Louisburg falls in physical match with Piper



Louisburg junior Bree Gassman goes up for a header Thursday against Piper at the Wildcat Soccer Complex.

Going up against one of the top teams in Class 5A, the Louisburg girls soccer team knew it was going to have one of its biggest tests of the season.

The Wildcats hosted Piper on Thursday, and for the first half, the Pirates looked like the better team as they ran out to a 2-goal lead at halftime.

Louisburg picked its game up to a different level in the second half as the Wildcats scored to cut the Piper lead in half, but the Pirates were able to hang on and hand Louisburg a 2-1 defeat.

Physical play was the focus early for Piper as the Pirates controlled play, but the Wildcats matched that physicality in the second half in what was a rough-and-tumble affair.

“I felt the game got extremely physical,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “Play was let go and the players adjusted. Unfortunately, the game got out of control. We knew they were going to be a physical team, but I never saw much like that on the girls side. We got down 2-0 and at halftime we talked about which team is going to come out and play. We asked if the girls were going to back down to this type of play or rise to the challenge.

“We knew Piper was going to shoot a lot, but the majority of them didn’t hurt us at all because they lacked being in dangerous positions. We did come out really flat and struggled to find and stay with our marks. The second half, was a much different story. We took the game to them and created a massive amount of dangerous chances. We just couldn’t find the net for the second goal.”

Piper’s Sierra Montez and Ryann Clark scored the two Pirate goals in the first half. Montez was also difficult to stay in front of as she had five shots on target and 15 shots for the match.

The Wildcats (6-2) came out strong in the second half and put the pressure on the Pirate defense. All the pressure eventually led to a Lexi Hampton goal with 19 minutes left in the game to make it 2-1.

“2-0 is the worst lead in soccer because if the team trailing scores, they get all the momentum,” Conley said. “I felt our girls rose to the challenge and then took the game to them. We matched their physicality and created a lot of dangerous opportunities. It was a good game for us to rise up from and see what we were truly made of. I think this game showed that we can play that style of game.”

Louisburg put together several different runs in the half that nearly led to some dangerous opportunities. Sophomore Lola Edwards had two shots on goal in the second half and junior Bree Gassman had the other.



Louisburg freshman Evyn Richardson clears the ball out of the back Thursday against Piper.

Defensively, the Wildcats also played tougher as Piper had just two shots on target in the second half as senior goalie Sierra Hahn had eight saves on the night.

The back line of Brianne Kuhlman, Ruth Minster, Evyn Richardson, Sammy McDaniel, along with midfielders Hailey Sword and Adyson Ross, limited Piper's chances in the final 40 minutes.

Despite the loss, the Wildcats plan to use this as a growing opportunity.

"Our girls mental toughness is what stood out the most," Conley said. "We played alright, but we didn't back down. I was proud of our battle and how hard we played. We will learn from this game and get better. Our passing in the final third would have helped tremendously. The girls didn't back down and played really, really hard."

Louisburg will try and bounce back Thursday when it travels to

Baldwin. Varsity is set to begin at 4 p.m.

Wildcats bounce back with shutout of Eudora



Louisburg junior Bree Gassman battles Eudora's Jayla Erpelding for a 50-50 ball Monday at Eudora High School.

EUDORA – Fresh off its first setback of the season, the Louisburg girls soccer team wanted to make sure one loss didn't turn into two.

The Wildcats traveled to Eudora on Monday and got right back on the winning track as they shutout the Cardinals, 2-0. It was their sixth win of the season and all of them have come by shutout.

"I thought we were ready to go," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "They played hard and with a high amount of energy. That is how we do things and I thought the girls transitioned pretty well knowing Eudora is going to be a solid team."

Louisburg's defense once again rose to the challenge as the Wildcats limited Eudora to just six shots on goal, while senior goalie Sierra Hahn earned the clean sheet.



Junior midfielder Adyson Ross sends the ball downfield Monday against Eudora.

The back line of freshman Evyn Richardson, senior Ruth Minster, junior Brianne Kuhlman and senior Sammy McDaniel didn't allow the Cardinals to get many good looks on goal.

