

Wildcats qualify for state in 9 events; relays set school records



Louisburg senior Chris Williams pumps his fists in the air after the Wildcat 4×400-meter relay won a regional championship and broke their own school record with a new time 3:23.76 on Friday during the Class 4A regional meet in Paola.

PAOLA – As Justin Collins, Blue Caplinger, Ben Wiedenmann and Chris Williams raced around the track in the 4×400-meter relay Friday at the Class 4A regional meet in Paola, they had only two thoughts in mind.

One was to qualify for state and the other was to hold on to that No. 1 state ranking.

The Wildcats did both of those things and then some. The Louisburg quartet easily won the regional championship as they broke their own school record with a time of 3 minutes and 23.76 seconds after setting it last week at the Frontier League meet.

“I think we ran pretty well,” Caplinger said. “We are looking forward to even tougher competition at state. I think we compete harder as the competition gets tougher and it was very

satisfying to know that we can run good times consistently.”

Louisburg currently has the best time in Class 4A heading into the state meet this weekend in Wichita.

“We are all pretty excited since we are No. 1 in the state instead of No. 8,” Williams said. “It is always a good thing to be at the top. At the same time, we are now the team to beat and we are who everyone wants to catch. It is going to be a fun race. It is going to be tough and we are going to do our best.”

It was a successful day for the Wildcat team as they qualified for state in nine events and will send 13 to Wichita this weekend. The end of the meet almost got even better for Louisburg as it was in the hunt for the regional runner-up trophy.

Louisburg finished with 82 points, but unfortunately they finished one point behind Eudora for second place in the team standings. Paola won the regional crown with 168 points.

Still, the Wildcats had a successful regional meet that led them to qualifying for state in nine events and are sending 13 athletes to Wichita in the process. The top four finishers in each event get to compete at the state meet.

Along with his regional title in the 4×400 relay, Williams, a senior, ran his best race of the season in the 400-meter dash in 51.44 seconds to win a regional championship.

“I thought I ran it pretty slow,

but down the final stretch I decided to just go for it since it was my last one and finally got below 52 seconds, which I had been struggling with all season,” Williams said. “It was good to get that good time.”

Louisburg’s 4×100-meter relay of Charlie Koontz, Caplinger, Wiedenmann and Collins ran their best time of the season Friday. After tying the school record the week before at the league meet, the four athletes now have it all to themselves as the Wildcats ran a 43.34 to finish second overall to Paola, who ran a 43.17.



Blue Caplinger takes the handoff from Charlie Koontz in the boys 4×100 relay as the Wildcats set a new school record in 43.34.

“It’s really awesome to get the record to ourselves,” Caplinger said. “It was nice since we’ve been working for that record for two years. If we make it to finals (at state), I think we’ll do very well.”

In the discus, senior Kiefer Tucker almost finished as a regional champion as he put together a strong round of throws to take second overall with a toss of 148 feet, 6 inches.

Tucker led going into finals of the competition, but in the second round of the finals, he was passed by Bishop Miege's Taylor Poitier with a 152-7.

"It feels to go out to state, especially with it being my senior year," Tucker said. "I am just glad I made it and it will be my first time going so it will be a new experience, but I am definitely excited for it.

"Going in, I was a little scared, but once I got my warm-up throws in I felt good and I knew it was going to be a good day. I'm just glad that I went out and competed and just got it."



Senior Kiefer Tucker lets the discus fly Friday during the Class 4A regional meet in Paola. Tucker was second overall.

The Wildcats also had six athletes that finished in either third or fourth place to earn a state bid.

Junior Michael Waldron will make his trip to state in the javelin as he took third overall with a throw of 154-9 in windy conditions. Waldron is excited for his first opportunity in Wichita after narrowly missing state a year ago.

“It feels great,” Waldron said. “This is my first year going and last year I missed out on going to state by like a few feet, so it is a nice to be able to get there.

“It was actually good throwing into the wind, and I have actually had success this year doing that, so it was good and I’m looking forward to state.”

Louisburg had a pair of pole vaulters qualify after both Trent Martin and Luke Faulkner both tied personal bests to finish third and fourth, respectively.

Martin cleared 13-6 for the second consecutive week, while Faulkner was fourth at 13-0. A lot of their competition was eliminated early on and knew they qualified shortly into the event, which made it a little less stressful.

“I felt really good today,” Martin said. “It was nice when the four of us found out early in the competition that we had already qualified and that took a lot of the pressure off. It just let

us have fun.

“We are going to be putting in work this week and going for PR’s at state and we will just see what happens.”

It will be the second trip to state for both vaulters and Martin will try for his second state medal.

“I am just trying to go to state all four years and I have been successful so far,” Faulkner said. “There was great conditions and that helped with some of the high marks.

“It is fun having competition to go up against at practice with Trent. Everyone is slowing getting better and it makes the sport more fun.”



Freshman Tom Koontz celebrates at the finish line as he finished third in the 300 hurdles and qualified for state.

Louisburg got a pleasant surprise from freshman Tom Koontz in the 300 hurdles. Koontz ran a personal best time of 41.35 seconds to finish third overall and led to a celebration at the finish line.

The Wildcats also qualified a pair of distance runners as junior Anthony Davis and freshman Ryan Rogers finished third and fourth, respectively, in the 1,600-meter run. Davis ran a 5:00.48, while Rogers sprinted toward to the finish to edge Osawatomie's Bryce Filipin in 5:03.

In the sprints, senior Brandon Cooper was fourth in a difficult race in the 100-meter dash. Cooper ran a time of 11.22 to punch his ticket to state.

Events for state will begin at 3 p.m., Friday at Cessna Stadium on the campus of Wichita State University and the top eight in each events will earn state medals.

Other results:

100 dash: Justin Collins, 5th, 11.33; Blue Caplinger, 6th, 11.51

200 dash: Charlie Koontz, 10th, 23.85; Ben Wiedenmann, 11th, 23.95

800 run: Anthony Davis, 14th, 2:24; Ryan Rogers, 15th, 2:24

110 hurdles: Tom Koontz, 5th, 16.88

Long jump: Hayden Feikert, 7th,

19-10; Will Finestead, 8th, 19-8.5; Weston Guetterman, 15th,
16-10

Triple jump: Finestead, 5th,

40-7.5; Isaac Guetterman, 10th, 39-5.25; Indy Strumillo, 13th,
38-5.75

Shot put: Kiefer Tucker, 12th,

42-9.5; Jonathan DePriest, 15th, 39-7.5

Discus: Carter Anglin, 8th,

122-2

Javelin: Jay Scollin, 6th,

148-7; Austin Moore, 7th, 142-10

Gassman, Wright win league titles; relay breaks school record



Louisburg junior Carlee Gassman glides her way to a Frontier League crown in the 300-meter hurdles last Friday in Paola.

