

# **Eighth-grade girls complete successful run**



**Louisburg's Megan Foote drives to the basket for two points during the Lady Cats' final home game against Wheatridge in December. The eighth-grade team finished the year with a 14-2 record.**

For the last two seasons, a group of Louisburg Middle School girls basketball players have run roughshod over their Frontier League schedule.

As seventh-graders, they finished with an undefeated record and this past season – as eighth-graders – they continued that dominance. Despite a couple hiccups, the Lady Cats finished off their junior high careers with a 14-2 record this season.

In the two years, the group ended with a 30-2 mark and completed their middle school season at home with an impressive 45-7 win over Wheatridge in December.

"The girls put together a great season," Louisburg eighth-grade coach John Ozier said. "They are a hard-working group of girls with a great knowledge of the game. I look for great success with the girls basketball program at the high school for years to come."

In their 38-point win against Wheatridge, the Lady Cats got a big performance from Megan Foote as she scored a game-high 26

points in the win. Louisburg got big outputs from several different players throughout the season.



**Madilyn Melton goes up for a basket during Louisburg's final home game against Wheatridge in December.**

Madilyn Melton, Brooklyn Diederich, Alyse Moore and Shea O'Hara also had strong offensive performances throughout the year. Melton scored 21 points in a home victory over Spring Hill and finished in double figures, along with Foote, for

most of the season.

Louisburg's lone nemesis was Pioneer Ridge as the Lady Cats could not find a way to top the Gardner school. After losing by 18 in their first game of the season, the Lady Cats responded with a better performance at home against Pioneer Ridge as the game was tied with five seconds left in the game before Pioneer Ridge hit a 3-pointer to steal the win.

Down 11 points in the third quarter, Louisburg used a 13-0 run to get back in the game that set up the dramatic finish. Melton led the Lady Cats with 20 points.

"It was our most exciting game of the year for sure," Ozier said. "It was a tight score throughout the first half and then Pioneer Ridge jumped out to a big lead in the third. We called a timeout and talked about stepping up our game through our press and the girls responded. Even though we lost the game, the girls showed great resolve."



**Eighth-grader Brooklyn Diederich pulls down a rebound against Wheatridge.**

The Lady Cats had several big wins throughout the year as they defeated rival Paola twice, along with two wins over Spring Hill, Baldwin, Eudora, Ottawa, Wheatridge and Trail Ridge.

Members of the LMS eighth-grade varsity team are Madilyn Melton, Megan Foote, Brooklyn Diederich, Shea O'Hara, Alyse Moore, Jenna Terry, Aly Traffis, Madi Quinn and Maggie Ming.

The junior varsity team, under coach Kyle Wright, finished the year with a 4-11 record.

"The JV group had a great attitude and approach to the game this season," Wright said. "They brought a fun and spirited atmosphere to practices and games. One of the highlights was finishing the season with a 24-8 win against Wheatridge – a



team that had previously beaten us earlier in the season. It was great to see the improvement in skills over the course of the year and a credit to the girls for all the hard work, which clearly paid off.

“It was my first year coaching middle school girls after coaching five years at the high school boys level and I was pleasantly surprised at the attitude and effort the girls brought each day to practice.”

Members of the eighth-grade junior varsity team are Kylee Leach, Callie O’Brien, Alexis French, Ema Hallas, Brenna Oshel, Shelby Keenan, Nora Van Asten, Madi Quinn, Jenna Terry and Maggie Ming.

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## **Eighth-grade basketball improves despite struggles**



Louisburg eighth-grader Garrett Rolofson tries to drive past a Spring Hill defender during a home game earlier this season. The Wildcats ended their season with pair of losses against Baldwin and Eudora on Feb. 27.

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The Louisburg Middle School eighth-grade boys basketball team didn't have the season it had hoped for when it came to victories.

The Wildcats ended their season on Feb. 27 when they traveled to Eudora for a triangular with Baldwin. Louisburg left still looking for its first win of the season as it fell 45-29 to Eudora and 52-42 to Baldwin.

