2020 Senior Spotlight: Garrett Rolofson



Louisburg Sports Zone will be running senior spotlights through April and May everyday (Monday through Friday) in an effort to honor seniors who had their seasons taken away due to the spread of COVID-19.

Garrett Rolofson remembers his favorite Louisburg golf memory quite vividly.

It was the moment when the Wildcats were on pins and needles waiting for their fate to be determined following last season's regional tournament in Paola. It was a nerve-racking experience for Rolofson and the rest of his teammates.

"We were all sitting in the club house nervously awaiting for the last few scores to come in from Ottawa," Rolofson said. "I remember we were counting all the group scores over and over again because of how bad we wanted to make it to the state tournament. I remember when the last score was tallied and we knew we made it to state. It was a memory I will never forget."

Little did Rolofson know that it would be the last time he would suit up for the Wildcat golf team.

Inclement weather pushed back the state tournament a week and Rolofson was unable to participate due to a previous engagement. It was a tough break for him, but the silver lining was that he would get another chance for his senior

year.

“This golf season was something I’m sure almost every golf senior was looking forward to,” Rolofson said. “After making it to state last year, and returning almost everyone but Noah (Hill), gave us confidence and our goal was to place in the state tournament. We knew we had a good enough team to make it to state again, and there was no doubt we would have, but this time we wanted to place.”

Unfortunately a team – that featured eight seniors – will never get that opportunity. The spread of COVID-19 canceled spring sports across the state back in March and high school careers for seniors were ended prematurely.

Rolofson was on the golf course of all places when he received the official word.

“Drake Varns and I were on hole 9 at Paola Country Club,” Rolofson said. “We had just finished our afternoon round of 9 holes and were walking back to our golf cart. I received the notification that school was cancelled for the rest of the year and my heart sank. Drake and I were talking how maybe, just maybe, they would let us play our last year and find some way we could still play sports. But in the back of our minds we knew our high school golf careers were finished. It hit me really hard, especially because after last year’s state tournament initially got rained out and due to a scheduled vacation I couldn’t attend the new state tournament.

“I remember the countless rounds of golf we played over the summer to make sure we could go to state again and how hard we worked and now it’s all for nothing. It is still hard thinking about what could have been, possibly the greatest golf team to come through Louisburg High School, never getting to even play a tournament.”



Louisburg senior Garrett Rolofson was one of five returning golfers from last season's state team.

Golf hasn't always been a big part of Rolofson's life, but he has really caught on to the sport in the last few years.

"My freshman and sophomore years of high school I played baseball," he said. "I first started golfing during the spring semester of my sophomore year when Calvin (Dillon) came over to my house and saw my dad's clubs. We went to my backyard and started making our own holes, marking trees, bushes, and any object as a hole and played rounds of backyard golf.

"Over the course of a month, I remember when I first got invited to play a round of golf. I had no clubs, balls, a glove or anything. My dad let me use his clubs but my classmates helped me out with the other supplies. Ever since that time during my sophomore year, golf has been a major getaway for me. It's a way that I can see my friends, have a

competition with them and play this amazing sport.”

Although he experienced a lot of success in his short time with the Wildcat program, that part isn’t what he is going to miss the most – it is the chance to play with his seven other senior teammates.

“This class of senior golfers is a once in a lifetime type of group,” Rolofson said. “I had never played a round of golf until the spring of my sophomore year and I remember I was welcomed right into the group, added to their group chats, and was invited to golf every time they went out.

“This was something special because we would always go to get better, but also to have fun with our friends and have a little competition while always trying to invite more and more people to grow the golf team. Practicing last year, with a junior (now senior) dominant team was amazing because it was the group of boys we always golfed with and just got to go out and enjoy playing the game we love.”

Other than golf, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Garrett on how he has been coping with an early end to his senior year and some of his other interests. Here are his responses from the rest of our Q&A.

LSZ: What have you been missing the most during this time away from everyone?

GR: This time away from everyone has been harder than I first expected. It hit me last week that March 12 was my last day ever of high school. I would never have another class, sporting event or see most everyone ever again. The hardest part is knowing in five months I will be moving away and starting a new chapter in my life. I won’t get to see everyone I grew up with and spent 13 years of my life with, now knowing I won’t get the proper goodbye to my family of Louisburg.

LSZ: What is your most memorable moment as an athlete or in

school, and why?

GR: My most memorable moment as a student and student athlete isn't actually an achievement. Every memory I have of sports, from the golf teams' first state appearance in years to a historic soccer season this year – are all amazing and something I will never forget. But my favorite memory was listening to the golf playlist before every tournament and before every time we played golf. We would play these same five or six songs over and over before every round of golf because it was "good luck" and everyone singing and having a good time was always fun.

LSZ: What is your favorite activity/hobby outside of sports and why?

GR: My favorite hobby outside of sports is actually solving Rubik's Cubes. In seventh grade I was taught by Deven Wieland how to solve them and my fascination and obsession grew from there. I enjoy Rubik's Cubes because it's a very good stress reliever and is a way for me to just relax.

LSZ: What are your plans after graduation?

GR: I plan to attend the University of Kansas to obtain a degree in exercise science and minor in business with my ultimate goal of being a sport physical therapist.

LSZ: What accomplishments that don't involve athletics are you most proud of and why?

GR: I am most proud of lettering in academics every year of middle school and high school. It is a big achievement of mine because it shows how hard I worked not only on the sports playing field, but in the classroom.

LSZ: What do you think would be something that a lot of people don't know about you?

GR: If I could go to one place in the world right now it would

be Japan because I want to learn about the culture and way of life. I am one-fourth Japanese and I would like to travel to Japan and learn about my ethnicity.

Garrett’s Favorites

Pro athlete: Rory McIlroy

Pro team: Kansas City Chiefs

College team: University of Nebraska

Movie: Avengers: Endgame

TV Show: The Flash

Song: LOYAL (feat. Drake) by Partynextdoor

Band/Musician: Post Malone

Pregame meal/snack: Peanut Butter and Jelly

Class/subject: Math

Teacher and why: Conley, because he is always there for me and through soccer has shown me so many valuable life lessons that I will continue to use throughout my life.

Previous Senior Spotlights

Drake Varns – Golf

Trinity Moore – Girls Soccer

Andrew Krause – Baseball

Kayla Willey – Softball

Anthony Davis – Track and Field

2020 Senior Spotlight: Drake Varns



Louisburg Sports Zone will be running senior spotlights everyday (Monday-Friday) through April and May in an effort to honor seniors who had their spring seasons taken away due to the spread of COVID-19.

Since last June, Louisburg senior Drake Varns had been waiting for one more shot at playing with his team at the highest level.

Varns and the Wildcat golf team qualified for the Class 4A state tournament a year ago and were the first Louisburg squad since 1977 to go to state as a team. With a majority of the Wildcats back from last season, expectations were high all-around.

“There were no possibly about it, we were most definitely going back to state,” Varns said.

Varns ended the 2019 campaign on an exciting note as he took 10th at the regional tournament and earned a medal. He went on to finish 34th at the state tournament and it was a memorable time for him and the rest of his team.

It was a different state tournament than in year’s past as the team made the drive to compete at state in Winfield, but torrential rains forced it to be postponed for a week and it was eventually moved to Dodge City.

“Going to state was a great time,” Varns said. “The characters we had on the golf team, plus the coaches, really made the drives and stay a fun and exciting time.”

“Playing last year at state was definitely a blast, especially with the extension. It just allowed us more time together as a team. After state, we all knew we were gonna be back with everyone we had returning.”

Unfortunately, that would not be the case.

The spread of COVID-19 canceled, not only school, but the spring sports season as well and left seniors across the state in shock as their final seasons of competition was taken from them.

“I really do not care about the graduation, the prom or anything like that, but, when golf was canceled I was devastated,” Varns said. “I just wanted to play with the boys one last time.”