Gassman won with a time of 47.07 seconds.

PAOLA – Carlee Gassman and Delaney Wright had a Frontier League Invitational to remember for a few different reasons – one of which was they left with a league title in hand.

Gassman won the league crown in the 300-meter hurdles and Wright took first place in the long jump as they guided the Lady Cats to a fifth-place team finish Friday in Paola. The Wildcat duo certainly wasn't done scoring points.

Both athletes captured three league medals and Gassman was also a part of history. Gassman, along with Jordon Leach, Rain Pugh and Sydni Keagle, broke the school record in the 4×100-meter relay as they ran a time of 50.59 seconds to finish second overall.

They eclipsed the old mark of 50.96 that was set in 2000 by the quartet of Laura Gjerde, LaTasha Roberts, Megan Howard and Libby Dean.

It was a competitive event as Piper went on to set a new league record in a time of 49.15 seconds.

“The 4×100 did an awesome job,” Louisburg coach John Reece said. “I was coaching when the 2000 team broke the record and again with this group. Yes, there are similarities between them, but only one difference – we only lose one from this relay due to graduation. I expect them to continue to improve on their time, not only this year, but next as well.”



The 4×100 relay of (from left) Rain Pugh, Jordon Leach, Sydni Keagle and Carlee Gassman broke the school record Friday with a time of 50.59.

Gassman continued to show improvement in the 300 hurdles as she recorded a season-best time of 47.07 seconds to win the event going away.

The Louisburg junior broke the school record in the event last year in 45.78 and Reece believe she is rounding into form for the postseason run.

“Carlee had a great start in the first 150 meters, which made the others chase her,” Reece said. “Her conditioning continues to improve and the best is yet to come.”

Wright, a freshman, had a big performance in her first ever league meet as she won the long jump with a mark of 17 feet, 4 inches. She beat out Baldwin senior, Carly Lindenmeyer, by one inch to take the

top spot.

Gassman also scored points for the Wildcats in the long jump as she was fifth at 16-5.75.

“Delaney is not a freshman when it comes to competition,” Wright said. “She is a focused individual that will bring it every time. It is impressive for a freshman to claim a league title, especially in our league.”



Freshman Delaney Wright won the Frontier League title in the long jump with mark of 17-4 on Friday in Paola.

Wright and Gassman teamed up with Pugh and Keagle to run the 4x400-meter relay as well. The team medaled third overall with a personal best

time of 4:17.86.

In the sprints, the Wildcats picked up a couple more medals as Wright took third in the 200-meter dash in 26.83 seconds, while Leach was third in the 100 dash in 12.96. Wright also went on to score points in the 400 dash with a season-best time of 1:01.26 and took fourth.

Louisburg also scored points in a pair of field events. Junior Avery Graham cleared 8-6 to medal second in the pole vault and freshman Rinny McMullen was fifth in the discus with a toss of 93-11.

As a team, the Wildcats were fifth overall with 65 points. Baldwin won the league title with 112.5 points and Paola was second at 105.50.

The Lady Cats will be back in action Friday when it travels to Paola for the Class 4A regional meet. Events start at 1 p.m. and the top four finishers in each event will qualify for the state meet next week in Wichita.

“I believe we can qualify as many as 8 girls and be represented in 11 events,” Reece said. “As always, we need to go and take care of what we can control, our own performances, and good things will happen. If we go and PR, the other teams will see the energy we create and they will feel the pressure, not us. The best is yet to come.”

Other results are:

200 dash: Jordon Leach, 7th,
29.99

800 run: Shaylor Whitham, 11th,
2:52

1,600 run: Whitham, 10th,
6:15

100 hurdles: Kristen Bell, 8th,
18.90

300 hurdles: Bell, 14th,
1:04

High jump: Shelby Grandon, 10th,
4-8; Eileen Benne, 10th, 4-8

Long jump: Sydni Keagle, 13th,
14-3

Triple jump: Benne, 11th,
29-5

Shot put: Shea O'Hara, 15th,
29-2; Cayden Forrester, 20th, 25-3; Eden Strumillo, 21st,
24-6

Discus: Aiyana Penca, 12th,
85-7; Melia Rice, 13th, 81-9

Javelin: Alyse Moore, 10th,
95-7; Davis Guetterman, 16th, 74-8; Lakin Cunningham, 20th,
68-0

Wildcat boys rewrite record book at league track meet



The Louisburg 4×400 team of (from left) Justin Collins, Blue Caplinger, Ben Wiedenmann and Chris Williams broke a 19-year-old school record with a time of 3:25.10 to win a league title Friday in Paola.

PAOLA – It was a record-breaking night for the Louisburg boys track and field team and the Wildcats picked a good time to do it.

At the Frontier League Invitational at Paola High School, the Wildcats broke a school record, tied another and finished with two league champions Friday. Most of it was on the track as both relay teams were a part of history.

The 4×400-meter relay team of Justin Collins, Blue Caplinger, Ben Wiedenmann and Chris Williams broke the school record with a time of 3 minutes and 25.10 seconds and earned a league title in the process. The old record of 3:25.60 was set in 2000 by the team of Sauber, Brittingham, Johns and Hoppe.

Louisburg beat runner-up Eudora by more than a second as the Wildcat quartet eased to a league championship in the event. Their new school record time is currently the top mark

in Class 4A this season.

“They were on a mission and they wanted the school record,” Louisburg coach Andy Wright said. “They ran with a purpose and were determined to win. I don’t want them to be satisfied and I don’t think they are. They are all competitors and compete with that mentality. I can’t ask for more than that as a coach.”

The Wildcats’ 4×100 team of Charlie Koontz, Caplinger, Wiedenmann and Collins rose to the occasion as well. Louisburg tied a school record in the event with a time of 43.43 seconds as the Wildcats took third overall in a fast race that saw Piper win the league title at 43.20.

That mark of 43.43 tied the record set in 1996 by Hoppe, Burk, Jaccard and Antisdell.

“It was a well-deserved time,” Wright said. “This crew works hard every day in practice. They show up and do everything that is asked of them. They competed hard. All of the events, including the relays, were state-medalist caliber at this meet.”



The 4×100 team of (from left) Charlie Koontz, Blue Caplinger, Ben Wiedenmann and Justin Collins tied a 23-year-old school record with a time of 43.43.

Junior Trent Martin had the best day of his high school pole vaulting career as he won his first league crown.