Midfielders Adyson Ross and Hailey Sword also shadowed one of Eudora's top players, Jayla Erpelding, most of the night.

"Jayla is a good player and has a massive right leg," Conley said. "We just wanted to take her away and not give her free looks and I think we did a pretty good job of that all night. I thought we did a good job of taking away their two forwards as well and we just didn't give them many opportunities. Defensively we stayed sound and did our job for the most part."

Offensively, the Wildcats (6-1) were on the attack for most of the night. Louisburg had 12 shots on goal and got a couple of them to find the back of the net.

Louisburg scored both of its goals midway through the first

half. A Wildcat pass into the box resulted in an own goal from Eudora, and then a few minutes later, senior Reese Johnson crossed a ball into the box for the second score.

“Eudora always plays hard – they play really hard,” Conley said. “We did a good job of producing where we need to go. We had chance after chance, and I think we put so much pressure on them, we were able to get an own goal and a goal. We just kept pressing them to try and put them in bad spots. I would have really liked to score a couple more in the second half when we got them inside the six, but it will come. The girls played hard, did their job and got us a good result.”



Senior defender Sammy McDaniel tries to settle the ball Monday at Eudora.

Johnson led the Wildcats with five shots on target, while sophomore Lola Edwards had three and fellow sophomore Lexi Hampton finished with two.

Eudora clogged up the middle of the field, so Louisburg attacked from the outside, which gave them several good opportunities on goal.

“Eudora took away the middle and we just burned them on the outside most of the time,” Conley said. “The second half we tried to attack down the middle and it just wasn’t there. There will be also be games where teams take away the outside on us and let us cut down the middle. Eventually teams are going to take that away and that will let us have some good runs and really be dynamic.”

Louisburg will try for back-to-back wins today when the Wildcats host Piper. Varsity is set to begin at approximately 6 p.m.

Spring Hill hands Louisburg its first loss of season

The Louisburg girls soccer team had a couple streaks fade away Thursday following its home match against Spring Hill.

The Wildcats, which had won five games in a row and had yet to give up a goal this season, saw those both come to an end following a 3-0 setback to Broncos. Spring Hill, which is the favorite to win the Frontier League, gave the Wildcats their toughest test of the season to date.

Louisburg also had to battle Mother Nature, who brought gusty winds and cold temperatures. Still, the Wildcats found some positives to take away from their loss.

“Last year, we were 100 percent embarrassed by our results against them in both games,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “We were focused and more determined to play our game (Thursday). The weather conditions were absolutely brutal, but with that being said we played with an incredibly high work rate. The girls left it all on the field and definitely didn’t back down. I think overall, it was our best team effort so far this season.

“We had a few opportunities but couldn’t capitalize. It is the effort that I want to see in every game and have been asking for.”

Senior Reese Johnson and sophomore Hailey Sword had the lone shots for Louisburg. Spring Hill outshot the Wildcats, 21-2, but goalie Sierra Hahn did her best to keep the Broncos out of the net with 10 saves.

Spring Hill took a 1-0 lead midway through the first half on a goal from Isabella Farris, and the Wildcats trailed by just the one goal at halftime.

Early in the second half, Spring Hill doubled its lead on a shot from Reagan Downes, and then followed it up a just a couple minutes later on a direct kick goal from Payton Vogelbacher.

Despite getting down three goals, the Wildcat defense didn’t allow a score in the final 35 minutes.

“We defended really well, and with missing players, and a couple players not nearly 100 percent, I thought we did well,” Conley said. “We would have liked to seen a ball in the back of the net for us, but I thought we played well. We will use this to get better and clean up some things. It was a good

game and I thought we did well staying organized defensively."

Louisburg will try and bounce back today as it travels to Eudora for a Frontier League match. Varsity is set to begin at approximately 6 p.m.

Harvey's golden goal keeps Wildcats' winning streak alive



Louisburg junior Tehya Harvey scored the golden goal with four seconds left in the second overtime Tuesday in Topeka and gave the Wildcats a 1-0 victory over Topeka West.

TOPEKA – It waited to almost the last possible second, but the Louisburg girls soccer team left Topeka with its winning streak intact.