Expectations were high for the Wildcats this season as they returned five of the six members from last year’s state team and had eight seniors in all. To prepare for one last campaign, many of the seniors got together for practice rounds in the fall and spring.

It was not just about qualifying for state again, but they had high expectations for themselves. Varns, along with teammate Calvin Dillon, are both playing golf in college next season and the Wildcats wanted to make sure they were ready for one final run at it.



Senior Drake Varns earned a regional medal a year ago and helped the Wildcats to a state tournament appearance last season.

“When you have two college athletes on one team and one who has been playing since they were 5-years-old (Dillon), you know you’re going to be good,” Varns said. “But, the supporting roles were the true stars of the show always coming in when most needed. We have a bond that most teams do not have and teams like this don’t lose – that’s just a fact.”

Golf has been a big part of Varns’ high school career, but it hasn’t always been that way. In fact, it wasn’t until high school when he actually got into the spot.

“I started truly golfing my freshman year,” Varns said. “I got into it by getting cut from the baseball team. From then on, I just fell in love with golf.”

Other than golf, Louisburg Sports Zone also had a chance to catch up with Drake on how he has been coping with an early end to his senior year and some of his other interests. Here are his responses from the rest of our Q&A.

LSZ: What have you been missing the most during this time away from everyone?

DV: I've been missing, well, everyone. I'm a pretty big people person so this time away from my friends has really taken its toll.

LSZ: What is your most memorable moment as an athlete or in school and why?

DV: My most memorable moment has been either state golf, of course, or the feeling of making that 41 yard field goal during football. That was great. Really it was just the feeling of accomplishment of both.

LSZ: What is your favorite activity/hobby outside of sports and why?

DV: My favorite activity outside of golf is – golf. Just kidding, it would probably be fishing or hunting. I love the peacefulness, I guess.

LSZ: What accomplishments that don't involve athletics are you most proud of and why?

DV: My most proud accomplishment is owning a 1981 El Camino.

LSZ: What are your plans for after graduation?

DV: I plan to attend St. Mary's of the Woods (Indiana) to study Natural Sciences and play golf.

LSZ: What do you think would be something that a lot of people don't know about you?

DV: A lot of people don't know I'm a tank on the saxophone.

Drake’s Favorites

Pro athlete: Tiger Woods

Pro team: Kansas City Chiefs

College team: Mizzou

Movie: Happy Gilmore

TV Show: Criminal Minds

Song: Just the Two of Us – Grover Washington

Band/Musician: Billy Joel

Pregame meal/snack: Enchiladas

Class/subject: Science

Teacher and why: Big Bear (Barry O’Brien) – I’ve never had him as a teacher, but he’s my dawg

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Players, coaches mourn loss of spring sports season



Louisburg softball, along with the rest of the Wildcat spring sports teams, saw their season come to a close with the spread of COVID-19.

It has been almost a week since Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly closed all schools for the rest of the 2019-20 school year due to the spread of COVID-19.

When most students hear school has been closed, especially in the winter, cheers erupt. In this case, however, the tone was much more somber – especially among the senior class.

Proms were canceled. Any plans they had for a graduation ceremony were put on hold, and for more than 30 seniors, their last opportunity at playing a sport at Louisburg High School was taken away.

In fact, close to 200 students were planning on participating in an activity in the spring, but with no school, the Kansas State High School Activities Association followed suit and canceled the spring season the day after Gov. Kelly's declaration.

Students, parents and coaches alike have had to come to grips that a season they had been looking forward to all year, was never going to happen. Tears flowed, walls were punched in frustration and some were left speechless.

There would be no game days, no Senior Nights and no postseason runs. Athletes had to figure out how to cope with this fact – and in many cases – are still trying to do so.

GIRLS SOCCER

Mackenzie Scholtz didn't spend as much of her Spring Break relaxing with family and friends as she wanted.

Instead,

she found herself focused on social media, constantly checking updates on what was going to happen with the rest of her senior year. She was scared that her final soccer season was going to be taken away from her.

Turns out, those fears became a reality.

“When I read it for the first time, I just couldn’t believe it,” Scholtz said. “I immediately broke down in tears. I think I cried for about four hours non-stop just thinking that I would never get to step on that field with my best friends ever again. I had such high hopes for this season too and had been so excited all year.”

Before this all came about, none of the 12 Louisburg seniors had any idea they had already played their last match as a Wildcat.

The senior class of Scholtz, Avery O’Meara, Erin Lemke, Lily McDaniel, Ashley Moore, Trinity Moore, Skylar Bowman, Haley Cain, Hannah Straub, Olivia Chase, Andie Masten and Morgan Messer provided Wildcat coach Kyle Conley with a lot of good memories, which left the news even harder to stomach.

Louisburg was looking for its fourth consecutive state final four appearance after earning second place finishes the last two seasons.

“The decision absolutely broke my heart,” Conley said. “I couldn’t in a million years fathom something like this could happen. I honestly felt the cancellation was harsh this early, but would have rather like to have seen a postponement and then reevaluate at a later date.

This group of 12 seniors was going to be very special. If they would have returned to the state final four this season, they would have been one of only two 4A-1A teams to do this improbable feat. This group was 44-18-1 in their three years. I would be willing to bet this is the most successful program over those three years in regards to win percentage. Obviously, winning state championships would trump that, but we were extremely successful.”

The one thing that has helped players get past this disappointment is that there are so many seniors to lean on and they have done a lot of that this past week.

“The amount of support from this team has helped me so much,” Scholtz said. “As soon as we found out that we would no longer play, all of us seniors were sending nothing but love to one another as well as to the whole team. Individually, there were many messages sent showing how much we love each other and that this would get better. Coach Conley and the younger girls also shared a lot of great messages as well. Hearing positive words is really helping me get through this whole thing.”



The 2020 Louisburg High School girls soccer team

Many of the 12 seniors and their parents were a part of the group that helped raise money to start the Louisburg program nearly five years ago. They had always dreamed of winning a state title, but the wondering what could have happened is the worst part for a lot of them.

“This group had three goals: they wanted to win a league title, to win a regional championship and finally win a state championship,” Conley said. “This would have been our program’s fifth year and everything was built for this season. I believed in this group and I felt we were going to compete for that league title and we were going to go back to the state final four. We wanted three banners: league title, regional championship, and a state championship. It’s so sad that we will never get the opportunity to show the state what this team is capable of accomplishing.”

BASEBALL

Kade Larson was all set to begin his first season as the head baseball coach at Louisburg High School.

Larson, who was hired late last spring, was looking forward to leading his alma mater and had high expectations for a group that was young, but returned experience from the year before.

Then came the news from KSHSAA to cancel spring activities, which left Larson, and the rest of the Wildcat program, speechless – including seniors Madden Rutherford, Andrew Krause and Kaden Oehlert.

“To say I am disappointed is an understatement,” Larson said. “I was very excited for this upcoming year. Being my first year as head coach I was more than ready to get the season underway and see what kind of team we had. I thought we could do some great things this year with the group that we were working with. For the short time we were able to practice, they had a great chemistry and worked super hard.

“I feel terrible for all the players having to lose a season like this, especially the seniors. Madden Rutherford and Andrew Krause were showing great leadership skills and I hate that they had their final season taken away. They are unprecedented times that I never thought would happen.”

Rutherford, who is a two-time All-Frontier

League player himself, was ready to make one final run with the Wildcats. Even
though he has signed to play baseball for Washington University in St. Louis,
he regrets not being able to have one final run in high school.

“Personally
I was just ready to just play ball again,” Rutherford said. “My football season
ended with an injury, and two surgeries later I was just starting to get back
into the swing of things. I was excited for the baseball team this season; we
had a different looking coaching staff and a different mentality which was
evident at practice. I’ll always be left wondering what could have happened.”



Senior Madden Rutherford, along with fellow seniors Andrew Krause and Kaden Oehlert, all saw their high school careers come to a close with the spread of COVID-19.

As difficult as it was for the seniors, the junior class will also have some obstacles to overcome – especially for those who are wanting to play at the college level.

