and also had 50 aces and 42 blocks.

In her four years with the program, Dixon finished with 2,003 kills, which would place that total among the best the school has ever seen.

All that success resulted in a dream come true for Dixon as she made it official last November when she signed to play volleyball at Kansas State.

"I have always known Kansas State was going to be my home," Dixon said. "Even since I committed as a sophomore, I always wanted to go up to Manhattan and see the girls and spend time with the team. K-State is where I need to be."



6. Louisburg wrestling sends six to state, Holtzen earns first state medal

SALINA - As the final

whistle sounded in his blood round match, Cade Holtzen looked up into the

rafters of the Tony's Pizza Events Center and smiled.

He had finally reached his goal.

Holtzen defeated Columbus' Gabe Porter by a 6-0 decision Saturday during the Class 4A Kansas State Wrestling Championships in Salina and secured his state medal.

"It is one of the best

feelings that I have had in my life," Holtzen said. "Just knowing that I'm

going to place — you just can't match that with anything else."

It certainly wasn't

easy for the Louisburg freshman as he faced a win or go home with nothing

scenario heading into his match with Porter. Holtzen pulled out the victory and

eventually finished sixth overall at 113 pounds to give Louisburg a state

medalist for the third consecutive season.

"It is pretty cool,"

he said. "I have been working for this all season, so to get a state medal is

great. It may not have been as high as I wanted, but any state
medal is pretty
amazing."

Holtzen had a special

year for the Wildcats as he finished with a 45-6 record and broke the school

record for most wins in a single season. He won four different tournaments and

was a Frontier League and regional tournament runner-up.

To add to his resume,

he became only the second freshman in school history to earn state medal —

second to only Austin Hood, who would go on to with three state titles.

Austin Moore finished

one victory shy of earning his first state medal, while Ryan Adams, Thad

Hendrix and Blue Caplinger also picked up wins at the state tournament.



5. Moore, Johnson finished in top 10 at state cross country, girls qualify for second straight year

WAMEGO - It was going

to be hard for the Louisburg High School girls cross country team to duplicate

its magical season of 2017.

Not only did the Lady Cats qualify their team for state for the

first time in program history, but they also had a top five finisher in Trinity

Moore.

Fast forward to 2018, Louisburg wasn't able to match that successful

run — the Lady Cats took it a step further.

Moore, along with freshman Reese Johnson, each had a top 10 finish during the Class 4A Kansas State Cross Country Championships at Wamego Country Club, and it is the first time

in school history that two female runners had medaled at a state meet. Louisburg added on to that as the girls finished fifth in the team standings with 154 points, which is also the highest finish in school history.

Moore, who finished

fifth at state a year ago, bested her performance by one place as she took

fourth with one of her better performances of the season. Johnson was right

behind her as she crossed the finish line in sixth.

Shaylor Whitham, Carlee Gassman, Kaitlyn Lewer, Delaney Wright and Kennady Wilkerson were also members of the Lady Cats' team to run at state. Emily Williams was a member of the regional team that finished second overall.



4. Louisburg track earns six state medals, Gassman state runner-up in

300 hurdles

WICHITA — Carlee Gassman had broken the Louisburg High School 300-meter hurdle record three different times in 2018 prior to the state track meet.

She picked the perfect time to make it a fourth.

Gassman broke her own school record in the 300 hurdles in May at the Class 4A Kansas State Track and Field Championships in Wichita as she ran a time of 45.68 seconds to earn a silver medal as she was the Wildcats' top performer on the weekend. Andale's Abby Smarsh, who is a senior, won the event in 44.73.

It was the Louisburg sophomore's first time competing at the Kansas meet as she transferred in from Iowa last year, where she qualified for

the state meet there in the 400 hurdles.

Gassman's medal in the 300 hurdles was just one of six the Wildcats were able to bring home following the two-day meet. Those six medals

were the most Louisburg has earned since 2011, when the Wildcats combined to

medal in 10 events and the boys won their first team state title.