In double overtime, Louisburg junior Tehya Harvey battled and scored the golden goal with four seconds remaining to give the Wildcats a 1-0 victory over Topeka West at Hummer Sports Park.

Louisburg has now won five consecutive matches to start the season and Harvey's goal was the difference between that and seeing that streak end with a scoreless tie.

"Tehya's goal was fantastic," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley

said. “It was a hustle and work ethic goal. Ball got played in, and she went and got it. She did not give up on the play and wanted it more than Topeka West did. Wish we would have done that a lot sooner, but, oh well, better late than never.”

Harvey’s goal was set up by sophomore midfielder Hailey Sword, who sent the ball into the box and found a running Harvey.

The Wildcats weren’t without their share of opportunities, however. Louisburg outshot Topeka West, 27-1, and 10 of those were on target.

Topeka West kept a lot of players back to protect the goal, which made scoring for the Wildcats more difficult.

“Topeka West did a very good job of staying organized defensively,” Conley said. “They put a lot of players in front of the goal, but when we had really good opportunities. We had countless chances in front of the goal but just could not get one to go. We did a nice job of controlling the tempo and how the game was played. We created a lot of opportunities but just could not find the net.

“I liked how hard we played. I thought we did a nice job of taking advantage of what they gave us. We saw this against Tonganoxie, but we just did not adjust as well as I liked. It will be a focus at practice this week.”

Freshman Rowan Yows led the Wildcat attack with six shots on the night, while senior Reece Johnson and Sword each had five.

It was another shutout for the Wildcat defense and senior goalie Sierra Hahn earned the clean sheet for Louisburg. The Wildcats have yet to allow a goal through five matches.

However, the Wildcats will face their toughest test tonight when they host Spring Hill – one of the favorites to win the Frontier League. The match is set for 6 p.m. at the Wildcat Soccer Complex.

Wildcats record fourth straight shutout in win over Tonganoxie



Louisburg senior Reese Johnson scored a pair of goals and led the Wildcats to a 4-0 win over Tonganoxie on Thursday.

TONGANOXIE – Louisburg coach Kyle Conley doesn't believe his Wildcat girls soccer team has played perfect at times this season, but the results say it has.

Tonganoxie was the latest Wildcat victim as Louisburg went on the road Thursday and blanked the Chieftains, 4-0, to record their fourth straight shutout to start the season.

It wasn't easy, however, as Tonganoxie kept several players back in front of the goal to slow the Wildcat attack. Louisburg led just 1-0 at halftime.

"Tonganoxie showed us some things that we have not seen so far this season," Conley said. "They played with 11 players behind the ball and made it difficult to break down. We did have 47 shots, but were only able to find the net four times. It was really good for us to see a game like that and for us to use it to get better. We are still pretty young so we need to always keep learning. We played really hard and moved the ball well, just struggled to finish on in the final third."

The Wildcats (4-0) did keep the Tonganoxie defense busy with those 47 shots, but Louisburg was able to find some balance with three different goal scorers.

Senior midfielder Reese Johnson scored a pair of goals, including one with 10 minutes remaining in the first half to give the Wildcats their 1-0 lead.



Louisburg sophomore Hailey Sword makes a pass Thursday at Tonganoxie.

Louisburg came out more focused in the second half and Johnson picked up right where she left off with another goal early in the second half to double the Wildcats' lead.

Sophomore Lexi Hampton found the back of the net minutes later after she scored off a corner kick from teammate Lola Edwards. Senior Catie Lemke capped the scoring with a goal of her own to all but seal the win for Louisburg.

Freshman Rowan Yows led the Wildcats with five shots on goal to go along with an assist, while Edwards finished with four shots on target.

Senior goalie Sierra Hahn earned the clean sheet as her defense did

the job by not allowing a shot on goal. Louisburg controlled possession the entire match.

Louisburg is back in action tonight as the Wildcats travel to Topeka West as they try for their fifth straight win. Then on Thursday, Louisburg will host one of the top teams in Class 5A, Spring Hill.