“To go with the seniors, this is also horrible for the juniors,” Larson said. “Junior year is a big recruiting time and a lot of these guys are missing that. So all around this just is a bad time for an athlete, but I know they will work through it and come back next year ready to go.”

Even with all the hardships athletes are facing, including the loss of a season, several are trying to find the silver lining in it all.

“The whole COVID-19 situation has made me appreciate what I have,” Rutherford said. “It’s hard to truly recognize how nice you have things until they’re taken away. I just hope and pray that things don’t escalate further.”

TRACK AND FIELD

Carlee Gassman and Sydni Keagle were ready for the seasons of their lives on the track this season.

Gassman, who is a returning a state medalist in the hurdles, was considered one of the best returning 300-meter hurdlers in Class 4A. As for Keagle, she finished one spot away from a state medal last year in the 100 hurdles.

Both Louisburg seniors had high hopes, as did the rest of the Lady Cat track team that was ranked high in Class 4A in the preseason. That made the news of canceling spring sports all the more crushing.

“I honestly couldn’t believe it,” Keagle said. “At first I was in shock and then I was just incredibly sad at this loss of opportunity and it’s taken a while to come to terms with the fact that I won’t be able to compete in my favorite sport one last time.”

Gassman felt much the same way as she earned three state medals as season ago. Along with sophomore Delaney Wright, who garnered four state medals, the two athletes figured to score a lot of points for the Lady Cats this season.

“When I heard the last quarter of my senior year was cancelled and knowing track would be over as well, I found myself crying about not having school,” Gassman said. “I never thought I’d find myself crying over school. I am just trying to keep my head high – there are better things to come.”

Girls coach John Reece said there were 34 out for track before the team departed for Spring Break, which was one of the bigger groups the Lady Cats have had in several years.



The Louisburg 4×400 relay of (from left) Carlee Gassman, Rain

Pugh, Sydni Keagle and Delaney Wright were some of several returning Lady Cats trying for a big state performance.

“It is a huge bummer that everything got nixed,” Reece said. “We had a chance to do some great things this track season on the girls side. We could have been a top three team at state with a handful of very talented girls. My heart goes out to the girls and the missed opportunity for them.”

The same could be said for the boys as the Wildcats featured a big roster of 74 athletes and Louisburg would have been competitive in most events throughout the season.

“I am just extremely disappointed,” boys coach Andy Wright said. “We had 74 boys out, which is the biggest number we have had in several years. We had multiple state qualifiers returning as well as some newcomers that could have helped contribute to a successful year.”

One of those qualifiers was javelin thrower Michael Waldron. The Louisburg senior finished just a few feet away from earning a state medal a season ago, and now his attempt at getting there has been dashed.

“It’s really hard to describe the disappointment I had when I heard that I wouldn’t be able to throw javelin this year,” Waldron said. “It was tough and very hard to wrap my mind around, it’s tough

knowing that I had
about a week of practice under my belt and a lot of preparation for the first
meet of the year. Just finding out I wouldn't be competing at all was crushing."

The season was an important one, not only to Waldron, but to the rest of the track seniors as well. Anthony Davis (distance), Trent Martin
(pole vault), Charlie Koontz (sprints, relays), Carter Anglin (discus), Garrett
Harding (shot put) and Indy Strumillo (jumps) were all in their final year and
were excited with what lied ahead. A few of them had already made plans to work
out together over Spring Break to get some extra work in.

"I texted Carter Anglin and Garrett Harding about the fact that our season was over, since we all threw together," Waldron said. "It was
tough for Carter because I knew he was thinking about a possible state
appearance this year. For Garrett, it was his first year but he had some good
success in the first few weeks with throwing shot put, so I know he was
excited. It's just a bummer and we have texted each other, and comforted one
another. We are just still in shock – it
was like a slap in the face."

GOLF

Calvin Dillon has already had the best career in Louisburg High School golf history, and he accomplished that after his junior season.

Still, he wanted a lot more.

Dillon, who is a three-time state medalist, was looking for that elusive state championship this year and was considered one of the favorites going into the season. With the cancellation of spring sports it left Dillon, like many others, wondering ‘What if?’

“It was definitely hard to hear that the regular season, as well as postseason were canceled,” Dillon said. “It seemed like it happened all of a sudden. When you hear of professional and collegiate seasons being cancelled, you feel some remorse and disappointment for them, but when your own season gets cancelled, it becomes real.”

The remorse for his own season wasn’t what Dillon was feeling. It was the fact that he had hoped to lead a team – full of seniors – to its second consecutive state tournament appearance.

Seniors Drake Varns, Garrett Rolofson, Ryan Haight and Colin Cook all returned from that team, while other seniors like David Perentis, Deven Wieland and Luke Wickersham were also trying to vie for the final spots.



Five of the six golfers from Louisburg's state team returned in 2020 to try and make another trip to the state tournament. (From left) Colin Cook, Drake Varns, Calvin Dillon, Ryan Haight and Garrett Rolofson.

"We definitely had high expectations for this season," Dillon said. "With the heavy amount of seniors on the team, as well as our regional
and state experience last year, we were really excited. I think the most
disappointing thing for all of us is going to be the lack of closure. We were
all looking forward to one last go-around, and to have our season disappear in
a matter of days is devastating."

Like with every other conflict in life, the Wildcats are trying to make sense of it all and find a positive side to what has been a
forgetful week.

“One positive that comes from this situation is the gratitude we will now have for our everyday lives,” Dillon said. “You never know when something catastrophic like this can happen, and we need to be thankful for the life we do have.

Although this situation is disappointing for us, it was ultimately God’s plan. He is the one that is in control, and if we seek him in this time of discomfort, we will find the closure and satisfaction that we lost along with our senior season.”

GIRLS SWIMMING

It was an historic season before it even started as Louisburg would join the Osawatomie-Paola girls swim team for the first time this year.

Unfortunately, thanks to the pandemic spreading across the country, history will have to take a back seat for another year.

Head coach Maddie Carrigan was in her first year with the program after assisting with the boys team last winter, so finding out the news with everyone else was a little tough to take.

“It was really upset when I heard the news,” Carrigan said. “Obviously, I understand the reason for the cancellation of school and

sports season, so I completely back the decision. It was still a huge bummer for me because this was my first time having a high school head coaching role. It was a pretty big honor since I’m only 23 and I was super excited to try some fun new things I came up with for the girls. The first two weeks were already so much fun and the girls improved so much, so I can’t imagine how great the whole season would have been.”

Osawatomie-Paola-Louisburg had three seniors swimmers this season, including Shayla Aye from Louisburg and Brayden Hanf and Grace Shore from Paola.

In all, Louisburg had eight swimmers on the team including Aye, Claire Brown, Bailey Hallas, Sydney Keaton, Dana Mattison, Anna Morrison, Dagen Page and Reese Reitz.

“Everyone is really bummed, especially the seniors,” Carrigan said. “We had a lot of first time swimmers, as well, so I hope this doesn’t deter them from joining the team again next year.”

SOFTBALL

Last year was a special season for the Louisburg softball team as the Lady Cats made a run to a regional championship and a state tournament appearance.

It was a great last part of the season for several of the Lady Cats.

Unfortunately, with the news of COVID-19, this year's version of Louisburg softball team will never get another chance at a magical season.

"When I found out my season was canceled, I was devastated," senior Reilly Ratliff-Becher said. "It would be the last time I ever played softball and it's just taken away from me."

The seven Lady Cat seniors were excited to begin this season, as was their coach, Nick Chapman. Chapman was in his first year as head coach with the program after spending last season at the junior varsity level.

After a couple weeks of practices, Chapman had barely gotten a chance to get to know his new team. Then he had to deliver the news that no one wanted to hear.

"This was not easy news to get," Chapman said. "It was even harder to have to tell the girls and even worse that I had to do it over the phone. It's still not real. Next week, we were going to get back to work and prepare for a special season. The girls had bought into what we were trying to accomplish. Just in two weeks, the culture was changing and girls were understanding what it meant to play team softball and do what is best for the team. The end of last week we had our first team bonding night.