Martin cleared a personal best mark of 13 feet and 6 inches and nearly cleared 14 feet in his final attempt.

Martin tied Paola's Preston Martin at 13-6, but Trent won based on number of misses. Louisburg sophomore Luke Faulkner cleared 12-6 and finished fourth.

"Trent had some great attempts on Friday," Wright said. "It is nice to have him healthy and improving. He is working very hard this week and I know he will be ready for regionals."



Junior Trent Martin won his first Frontier League title Friday after he cleared 13-6.

As a team, the Wildcats finished fifth in the league standings with 55 points. Piper won the league championship with 122 points and Paola was second with 121.

On the track, Williams rounded out the Wildcat medalists as he was the league runner-up in the 400-meter dash with a time of 52 seconds.

Also in the sprints, Collins ran a time of 11.47 seconds to take fifth in the 100-meter dash. Caplinger was fifth in the 200 dash in 23.33.

Louisburg also scored points in the 300 hurdles as freshman Tom Koontz was sixth in 42.81.

The Wildcats also scored points in a few field events. Junior Michael Waldron recorded a throw of 156-6 to take fifth in the javelin.

Junior Carter Anglin was sixth in the discus with a toss of 131-5 and junior Indy Strumillo took sixth in the triple jump with a mark of 39-4.

“The Frontier League meet is, event for event, one of the toughest we will compete at,” Wright said. “In several events, the top finishers are the leading event leaders in the state. I was very proud of the way our team handled themselves and the level of competition. They didn’t back down.”

Louisburg will be back in action Friday when it travels back to Paola to compete in the Class 4A regional meet. The top four finishers in each event will travel to Wichita next week to compete at the state meet.

“Our regional is tough, and has some very tough competition,” Wright said. “The mark coming into the Paola regional are some of the best in 4A. I expect us to go out and give it our best, and if we compete like we can, we hope to qualify in several events. It should be very exciting on Friday.”

Other results are:

100 dash: Blue Caplinger, 8th, 11.72; Charlie Koontz, 11th, 11.91

200 dash: Ben Widenmann, 9th, 23.41; Skylar Tinsley, 13th, 24.31

400 dash: Dylan Armstrong, 12th,
55.96; Weston Guetterman, 14th, 56.92

800 run: Anthony Davis, 14th,
2:19; Ryan Rogers, 17th, 2:26; Caden Bradshaw, 18th, 2:27

1,600 run: Davis, 7th,
4:58; Rogers, 12th, 5:12; Bradshaw, 13th, 5:12

3,200 run: Gareth Baus, 18th,
13:00

110 hurdles: Tom Koontz, 10th,
17.84

Long jump: Will Finestead, 11th,
18-4; Hayden Feikert, 12th, 18-3; Guetterman, 18th, 17-2

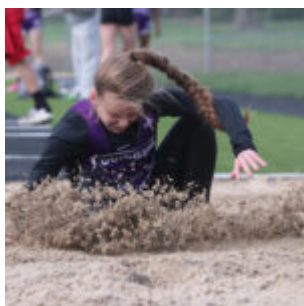
Triple jump: Isaac Guetterman, 8th,
38-0.50; Finestead, 9th, 37-6.5

Shot put: Kiefer Tucker, 10th,
45-6; Brayden White, 17th, 39-11; Jonathan DePriest, 22nd,
37-6

Discus: Tucker, 16th,
109-7; White, 18th, 107-6

Javelin: Jay Scollin, 7th,
142-2; Austin Moore, 9th, 141-2

Gassman medals in three events to lead Wildcat track at Wellsville



Carlee Gassman won the 300 hurdles, was second in the long jump and helped the Louisburg 4×100 relay to a first place finish Friday in Wellsville.

WELLSVILLE – The Louisburg track and field teams took part in one of its toughest meets of the season Friday in Wellsville.

Louisburg competed in the Red Bud Relays and both the boys and girls teams had a fair amount of success as they each took sixth in the team standings. The Lady Cats came in sixth with 45 points, while Baldwin won the meet with 91 and Paola was second with 79.

The Wildcat boys were also sixth with 43 points. Paola took first in the team standings with 124 points and Spring Hill was second with 104.5.

“The boys ran up against some good

competition,” Louisburg boys coach Andy Wright said. “We had some athletes step up and compete. As a team, I would like to see us refocus our goals and get ready for league coming up.”

Carlee Gassman had a big meet for the Lady Cats on the girls side as she earned a pair of gold medals and was runner-up in another event as well.

Gassman won the 300-meter hurdles in 48.53 seconds to pull away from the rest of the field. Earlier in the day, Gassman, along with Jordon Leach, Rain Pugh and Sydni Keagle, put together a season-best time in the 4×100-meter relay in 50.99 seconds.

The Louisburg junior would also go on to finish second in the long jump with a mark of 15 feet and 6 inches.

Louisburg won one event on the boys side and that came thanks to the arm of Kiefer Tucker. The Louisburg senior captured the discus title for the second week in a row on a throw of 144-6.

“Kiefer really competed,” Wright said. “He lost the lead in the finals and I was proud of how he responded by putting his last throw out there to regain the lead and win it.”

Although it didn’t count in the team standings, Tucker also took part in the thrower’s relay with Austin Moore, Michael Waldron and Jonathan DePriest. The team took first in 48.37 seconds and

their time is the fourth fastest in the nation according to milesplit.com

Two other relays also had season-best times as the 4×400-meter relay of Chris Williams, Justin Collins, Blue Caplinger and Ben Wiedenmann finished second in 3 minutes and 28 seconds to take second overall.

The 4×100 relay of Brandon Cooper, Caplinger, Wiedenmann and Collins found themselves in a competitive race, but came in fourth in 43.98 seconds.

“The 4×400 set a PR by two seconds and they ran a solid race, even without everyone running their best split,”

Wright said. “When we get everyone’s best in the same race we are going to be right at the top of the mix in league and regionals.

“The 4×100 also got a PR, but we just have to keep improving every week. We are getting down to the end and we need to stay focused on improving with the races we have left.”

In the sprints, Cooper led the way in the 100-meter dash as he took third in 11.49 seconds and Caplinger was sixth in 11.70. Caplinger was also sixth in the 200 dash in 23.87.

Williams ran a 52.82 to take fourth overall in the 400 dash and freshman Tom Koontz was sixth in the 300 hurdles in 44 seconds to complete the point-getters on the track.

In the field events, Waldron earned a medal in the javelin

with a throw of 152-5 to take third and sophomore Jay Scollin was fifth at 148-4.