Although the Wildcats didn't taste victory this season, Louisburg coach John Reece believes his team came a long way throughout the year.

"We did have a rough season in the wins column but it was not from a lack of hard work," Reece said. "We needed about two more weeks and I know we would have gotten a win. The boys worked very hard all season and were very dedicated to the team.

"I feel that as a middle school coach you do not base your season on wins and losses, but in preparing them for the transition to high school and I feel we accomplished this task. If they keep playing basketball at LHS they will bring with them a team concept and a positive work ethic that will find them being very competitive at the next level."



**Louisburg's Madden Rutherford drives the lane for a shot during a home game earlier this season.**

The Wildcats looked like they were going to get that first win against Baldwin thanks to a big second quarter. Louisburg trailed 20-11 after the first quarter, but outscored Baldwin 21-8 in the second to take a 32-28 halftime lead.

Louisburg struggled to find much rhythm offensively in the third quarter as Baldwin outscored the Wildcats 15-4 to pull away for good.

The Wildcats got a big game from Madden Rutherford and Michael Waldron as each scored in double figures to keep Louisburg close. Rutherford scored a game-high 18 points and Waldron added 17 points to go along with three 3-pointers.

Against Eudora, Louisburg once again had a halftime lead with a chance at its first win.

The Wildcats trailed 10-9 after the first quarter, but outscored Eudora 12-6 in the second to take a 21-16 advantage at halftime. Eudora caught fire in the second half as it outscored Louisburg 29-8 to knock off the Wildcats.

Rutherford led Louisburg in scoring with nine points, while Brayden White and Charlie Koontz each finished with four points in the loss.

Playing for the Wildcats on varsity this season were Calvin Dillon, Garrett Rolofson, Charlie Koontz, Thomas Arnett, Michael Waldron, Madden Rutherford, Brayden White, Landon Johnson and Garrett Harding.

Playing for the Louisburg junior varsity were Kaden Oehlert, Trent Martin, Dalton Hilt, Tyler Shaffer, David Perentis,

Andrew Krause, Ryan Haight, Drake Varns, Tanner Sturm, Deven Wieland, Indy Strumillo, Dane Dixon and Carter Anglin.

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## **LMS seventh-grade boys finish season strong**



Louisburg Middle School seventh-grader Wyatt Axmann leaps in the air for a rebound during a home game earlier this season. The seventh-grade basketball team recently finished its season with an 8-8 record.

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Every night the Louisburg Middle School seventh-grade boys basketball team took the floor, it seemed like it was always in a battle.

The Wildcats played in several overtime games and many of the games came down to the final one or two possessions. In the end, Louisburg won its fair share.

Following the Wildcats' home triangular against Eudora and Baldwin on Feb. 28, Louisburg finished the season with an 8-8 record, including a 28-26 win over Baldwin in the season finale.



"I thought the year went well," Louisburg coach Gary Griffin said. "It was a very balanced league as we split with every team except Wheatridge (lost twice) and Baldwin (won twice). I thought the kids improved a lot over the season. Every game was close and we won some and lost some. We had three overtime games and a couple of buzzer beaters at the end. They were a really good group of hard working boys."

In the Wildcats' game against Baldwin, Louisburg jumped out to a big lead in the first half and held off a late Baldwin rally in the second.

Louisburg jumped out to a 19-6 lead at halftime and the Wildcat defense rose to the occasion in the second quarter as they held Baldwin scoreless.

Connor Koesser led Louisburg in scoring with 11 points and Dawson Barnes and Jay Scollin each scored six. Andy Hupp and Wyatt Axmann added three and two points, respectively.



**Connor Koesser puts up a shot in the lane during a game earlier this season at Louisburg Middle School.**

The Wildcats got off to a good start to start the day against Eudora. Louisburg took a 13-11 lead into halftime, but Eudora outscored the Wildcats 12-2 in the third quarter, which proved to be the difference.