The seniors set their team expectations and goals for the year. I listened to each of them say how excited they were for this specific year and to make one last run at it.

“I was crushed to have to tell them they weren’t going to get that chance. All seven of them helped mold this team into something special and set the tone for what Louisburg softball should be. I was excited for the product we were going to put on the field game one. I thought this year was going to be a season full of success.”

The seven seniors consisted of Ratliff-Becher, Allie Boles, Lauren Cutshaw, Kayla Willey, Kat Coolidge, Gabby Duggar and August Daniels. Some of those seniors were a big part of the Lady Cats’ state run a year ago, while others were looking to make an impact on the varsity level this year.

“I had very good expectations for this year,” Ratliff-Becher said. “As much as I feel bad for myself, teammates and my fellow seniors, I feel especially bad for Chapman. He worked so hard once he found out he got this job. I was so ready to learn and make him proud this season.

“I tell myself is that I have to think of other people in this situation. This could all be much worse. We are just containing this virus and protecting the

ones at the most risk, although it’s going to be hard on everyone for a while.”

Top 10 Louisburg Sports Stories of 2019

It was a successful, and eventful, 2019 for Louisburg High School athletics and for those who are connected to the Wildcat program. This past year created a lot of school history for LHS and several programs brought back state hardware.

Below are the Top 10 stories from 2019, along with a brief explanation of each. Included in the explanation is the link to the actual story from the event.

When putting the list together, I took a lot of things into account – whether it was team vs. individual, popularity of the sport, historical achievements and the interest it drew on the web site. There were stories that I had to leave off that normally would easily make it. 2019 was that successful of a year for Wildcat athletics.

This year was a blast to cover and I was blessed to have the opportunity to go along for the ride with many of these. As much fun as it was, I can’t wait for 2020 to begin. Looking forward to it!



10. Tucker, Ratliff-Becher win powerlifting titles, Tucker breaks state record.

Two Louisburg High
School weightlifters made their way to the top of the podium in March during
the Class 4A State Powerlifting Meet at Basehor-Linwood High School.

Louisburg senior Kiefer Tucker and junior Reilly Ratliff-Becher both earned state championships in their respective weight class. Senior Jonathan DePriest finished third overall and several other Wildcats also earned individual medals.

Not only did Tucker win a state title in the 220-pound division, he also broke a 24-year state bench press record as he recorded a bench of 375 pounds to surpass the old mark of 365. He also won the squat competition at 505 pounds and had a total of 1,165 pounds to run away with the crown.

Tucker's total was the highest three-lift mark at the entire state meet in all weight classes.

"I had messed around with 375 and 385 before on bench, so I was confident that I could lift it if I had the chance," Tucker said. "I was more worried about my first lifts on bench at 345 and 365 because if I messed up on those attempts then I would not have had the change to even attempt 375. It was definitely a sigh of relief when I finally locked it out.

"It was a great feeling to beat the state record. To put Louisburg up on the record chart definitely brought a smile to my face."

Ratliff-Becher had a big day in the women's division as she won a state crown in the 180-pound weight class. She finished with a three-lift total of 575 pounds.



The Louisburg junior took first in bench press with 155 pounds,
first in clean at 150 pounds and second in squat with a 270-pound lift.

“Winning the state title
meant a lot to me,” Ratliff-Becher said. “I have put in a lot of time and

effort in weights class, so it’s nice to see it has paid off. But, also because
I feel as if I put out a message to girls that it’s cool to be strong
physically. I know that being sometimes the only girls in a class with a lot of
strong guys is intimidating. Weightlifting is all about your own personal
growth and seeing how far you can push yourself.

“I was honestly surprised I won because there are lots of very strong girls there and it’s good competition. It’s also fun to meet new people
that have the same interests and motivation as you.”



9. Golf qualifies for state, Dillon medals for third straight season

As the scores trickled

in to the clubhouse at Paola Country Club, the Louisburg golf team could hardly stand it.

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

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

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

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

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

As impressive as that

feat was for the Wildcats, Dillon’s performance blew away the rest of the
competition.

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

Dillon went on to record his third consecutive state medal and finished 11th overall in Dodge City after the tournament was postponed several times, and eventually moved due to weather.



8. Wildcat wrestling sends six to state, Moore earns first state medal

Back in early November of 2018, Austin Moore was in a sling with a broken collarbone and he wondered why all this was happening.

Moore suffered the injury during the regional football playoffs and he didn’t get to finish his final high school season. Not only that, his hopes of getting his first state wrestling medal was in serious jeopardy.

A little more than four months later, Moore was on the medal stand with some of the state’s best wrestlers in his weight class.

The Louisburg senior earned a fourth-place medal at 220 pounds during the Class 4A Kansas State Wrestling Championships in February at the Tony’s Pizza Events Center in Salina. It was his first high school state medal and it marked the end of a long journey for Moore.

“It was pretty special for me to get a state medal, especially because it has been a goal of mine ever since I started wrestling,” Moore said. “Overall, I felt like I wrestled pretty well, but I just wish I could’ve ended it on a win.”

The Wildcats qualified six wrestlers for state, had three regional champions and took third place in the team standings during the regional tournament in Paola – all while not being able to field a full team.