On the girls side, Leach had a successful day as she was runner-up in the 200-meter dash in 27.50 and was fifth in the 100 dash in 13.54.

Keagle earned points for Louisburg in the 100 hurdles as she finished fifth in 17.06 seconds. Keagle, Pugh, Gassman and Shaylor Whitham was sixth in the 4x400 relay in 4:28.

The girls 4x100 thrower's relay, although they didn't earn points, took gold in 1:03.

A pair of throwers also placed for the Lady Cats. Sophomore Alyse Moore finished fifth with a toss of 104-4 and freshman Rinny McMullen was sixth in the discus at 93-1.

Senior Eileen Benne and sophomore Shelby Grandon tied for sixth in the high jump after clearing 4-6.

Louisburg will begin its postseason slate Friday when it travels to Paola for the Frontier League Invitational. Events are set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Other results are:

GIRLS

400 dash: Andrea Gaza, 19th,
1:14

1,600 run: Shaylor Whitham, 14th,
6:21

100 hurdles: Kristen Bell, 11th,
19.59

Long jump: Sydney Keagle, 10th,
13-6

Triple jump: Eileen Benne, 11th,
28-5

Shot put: Shea O'Hara, 16th,
26-10; Eden Strumillo, 18th, 25-6; Cayden Forrester, 24th,
22-9

Discus: Aiyana Penca, 15th,
87-0; Melia Rice, 22nd, 77-4

Javelin: Davis Guetterman, 23rd,
73-5

BOYS

100 dash: Justin Collins, 9th,
11.79

200 dash: Ben Wiedenmann, 8th,
24.27; Brandon Cooper, 10th, 23.90

400 dash: Dylan Armstrong, 21st,
56.69; Weston Guetterman, 25th, 59.39

800 run: Anthony Davis, 18th,
2:20; Ryan Rogers, 21st, 2:25; Sawyer Richardson, 24th,
2:28

1,600 run: Davis, 12th,

5:01; Rogers, 15th, 5:14; Richardson, 17th, 5:24

110 hurdles: Tom Koontz, 7th,
17.54

Pole vault: Trent Martin, 8th,
11-6; Caleb Shaughnessy, 12th, 9-6

Long jump: Will Finestead, 9th,
18-4; Hayden Feikert, 12th, 18-0

Triple jump: Finestead, 8th,
37-4; Indy Strumillo, 9th, 36-11; Guetterman, 13th, 34-10

Shot put: Kiefer Tucker, 9th,
42-3.5; Jonathan DePriest, 13th, 39-8; Brayden White, 19th,
38-3

Discus: Carter Anglin, 7th,
121-7; White, 14th, 111-8

Javelin: Austin Moore, 12th,
125-11

**Wildcats win 8 events to
secure top spot at Prairie**

View Invite



Louisburg junior Carter Anglin finished third overall in the discus Thursday at the Prairie View Invitational.

LA CYGNE – On one of the more windy days of the season, the Louisburg boys track and field team was still able to put together some of its best performances of the year.

The Wildcats recorded several personal bests Thursday during the Prairie View Invitational and blew away the competition. Louisburg captured its second consecutive team title as they racked up 164 points and won by nearly 100 points. Central Heights was second with 65.

Louisburg won eight events on the day, including five on the track. The Wildcats won three field events in which each of them had a personal record.

“We came out did what we were supposed to do,” Louisburg coach Andy Wright said. “I knew our athletes had been working and was not surprised to see a few personal records, even with the conditions.”

Senior

Blue Caplinger had a big day in the sprints as he won two individual events and

was a part of two gold-medal winning relays.

Caplinger

won the 100-meter dash in 11.30 seconds and edged senior teammate Brandon

Cooper, who was second in 11.31. Sophomore Justin Collins was third in 11.44.

In

the 200 dash, Caplinger edged Louisburg sophomore Ben Wiedenmann in 23.25

seconds to win gold. Wiedenmann was second in 23.50.

The

Wildcat 4×100 and 4×400-meter relays couldn't be stopped as the 4×100 team of Wiedenmann,

Collins, Caplinger and Cooper took first in 44.19 seconds. Caplinger,

Wiedenmann, Collins and Chris Williams ran a 3:38 to win the 4×400.

Williams, a senior, also won the 400-meter dash in 53.86 and edged Drexel's Aaron Woods by .01 seconds.

"I thought all of the

kids handled the competition solidly and ran their races,"

Wright said. "It was

great to have personal records across the board in the 100, and to win out in

the sprints. It was a total team effort and I am excited about the next part of

our season."

Louisburg also struck gold in the field events as three athletes earned personal records on their way to a first-place finish.



Louisburg senior Kiefer Tucker medaled in both the shot put and discus Thursday. He won the discus with a personal best throw.

Senior

Kiefer Tucker had a strong day in the discus with a personal best throw of 153 feet and .75 inches and won his first discus competition of the season.

Teammates Carter Anglin (124-5.75) and Brayden White (117-10.75) took third and fifth, respectively.

Tucker

also scored points in the shot put as he was third with a toss of 41-9.5 and White was fifth at 40-2.

“Kiefer

has been focusing on discus at practice and it really showed at Prairie View,”

Wright said. “Three out of the four throws were over his PR. This week with his confidence built up in discus he is going to focus a little more on shot and I think we will see the benefit from that focus at the next meet.”

Sophomore Luke Faulkner and junior Trent Martin battled it out for the top spot in the pole vault as both cleared 13 feet. However, it was Faulkner who took gold based on the number of misses as 13 feet was also a personal best for him.

“The great part of it is that Luke and Trent watch each other compete and are each other’s best fans, cheering and encouraging each other,” Wright said. “It was nice seeing Luke get away from 12-6 and move up to the 13-0 mark. He has been clearing 12-6 at every meet, and I knew it wouldn’t be long before he clears 13-0.”

The success for Louisburg continued in the javelin as sophomore Jay Scollin had his best throw of the season with a mark of 146-7 to win the event for the first time this season. Junior Michael Waldron was second at 143-9 and freshman A.J. Reed was sixth at 129-3.5.

“Jay has been down the last couple of meets, so it was great for his confidence to come out and compete, and PR in the process,” Wright said.

The Wildcats were also able to score a few points in the jumps as freshman Hayden

Feikert was fourth at 17-11 and Martin was sixth at 17-5.5 in the long jump. In the triple jump, junior Indy Strumillo was fourth at 37-6.5 and sophomore Weston Guetterman took sixth with a mark of 35-2.5.

