

KSHSAA releases classifications for 2019-20 school year



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

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

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

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

Kansas State High School Activities Association

Football Classifications and Enrollments-Descending Order 2020 & 2021

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

Enrollment figures are as of September 20, 2019.

6A		5A		4A		3A	
Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 48	
Range: 1854 - 1092		Range: 1083 - 655		Range: 654 - 340		Range: 324 - 168	
Wichita-East	1854	Liberal	1083	Lansing	654	Baldwin	324
Wichita-North	1691	Hutchinson	1049	Great Bend	651	Topeka-Hayden	314
Wichita-Southeast	1662	Wichita-Heights	1045	Lenexa-St. James Academy	649	Parsons	286
Derby	1638	Shawnee-Mill Valley	982	Bonner Springs	640	Andale	279
Garden City	1560	Leavenworth	977	Arkansas City	620	Pratt	275
Dodge City	1533	Wichita-Northwest	970	Andover Central	608	Clearwater	266
Olathe South	1503	Emporia	949	Basehor-Linwood	587	Iola	256
Olathe East	1477	Kansas City-Turner	902	McPherson	535	Girard	252
Olathe North	1469	Wichita-Bishop Carroll	890	Kansas City-Piper	518	Nickerson	252
Topeka-Washburn Rural	1449	Topeka West	882	Ottawa	507	Clay Center Community	247
Wichita-South	1438	Topeka-Seaman	881	Buhler	497	Holton	242
Lawrence-Free State	1411	Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights	876	SM-Bishop Miege	493	Concordia	241
Manhattan	1402	Maize	871	Augusta	491	Kansas City-Bishop Ward	240
Topeka	1364	Kansas City-Washington	850	Winfield	472	Garnett-Anderson County	234
Olathe Northwest	1356	Maize South	842	Tonganoxie	471	Chapman	224
Kansas City-Wyandotte	1355	OP-Blue Valley Southwest	811	Independence	461	St. George-Rock Creek	224
SM East	1353	Salina-South	800	Chanute	452	Baxter Springs	223
Gardner-Edgerton	1325	Newton	788	Paola	447	Osawatomie	221
Haysville Campus	1297	De Soto	758	Fort Scott	434	Columbus	220
SM West	1277	Salina-Central	758	Louisburg	432	Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail	217
SM Northwest	1266	Topeka-Highland Park	757	Towanda-Circle	429	Wichita-Trinity Academy	217
Olathe West	1256	Andover	733	Coffeyville-Field Kindley	409	Hoyt-Royal Valley	216
OP-Blue Valley Northwest	1233	Goddard-Eisenhower	725	El Dorado	400	Hugoton	216
SM North	1226	Valley Center	699	Eudora	391	LaCygne-Prairie View	214
Lawrence	1221	Kansas City-Sumner Acad.	698	Rose Hill	381	Hiawatha	213
OP-Blue Valley	1182	OP-St. Thomas Aquinas	693	Altamont-Labette County	377	Frontenac	211
OP-Blue Valley West	1182	Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel	693	Mulvane	375	Meriden-Jefferson West	211
Junction City	1136	Pittsburg	691	Atchison	355	Holcomb	210
Wichita-West	1129	Hays	687	Abilene	352	Burlington	203
Kansas City-JC Harmon	1110	Kansas City-FL Schlagle	687	Wamego	351	Hesston	202
SM South	1106	Spring Hill	668	Wellington	345	Colby	201
OP-Blue Valley North	1092	Goddard	655	Ulysses	340	Wichita Collegiate	201
						Lindsborg-Smoky Valley	200
						Galena	199
						Scott Community	198
						Caney Valley	192
						Perry-Lecompton	192
						Larned	188
						Cherryvale	186
						Marysville	183
						Cheney	182
						Goodland	182
						Riley County	182
						Russell	181
						Council Grove	180
						Sabetha	173
						Gypsum-Southeast of Saline	171
						Halstead	168

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sylvan-Lucas Unified	66
Rural Vista (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
Claffin-Central Plains	50
Hartford	50
Norwich	50
Scandia-Pike Valley	50
Colony-Crest	49
Frankfort	49
Melvern-MDCV	49
Buffalo-Altoona Midway	48
Dighton	48
Hanover	47
Leroy-Southern Coffey Co.	47
Chetopa	46
Logan/Palco	46
Lost Springs-Centre	46
Otis-Bison	46
Linn	43
Waverly	42
Southern Cloud	
(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