Koesser finished with a team-high eight points to lead Louisburg and Carson Houchen added five points in the loss. Scollin finished with four points, while Hupp, Axmann and Eli Johnson each had three. Trevin Lohse and Barnes both scored two points.

Playing for the Wildcat varsity this year were Trevin Lohse, Dawson Barnes, Carson Houchen, Jay Scollin, Andy Hupp, Wyatt Axmann, Connor Koesser, Eli Johnson, Ethan Shaffer, Keaton Light and Justin Collins.

### **Seventh-grade JV has strong season**

The LMS seventh-grade junior varsity boys racked up plenty of wins this season, including its final action of the season when it defeated Baldwin and Eudora at its home triangular on Feb. 28.

The Wildcats finished their season with a 14-2 record as they got production from several different spots in their lineup.

"They had a great season," Louisburg coach Jeff Lohse said. "The boys worked hard and played their best basketball towards the end of the year. They were a fun group to coach."

Louisburg opened its home triangular against Eudora and came away with a 32-18 victory. Braden Aiken and Justin Collins led Louisburg with nine points each, while Chad Barnes added five points in the win.

It was even easier against Baldwin as Louisburg grabbed a 42-17 victory in its final game of the season. The Wildcats used a 15-3 run in the first quarter to pull away early.

Barnes led the Wildcats with nine points and Luke Dudzik

finished with eight. Ben Wiedenmann also had six points in the win.

Playing for the Louisburg junior varsity team this season was Treston Carlson, Ethan Shaffer, Gunner Young, Denton Whiteside, Kaleb O'Keefe, Chad Barnes, Justin Collins, Luke Dudzik, Keaton Light, Jace Rader, Ben Wiedenmann, Johnny Eberhart and Braden Aiken.

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## **Eighth-grade girls finish season strong**



Members of the Louisburg Middle School eighth-grade varsity girls team are (from left) head coach John Ozier, Gabby Tappan, Reilly Ratliff, Allie Boles, Mackenzie Scholtz, Ashley Moore, Kody Lowry, Haley Cain, Lauren Vincent, Emma Roy and Sydni Keagle.

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It was an up and down year for the Louisburg Middle School eighth-grade girls basketball team, but it was one that showed a lot of promise.

The Lady Cats battled their way to a 10-6 record and won two

out of their last three games to finish the season on a strong note according to head coach John Ozier.

“Three of our losses came down to the last few seconds of the game,” Ozier said. “I was very proud of the growth the girls showed this season. Some of our wins this year were a result of outworking, outplaying and just wanting it more than our opponent.”

Louisburg showed that drive toward the end of the season as it hosted Wheatridge on Dec. 10, and then a triangular to end of the season on Dec. 12 against Eudora and Baldwin.

Against Wheatridge, the Lady Cats jumped out early and never looked back in a 34-14 victory. Louisburg opened the game with a 17-2 run thanks to its full-court pressure, which forced several turnovers and led to a lot of easy baskets.

Two days later, the Lady Cats got the opportunity to avenge a loss. Louisburg faced off with Eudora to start the triangular after falling to the Cardinals in overtime earlier in the season. The Lady Cats took care of business as they edged Eudora 36-29.

“This was easily our best game of the season,” Ozier said. “We were finally able to get some shots to drop, played great defense and rebounded with great intensity. I was so proud of the girls’ effort.”

Louisburg then met Baldwin in the season finale, and despite a strong first half, the Lady Cats couldn’t keep up with Baldwin in a 33-19 loss.

“Throughout the course of the season, we worked hard to become physically and mentally tough,” Ozier said. “I feel the girls were able to accomplish both goals.”

Members of the eighth-grade varsity team are Gabby Tappan, Reilly Ratliff, Allie Boles, Mackenzie Scholtz, Ashley Moore,

Kody Lowry, Haley Cain, Lauren Vincent, Emma Roy and Sydni Keagle.