“As frustration sent in or could set it, the girls stayed positive and kept attacking,” Conley said. “We had so many chances. We absolutely dominated the game. Our team is still growing and learning and we have a tough test this Thursday against one of the best teams in 5A if not the best team, Spring Hill. We will working on cleaning up our defensive marking and our pressure cover throughout practice. The goal is to keep progressing and improving.”

Six different players score for Wildcats in rout of Wyandotte



Sophomore midfielder Lola Edwards sends the ball toward the goal at home Tuesday against Wyandotte. Edwards led the Wildcats with two assists.

It has been a good start to the season for the Louisburg girls soccer team and that continued Tuesday when the Wildcats hosted Wyandotte.

Six different players scored for Louisburg as the Wildcats

cruised to an 8-0 victory over the Bulldogs at the Wildcat Soccer Complex. It marked the third consecutive win for Louisburg to start the season.

Although the Wildcats won going away, there is still a lot of things Louisburg coach Kyle Conley would like to see his team clean up.

“The first half was kind of bad,” Conley said. “We played down to our opponent and we didn’t pass and move. We didn’t do a good job of finding feet and we were just pressing. We took advantage of some situations, but we just didn’t play our game.

“The second half was a little cleaner after the first couple of minutes. We did a good job of attacking and we just really broke them down in a game of attrition. We played well after a while, but a 20 mile-per-hour wind makes it tough too.”

Scoring came from all different areas for the Wildcats, as they spread the opportunities around.

Sophomore Lexi Hampton and freshman Rowan Yows each finished with a pair of goals from their forward spots. Hampton’s two goals now puts her at 10 on the season through three games.



Freshman midfielder Jaden Bentz was one of six Wildcats to score a goal Tuesday against Wyandotte.

Freshman Jaden Bentz finished with a goal, while seniors Reese Johnson and Catie Lemke both tallied a goal and an assist. It was also Lemke's first goal on the season.

Another freshman, Shylar Whiting, scored her first varsity goal late in the contest to help seal the win for Louisburg.

Sophomore midfielder Lola Edwards finished with a team-high two assists for the Wildcats.

"I think in the first half we left six or seven goals on the table that were misses on breakaways or just right to the keeper," Conley said. "The second half we were able to get some kids get their first look and had some get different opportunities. It was good to see them find the back of the net and it shows their hard work is paying off."

Defensively, the Wildcats weren't tested much as goalies Sierra Hahn and Macy Lemke combined to earn the clean sheet.

So far this season, Louisburg has outscored its opponents, 23-0, through three matches, but will have a more difficult test today as it travels to Tonganoxie for its first Frontier League matchup.

"It is good and bad," Conley said of the dominant start. "We are working on things and it gives us a chance to develop a little bit, but at the same time I think we need to be tested a little more. Tonganoxie will be a good test for us and we just have to be ready to go."

Week 1 Athlete of the Week: Lexi Hampton



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week one of the spring sports season, sponsored by Edward Jones- Craig Holtzen.

LEXI HAMPTON, SOPHOMORE, GIRLS SOCCER

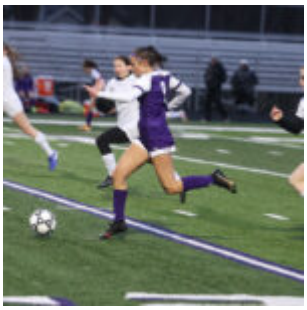
Louisburg sophomore Lexi Hampton opened the 2022 soccer season with some memorable performances in her first two games. On

Friday against Atchison, Hampton scored a team-high five goals, and added an assist, in the Wildcats' 10-0 victory and earned her second hat trick on the season.

Her first hat trick came a few days earlier as she finished with three goals in a 5-0 victory over Lansing on Mar. 22 in Louisburg's season opener. Hampton led the Wildcats in goals scored last year as a freshman and is off to a good start this season.

The athlete of the week award is announced every Wednesday morning during the spring season and the winner is selected by Louisburg Sports Zone with the help of nominations from coaches.

Wildcats roll Atchison behind five goals from Hampton



Louisburg sophomore Lexi Hampton scored five goals in Friday's home contest against Atchison. The Wildcats won the match, 10-0.