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

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

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

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

2019-2020 Classifications and Enrollments

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

Note: Schools are listed in descending order

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

[Printable View](#)

[Sort By School](#)

6A

Member Schools: 36

Range: **2431-1312**

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

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

4A

Member Schools: 36

Range: **661-312**

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

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

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

† 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
Nesdesha HS	200
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral HS	199
Pomona-West Franklin HS	192
Kismet-Southwestern Heights HS	190
Eureka HS	188
† Lakin HS	185
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mount Academy	184
Minneapolis HS	184
Hays-Thomas More Prep-Marian HS	182
St. Marys HS	182
Douglass HS	178
† Effingham-Atchison Co Community HS	174
† Humboldt HS	174
Phillipsburg HS	172

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

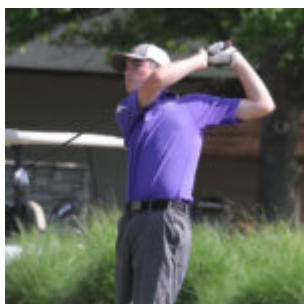
Mound City-Jayhawk Linn HS	171
Oskaloosa HS	171
† Belle Plaine HS	170
Rossville HS	169
Elsworth HS	168
† Erie HS	166
† Wathena-Riverside HS	164
Conway Springs HS	160
Belleville-Republic County HS	158
Garden Plain HS	158
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic HS	158
Cherokee-Southeast HS	157
Esbridge-Mission Valley HS	156
Arma-Northeast HS	155
Hillsboro HS	155
Olathe-Heritage Christian Academy	155
Ellis HS	154
Syracuse HS	153
McLouth HS	152
Whitewater-Remington HS	152
Horton HS	150
Sterling HS	147
Marion HS	146
Leon-Bluestem HS	144
Wichita-The Independent HS	142
Richmond-Central Heights HS	141
Sedgewick HS	140
Alma-Wabaussee HS	139
Brookville-Elk-Saline HS	139
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan HS	139
Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian HS	136
Medicine Lodge HS	134
Lawrence-Bishop Seebury Academy	132
Salina-Sacred Heart HS	131
Winchester-Jefferson County North HS	130
Bennington HS	128
Johnson-Stanton County HS	128
Lyndon HS	127
Oakley HS	127
Plainville HS	127
Sublette HS	127
Inman HS	126
Yates Center HS	126
Elinwood HS	124
Pratt-Skyline HS	123
WaKeeney-Trego Community HS	122
Uniontown HS	120
Herington HS	119
Smith Center HS	119
Pleasanton HS	118
Elkhart HS	117
† Hill City HS	117
Hoxie HS	116
Allen-Northern Heights HS	115
Howard-West Elk HS	115
† Sedan HS	114
† Cottonwood Falls-Chase County HS	113
Holton-Jackson Heights HS	113
Canton-Galva HS	112
Blue Rapids-Valley Heights HS	110
† Moundridge HS	110
Shawnee-Maranatha Christian Academy	110
Leoti-Wichita County HS	109
† 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
Burdett-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
Burton HS	70
Hutchinson-Central Christian HS	69
St. Francis HS	69
Ingalls HS	68
McPherson-Elyria Christian HS	68
Downs-Lakeside HS	67
Wakefield HS	67
Hartford HS	66
Quinter HS	66
Dighton HS	65
Frankfort HS	65
Melvorn-Marais Des Cygnes Valley HS	65
St. Paul HS	65
Clafin-Central Plains HS	64
Colony-Crest HS	63
Randolph-Blue Valley HS	63
Scandia-Pike Valley HS	63
Lost Springs-Centre HS	62
South Haven HS	62
Rexford-Golden Plains HS	61
Chetopa HS	60
Sharon Springs-Wallace County HS	60
Buffalo-Altoona Midway HS	59
Leroy-Southern Coffey County HS	58
Otis-Bison HS	58
Grainfield-Wheatland/Grinnell HS	57
Stafford HS	57
Ashland HS	56
Linn HS	56
Tribune-Greeley County HS	55
Beloit-St. John's HS	54
Waverly HS	54
Wellmore HS	51
Attica HS	50
Deerfield HS	49
Argonia HS	48
Cunningham HS	48
Kiowa-South Barber HS	48
Rolla HS	46
Moscow HS	45
Axtell HS	42
Bird City-Cheylin HS	42
Chase HS	42
Hope HS	42
Cedar Vale HS	40
Rozel-Pawnee Heights HS	40
Tescott HS	40
Wichita-Central Christian Academy	40
Almena-Northern Valley HS	39
White City HS	39
Logan HS	38
Wilson HS	35
Fowler HS	32
Natoma HS	30
Ransom-Western Plains HS	29
Weskan HS	29
Brewster HS	28
Palco HS	28
Glasco HS	27
Longton-Elk Valley HS	26
Hamilton HS	25
Miltonvale HS	22