Back

on the track, freshman Tom Koontz scored points for the Wildcats in both hurdle events. Koontz was runner-up in the 300-meter hurdles in 44.50 seconds and fourth in the 110 hurdles in 17.49.

Junior

Anthony Davis earned a medal in the 1,600-meter run as he took third in 5:06.

Freshman teammate Ryan Rogers was sixth in 5:26.

Louisburg

will be back in action Friday when it travels to Wellsville for the Redbud Relays. The meet is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Other results are:

400 dash: Dylan Armstrong, 9th,
59.39; Weston Guetterman, 10th, 1:00

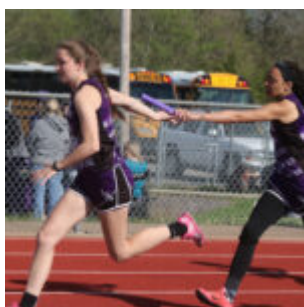
800 run: Anthony Davis, 9th,
2:21; Ryan Rogers, 11th, 2:25; Sawyer Richardson, 17th,
2:37

1,600 run: Richardson, 10th,
5:41

Long jump: Indy Strumillo, 10th,
16-8

Triple jump: Isaac Guetterman, 8th,
34-9.75

Lady Cats take Prairie View title to win third straight meet



Louisburg's Sydni Keagle takes the handoff from teammate Jordan Leach during the 4×100-meter relay Thursday at the Prairie View Invitational.

LA CYGNE – The Louisburg girls track team ran right past its competition Thursday during the Prairie View Invitational.

Louisburg won seven events on the day, including a sweep of the sprints and two relay victories. However, the most important one came later as the Lady Cats won the team title with 135 points and edged runner-up Prairie View, which finished with 111.

It was the third consecutive team title victory for the Lady Cats as they continue to see their times and distances improve.

“It was nice to get another team victory,”
Louisburg coach John Reece said. “All in all it was a good
meet with a few
athletes improving upon their best marks. I can’t wait to get
in a meet that
does not have a 20-plus mph wind and/or cool temperatures. But
the conditions
are the same for all so there can be no excuses.”

Freshman Delaney Wright continued her
success on the track as she finished the day with three golds.
Wright won both
the 200 and 400-meter dashes and later helped the 4×400-meter
relay of Carlee
Gassman, Rain Pugh and Shaylor Whitham to a first-place finish
in 4 minutes and
30 seconds.

Wright recorded a season-best time of
1:02 in the 400-meter dash and also had a season-best mark in
the 200 dash in
26.52.

Senior Jordon Leach also had a strong performance in the
sprints. Leach took gold in the 100-meter dash in 12.82
seconds and was second in the 200 in 27.37. Pugh, a freshman,
was third in the 100 in 13.31.

“Jordon again improved on her personal
record in the 100 and is setting herself up to make a run at
qualifying for
state as an individual,” Reece said. “Her 200 time is also
getting better and
that is great to see.”

Leach, along with Pugh, Sydni Keagle and
Gassman, won the 4×100-meter relay in 52.10 seconds to
complete the Lady Cats’ dominance

on the track.

In the hurdles, Louisburg had two runner-up finishes. Keagle recorded a time of 16.36 in the 100-meter hurdles to take second, while Gassman was second in the 300 hurdles in 49.14.



Junior Carlee Gassman clears a hurdle during the 300-meter hurdle race Thursday at Prairie View.

Louisburg also won a pair of field events and scored points in several others.

Gassman won the long jump for the first time this season as she recorded a mark of 16 feet, 2.5 inches as the participants jumped in to stiff wind most of the day. Wright was second in the event in 15-9.5 and Keagle was sixth at 14-5.5.

“Carlee did not let the headwind stop her from winning the long jump,” Reece said. “It was her best mark, but she was very consistent in tough conditions.”

Junior Avery Graham also had another good showing in the pole vault as she took gold after clearing 9-6.

Senior Eileen Benne had a pair of runner-up finishes for the Lady Cats in the high jump (4-6) and triple jump (28-8.5).

Louisburg also scored points in the throws as sophomore Shea O'Hara was fourth in the shot put with a toss of 29-11. Sophomore Aiyana Penca (88-1.25) and senior Melia Rice (85-10.75) were fourth and fifth, respectively, in the discus.

The Lady Cats will see their competition rise Friday when they travel to the Redbud Relays in Wellsville. The meet is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

"The best is yet to come with these girls and our efforts are showing it," Reece said. "Wellsville is a big meet that will give us a good barometer on how we will do as league and regionals draw near. We are in a good spot in many events, but we are not content with that. We are working to be the best and doing so, I hope we make some noise when we get to state."

Other results are:

100 dash: Andrea Gaza, 10th,
14.54

200 dash: Gaza, 11th,
31.60

400 dash: Gaza, 8th,
1:15

1,600 run: Shaylor Whitham, 8th,
6:27

100 hurdles: Kristen Bell, 10th,
18.80

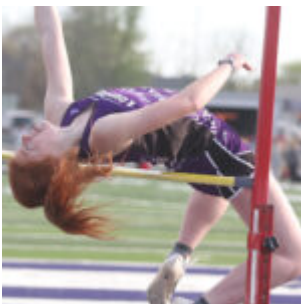
300 hurdles: Sydni Keagle, 7th,
58.97; Bell, 9th, 1:05

Shot put: Cayden Forrester, 9th,
27-5; Eden Strumillo, 12th, 26-2.25

Discus: Forrester, 12th,
74-8.5;

Javelin: Davis Guetterman, 8th,
76-8.5; Forrester, 15th, 55-8; Lexi Rogers, 18th, 43-9

Lady Cats win 10 events to capture team title; Wright earns three golds



Louisburg senior Eileen Benne won both the high jump and triple jump titles last Thursday during the Louisburg

Invitational.

Delaney Wright continued to show, while she may be a freshman in grade level, she is performing like an experienced veteran on the track.

Wright had a big day at the Louisburg Invitational last Thursday as she racked up three gold medals and helped the Lady Cats to a first-place team finish.

Louisburg finished with 144 points and held off runner-up Prairie View, who had 129. As a team, the Lady Cats won 10 events.

“The first place finish was awesome considering we held out a few athletes from normal events due to going to Kansas Relays,” Louisburg girls coach John Reece said. “With that said, it shows how much all of our runners and jumpers compete at their highest level. We had four seniors compete in their final home meet and all four received two medals each, which is great.”

Wright continued her success in the long jump as she recorded a leap of 17 feet, 3.75 inches to take first and the Lady Cats swept the medals in that event. Junior Carlee Gassman was second with a mark of 16-10.5 and Sydni Keagle was third at 16-3. Freshman Rain Pugh also scored points as she was fifth at 15-4.75.