The 300 hurdles wasn't the only event Gassman found success in as she also medaled in the long jump. Gassman, who hadn't competed in the event

prior to this year, finished fifth with a mark of 17 feet, 0.25 inches.

Isabelle Holtzen

would go on to finish sixth in the pole vault, the boys 4×400 team of Chris

Williams, Blue Caplinger, Ben Wiedenmann and Justin Collins went on to take

seventh. Williams finished eighth in the 400-meter run and

Trent Martin medaled eighth in the boys pole vault.



3. Louisburg volleyball takes runner-up at state for second straight season

HUTCHINSON - The
feeling was much of the same.

The pride of finishing as a state-runner up was a popular one among the members of the Louisburg volleyball team. At the same time, the

frustration of taking second in state in back-to-back seasons was just as prevalent.

Louisburg wasn't quite sure what to feel following its 25-13 and 25-14 loss to Bishop Miege in the championship game of the Class 4A state tournament Saturday at Hutchinson Sports Arena.

In 2017, the Lady Cats fell to Rose Hill by two points in the championship match, and fast

forward to the present, they were in the same spot — holding the state

runner-up trophy. It was the 15th time in

program history that Louisburg finished in the top four at state.

The Lady Cats rattled off four straight wins to start

the tournament, including knocking off No. 1 seed Independence, and defending

state champions Rose Hill and Topeka Hayden. Louisburg then battled back to

defeat Andale in the state semifinals.

"The loss was tough,"

Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. "To come so close to a state title two

years in a row, only to come up short is tough. But with that being said, it is

a huge accomplishment for this team to get back to the state championship and

make it two years in a row. Finishing second is nothing to hang our heads on.

Last year's finish fueled the fire for the team this year, and I challenged the

returning players to use this loss and feeling to fuel them for next year."

Louisburg has been

one of the more dominant teams in Class 4A in the last decade as the Lady Cats

have made the state tournament seven out of the last nine years and have

finished as a state runner-up on three different occasions, along with several

third and fourth place finishes. They finished 2018 with a 36-9 record.



2. Louisburg girls soccer advances to title game, has best finish in program history

NORTH NEWTON — The obstacle seemed insurmountable — and it was.

The Louisburg High School girls soccer team found itself in the

Class 4-1A state championship match in the program's third year of existence,

but if they wanted to take it another step further, the Wildcats were going to

have to knock the defending state champion of its perch.

Unfortunately, Bishop Miege wasn't about to be moved.

In a state title game that was played in the sweltering heat in late May at Bethel College, the Wildcats couldn't stay with the Stags in a 5-0 defeat. It was the third consecutive title for Bishop Miege, while Louisburg earned a state plaque for the first time in its short history.

It was special season for the Wildcats as the night before they knocked off Topeka Hayden, 1-0, in the state semifinals to secure the program's first state plaque. In 2017, Louisburg both games in its state tournament appearance and finished fourth.

The road to this state

championship appearance has been an interesting one for the Wildcats. More than

three years ago, a group of Louisburg parents and citizens raised enough money

to begin the girls soccer program and fund it for three years.

Louisburg was in the final year of that funding, and while the program isn't going away, the team realized they needed to play for more than themselves.

"We played for the community tonight," Louisburg senior Bailey Belcher

said after the Hayden win. "We have to remember that when they raised money for

this program, it was just through this year, so I think we owed it to them to

play well. I really think it might have helped with how we played and I think

it was one of the best games we played all season."

"It is a third-year program

with 41 wins, three regional championships, two state final fours and now a

state runner-up," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said after the title game. "We

just have kids who come in and work their butt off. They are not soft, they

aren't weak and from top to bottom they are going to work hard.

"We worked hard, but we just played Miege. That is one of the best teams in the state, and that stinks, but our kids played hard, worked

their tail off and it was a great year. We had people criticize us for how we

got there, but we won games and that really motivated the kids. It got them

fired up to go do something bigger than themselves. I couldn't be more proud of

they stuck together and what they accomplished."



1. Football wins 10 straight, takes Frontier League title and regional championship

It had been almost two

months since Louisburg and Piper squared off on the football field in what was

one of the more entertaining games on the Wildcats' schedule.