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

Dillon earns third consecutive state medal



Louisburg's Calvin Dillon won his third straight state medal last week during the Class 4A state golf tournament in Dodge City. Dillon finished 11th overall with an 80.

DODGE CITY – It was a state golf tournament to remember for Calvin Dillon and some of those memories weren't always the best ones.

Dillon and the Louisburg golf team traveled to Mariah Hills Golf Course last week in Dodge City to take part in the Class 4A meet that was delayed for more than a week due to inclement weather. If that wasn't bad enough, it wasn't even the same course the Wildcats were originally scheduled to play on.

The Class 4A tournament was scheduled to be held in Winfield, but due to the torrential rains, the course had to be moved to a different site. So all the preparation for the Winfield

course went out the window and the Wildcats quickly had to learn about their new landing spot.

“It was very chaotic waiting for KSHSAA to announce where and when we were going to play,” Dillon said. “It was frustrating because we were supposed to ‘leave’ for the tournament a couple times and didn’t actually leave for about a week.”

As hectic as the experience was, there were still plenty of good memories to be had. For Dillon, that meant garnering his third consecutive state medal.

The Louisburg junior carded an 80 on the Mariah Hills course last Wednesday to finish 11th overall in the individual standings.

“It feels good to earn another state medal,” Dillon said. “It was a little disappointing because the round didn’t go well, but I had to stick in there and grind to finish in the top 15.”

Dillon was in the top 10 for most of the tournament, but had a double bogey on his last hole to move him out of the top 10 and into 11th. He had one birdie on the day, but Dillon also had six bogeys and two doubles as he tried to maneuver through Mariah Hills on what was a blustery day in Western Kansas.

“Mariah Hills is a links style course and it played a little long because it was so windy there,” Dillon said.

“With the course being as open as it was, the wind was a big factor.”

The rest of the Louisburg team also had its struggles with the

course, but the three other Wildcat golfers were able to experience state for the first time.

Junior Drake Varns finished 34th overall as he carded an 88 to finish second on the Louisburg team. Juniors Ryan

Haight (103) and Colin Cook (125) were 73rd and 82nd, respectively. Senior Noah Hill and junior Garrett Rolofson were not able to participate in the tournament due to previous engagements.

“It was great having the guys there,” Dillon said. “We all got some great experience and hopefully we will be back next year.”

The high school season may be over, but for Dillon, his golf season is just heating up. He is scheduled to play in tournaments throughout the summer as he prepares for his senior year and for his collegiate future.

“I have a rigorous summer schedule planned out,” Dillon said. “The state tournament gives me a lot of motivation to practice harder and get better for summer tournaments as well as next high school season.”

Wildcat golf qualifies for

state; Dillon wins regional title



The Louisburg golf team finished third Monday during the Class 4A regional tournament in Paola and qualified for the state tournament. Members of the team are (from left) Colin Cook, Drake Varns, Calvin Dillon, Ryan Haight, Garrett Rolofson and Noah Hill.

PAOLA – As the scores trickled in to the clubhouse at Paola Country Club, the Louisburg golf team could hardly stand it.

The Wildcats were nervously waiting to hear if they had qualified for state, but they knew it was going to be close. Louisburg had to be in the top three of the team standings to earn a spot and the Wildcats had some tough competition amongst them.

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

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

the state tournament in Winfield.

Topeka-Hayden won the regional title going away with a 332 and Louisburg was just three strokes behind runner-up Tonganoxie, which had a 349.

"It feels great, especially with all the hard work we have put in the offseason and last few months," Dillon said. "It was our goal coming in and we did it. I felt like we had a good chance. It was borderline with those four teams being as close as we are. I knew we had a chance, but it was nice to actually qualify. It was definitely a little nerve-racking waiting for the scores to come in."

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

The Louisburg junior won his first individual regional title as he carded a 1-over 73 to win the tournament by six strokes. Dillon's 73 was his best score on the season and he has now won all but one tournament on the year.