On the track, Wright blew away her competition in the 200 and 400-meter dashes. She won the 200 in 26.88 seconds and the 400 in 1 minute and 3 seconds. Teammate Andrea Gaza was sixth in

the 400 in 1:14 to also score points for Louisburg.

“Delaney is a competitor,” Reece said. “Each meet she comes to win, and if not, she pushes those who beat her. It is almost expected out of her to do well even with her being a freshman.”

The Lady Cats swept the sprints as senior Jordon Leach won the 100-meter dash in 12.88 seconds and Pugh medaled third in 13.23.



Louisburg freshman Rain Pugh gets out to a good start in the 100-meter dash last Thursday at the Louisburg Invitational.

Keagle put together a strong time in the 100-meter hurdles as she took gold in 16.32 seconds and senior teammate Kristen Bell was third in 20.18. Bell also medaled third in the 300 hurdles in 1:02.

The 4×100-meter relay team of Gassman, Keagle, Pugh and Leach also finished first in 51.93 seconds.

In the field events, senior Eileen Benne was successful in her final home outing. Benne finished the day with two gold medals.

Benne opened with a gold medal performance in the triple jump with a mark 29-11.5 and also won the high jump after she cleared 4-8.

“Eileen winning both the high jump and triple jump as outstanding,” Reece said. “She was all smiles when the medals were handed out afterward”

It was also a big day at the pole vault for Avery Graham. The Louisburg junior set a new personal record as she cleared 10 feet to take gold and freshman Malee Rutherford also scored points as she was fourth after clearing 6-6.



Junior Avery Graham cleared 10 feet in the pole vault last Thursday and set a new personal record.

“Avery is doing great,” Reece said. “I’m proud of her for clearing 10 feet. The PR monkey is now off her back and I hope she continues to go higher.”

Back on the track, senior Shaylor Whitham medaled in both of her distance races. Whitham was third in the 800 run in 2:55 and teammate Bailey Hallas was fifth at 3:02.

In the 1,600 run, Whitham medaled third in 6:22 and freshman Lacie Kallevig was sixth overall in 7:03.

The Lady Cats ended the meet on a strong note as the 4×100 throwers relay of Shea O’Hara, Mable Graham, Aiyana Penca and Eden Strumillo won in 1:09.

Louisburg is back in action today when it travels to the Prairie View Invitational. The meet is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

“There will be some shuffling of athletes through the next few meets so that we get a good look at all of our options,” Reece said. “There will be some asked to step up as we near the end of the season and look to the future and it looks bright.”

Other results are:

100 dash: Andrea Gaza , 9th, 14.58; Hannah Cook, 11th, 15.45; Gabbie Nichelson, 14th, 15.59

200 dash: Gaza, 9th,

31.51; Nichelson, 12th, 32.62; Cook, 16th, 34.0

400 dash: Lakin Cunningham, 7th,

1:20

800 run: Lacie Kallevig, 7th,

3:17

Shot put: Shea O'Hara, 8th,

28-4.5; Cayden Forrester, 9th, 25-7; Eden Strumillo, 10th,

24-10; Aiyana Penca, 14th, 24-2; Mable Graham, 17th,

23-1.5

Discus: Penca, 7th,

84-6; Forrester, 10th, 79-10; Graham, 11th, 72-8; Strumillo,

12th, 68-8; O'Hara, 15th, 54-11

Javelin: Lexi Rogers, 18th,

43-2

Wright medals at KU Relays

With all the success she had at her home meet, Louisburg freshman Delaney Wright didn't stop there.

Wright competed in the long jump Saturday at the Kansas Relays in Lawrence and it was a loaded field. Wright, who was the lone freshman in the event, was the first one to go and her mark of 16 feet and 10 inches was good for ninth overall to earn a medal.

"Her ninth place finish at the Kansas Relays in the long jump is a prime example of her grit and determination to her best,"

coach John Reece
said.



Delaney Wright medaled ninth in the long jump at the Kansas Relays on Saturday in Lawrence.

Wright recorded her medal-winning mark in her final attempt of the preliminaries, which helped her get to the finals.

On Friday, junior Carlee Gassman also competed in a tough field in the 300-meter hurdles. Gassman had a season-best time of 48.05 seconds to take 22nd overall.

“Carlee is getting back to her form and getting in better shape for the 300’s,” Reece said. “She is a hard worker, worked out Sunday evening on

her own at the track with dad and brother and sister, and she will be ready come regional and state meets.”

Wildcat boys run away with team title at home invitational



Louisburg’s (from left) Blue Caplinger, Brandon Cooper, Ben Wiedenmann and Justin Collins battle it out in the 100-meter dash last Thursday at the Louisburg Invitational.

The Louisburg boys track and field team ran away with its home invitational title, both figuratively and literally.

Louisburg won six events, including four on the track, and the Wildcats came away with several medals as they racked up 192 points to win the Louisburg Invitational. Spring Hill was runner-up with 163 as the Wildcats won by nearly 30 points.

“I thought we came out and did what we needed to do,” Louisburg coach Andy Wright said. “Over half of the athletes got their personal record for the year and I was excited to see us build some confidence.”

The Wildcats had a lot of speed on display as they won both the 100 and 200-meter dashes, along with 4×100-meter relay.

Sophomore Justin Collins had a big day as he won the 100-meter dash in 11.47 seconds and the Wildcats swept the first four places. Senior Brandon Cooper (11.52) was second, senior Blue Caplinger was third (11.64) and sophomore Ben Wiedenmann was fourth (11.71.)

Caplinger went on to win the 200 dash in 23.27 seconds and edged Osawatomie's Thaid Timblin by .01 seconds.

Wiedenmann went on to medal third in 23.55.

The 4×100 relay team of Collins, Caplinger, Wiedenmann and Cooper blew away the competition as they took gold in 44.24 seconds.

"Every week we have someone different winning the 100," Wright said. "That is fantastic. As a coach, it is so nice to have 4-5 sprinters that can push each other every week at practices and in meets. The 4×100 team is slowly improving throughout the year, but we still need to clean up our handoffs."

In the field events, Louisburg went 1-2 in the pole vault as junior Trent Martin had his best day of the season as he cleared 13 feet to win the event for the first time this season.

Sophomore Luke Faulkner was second at 12-6.

“Trent is working his way back up to his personal record, so it was good for him to get some momentum with the win,” Wright said. “He will keep working hard, and I expect to see him keep climbing.”

Junior Carter Anglin was another gold medal winner for Louisburg as he captured the discus title with a throw of 143 feet, 2 inches and senior teammate Kiefer Tucker was second at 130-2.