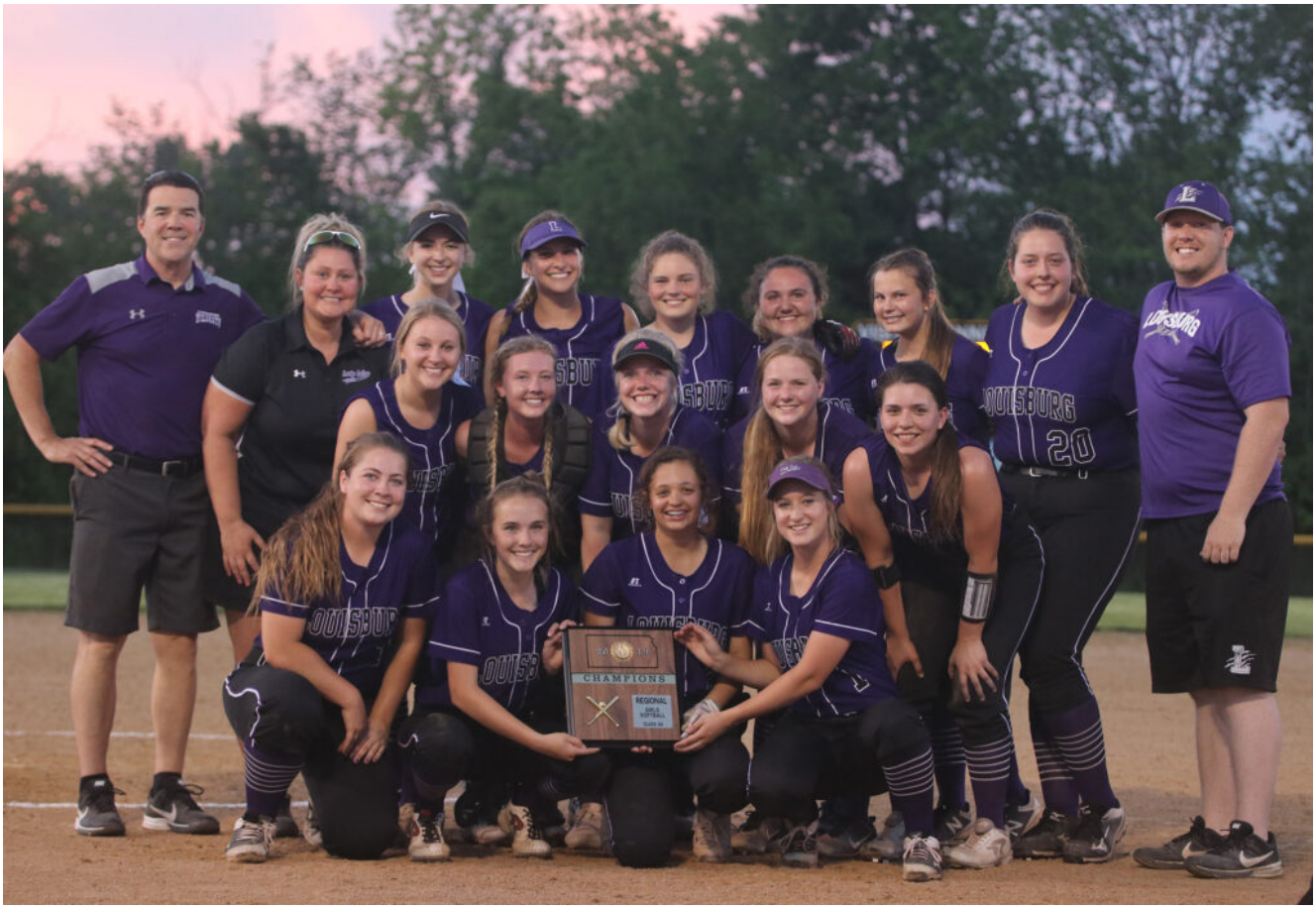
Louisburg’s talent was

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

As a team, the Wildcats ended up with 138.5 points and was just 2.5 points out of second place. Ottawa won the regional with 149.5 points and Eudora was second at 141. It was the highest regional team finish for Louisburg since 1998.

“The way these guys wrestled this weekend shows that the program has been doing so many things right this season,” Louisburg coach Bobby Bovaird said. “We’ve had the obstacle of low numbers, which hurt us in our duals, but when it comes to tournament time, we have a bunch of guys who are placing high and that gives us a lot of team points. Taking six to state feels pretty encouraging, and finishing third at regionals is an awesome statement for this team.

“If a few things had gone the other way, we would have been in second as a team. On paper, we weren’t supposed to be in the race for a regional plaque. Almost all of our guys stepped up and scored huge team points for us.”



7. Louisburg softball captures regional title

OTTAWA – Madison
Svoboda could feel her heart starting to come out of her chest.

Karson Griggs was a
feeling a little nauseous.

Those are some of the
same feelings that were flooding the Louisburg softball's team dugout during the
final inning of the Class 4A regional championship game against Chanute on
Tuesday in Ottawa.

Louisburg held a one
run lead, but Chanute had the tying run on third, two outs, and a trip to the
state tournament was on the line. On the mound was sophomore

Brooklyn Diederich, and with two strikes, the Chanute batter fouled five straight pitches.

The tension was mounting.

Finally, on the 10th pitch of the at-bat, Diederich got what she was looking for – a swing and miss.

The strikeout sealed the Lady Cats' trip to state with a 6-5 victory over No. 7 seed Chanute and sent shockwaves throughout Class 4A softball.

"I want to cry, but at the same time I am just really happy," Griggs said. "It is exciting because I never thought something like this could happen, especially this year. It feels really nice and now maybe people will actually start taking us seriously."

Not many gave people gave the Lady Cats a chance as they entered the Class 4A regional tournament with just five wins and were forced to begin tournament action in the play-in game.

After a 17-2 win over Parsons last Monday in the play-in game, No. 15 Louisburg advanced to the regional semifinals and upset No. 2 seed Ottawa, 9-7, which helped set up the Lady Cats' first state tournament appearance since 2014.

"I think a lot of

other teams underestimated us," Diederich said. "The fact that we came out and
played our hardest ball showed what type of team we actually are. It is just
crazy."

At the state tournament in Salina a week later, the Lady Cats faced off against Andale and lost to the eventual state champion in the first round, 10-0.



6. Cross Country qualifies for state, Moore breaks school record and takes third at state

BALDWIN CITY – One by one,
members of the Louisburg girls cross country team crossed the finish line and
coach John Reece was unsure whether or not his team did enough

to qualify for
state.

The Lady Cats had made
school history by qualifying the last two seasons, but the third time was a
little bit in jeopardy – that was until the results were released.

As it turned out,
Reece didn’t need to be so worried.

Louisburg finished third overall with 96 points in October at the Class 4A regional meet at the Baldwin Golf Course, and beat out Bishop Miege by six points to earn a spot at the state meet this weekend in Wamego.

The team of Trinity
Moore, Carlee Gassman, Reese Johnson, Claire Brown, Ruth Minster, Kennady
Wilkerson and Bree Gassman competed for the Lady Cats at state.

“This group of girls runs
well, they race well and they train well together,” coach Reece said. “They are
a good group and this is just as exciting as the other two times. The
competition was a lot tougher than the previous two times. We had to run our
races and we did. From our third to fifth runners was about an eight point
spread.”

Trinity Moore has left a
lasting impression on the Louisburg cross country program over the last four
years, but she saved the best moment for her final act.

Moore broke her own school record with a time of 19 minutes and 39 seconds to finish third overall at the Kansas Class 4A State Cross Country Championships at the Wamego Country Club a week later.

The Louisburg senior recorded the program's best ever state finish as she eclipsed her fourth-place state medal from a season ago.

"It meant so much to me to finish with such a great race for my high school career," Moore said. "Going into the race, I didn't know how well I would finish. This race had the best competition that I have ran against all year and I think that is what really pushed me.

"When I saw my time crossing the finish line, I was ecstatic. I felt great the entire race and was able to control everything I did. Finishing third was icing on the cake. I was surprised but so incredibly happy to be able to place in such a great spot, but I also knew that this what I had worked for all year."

This made the fourth state medal for Moore in her high school career and she improved on her state finish every year. Last season, she took fourth overall and bested her state time from a year ago by more than 30 seconds.



5. Boys Soccer wins league, regional titles to earn No. 1 seed in playoffs.

For more than 70
minutes, the goals for Louisburg were hard to come by and it started to leave
an eerie feeling on Halloween night.

However, the Wildcats
got their treat when it was all over.

Louisburg scored two goals in the final seven minutes of the match to earn a 2-0 victory over Kansas City Christian in the Class 4-1A regional championship game Thursday. The Wildcats (16-2-1) earned their third regional title in the last four years and advanced to the state quarterfinals.

“This group is
special,” Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. “It is going to be tough when it is

all over. This group has changed our culture. They came back to what this program believes and they have bought in to what we are teaching them. They have worked so hard since June. For these seniors, this is their third title in four years and I think it is a lot of fun for them.

A school record 16 wins, a Frontier League championship and a regional title are all something worth celebrating, but following the state quarterfinal match with Bishop Miege, all Louisburg could think about was the finality of it all.

Despite all those accomplishments, the Wildcats fell one win short of their main goal – a spot in the state final four.

Louisburg saw its season come to a close with a 3-0 loss to Bishop Miege at the Wildcat Sports Complex. The Wildcats lost to the eventual state champion, as Miege went on to defeat Wichita-Trinity on Saturday, 3-1, for the Class 4-1A state championship – the Stags' fourth in a row.

As difficult as the loss was for Louisburg, there was no forgetting how big of a jump the Wildcats made from the season before as they went from a 6-win team to one that earned the East's No. 1 seed in the state playoffs.

"Going 6-11 last year and seeing this Miege team almost mercy-ruling us in the regional championship last year in the rain, was a program changer," Louisburg coach

Kyle Conley
said. “After that was over, we talked about how things needed to change and it
starts now. For our first practice in June, I told them that they are the ones
that has to change them. Since day one, they have played for each other, played
hard in practice and it was a total mindset change. When someone got hurt, it
was the next guy up. We missed two starters for half of the year and it was
always the next guy up taking advantage of his opportunity to fill in. The
freshmen stepped up huge for us.

“This team is special.
16 wins is a school record and only two losses is probably a school record.
This team is incredible, played so hard and did everything I asked them to do.
They were always there to pick each other up and that is what this soccer
family is all about. It will be tough to say goodbye to these kids.”