Dillon got off to a good start at Paola Country Club as he birdied his first hole and had three on the day. He also birdied his final hole on No. 18 with a nice chip and putt to seal the top spot.

"It was nice to get that under my belt, especially since I haven't really finished all the well at regionals the last couple of years," Dillon said. "It is definitely good to get in the winner's

circle here.

"I thought I played well. I got off to a good start early and birdied No. 1 and I think that really helped me momentum-wise. I just gave myself looks all day and it worked well. It was also nice to end it with a birdie and I was able to make a nice putt there at the end."



Louisburg junior Calvin Dillon won his first regional championship with a 1-over 73 on Monday in Paola.

Varns also played well for the Wildcats

as he carded an 87 and finished 10th overall to earn a medal. The Louisburg

junior had to play a playoff hole to decide 9th and 10th place.

Although he lost the playoff,

Varns played well in his final nine holes after a rough patch

early on where he had back-to-back triple bogeys. He went on to card a 40 on the back nine to get himself back into contention for a medal.

“It is nice and I am really happy to get a medal,” Varns said. “It is basically a home course for me as I play here quite a bit. I didn’t play very well the first nine holes, but I came back, followed through and shot a good back nine.

“After the back-to-back triples, it took me awhile to get back into it. I was just in my own head. I came out and shot par the next hole and that just got me back in the right mindset.”



Louisburg junior Drake Varns carded an 87 during the regional tournament Monday in Paola and medaled 10th overall.

Haight was third on the Wildcat

team with a 95 and finished 22nd overall, while Rolofson carded a 97 and took 23. Hill finished with a 111 and Cook had a 116 to round out the Louisburg scores.

The Wildcats are now preparing to compete in their first state tournament, but it isn't known when the last time Louisburg qualified a team for state. The last known team to qualify for state was in 1977 when the Wildcats won the sand greens title.

On Monday, the Wildcats will tee off around 10 a.m. in Winfield for the Class 4A state tournament at Quail Ridge Golf Course. Cook will tee off first at 10 a.m. on hole No. 10 and the rest of the Wildcats will follow ending with Dillon's scheduled tee time being 10:50 a.m.

"It feels great," Varns said of qualifying. "We have been working since last summer to get here and it is nice to come through and do well at regionals. It has been awhile since that has happened.

"State is going to be so fun. I don't think we are going to feel a lot of pressure, but we just want to go have fun and see what happens."

Expectations are high for Dillon as he is one of the top golfers heading into state action. His 73 was the top score from all the regionals last Monday, but Dillon knows

state will be a big challenge as he has medaled the last two seasons.

“The Winfield course is set up really tough,” Dillon said. “The rough is really thick and the greens are fast. If I play like I did (Monday), I think I can have a genuine shot at winning.”

Louisburg coach Brian Burns agrees that Dillon will be among the favorites come tee time.

“Calvin is playing great golf right now,” Burns said. “He is still working on his accuracy on his drives, but is hitting the ball a long way. I know the course at Winfield has long rough and hard and fast greens, but we are trying our best to play the ball down at our course this week to work on a more upright swing, chopping down at the ball to advance our rough shots.

“Overall, I like where everyone is with their game, but it is an individual sport and they must get over their own nerves and be confident. Calvin has a chance to place in the top five at state, if not better.”

**Dillon wins Ottawa
Invitational; Wildcats take**

second



The Louisburg golf team took second last week at the Ottawa Invitational. Members of the team are (from left) Garrett Rolofson, Noah Hill, Calvin Dillon, Drake Varns, Ryan Haight and Cole Williams.

OTTAWA – It has been a special year so far for the Louisburg golf team and the Wildcats added to that on April 29 when they traveled to the Ottawa Invitational.

For the fifth time this season, the Wildcats finished in the top two of the team standings as they took second overall with a 346. Louisburg junior Calvin Dillon also recorded his fourth consecutive tournament win and made for a successful day at Ottawa Country Club.

“We are very happy to get second at Ottawa,” Dillon said. “Ottawa is a great team and they are high up in the state rankings. Surprisingly, our teams have become friends throughout the season.”

Dillon continued his hot streak as he carded a 75 to roll to the Ottawa title and has taken first in every

tournament but one so far this season.

"I played a solid round at Ottawa, with ups and downs along the way," Dillon said. "I played the front nine at 3-over, but I really buckled down on the back nine to shoot the 75.