For being a young group, the Louisburg girls soccer team is proving that age is nothing but a number.

It continued to prove that Friday as the Wildcats hosted

Atchison in their second match of the season. In a team filled with underclassmen, Louisburg took care of business and rolled Atchison, 10-0.

One of those young players gave the Wildcats a big boost as sophomore Lexi Hampton scored five goals and had an assist to help give Louisburg its big start. In her first two games to start the season, the Louisburg forward has scored eight goals.

“Lexi has done a really nice job,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “She is playing simple, which is allowing her to play faster and then get better opportunities to finish the chances she is getting. Her teammates are doing a really nice job of finding her after they beat their opponent. Lexi is doing well getting herself open as her teammate is attacking. Also, she is doing a really nice job of finishing her opportunities.”

Hampton scored four of those goals in the first half and the Wildcats got another from freshman forward Rowan Yows, who scored her first varsity goal, to give Louisburg a 5-0 halftime advantage.

Another Wildcat scored her first varsity goal as freshman Jaden Bentz found the back of the net early in the second half. Senior Reese Johnson, who also finished the game with two assists, scored a few minutes later to make it 7-0.

After another Hampton goal, juniors Tehya Harvey and Bree Gassman found the back of the net to finish the 10-goal victory. Yows finished the game with two assists, while Gassman and Riley May each added one a piece.

“I thought we started out a little slow, but we progressed very quickly,” Conley said. “The girls created a massive amount of chances. Honestly, I felt our execution was not the greatest in the first half. We have a lot of opportunities that we did not finish. I thought with the amount of players that were missing we did a nice job of stepping up. I did

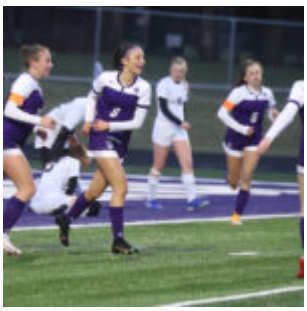
really like how hard our girls played and the energy that they brought."

Through two games, the Wildcat defense has yet to allow a goal thanks to the defensive backfield of seniors Ruth Minster, Sammy McDaniel, junior Brianne Kuhlman, sophomore Hailey Sword and freshman Evyn Richardson, along with goalies Sierra Hahn and Macy Lemke.

"Our defense is doing ok," Conley said. "To be fair we have not been really tested as of yet, but I really like their willingness to learn and improve each and every training session. We will have a lot of pressure on them in games ahead and will need to make sure we are prepared for those teams."

Louisburg will try for its third straight win at 6 p.m. tonight when it hosts Wyandotte.

Wildcats blank Lansing to win season opener



Louisburg sophomore Lexi Hampton (8) and the Wildcats were all smiles Tuesday as they shutout Lansing, 5-0, to win their season opener. Hampton finished the game with a team-high three goals.

As much as the cold and rain dampened its season opener, the

Louisburg girls soccer team made the most of a bad situation.

The Wildcats got their season started off right with a 5-0 shutout of Lansing on Tuesday at Wildcat Stadium – a game that had to be moved to Louisburg from Lansing due to field conditions.

“It was good to finally get a game in,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “The girls were ready to play. I think we came out a little too amped up. We were not playing our game and struggled to play simple. We were trying to do too much and made things harder on ourselves. The second half we settled in and played really well. We controlled the pace of the game and we were really aggressive.”

Sophomore forward Lexi Hampton was a spark in the first half as she recorded a hat trick in the first 40 minutes to help give the Wildcats a 3-0 halftime lead.



Louisburg freshman Rowan Yows stretches out to keep the ball

in front of her Tuesday against Lansing.

Louisburg (1-0) dominated possession and outshout Lansing 27-5 and 14 of those shots were on target. Hampton finished the game with six shots on goal.

Sophomore Lola Edwards, senior Reese Johnson and freshman Rowan Yows were also active on the attack. Edwards took six shots and Yows had five.

Johnson facilitated the offense for the Wildcats as she had a team-high two assists, one goal and had two shots on target.

Despite the weather, Conley liked what he saw from his time for the first time out.