4. Volleyball knocks off Miege to win regional title, takes fourth at state

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

Partially because a
year ago, it was.

Louisburg met Miege in
the state championship match only to see the Stags send the Lady Cats to a
runner-up finish in two sets. Then three weeks ago the two teams met again, and
like before, Miege dispatched of Louisburg in two sets.

However, Bishop Miege
saw a different Louisburg team during the sub-state tournament at Atchison High

School – one they didn’t expect.

The Lady Cats came out on fire and never let up in a 25-18 and 25-22 win over Miege to end the Stags’ season. It marks the first time in at least 12 years, if not longer, that Miege will not be at the state tournament.

Since the state tournament began in 1971, Bishop Miege has made 39 state appearances during that time in either Class 5A or 4A and is the most in Kansas history.

“Our energy was going to be the difference in that match, so we knew we had to bring it,” Louisburg senior Erin Lemke said. “We knew we had the same skill set as Miege, but our energy was what was going to pull us through there in the end. To get there, we just had to believe in ourselves and work hard this past week to give us the confidence that we needed.”

However, even after pulling off a big revenge win that expended a lot of energy, the Lady Cats still had a sub-state championship match to play against No. 2 seed Atchison.
The No. 7 seed Lady Cats took care of business as they won in straight sets, 25-12 and 25-15, at Atchison High School.

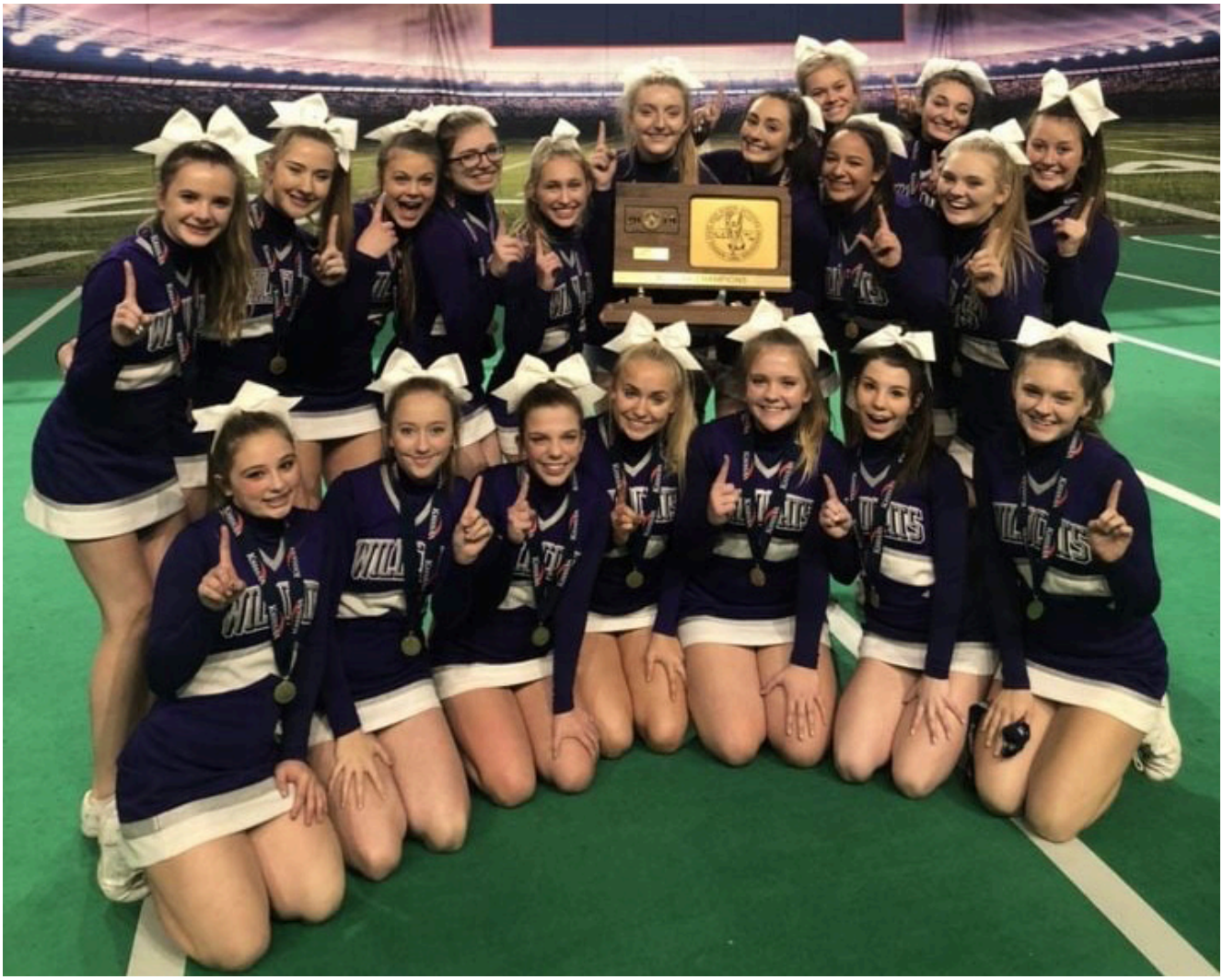
Louisburg lost its final two matches of the season, but those setbacks didn’t take away from what the Lady Cats accomplished during the Kansas Class 4A State Championships.

For the third straight season, the Lady Cats were among the last four teams playing

and brought home a
little hardware for their efforts. Louisburg took fourth overall after losing
its third place match to Towanda-Circle, 2-1, in October at Hutchinson Sports
Arena.

“Every season our goal
is to put ourselves in the best position to qualify for state and then to
hopefully advance to bracket play on Saturday,” Louisburg coach Jessica
Compliment said. “Leading up to state, we talked about how nothing is
guaranteed and in order to make it to bracket play, we have to show up and play
our best from the first whistle to the last whistle. If we play our game, then
hopefully the winning will take care of itself and we’d advance.

“The eight teams at
state this year were all very talented. I was happy that we qualified for the
semifinals because that put us one step closer to the championship. Even though
we didn’t reach the championship match and finished fourth, I was still very
proud of how the team played throughout the tournament.”



3. Louisburg cheer wins first state championship

The Wildcat
cheerleaders competed at the Class 4A KSHSAA Game Day Spirit Showcase
Competition on Nov. 23 at the Stormont Vail Events Center in Topeka and came
back home with a big trophy in tow.

Louisburg edged out runner-up Augusta with a point total of 82.25 to 81 in the finals to secure what is just the third athletic team state title in school history.

“I was so nervous at
the awards,” Louisburg senior Lauren Vincent said. “We were all holding hands
and had our heads down. We thought that we would get second

place at best, most likely third. We were content because we put everything out on the mat and did the best we could. But when they called out second place and it was Augusta, we screamed, cried, and hugged each other because we knew that we had just won.

“When our name was called for first, we jumped up and hugged each other. Then I ran out onto the mat and grabbed the trophy and we held it up and jumped around victoriously. It was the best feeling in the entire world. Knowing that all of our hard work had finally paid off was indescribable feeling of joy.”

The Louisburg cheerleaders that competed are Lexi Pena, Lauren Vincent, Ashlyn McManigal, Brooklyn Mitchell, Gabby Tappan, Andrea Gaza, Eleanor Willming, Jayden Trester, Lacie Kallevig, Sammy McDaniel, Mable Graham, Anna Morrison, Bella Feikert, Audrey Anderson, Sydney Dudzik, Kaitlyn Vest, Jolie Hendrickson, Abby Bradley and Zoe Cutshaw. Louisburg’s head coach is Jayna Guerra.

Not only were the Wildcats the third team to win a state title in school history, they were also the first female squad to win a team crown as well. All the history just added to what was a special day for the program.

“It means so much to me and all my teammates,” Tappan said. “As someone who’s been a part of a variety

of sports my entire life, I know how hard each of our teams work to do their
very best in whatever sport they’re a part of. We are so thankful that we got
to make history for Louisburg and it is something that I can guarantee that
each and every one of us will remember it for the rest of our lives.”