"The course was a little wet and the greens were punched as well, which led to some bumpy putts. I got off to a slow start with my driver, so I switched to my 3-wood towards the end of the front nine. That really helped me get things under control and finish well."

Senior Noah Hill had his best round of the season so far as he finished with an 88 to finish second on the team. Junior Garrett Rolofson was third with a 91.

Junior Drake Varns and senior Ryan Haight both carded a 92, while senior Cole Williams rounded out the Wildcat team with a 106.

"Noah was very excited about his round," Dillon said. "He birdied his first hole, which was a good representation of the rest of his day. He feels like he has more in the tank too, which is a great sign."

Louisburg was scheduled to compete in the Anderson County Invitational today, but was rained out. The Wildcats will compete at the Prairie View Invitational on Thursday at Deer Trace in their final competition before regionals.

Wildcats take first at Atchison, second at home invitational



Louisburg junior Garrett Rolofson chips onto the green last Monday during the team's home invitational at Metcalf Ridge Golf Course. Rolofson medaled seventh and then medaled again Thursday in Atchison.

ATCHISON – It couldn't have been a much better week for the Louisburg golf team, or for junior Calvin Dillon.

The Wildcats certainly had plenty of medals to prove it.

Louisburg won the Atchison Invitational on Thursday at Bellevue Country Club with a 356 and earned their second team medal of the week. The Wildcats won the team title by two strokes over Kansas City Christian.

Dillon continued his tear through the 2019 season as he won his third consecutive tournament with a 78 on the Atchison course, in what was less than ideal conditions.

"The wind was very tough for the guys at Atchison," Louisburg coach Brian Burns said. "I was

happy with their scores considering all that.”

Junior Garrett Rolofson picked up an individual medal, along with Dillon, as he finished ninth with a 92. Fellow junior Drake Varns also carded a 92, but just missed out on the top 10 for medal as he lost a scorecard playoff.

Another junior, Ryan Haight, had one of his best scores of the season as he shot a 94. Senior Noah Hill (100) and junior Luke Wickersham (107) was fifth and sixth on the Wildcat team, respectively.



Junior Ryan Haight watches his tee shot last Monday during the Louisburg Invitational.

As great as the end of the week was for Louisburg, the beginning was almost as good as the Wildcats hosted the Louisburg Invitational last Monday at Metcalf Ridge Golf

Course.

Louisburg finished second in the team standings with a 340 and finished seven strokes behind champion Ottawa, which had a 333.

Dillon was able to get the victory on his home course, but it was a challenging one as he finished in a tie with Ottawa's Cade Gollier as both players carded a 77. However, Dillon won the scorecard playoff as he was one of three Wildcats to medal.

"We shot the best we have all year," Burns said. "I am very proud of all the guys."

Dillon had a rough start to his round as he had a triple bogey to open, but then followed with an eagle on No. 4 to get back into it. He nearly had another eagle a couple holes later, but his shot rimmed out and he settled for a birdie.

After that, Dillon was able to settle in as he has now won all but one of this tournaments that he has competed in this season.

Varns and Rolofson also earned medals for the Wildcats. Varns had a strong outing as he finished with an 83, which was good for fifth place.

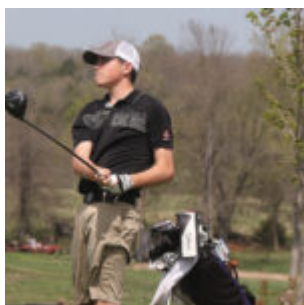
Rolofson carded an 88, which was his best round of the season for Louisburg, and he came in seventh overall.

Junior Ryan Haight and senior Noah Hill also had their best rounds of the season on their home course as they shot a 92 and 93, respectively. Junior Colin Cook rounded out the

Louisburg scores
with a 98.

Louisburg returns to action today
when it travels to the Ottawa Invitational. Tee time is set
for 2 p.m. at
Ottawa Country Club.

Birdie on final hole clinches second straight league title for Dillon



Louisburg junior Calvin Dillon watches his tee shot last Tuesday during the Osawatomie Invitational. On Thursday, Dillon won the Frontier League title with a 75 at Sycamore Ridge.

SPRING HILL – Calvin Dillon wasn't overly enthused about his round last Tuesday at Osawatomie Invitational, where he finished third overall.

It wasn't a bad round, but for Dillon, it was rough enough for him to want make amends in one of his biggest tournaments of the season.