*(Stats from the final three games were unavailable at the time the story published.)*

### **JV finishes season with winning record**

The Louisburg eighth-grade junior varsity team had a strong season as well. The Lady Cats finished their year with an 11-4 record.

Like the varsity, the Lady Cats ended their season with a triangular at home on Dec. 12. It was scheduled to be against Eudora and Baldwin, but Baldwin was unable to field a junior varsity team, so Louisburg played Eudora twice.

Both times the Lady Cats got the better of the Cardinals after losing to them in double overtime earlier in the season.



**Members of the Louisburg eighth-grade junior varsity girls team are (front row, from left) Bella Arriola, Skyler Bowman, Gabby Dugger,**



**Kayla Willey, Kate Cassida;  
(back row) Gracen Leshner,  
Skyler Pulliam, Libby  
Storey, Shayla Meyer, Riley  
Papst and Shayla Aye.**

In the first game, Louisburg won 16-10 and got four points each from Bella Arriola and Libby Storey. The final matchup was even closer, but the Lady Cats pulled away for a 29-26 win.

Shayla Meyer led the Lady Cats in scoring with eight points and Storey finished with seven.

"This team was great to work with this year," junior varsity coach Cindy Apple said. "I was fortunate to have a group of young ladies who came to practice each day ready to give it their all. We had some learning moments in our four losses, but I attribute that to my own learning moments as a coach.

"The losses did not get the girls down and they came out each game ready to play and win. It was a fun season and I look forward to seeing these girls on the freshman team with Coach (Shawn) Lowry next year."

Members of the junior varsity team are Gracen Leshner, Skyler Pulliam, Libby Storey, Shayla Meyer, Riley Papst, Shayla Aye, Bella Arriola, Skyler Bowman, Gabby Dugger, Kayla Willey and Kate Cassida.

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## **Perfection: Seventh-graders**

# finish undefeated



Members of the Louisburg Middle School seventh-grade varsity and junior varsity basketball team are (front row, from left) Alyse Moore, Madison Quinn, Megan Foote, Aiyana Penca, Shealynn O'Hara, Madilyn Melton, Carleigh Pritchard, Aly Traffis, Shelby Keenan, Kylee Leach; (back row) manager Emaley Boothe, Skyla Meyer, Jenna Terry, Callie O'Brien, Brooklyn Diederich, Brenna Oshel, Nora Van Asten, Maggie Ming, manager Nicole Schwab and manager Eleanor Willming.

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As the Louisburg Middle School seventh-grade girls basketball team walked off the floor for the final time last month, the Lady Cats had the same feeling they had after every contest.

A winning one.

Louisburg completed what was a special season on Dec. 12 when it faced off with Baldwin and Eudora in a triangular to end the season. The Lady Cats ended with blowout wins over both teams, and even better, wrapped up what was a perfect year.

The Lady Cats finished the season with a 16-0 record and tore through Frontier League opponents as all of their victories were by double digits.

"It was a great season," coach Suzanne Reedy said. "I am so proud of these girls and their commitment to teamwork. The

varsity group earned an undefeated basketball in the trophy case with their names on it. They are so excited."

Louisburg had several girls contribute to their success as different players stepped up every game.

The Lady Cats ended their year with a 35-6 blowout of Eudora on Dec. 12 and they got a big game from forward Madilyn Melton as she finished with 14 points. Alyse Moore just missed double figures with eight points.

Earlier in the day, Louisburg dispatched Baldwin 31-12 and again Melton came up big for Louisburg as she scored 14 points to lead the way.

Louisburg had one of its largest margins of victory on the season against Wheatridge on Dec. 10. The Lady Cats easily pulled away for a 54-10 win.

Megan Foote outscored the entire Wheatridge team by herself as she had a game-high 12 points and forward Shealynn O'Hara was next with eight points.

The Lady Cats also had no problem with rival Paola on Dec. 8 when they played in their final home contest of the season. Louisburg treated its fans to a 36-19 win.

Foote led all scorers with 12 points and Brooklyn Diederich also finished in double figures with 10 points. Moore added six points in the win.