**2. Girls soccer
takes second at state, Conley named coach of year and Scholtz, Buffington awarded
players of year.**

When it was all said and done, the Louisburg girls soccer team held its trophy high in front of the Wildcat faithful and the tears were easy to spot.

After nearly 200
minutes of soccer in a nine-hour time period, including one

match that ended in penalty kicks, the Wildcats were spent. They gave everything they had.

For the second consecutive season, Louisburg earned the Class 4-3-2-1A state runner-up trophy after a wild victory over Topeka-Hayden in the semifinals and then were shutout by Bishop Miege in the championship game, 4-0. It was the third consecutive state final four appearance for Louisburg.

Frustration and sadness was easy to see following the Wildcats' loss to the defending state champion, but the team realizes what they have accomplished in just four years of existence is to be celebrated.

"Being in this situation two years in a row is something that doesn't happen very often," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "There are a bunch of teams that haven't been to a state final four and we have been to three in three years. It is pretty cool and it is special."

It was a wild 24 hours for the Wildcats. Louisburg was supposed to play Hayden on Friday in the semifinals, but severe weather forced the postponement to early Saturday morning.

The Wildcats battled Hayden through four overtimes and eventually led to penalty kicks. After an intense first five penalty kicks that left the match still tied, senior goalie

Carson Buffington recorded a big save and then senior Hallie Hutsell converted the sixth penalty kick to break the tie and give Louisburg a 2-1 win over Hayden.

“We usually play 80 minutes, but this time we had to play 110 minutes and we were gassed,” Conley said. “We were holding on and had some chances at the end to win it, but then we went to overtime and then to penalty kicks. It was all about to see if we could survive. Emotionally it was just a high for us and an unbelievable response and a great finish. Carson making a big save, Hallie putting it in for the win – it was just a great game.”

In the championship match, the Stags were just too much for the Wildcats and junior Sophia Stram provided a big spark. Stram scored all four goals for Miege in the title game, all of which came in the first half, and the Wildcats didn’t have an answer.

“They are just so freaking good,” Conley said. “I think the girls were mentally ready, but I don’t think their legs were quite ready, but we lost to one of best teams in the state of Kansas. They have great players, they are well-coached, but our girls played their butts off.

Coming off its second consecutive state runner-up appearance, Louisburg had some positive repercussions from its historic season.

However, none bigger came when the all-state teams were released by the Kansas Soccer Coaches Association. Not only did six Wildcats earn all-state selections, but they were honored with some of the highest awards out there.

Junior Mackenzie Scholtz was named as the Co-Offensive Player of the Year in Class 4-1A with Bishop Miege's Sophia Stram after she led the Wildcats in scoring.

Louisburg was also recognized on the other side of the ball as senior Carson Buffington was named the Class 4-1A Goalkeeper of the Year.

"Seeing Mackenzie and Carson recognized for their positional player of the years was fantastic," Louisburg coach Kyle Conley said. "They both had incredible years."

The Wildcats weren't done, as for the second consecutive season, Conley was named as the Class 4-1A Coach of the Year as he guided Louisburg to a 17-4 record. He also led the Wildcats to three consecutive final four appearances.



1.4×400 boys wins state championship, Wright wins four state medals and team breaks six school records at regional meet.

Three days after
arriving in Wichita for the Kansas State Track and Field Championships, Justin
Collins, Blue Caplinger, Ben Wiedenmann and Chris Williams finally got the chance
to get on the Cessna Stadium track.

The four Wildcat
runners had the top time in Class 4A going into the 4×400-meter relay, but
weather threw a little wrench into their plans. The meet, which was supposed to
end on a Saturday, was postponed to Sunday morning and all

races were judged by
times with no preliminaries.

It wasn’t the ideal
situation, but they made it work – and it worked well.

Collins, Caplinger, Wiedenmann and Williams won the state championship in a time of 3 minutes and 25.39 seconds as they edged Chapman at the finish line, which ran a 3:25.61. It was the first state track championship for Louisburg since 2015 when Connor McMullen won the discus.

That was just one
event in what was an historic week for Louisburg track.

Louisburg freshman Delaney Wright earned four state medals, while junior teammate Carlee Gassman finished with three as the Lady Cats went on to finish 10th in the team standings. The Lady Cats earned several other medals at the state meet coming off an impressive performance at regionals.

During the Class 4A
regional meet at Paola High School, Wright qualified for state in four events,
broke two school records and earned a regional title in her first postseason
track meet.



Wright won a regional title in the long jump and finished second in the 200 and 400-meter dashes. She also helped Carlee Gassman, Rain Pugh and Sydni Keagle to a second place finish in the 4×400-meter relay.

“I am so grateful for everything,” Wright said. “I had been having trouble with my hip this week and I just wanted to come out and make state in at least one event. I didn’t realize I would make it in four. It is an unbelieveable feeling.”

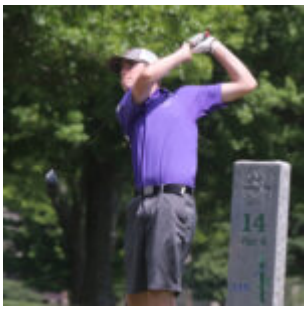
Wright’s day was just one of the many positives for the Lady Cats as they broke four school records, had four regional

champions and qualified for state in 10 events.

As a team, the Lady Cats nearly earned the regional runner-up trophy as they racked up 86.5 points and finished a half a point behind second place Baldwin and Bishop Miege, who tied for second. Paola won the regional title with 107 points.

The Wildcat boys also broke two school records and would end up qualifying for nine spots at the state meet.

Dillon excited for opportunity at tradition-rich Central Missouri



On Friday, Louisburg senior Calvin Dillon signed his letter of intent to play golf at the University of Central Missouri. Dillon is a 3-time state medalist and a 2-time Frontier League champion.

As Calvin Dillon walked into room
113 at Louisburg High School, he received a loud applause from several of his
friends as it he sat down at the table.

Dillon doesn't usually hear that
loud of a roar on the golf course – because well – that sort

of thing is frowned upon among his fellow golfers. The ovation was well deserved, however.

After playing just three full seasons of high school golf, the Louisburg senior has already become the most decorated golfer in school history and that led him to the jam-packed room in 113.

On Friday, Dillon made it official as he signed his letter of intent to play golf at the University of Central Missouri, a Division II program in Warrensburg, Mo.

“I am ready,” Dillon said. “It is really exciting and I am thankful I was able to make it official and I can focus on getting to work for next year. I wanted to sign early so I could play in the spring without any pressure and just go out there and play golf. I think that will definitely be an advantage for me going into the spring and summer. It definitely takes a lot of pressure off.”

Dillon joins a Central Missouri program that has a lot of tradition in the MIAA. Under head coach Tim Poe, the Mules have earned 14 MIAA Championships and have made 27 straight NCAA postseason appearances.

Poe has been named the MIAA Coach of the Year 14 times as was recently inducted into the Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame. He coached the 2015 NCAA Division II individual national champion and helped the Mules to a second place

finish in 2010.

“The coach at Central Missouri is really great,” Dillon said. “Coach Poe has been there for 30-some years and he is veteran. He has had multiple guys turn pro and he is very experienced. I really connected with him on my visit and I think Central Missouri has a very good program. They are more than likely going to be in the postseason every year and that was another big factor for me. I want to compete for a national title.”

Although he eventually found his future home, the decision wasn’t always an easy for one Dillon as he took his time and visited several programs before deciding on a final two.



Louisburg's Calvin Dillon made it official last Friday during a signing day ceremony at LHS as he signed with Central Missouri. Seated next to Calvin are his parents Jim and Karen Dillon. Standing (from left) Louisburg assistant golf coach Barry O'Brien, Calvin's sister Katie and Louisburg head coach Brian Burns.