Dillon and the Louisburg golf team competed in the Spring Hill Invitational on Thursday at Sycamore Ridge, which also doubled as the Frontier League Invitational. Needless to say after it was all over, Dillon felt a lot better about his performance.

For the second consecutive season, Dillon won the Frontier League title as he carded a 75 on the par 72 course.

"I am extremely happy to win league again," Dillon said. "Sycamore Ridge is an amazing venue and I just love that golf course. It's very challenging, but if you hit your spots right it's very scoreable."

Dillon's score also helped the Wildcats to a third-place finish in the league portion of the tournament.

Dillon, Drake Varns, Garrett Rolofson, Ryan Haight, Noah Hill and Cole Williams combined for a 358 and finished behind league champion Ottawa (321) and runner-up Tonganoxie (346).

Down a stroke going into his final hole, Dillon picked the perfect time to have his best hole of the day. He birdied No. 18 to finish in a tie with Mill Valley's Tanner Moore and Dillon won the tiebreaker to capture the league and Spring Hill tournament titles.

"I was happy with the finish considering the windy, cool and wet conditions," Dillon said. "It was really a

day where you had to be mentally tough and grind through some tougher holes. I had three bogeys on the front side and finished with a 39, where on the back I had one bogey and the birdie on 18. It was a great feeling to head to the clubhouse having birdies the last hole."

Juniors Drake Varns, Garrett Rolofson and Ryan Haight each finished in the top 20 of the league standings.

Varns shot a 90 to take 14th overall and Rolofson carded a 96 to finish 19th. Haight shot a 97 and was 20th.

Seniors Noah Hill and Cole Williams rounded out the Wildcat team with a 101 and 114, respectively.

Louisburg will be back on its home course today when the Wildcats host the Louisburg Invitational at Metcalf Ridge Golf Course. Tee time is set for 1 p.m.

Wildcats finish second at Osawatomie

Louisburg started its week with a stop at the Osawatomie Invitational and the Wildcats put together another strong team performance.

The Wildcats finished second overall with a 346 at the Osawatomie Golf Course and finished 13 strokes behind Ottawa, which took first with a 346.

Louisburg had three medals on the day as junior Calvin Dillon was third with a 78 and fellow junior

Drake Varns

carded a 79 and finished fourth. Junior Garrett Rolofson shot a 94 and medaled

18th overall.



Louisburg senior Cole Williams watches his tee shot last Tuesday during the Osawatomie Invitational.

“The team came in clutch and played extremely well to finish second,” Dillon said. “We are gaining more and more confidence as the season rolls on. I struggled a little bit, and the short game wasn’t quite all there as it’s tough to score with the small greens.”

Junior Ryan Haight just missed a

medal as he carded a 95 and was 21st. Seniors Noah Hill and

Cole

Williams each shot a 99 as they took 29th and 30th, respectively.

Dillon, Wildcats win Paola Invitational title



Louisburg junior Calvin Dillon puts his fairway shot onto the green last Monday during the Paola Invitational at Paola Country Club. Dillon won the individual crown with a 75.

PAOLA – The Louisburg golf team couldn't have asked for a better start to its season last Monday when the Wildcats competed in the Paola Invitational.

Not only did Louisburg have two of the top three individual medalists, but the Wildcats took home the tournament's top prize. The Wildcats scored a 349 to finish first overall in the team standings and won by seven strokes over second place Anderson County.

Louisburg junior Calvin Dillon continued to show that he is one of the best golfers in the area. Dillon, a two-time state medalist, won the individual crown with a 75 on what was a soggy course at Paola Country Club – the same course the

Wildcats will compete on later in the year for regionals.

"I hit the drive and putter really well," Dillon said. "I made too many mistakes on my approach shots leading to a lot of bogeys, but I covered them up nicely with birdies. It was really nice to win the first tournament and that gives me confidence moving forward knowing that I am capable of competing at a high level.

"The course was very wet, so the balls were plugging a lot and almost every club got no roll. However, already playing in Paola gives us a big advantage in the regional tournament having played that course already and having it so close to home."

Dillon wasn't the only Wildcat to medal as junior Drake Varns had a strong first showing as well. Varns carded an 82 to finish third overall, and was one stroke behind Spring Hill's Patrick Hartsock for second. Varns, along with Dillon, were two of several reasons for the team's first place finish.



Junior Drake Varns chips onto the green during the Paola Invitational. Varns took third overall.