Playing for the Lady Cat varsity team this season were Madilyn Melton, Jenna Terry, Megan Foote, Alyse Moore, Brooklyn Diederich, Shealynn O'Hara, Aly Traffis, Madison Quinn, Maggie Ming, Carleigh Pritchard and Ali Prettyman.

### **JV team finishes strong**

The LMS seventh-grade junior varsity team also had a good finish to its season as it won its final three games to end the year with a 12-4 record.

On Dec. 12, the Lady Cats played Eudora to end its season and came away with a close 14-11 victory. Carleigh Pritchard and Aiyana Penca each led Louisburg with four points.

Earlier in the day, Louisburg began its triangular with a game against Baldwin and came away with an easy 21-3 win. Ali Prettyman led all scorers with 10 points.

Louisburg also didn't have much of a problem against Wheatridge on Dec. 10. The Lady Cats rolled to a 42-17 win behind 13 points from Pritchard.

In the Lady Cats' final home contest on Dec. 8, they lost a tough game to Paola, 18-17. Prettyman led Louisburg with eight points in the loss.

Playing for the junior varsity team this season were Carleigh Pritchard, Shelby Keenan, Madison Quinn, Callie O'Brien, Ali Prettyman, Nora Van Asten, Aiyana Penca, Brenna Oshel and Skyla Meyer.

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## **Seventh-graders undefeated to begin season**



**LMS seventh-grader Alyse Moore drives the ball down the floor during the Lady Cats' game against Wheatridge on Nov. 23. Louisburg defeated the Gardner middle school 61-13 and have won 11 games in a row to begin the year.**

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It has been quite the ride for the Louisburg Middle School seventh-grade girls basketball team so far this season – in fact – it couldn't have been a smoother start.

The Lady Cats have cruised more than halfway through their season as they have an 11-0 record following Tuesday's road contest in Ottawa and haven't been tested much to this point.

"This team works together to accomplish each win," Louisburg coach Suzanne Reedy said. "They truly personify what it means to be a team. Their defense is dynamite, they are constantly moving and talking to make sure the court is covered."

It is that teamwork that has made them basically unstoppable in league action and that continued Tuesday in Ottawa. The Lady Cats were never tested against Ottawa in a 46-24 victory as they had four players score in double figures.





**Madilyn Melton leaps for a rebound during the Lady Cats' Nov. 23 game against Wheatridge.**

Megan Foote, Madilyn Melton, Alyse Moore and Shealynn O'Hara had 10 points each to account for a bulk of the Louisburg scoring.

It was an even easier time right before the Thanksgiving break when the Lady Cats hosted Wheatridge. Louisburg rolled the Gardner middle school 61-13 as the Lady Cats jumped out to a big lead and never looked back

Foote and O'Hara had a big night for the Lady Cats as they each finished with 14 points and Moore added 10 points in the win.

The Lady Cats have been getting contributions all over the floor as Melton and Foote have been averaging close to 10 points a contest to lead Louisburg and Brooklyn Diederich is next with six points a contest.

Playing for the Louisburg varsity are Madilyn Melton, Carleigh Pritchard, Jenna Terry, Megan Foote, Madison Quinn, Alyse Moore, Brooklyn Diederich, Aly Traffis, Maggie Ming and

Shealynn O'Hara.

Louisburg's junior varsity squad is also having success as it has a 9-2 record on the season with close losses to Spring Hill and Paola.

Members of the junior varsity team are Carleigh Pritchard, Shelby Keenan, Madison Quinn, Callie O'Brien, Ali Prettyman, Nora VanAsten, Aiyana Penca, Brenna Oshel and Skyla Meyer.

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## **Eighth-grade girls basketball off to good start**



LMS eighth-grader Lauren Vincent looks to put up a shot Tuesday during the Lady Cats' home contest against Ottawa. Louisburg downed Ottawa 38-14 and moved its record to 8-3 after the win.