Junior Brayden White also scored points in the event with a toss of 115-10 and took fourth.

Tucker also picked up a medal in the shot put as he was runner-up with a mark of 41-9.25. White (40-2) and Jonathan DePriest (38-2.75) also scored points as they were fifth and sixth, respectively.



Sophomore Jay Scollin rears back for a throw in the javelin

Last Thursday. Scollin was third overall.

The Wildcats continued their throwing success in the javelin as they had two athletes earn medals. Junior Michael Waldron recorded a throw of 163-8 and took second overall, while sophomore Jay Scollin had a toss of 144-8 to take third.

Louisburg was also able to score points in the jump as junior Indy Strumillo was third in the triple jump with a mark of 37-0.25. Freshmen Isaac Guetterman (36-8.25) and Will Finestead (36-1.75) took fifth and sixth, respectively.

Freshman Hayden Feikert had his best day in the long jump as he recorded a leap of 19-8 to finish runner-up by just .25 inches. Martin finished fourth with a mark of 19-2.75 and Finestead was sixth at 18-10.25.

Back on the track, freshman Tom Koontz medaled in both hurdle events. Koontz was second in the 300-meter hurdles in 43.57 seconds and third in the 110 hurdles in 17.56.

Senior Chris Williams also earned a runner-up performance in the 400-meter dash in 52.33 seconds.

In the distance races, junior Anthony Davis finished second in the 1,600-meter run in a time of 5 minutes and 7 seconds. Freshmen Ryan Rogers (5:15) and Caden Bradshaw (5:20) also scored points as they took fifth and sixth, respectively.

The same three runners also fared well in the 800 run. Davis medaled third in 2:20, while Bradshaw was fourth in 2:23 and Rogers was fifth in 2:24.



Junior Brayden White scored points in both the shot put and discus for Louisburg.

Louisburg also ended the meet on a strong note as the Wildcat 4×100 throwers relay took gold as the team of Waldron, Tucker, DePriest and Austin Moore won in 47.52 seconds.

The Wildcats return to action today as they travel to the Prairie View Invitational. The meet is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Other results are:

100 dash: Charlie Koontz, 14th,
12.37

200 dash: Skyler Tinsley, 10th,
25.21; Cooper Hipp, 13th, 25.85

400 dash: Dylan Armstrong, 8th,
56.74; Weston Guetterman, 11th, 58.91; Isaac Guetterman, 22nd,
1:03

800 run: Sawyer Richardson, 7th,
2:28; Gareth Baus, 16th, 2:47

1,600 run: Richardson, 7th,
5:24; Baus, 12th, 6:13

Pole vault: A.J. Reed, 7th,
9-6; Caleb Shaughnessy, 12th, 8-6

Long Jump: Indy Strumillo, 11th,
17-4.75; W. Guetterman, 15th, 17-0

Triple jump: W. Guetterman, 8th,
35-10.5

Shot put: Cole Evans, 7th,
37-9.5; Will Patterson, 27th, 30-3

Discus: Chase Pritchard, 9th,
105-9; Jonathan DePriest, 10th, 102-2

Javelin: Reed, 8th,

135-11; Austin Moore, 12th, 130-1; Tyler Detherage, 26th, 86-3

Wildcat relay medals at KU Relays

Justin Collins, Chris Williams, Blue Caplinger and Ben Wiedenmann had a big day at the Kansas Relays on Friday and Saturday in Lawrence.

The quartet competed in the Sunflower Finals of the 4×400-meter relay and the Wildcat team medaled fifth overall in 3 minutes and 30 seconds.

Several other Wildcat athletes competed in the two-day meet and Louisburg coach Andy Wright was pleased with what he saw from his athletes.



(From left) Chris Williams, Ben Wiedenmann, Blue Caplinger and Justin Collins medaled in the Sunflower Finals of the 4×400-meter relay Saturday at KU Relays.

"KU Relays was a great experience for our guys," he said. "We experienced lows and highs that come from high

stakes competing. The stage at KU Relays is as big as we are going to see, probably bigger than state as there are the best of the best from multiple state competing, as well as college athletes. This can be an intimidating experience, and I thought that our athletes stepped up to the task and competed well.”

On Saturday, junior Michael

Waldron threw the javelin and was 22nd with a throw of 151-3.

Louisburg opened the meet on

Friday as senior Brandon Cooper was 43rd in the 100 dash in 11.53

seconds. Williams also ran the open 400 and took 29th in 53.90 seconds.

Collins, Wiedenmann, Cooper and

Caplinger also competed in the 4×100 relay, but were disqualified.

**Lady Cats win team title,
boys second at Anderson
County**



Louisburg junior Michael Waldron won the javelin competition Thursday at the Anderson County Invitational and helped the Wildcat boys to a second place finish.

GARNETT – On a cold, blustery day in Garnett, it was going to be difficult for any of the athletes of the Louisburg track and field teams to set any kind of personal bests.

However, that didn't mean the Wildcats weren't able to find success.

The Louisburg girls won the team title Thursday at the Anderson County Invitational with 119 points and finished seven points ahead of runner-up Spring Hill. Anderson County was third with 111.5

“The weather should never be a factor for competing,” Louisburg girls coach John Reece said.

“Everyone has to deal with the same conditions so only the mentally tough will overcome and we did. It was a close race for first and our girls stepped up.”

It was the same type of performance on the boys side as the Wildcats finished second in the team standings with 152.5

points and won seven events on the night. Spring Hill was first with 216.5 and Eudora was third with 89.5.

“The weather conditions were less than ideal,” Louisburg boys coach Andy Wright said. “I just wanted our athletes to go out and compete against the rest of the field. With the results that we were able to achieve, they did just that.”

Senior Blue

Caplinger led the boys side as he recorded three gold medals on the day, including two individual wins. The Wildcats swept the 100-meter dash and Caplinger won in 11.74 seconds, while sophomore Ben Wiedenmann was second at 11.82 and senior Brandon Cooper was third in 12 seconds.

Caplinger later won the 200-meter dash in 24.18 seconds and Wiedenmann was right behind him in second in 24.66. To end the meet, the Wildcat 4×400-meter relay of Chris Williams, Wiedenmann, Caplinger and Justin Collins took gold in 3 minutes and 34 seconds.

“It was nice having Blue back,” Wright said. “When you are forced to run into a very hard wind it takes a strong runner to finish, and Blue fits that caliber. Blue ran two strong races, of course because of the wind and conditions they were not his best times, but he stepped up and competed and that is all we can ask.”