"The team played very well and we are all so excited to get a win under our belt," Dillon said. "Drake played a great round too. I'm happy for him because he has been putting in a lot of hard work in the offseason, as well as in practice."

Junior David Perentis was third on the Wildcat team with a 94 and finished 14th overall. Luke Wickersham, another Louisburg junior, carded a 98 to take 21st.

Junior Ryan Haight (102) and senior Noah Hill (103) rounded out the Wildcat team in 24th and 26th place, respectively.



Members of the Louisburg golf team that took first at Paola last week are (from left), Noah Hill, Luke Wickersham, Ryan Haight, Calvin Dillon, Drake Varns and David Perentis.

"I was pleased when my number six, David Perentis, came through and shot his best score 94. Also, Luke Wickersham broke 100 with a 98 and that helped our team score. Drake played well at his home course and Calvin, who has not had a bunch of practice time, got back on track as well.

"I know we can shoot a team score in the 330's, but my golfers need to work harder in focusing more when having small competitions during our practices. They can take that experience to the meets."

It will be a busy week for the Wildcats as they will travel to the Osawatomie Invitational on Tuesday, and then they will compete in the Spring Hill Invitational on Thursday at Sycamore Ridge.

Dillon hopes to secure another state medal as he leads Wildcat golf



Louisburg junior Calvin Dillon is hoping to earn his third consecutive state medal this season for the Wildcats.

Calvin Dillon has had one of the best starts – if not the best start – to a golf career in Louisburg High School history.

Dillon earned state medals during his freshman and sophomore seasons, and for some, those results alone would be a great high school career. However, Dillon is only halfway done and he isn't resting on his laurels.

Once his season completed last May, Dillon didn't stop playing as he competed in junior tournaments over the summer and into the fall as well. Even the cold weather didn't stop Dillon from picking up the clubs.

"With how bad our winter was, I hit a lot of balls and putted in an indoor facility in Overland Park," Dillon said. "It was a great feeling when the weather turned and it was nice to see

some balls fly again.”

Dillon and his Wildcat teammates have been hard at work at practice the last couple weeks with the warmer weather as they prepare for their season opener Monday in Paola.

Last season, Dillon finished 11th at the state tournament in Emporia and he is hoping for even better things this time around.

“I would like to win another state medal and improve my placing from the last two years,” Dillon said. “We’ve been working really hard at practice, putting a lot of emphasis on the short game. Coach has been giving us a lot of wedge and putting drills that will really help us throughout the season. We’re all ready to compete and the guys are hungry to win this year.”

Louisburg coach Brian Burns knows Dillon is capable of doing great things for the Wildcats this season and has noticed a little difference in his game.

“Calvin switched to an overlapping grip last year and has been playing a bunch,” Burns said. “I know he will be trying to win every meet. He is a great golfer.”

The Wildcats return three golfers with varsity experience from a year ago. Along with Dillon, juniors Ryan Haight, Drake Varns and David Perentis will return to help lead Louisburg.

Juniors Garrett Rolofson and Luke Wickersham, along with

senior Cole Williams, could all see varsity time as well, according to Burns.

“There are a couple junior varsity players that are improving that might be able to take one or two of those varsity spots,” Burns said. “My expectations for the season are always high, but we are not where we need to be yet. I would like to get no lower than third in any tournament containing less than 10 teams.”

The Wildcats will get their season started Monday when they travel to the Paola Country Club for the Paola Invitational. Tee time is set for 2 p.m.

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 11th overall with a 3-over par 74.

It was the second consecutive state medal for Dillon after he finished 10th 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.”

It 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 win 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 Miego. 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.

Hinkle ready to take on role as LHS activities director



Walking into Scott Hinkle's office, it doesn't appear he started a new job two weeks ago.

The moving boxes are mostly gone. His desk is organized with everything in its place, along with a calendar crammed full of upcoming events.

Hinkle is not shy to tell people about his love for the Boston Red Sox. Sitting on one wall are two older chairs from Fenway Park, along other memorabilia.

The one thing that Hinkle hasn't caught up on is his efforts to get some purple gear. An avid Kansas Jayhawk fan, he hasn't had need to purchase any purple flair in the past. Seems like that will change shortly as he was hired as the new activities director and assistant principal at Louisburg High School.

earlier this summer.