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It has been a successful season so far for the Louisburg Middle School eighth-grade girls basketball team.

Louisburg won its first four games to start the season, and after losing back-to-back games, the Lady Cats have won four out of their next five contests to have an 8-3 record on the

year.

“Both the varsity and junior varsity players have improved their play since the beginning of the season,” Louisburg coach John Ozier said. “From day one, all of the girls have given great effort and have played aggressively. We are now attempting to play smarter, knowing when to attack the basket, or make the proper pass on offense and how to defend as one unit on defense.

“Coach (Cindy) Apple and I like to challenge the girls to get better in specific areas after each practice or game. The last portion of our schedule is going to be against some of the tougher teams in the league this year. This will be a real test of how well we can bring together what we have worked so hard on this season.”

Most recently, Louisburg took care of business Tuesday as it picked apart Ottawa in a 38-14 home victory. The Lady Cats’ defense made it difficult on Ottawa as they held the Whirlwinds scoreless in the second quarter and took a 15-4 lead at halftime.

Louisburg’s offense came alive in the second half and outscored Ottawa 10-1 in the final quarter to put the game away.

The Lady Cats got a big game from Haley Cain as she outscored Ottawa by herself with a game-high 16 points. Emma Roy and Kody Lowry were next on the team with five points each.

Before the Thanksgiving break, Louisburg also got a win on the road when it traveled to Wheatridge Middle School in Gardner. The Lady Cats pulled out a 27-21 victory behind a team-high eight points from Gabby Tappan. Lauren Vincent and Sydni Keagle also had five points to lead Louisburg.



**Kody Lowry goes up for a layup during Tuesday's contest against Ottawa.**

On Nov. 21, the Lady Cats traveled to Paola to compete in a triangular with Trail Ridge and the Lady Cats split the two games.

Louisburg opened the triangular against Trail Ridge and won 33-19 behind 11 points from Lowry and six points from Keagle.

The Paola contest was a little tougher as the Lady Cats fell 32-23. Louisburg led most of the game before Paola pulled away in the fourth quarter. Lowry led Louisburg with 11 points and Vincent added five.

To start the season, Louisburg picked up a win over Pioneer Ridge and two over Spring Hill. In the third game of the season, the Lady Cats trailed Spring Hill with three seconds left in the game before Tappan put in the game-winner at the buzzer to win 24-23.

The Wildcats also had another victory over Ottawa, before losing back to back games to Baldwin and Pioneer Ridge.

Playing varsity for the Lady Cats are Emma Roy, Mackenzie

Scholtz, Haley Cain, Sydni Keagle, Allie Boles, Reilly Ratliff, Gabby Tappan, Ashley Moore, Lauren Vincent, Kody Lowry, Bella Arriola and Gracen Leshner.

The Louisburg junior varsity team has also gotten off to a good start as they are 9-1 on the season, with their lone loss coming to Baldwin.

Playing for the junior varsity team is Leshner, Arriola, Kate Cassida, Skylar Pulliam, Kayla Willey, Shayla Aye, Gabby Dugger, Skylar Bowman, Libby Storey, Riley Papst and Shayla Meyer.

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## **Eighth-graders show big improvement**



Louisburg eighth-grader Dylan DeShazer goes up for a shot during a game earlier this season at Louisburg Middle School. The Wildcats won three of their last four games to finish their season with an 8-8 record.

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The Louisburg Middle School eighth-grade boys basketball team has improved a lot in a year's time and all one has to do is



look as its record.

Last season, the Wildcats finished with a 3-10 record, but they took a big step forward this year. Louisburg improved by five wins as it finished its season 8-8 after splitting its final two games on Feb. 28. The Wildcats three of their last four games to close out the season.

During a triangular, the Wildcats opened with a strong performance as it downed Eudora 35-19 before losing a tough game to Baldwin to end the year, 30-27.

Against Eudora, Noah Hill led Louisburg in scoring with 10 points and Dylan DeShazer just missed double figures with nine points. Kohl Vogel added six points and Logan McClellan finished with four points.