Back in early

September, Louisburg left Piper High School with a seven-point win — a victory

that would help propel them to a Frontier League championship and a perfect regular season.

The two teams squared

off again and the stakes were a bit higher. The game, at least for Louisburg

anyway, was even more exciting.

The Wildcats dominated action from the opening kickoff and never looked back in a 48-0 win over the Pirates. In the process, Louisburg won the school's first regional championship since 2016 and are off to a 10-0 start for the first time since 2010.

Louisburg advanced to the sectional round where it fell to eventual state champion Bishop Miege, 55-21, and finished its season with a 10-1 record.

It was as season

marked with special moments, including a 28-7 victory over then-undefeated

Paola late in the year to secure a league title.

"Being 10-0 and then having

that first loss of the season was very disappointing," Louisburg coach Robert

Ebenstein said. "Losing always sucks, but losing in the playoffs and having to

wait until next August is the worst. At the end of the day, Miege is a

very good team and we did some good things. We got them to fourth down on

multiple drives in the first quarter, we just couldn't make the plays on

those big downs. Then we got behind a little and started pressing.

"Overall it was a great year.

I am very proud of our guys and excited for them that they were able to get

double digit wins for only the third time since 2000, and

there was a lot of really good football played during that time period. It was a lot fun to be a part of."



Austin Moore was named to the Kansas Shrine Bowl and was a first-team all-state player for the Wildcats. Moore was also named as the Kansas Small-Class Player of the Year by 810 Varsity.

With all that success, honors

started to roll in for its players as running backs Austin Moore and Blue

Caplinger, along with linemen Brayden White and Kiefer Tucker all earned

all-state honors.

Moore and White went on to be

semifinalists for the Simone Awards and Moore was also selected to participate

in the Kansas Shrine Bowl in the summer of 2019. Ebenstein was also named as

coach of the year by the football coaches association.

Most recently, Moore was

named the Kansas Small-Class Player of the Year and Running Back of the Year by

810varsity.com, while White was named the Small-Class Lineman of the Year.

Ebenstein was also named Kansas Small-Class Coach of the Year by 810 Varsity.

Belcher earns All-MIAA honors for Missouri Southern



Missouri Southern freshman, and Louisburg graduate, Bailey Belcher had a big season for the Lions as she led the team in five statistical categories. For that, Belcher was recognized on the All-MIAA honorable mention team.

JOPLIN, Mo. — In her three seasons with the Louisburg High School girls soccer team, Bailey Belcher could score some goals.

She scored a lot of them on her way to a program record 90 goals for her career as a midfielder. Belcher hasn't slowed down much as she has taken on a new challenge in college.

Belcher, who is a freshman for the Missouri Southern women's

soccer program, was named to the All-MIAA honorable mention team as a forward as she helped the Lions to a 7-8-3 record in a difficult MIAA schedule.

"I was extremely surprised and I wasn't expecting any type of honors, especially because it is my freshman year," Belcher said. "Still, it is really exciting."

The 2018 Louisburg graduate moved from her midfield spot in high school to the forward position for Missouri Southern. Belcher took the new role head on as she led the Lions in points (13), goals (6), shots (43), shots on goal (24) and game-winners (3).

Belcher also finished in the top 10 in three MIAA categories to wrap up what was a successful season. As rewarding as it was, it took Belcher a little time to get adjusted to the college game.

"I feel like my season went really well, especially coming in as a freshman where I wasn't expecting very much playing time at all," Belcher said. "But my constant hard work helped get me time on the field. My transition was a little difficult at first, just because I went from play in the middle to up top. Not being able to drop down very much, and making certain runs was an adjustment, but I caught on pretty quick."

Belcher was a key cog for the Lady Cat soccer team in her three years with the program, including the team's state runner-up finish last season. Along with her 90 goals, she also finished with 30 assists, 210 points, 21 game-winning shots, 16 hat tricks and 278 shots on goal.

She earned first-team All-Frontier League and all-state honors all three years. Belcher was also named to the United Soccer Coaches 2018 All Central Region Team.