"I have been a Jayhawk fan all my life," Hinkle said. "It will be a little weird to wear purple that is for sure, but I am sure I will get used to it. Before I left my old job, people found out where I was going so they started giving me little gifts with purple on it, like markers and stuff like that. They definitely got a kick out of that."

Hinkle takes over for Jeremy Holloway, who was promoted to principal at LHS and becomes the third activities director in as many years to take over that spot.

"My wife has family in Kansas City and I have family in Wichita and so we were looking to come this way," Hinkle said. "I had a couple friends that told me that the Louisburg position had opened up. I had heard of Louisburg a long time ago. I actually coached at Ottawa University in the early 90s and was familiar with the area. I came up, interviewed and here I am. It has obviously worked out well."

"Everyone has been so helpful and friendly and it is a good time to be coming to Louisburg. I am excited to be here."

Before taking the job in Louisburg, Hinkle had spent the last 22 years in the Liberal school district in a variety of roles. He served as the boys high school basketball coach, along with nine years as an activities director, a year as the head girls basketball coach at the local community college and last year he served as assistant principal at the high school.

Hinkle graduated from Valley Center High School, and went on from there to earn his bachelor's degree from Friends University, where he played basketball, and his master's from the University of Kansas.

Basketball has always been a passion for Hinkle, but during his time as activities director at Liberal, he had a chance to learn the life of other sports as well.

"Liberal changed a lot from when I first got there in the mid 90s when they were a football and track powerhouse," Hinkle said. "There were just athletes galore, but the culture kind of changed. We were really good in soccer and decent in track and volleyball. We still had good kids and good athletes, but it was a big transition as far as sports go when I first got there. My kids grew up there and being involved and being able to watch their events was something that has always appealed to me.

"Basketball has always been in my blood. Other than my nine years as athletic director, I have coached in some capacity and I am a big basketball fan. Obviously, being an athletic director I am just a big sports fan in general."

Still new in town, Hinkle is still trying to get to know his coaching staff, but he is excited about the situation he is walking into with the Wildcats finishing as state runner-ups in volleyball and girls soccer last season. Several cross country, golf, wrestling and track athletes also earned state medals.

However, if there is one thing he wanted to relay to everyone is that he wants to give his coaches the freedom to run their programs.

"I want to let the coaches, coach," he said. "I am not going to be the guy that says this is how we did things in Liberal and I am not that type of leader. If it comes to the point where they need some advice, I want to be a resource for them. I don't want to be someone that is looking for something.

"I have met a few of the coaches. I have let them know that I am here if they need anything. I have stopped by the weight room to speak to a few coaches and some have stopped by to introduce themselves. I am still learning names and faces. We have a coaches meeting on the 10th and I will see and learn a lot more about them then."

With all the success the Wildcats had last season in the sports arena, Hinkle is happy to be a part of the LHS family and is learning new things about the town every day.

“I have heard all types of things,” he said. “I have heard they take football pretty seriously here. I know they were state runner-up in volleyball and girls soccer last year and that is an exciting thing to walk into. I think expectations are obviously high in those sports, but I think everyone always has high expectations. I am not going to do anything different than normal and I am just going to sit back and observe for a while and take it all in.”

Hinkle will experience some different things along with his new position. This season, the Frontier League will welcome three new teams – Bonner Springs, Piper and Tonganoxie – and will say goodbye to De Soto.

Another big change will be the postseason formats with several sports as the Kansas State High School Activities Association reshuffled their classification system, eliminating Class 4A-Division II.

“With the changes in the league, the classification system and being a new AD, it is probably a good time to be coming on,” Hinkle said. “The learning curve is going to be the same for all of us.

“I walked into a good situation for scheduling because (Holloway) already had everything all taken care of,” he said. “I think the dynamics of the league are going to change. Liberal’s former girls basketball coach is the coach at Piper and I know a little bit about them. As far as the programs and rivalries, that is something that is going to come with time.”

Even with all the changes in his life – moving, starting a new job, getting to know new faces – Hinkle is ready for what lies ahead and the staff at Louisburg has helped with that transition.

"It has been a whirlwind and it has been information overload," he said. "It is a lot of the same things I did in Liberal as athletic director, I just haven't done it for the last five years. Being an assistant principal at Liberal last year, I think, helped me prepare for the principal side.

"People have just gone out of their way to be helpful. From the administration to the custodial staff to the secretaries, everyone has been super helpful. When I was out around town, people have welcomed me and it has been a friendly feel everywhere I have been."