"This was perhaps our best effort of the year," Louisburg coach John Ozier said. "On the defensive end we rebounded and matched up well against a very good Eudora team. I was very proud of how the boys ran all of our offensive sets. It was a great win."

As good as that win was, the Wildcats followed it up with a tough loss as they struggled from the free-throw line. Hill once again led Louisburg in scoring with eight points and Noah Larson added six. Grant Macoubrie and Vogel scored four points each.

"We followed one of our best performances of the season with one of worst," Ozier said. "We could not generate any offense and failed to convert our free throws. I know the boys were terribly disappointed, but I told them not to have one bad game define our season. They worked really hard all season and improved tremendously."

It was a tough loss as the Wildcats had defeated Baldwin two days prior on Feb. 26, 32-21. The game was tied at 3-all after the first quarter, but Louisburg got some momentum late in the

second quarter and went on an 8-0 run to start the third quarter to pull away.

Hill scored eight points to lead Louisburg and Brayden Gage finished with seven points. DeShazer scored five points, while Macoubrie and Eli Minster added four points each.

On Feb. 23, Louisburg had no problem with Wheatridge Middle School out of Gardner as it won 37-17. Hill finished in double figures with 11 points and DeShazer scored six. McClellan and Vogel added five points.

The eighth-grade junior varsity also had a strong season as it finished with a 10-6 record.

“Coach (Gary) Griffin did a fantastic job,” Ozier said. “The boys improved dramatically from last season.”

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## **LMS eighth-grade season up and down**



Louisburg eighth-grader Noah Hill goes up for a basket during the Wildcats's game with Spring Hill on Feb. 9. The Wildcats are 5-7 so far this season.

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It has been an up and down season so far for the Louisburg

Middle School eighth-grade boys basketball team.

The Wildcats have stayed around the .500 mark with a 5-7 record so far this season and the last three games they have played could have gone either way. Louisburg fell to Ottawa 40-26 on Thursday after coming off a close 35-34 victory Tuesday over Eudora.

Louisburg lost another close contest, this time with Spring Hill on Feb. 9 when it fell 35-31.

Against Ottawa, the Wildcats ran up against a strong Cyclone team, who did a good job with their inside and outside game that had Louisburg playing from behind.

Noah Hill had a strong game for Louisburg as he was the lone player in double figures with 12 points. Dylan DeShazer and Kohl Vogel finished with four points each. Dillon Keegan and Noah Larson added two points each in the loss.

"Ottawa is a very talented team," Louisburg coach John Ozier said. "They can attack you with their 3-point shooting or post players in the paint. We got off numerous good shots, but were not able to convert."

Louisburg was able to hold on against Eudora and put together a complete game as it was able to get key shots and get stops down. The Wildcats also had three players in double figures.

Hill led all scorers with 14 points. DeShazer and Brayden Gage each had 10 points to pace the Wildcats. Vogel finished with four points and Austin Moore added two.

"We played one of best games of the season on both ends of the floor," Ozier said. "We really cut down on turnovers and rebounded well."





**Brayden Gage goes up for a layup during the Wildcats' Feb. 9 home game against Spring Hill.**

Free throws hurt the Wildcats against Spring Hill in their four-point loss. Louisburg was 10-for-30 from the free-throw line.

Hill once again led all scorers with 14 points, while Gage and Vogel finished with five and four points, respectively.

Louisburg opened its season in the middle of January with losses to Pioneer Ridge and Spring Hill, but rebounded to win

three straight games against Paola, Trailridge and Wheatridge Middle Schools.

The Wildcats then lost to Ottawa on Jan. 29 and then again to an undefeated Pioneer Ridge team in overtime. Trailridge got revenge on Louisburg with a win on Feb. 2, but the Wildcats rebounded to beat Paola for the second straight time.

Louisburg returns home on Monday when it hosts Wheatridge. Tipoff is set for 4 p.m.