"It was definitely tough," Dillon said. "We visited five or six schools and then I narrowed it down to three and then to my top two. Those couple weeks were a little stressful, but it was a good stress to have and weighing the pros and cons. It was between Central Missouri and Drake University, and when it came down to it, Central Missouri was just the place for me."

Dillon has had a memorable career as a Wildcat through his first three seasons. He has earned a Class 4A state medal each of the last three years and has won 17 of the 28 tournaments he has played in.

He won the regional title this past May and is a two-time Frontier League champion. This past summer, Dillon won the Kansas City Junior Match Play Championship and had a top-10 finish at the Midwest Junior Championship.

“The competition is great,” he said. “Kansas has some good golf and I think it helps me get better by playing in the state tournaments and ones over the summer as well. I think the KGA does a great job and put on some really good tournaments and there is a lot of good competition out there. It is a lot of fun.”

However, it all started with his father Jim, who introduced Calvin to the game of golf at an early age and the countless hours improving his game has certainly paid off.

“Dad put a club in my hand early and we would just hit it around the yard,” Calvin said. “We never really made a distinct decision that I was going to play college golf. I think it was just kind of assumed that I would or that I wanted to. It is a good feeling to officially sign and I’m ready to play at the next level.”

So when Friday finally arrived, Dillon walked into 113 and saw a lot of familiar faces join him on his special day as he took the next step on his golf journey.

“It was nice to have all my friends here for this,” he said. “It was really awesome to see and I am thankful for every one

of them. It was great to have them here supporting me.”

KSHSAA releases classifications for 2019-20 school year

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

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

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

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

Kansas State High School Activities Association

Football Classifications and Enrollments-Descending Order 2020 & 2021

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

6A

Member Schools - 32
Range: 1854 - 1092

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

5A

Member Schools - 32
Range: 1083 - 655

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

4A

Member Schools - 32
Range: 654 - 340

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

3A

Member Schools - 48
Range: 324 - 168

Baldwin	324
Topeka-Hayden	314
Parsons	286
Andale	279
Pratt	275
Clearwater	266
Iola	256
Girard	252
Nickerson	252
Clay Center Community	247
Holton	242
Concordia	241
Kansas City-Bishop Ward	240
Garnett-Anderson County	234
Chapman	224
St. George-Rock Creek	224
Baxter Springs	223
Osawatomie	221
Columbus	220
Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail	217
Wichita-Trinity Academy	217
Hoyt-Royal Valley	216
Hugoton	216
LaCygne-Prairie View	214
Hiawatha	213
Frontenac	211
Meriden-Jefferson West	211
Holcomb	210
Burlington	203
Hesston	202
Colby	201
Wichita Collegiate	201
Lindsborg-Smoky Valley	200
Galena	199
Scott Community	198
Caney Valley	192
Perry-Lecompton	192
Larned	188
Cherryvale	186
Marysville	183
Cheney	182
Goodland	182
Riley County	182
Russell	181
Council Grove	180
Sabetha	173
Gypsum-Southeast of Saline	171
Halstead	168

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

2A

Schools - 48
Range: 168 - 112

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

1A

Schools - 28
Range: 111 - 62

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

8-Player Division I

Schools - 48
Range: 98 - 66

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

8-Player Division II

Schools - 52
Range: 66 - 29

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

Printing Department

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

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

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

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



2019-2020 Classifications and Enrollments

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

Note: Schools are listed in descending order

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

Printable View Sort By School

6A		5A		4A	
Member Schools: 36		**Member Schools: 36**		**Member Schools: 36**	
Range: 2431-1312		**Range: 1305-710**		**Range: 661-312**	
Wichita-East HS	2431	↓Leavenworth HS	1305	Buhler HS	661
Wichita-North HS	2190	Wichita-Northwest HS	1260	Shawnee Mission-Bishop Miege HS	656
Wichita-Southeast HS	2164	Emporia HS	1245	Ottawa HS	653
Derby HS	2105	Maize HS	1194	Winfield HS	642
Dodge City HS	2010	Wichita-Bishop Carroll HS	1153	Kansas City-Piper HS	638
Olathe South HS	2005	Topeka-Seaman HS	1150	Augusta HS	632
Garden City HS	1985	Topeka West HS	1146	Paola HS	603
Olathe North HS	1976	Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights HS	1131	Tonganoxie HS	599
Topeka-Washburn Rural HS	1933	Overland Park-Blue Valley Southwest HS	1089	Fort Scott HS	592
Olathe East HS	1927	Kansas City-Washington HS	1084	Chanute HS	584
Olathe Northwest HS	1880	Kansas City-Turner HS	1076	Independence HS	581
Lawrence-Free State HS	1855	Maize South HS	1060	Louisburg HS	573
Wichita-South HS	1852	Salina-South HS	1046	Towanda-Circle HS	562
Manhattan HS	1823	Newton HS	1044	Coffeyville-Field Kindley HS	531
Shawnee Mission East HS	1758	Salina-Central HS	1001	El Dorado HS	528
Gardner-Edgerton HS	1729	De Soto HS	992	Mulvane HS	520
Topeka HS	1728	Andover HS	959	Eudora HS	493
Wichita-Haysville Campus HS	1712	Topeka-Highland Park HS	959	Altamont-Labette County HS	490
Shawnee Mission West HS	1638	Goddard-Eisenhower HS	952	Rose Hill HS	485
Kansas City-Wyandotte HS	1637	Overland Park-St. Thomas Aquinas HS	925	Atchison HS	472
Shawnee Mission Northwest HS	1624	Kansas City-FL Schlagle HS	909	Wellington HS	465
Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest HS	1619	Valley Center HS	904	Abilene HS	460
Lawrence HS	1601	Lenexa-St. James Academy	902	Wamego HS	446
Overland Park-Blue Valley HS	1600	Great Bend HS	884	Ulysses HS	433
Overland Park-Blue Valley West HS	1582	Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel HS	880	Baldwin HS	421
Shawnee Mission North HS	1557	Kansas City-Sumner Academy	871	Topeka-Hayden HS	408
Olathe West HS	1535	Pittsburg HS	867	Andale HS	375
Overland Park-Blue Valley North HS	1498	Hays HS	863	Clearwater HS	367
Shawnee Mission South HS	1469	Lansing HS	859	Parsons HS	363
Junction City HS	1440	Goddard HS	848	Pratt HS	355
Wichita-West HS	1421	Spring Hill HS	825	Iola HS	339
Kansas City-JC Harmon HS	1399	Andover Central HS	810	Nickerson HS	323
Hutchinson HS	1386	Bonner Springs HS	793	↑Holton HS	322
Liberal HS	1371	Basehor-Linwood HS	791	↑Girard HS	315
↑Wichita-Heights HS	1357	Arkansas City HS	765	Chapman HS	314
Shawnee-Mill Valley HS	1312	McPherson HS	710	↑Clay Center Community HS	312

3A

Member Schools: 64

Range: 305-172

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

2A

Member Schools: 64

Range: 171-109

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

1A

Member Schools: 117

Range: 108-14

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

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

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.”

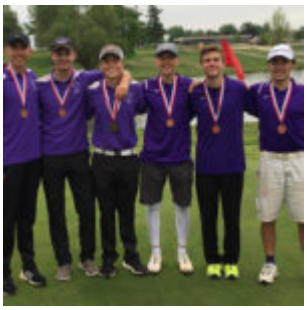
Louisburg coach Brian Burns agrees
that Dillon will be among the favorites come tee time.

“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.”

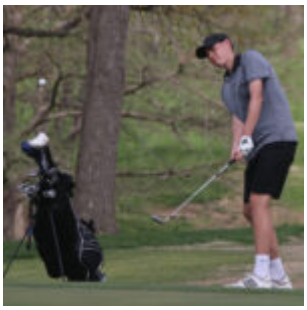
Senior Noah Hill had his best round of the season so far as he finished with an 88 to finish second on the team. Junior Garrett Rolofson was third with a 91.

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.