“The conditions were brutal, but the girls were prepared for it,” Conley said. “We have been practicing outside everyday. The girls were mentally sharp, and did a nice job focusing on the task at hand. I feel this group is pretty mentally tough.”



Louisburg junior Tehya Harvey goes up for a header Tuesday against Lansing.

Johnson opened the second half with goal and sophomore Hailey Sword sealed the win with a goal just a few moments later. Yows also earned an assist during the game.

Goalies Sierra Hahn and Macy Lemke each played a half to record the clean sheet.

“Our team progressed a lot throughout the game,” Conley said. “There is only so much we can get done in limited practice time, but the girls grew and progressed well though out the game. I loved our willingness to learn. They are a great group

of young ladies and I thought we did well against a much improved Lansing squad.”

Louisburg will try for back-to-back wins Friday when it travels to Atchison. Varsity will begin at 4:30 p.m. and junior varsity will follow.

Wildcat girls soccer hoping for fifth consecutive state final four bid



Louisburg is hoping for plenty more celebrations like this one as the Wildcats will try for their fifth straight state final four appearance.

It was another season and another state tournament appearance for the Louisburg girls soccer team last year.

The Wildcats, a team-filled with underclassmen, finished fourth at state after qualifying for the fourth consecutive season.

As fun as last year’s run was for the Wildcats, they are ready to make it even better as many of those same underclassmen return for another shot at a state title this season.

“Last year was a special group, especially replacing so much

from 2020," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "This year we have to replace some quality players from the 2020 team, but the core is back. I'm excited to see what this group can do. The majority of our team is young, but this is a dynamic group."

Louisburg finished last season with a 12-8-1 record, including a pair of 2-1 loss to Mulvane in the state semifinals and McPherson in the third place match.

The Wildcats have set higher goals for themselves, including competing for a Frontier League title, win their fifth straight regional crown and return to the state final four.

The players have a good chance to do that as they return nine players that found themselves in the starting lineup at one point or another in 2021.



Louisburg senior Reese Johnson will lead the Wildcat midfield this season.

“There will be a lot of freshmen and sophomores starting, but we have some solid juniors and seniors starting,” Conley said. “Experience will be our biggest challenge, but we will do the best we can to put them in various situations at practice to learn as much as we can and as fast as we can.”

Louisburg returns a lot of experience on the attacking side of the ball and are led by senior midfielder Reese Johnson, who was a second team all-league player a year ago. She finished the year with nine assists and seven goals.

Also returning are sophomores Lola Edwards (forward/midfield) and Lexi Hampton (forward). Both players were honorable mention all-league selections a year ago.

Hampton led the Wildcats with 16 goals on the season, while Edwards had 15 goals and six assists.

Junior Adyson Ross was also a fixture in the midfield last year as the all-league honorable mention player had two goals and two assists.

“I think we are a really talented attacking team,” Conley said. “We will look to create as much as we can to put teams under pressure. Specifically, I feel our midfield is really talented and will be a lot of fun to watch as they grow as a group throughout the season. We are pretty young and look for this team to grow each and every game.”

Junior Tehya Harvey, along with freshman Rowan Yows, will also see time atop the Wildcat attack at the forward spot.



Senior Ruth Minster is one of several returning starters on defense this season.

In the midfield, junior Bree Gassman, senior Catie Lemke and freshman Jaden Bentz will all see varsity time as well.

On defense, senior Ruth Minster and sophomore Hailey Sword return to lead that side of the ball as Sword was a second-team all-league player a year ago from her defensive midfield spot.

Junior Brianne Kuhlman will also return to help on the back line with senior Samantha McDaniel and freshman Evyn Richardson.

Senior goalie Sierra Hahn also returns after starting the season last year and Macy Lemke is also vying for playing time as well.



Senior Sierra Hahn returns after starting all of last season in net.

“Starters will be interesting,” Conley said. “We have a lot of competition on this team. Unlike last year, we have depth to challenge players to compete for positions. I think the best part about this team is the players ability to play multiple positions.”

Louisburg will kick its season off Tuesday at home as the Wildcats host Lansing for a 6:30 p.m. start. Junior varsity will begin at 5 p.m.