Senior Chris Williams won his second consecutive race in the 400-meter dash with a time of 53.78 seconds. Junior distance runner

Anthony Davis also medaled as he took third in 1,600-meter run in 5:08, while freshman Tom Koontz was third in the 300-meter hurdles in 46.20 seconds.

The Wildcat also struck gold in the field events as they won three in that area.

Michael Waldron didn't let the conditions stop him as he recorded a personal best throw in the javelin with a mark of 163 feet, 10 inches and the Louisburg junior finished first. Freshman A.J. Reed also medaled as he took third with a toss of 137-06.

Sophomore Luke Faulkner continued his success in the pole vault as he finished first with a clearance of 12-6, which tied his personal best.

Junior Trent Martin shined in the long jump as he recorded a mark of 19-9.5 to win gold for the first time this season in the event.

"I'm proud of the way they competed because of the conditions most of the track meet was a mental game," Wright said. "The athletes in the field events stepped up and made their marks work. Learning how to compete in terrible conditions now will help all of our athletes down the road."

On the girls side, freshman Delaney Wright continued her successful start to the season.

Wright won gold in two events and later helped the 4x400-meter relay of Carlee Gassman, Rain Pugh and Sydni Keagle to a second place finish in 4:25. Wright later went on to win the long jump with a mark of

17-1.5 and the 400-meter dash in 1:05.

Gassman also had a big day for the Lady Cats as she finished with three second place finishes and a gold. In the 4×100 relay, Gassman, Jordon Leach, Pugh and Keagle edged Eudora to finish first in 54.21 seconds.

Gassman also went on to take second in the long jump with a mark of 16-05 and was also runner-up in the 300-meter hurdles in 51.95 seconds.

Also on the track, Keagle took third in the 100-meter hurdles in 18.25 seconds, while senior Shaylor Whitham did the same in the 1,600-meter run in 6:22.

“We had several girls really step up and place higher than usual,” Reece said. “One in particular that stood out was Shaylor as she placed third in the 1,600 and scored a total of 10 points for the team. She has definitely made her senior year her best year in both cross country and track.”

The Lady Cats earned another medal in the field events as junior Avery Graham finished second overall in the pole vault as she cleared 9-0.

Louisburg returns to the track this Thursday when it competes in its home invitational. Events are set to begin at 4 p.m. at Wildcat Stadium.

Other results are:

GIRLS

100 dash: Rain

Pugh, fourth, 14.13; Jordon Leach, 12th, 14.70; Andrea Gaza, 17th,

15.15; Hannah Cook, 20th, 16.31

200 dash: Gaza,

12th, 32.79; Cook, 20th, 36.07

400 dash: Gaza,

sixth, 1:16

800 run:

Shaylor Whitham, fifth, 2:54; Lacie Kallevig, 13th, 3:21

1,600 run:

Kallevig, 11th, 7:17

100 hurdles:

Kristen Bell, sixth, 20.26

300 hurdles:

Bell, 10th, 1:09

High jump:

Eileen Benne, fourth, 4-10; Shelby Grandon, eighth, 4-6

Pole vault:

Malee Rutherford, fifth, 7-0

Long jump:

Sydni Keagle, fifth, 14-10.75; Pugh, ninth, 14-3.25; Benne, 14th,

12-5.5

Triple jump:

Benne, seventh, 29-11.5

Shot put: Shea

O'Hara, 12th, 27-2; Melia Rice, 19th, 23-2.5; Aiyana Penca, 25th, 21-3

Discus: Rinny

McMullen, ninth, 82-1; Penca, 10th, 77-10; Rice, 11th, 75-2; O'Hara, 17th, 66-7; Davis Guetterman, 20th, 62-11

Javelin:

Guetterman, 14th, 72-5; Rice, 24th, 56-8; Lexi Rogers, 25th, 54-7

BOYS

100 dash: Justin

Collins, fifth, 12.09; Charlie Koontz, eighth, 12.15

200 dash:

Collins, sixth, 25.71; Koontz, 12th, 26.72; Dylan Armstrong, 20th, 28.02

400 dash:

Weston Guetterman, 12th, 59.97; Will Finestead, 13th, 59.99; Isaac Guetterman, 17th, 1:01; Armstrong, 19th, 1:03

800 run:

Anthony Davis, seventh, 2:23; Sawyer Richardson, 13th, 2:31; Caden

Bradshaw, 14th, 2:31; Gareth Baus, 29th, 2:54

1,600 run: Ryan

Rogers, ninth, 5:23; Bradshaw, 12th, 5:36; Richardson, 14th, 5:40; Baus, 25th, 6:16

110 hurdles:

Tom Koontz, fourth, 17.96

High jump: Indy

Strumillo, seventh, 5-2

Pole vault:

Trent Martin, fifth, 11-0

Long jump:

Finestead, 14th, 17-4; I. Guetterman, 18th, 16-9.5;

Strumillo, 23rd, 15-11; Armstrong, 25th, 15-9

Triple jump:

Strumillo, sixth, 35-11.5; W. Guetterman, seventh, 35-5.5; I.

Guetterman, 10th,

34-5.5; Finestead, 16th, 32-8

Shot put:

Kiefer Tucker, fifth, 39-4.5; Brayden White, 10th, 38-1;
Jonathan

DePriest, 17th, 35-5.5; Cole Evans, 18th, 35-4.75; Will

Patterson, 28th, 31-3

Discus: Carter

Anglin, fourth, 129-7; Tucker, fifth, 126-10; DePriest, ninth,
108-9; White, 12th,

106-3; Chase Pritchard, 21st, 98-1

Javelin: Jay

Scollin, fifth, 134-9; Austin Moore, 13th, 114-8

Lady Cats win three events at Paola, finish fourth as team



Louisburg freshman Rain Pugh takes the hand-off from senior Jordon Leach during the 4×100-meter relay Thursday at the Paola Invitational.

PAOLA – When Louisburg junior Sydni Keagle crossed the finish line of the 100-meter hurdles, she saw the rest of the competition behind her.

On Thursday at the Paola Invitational, Keagle won the event with a time of 16.56 seconds to get her first gold medal on the day. There would be a couple more that went her way.

Keagle was a part of the 4×100- and 4×400-meter relay teams that also won gold and helped the Lady Cats to a fourth-place team finish in Paola.

Louisburg recorded 83 points, just five points behind third-place Spring Hill. Paola won the girls team title with 145 points and Lamar (Mo.) was second with 116.

On the 4×100 relay, Keagle teamed with Jordon Leach, Rain Pugh and Carlee Gassman to win in 52.48 seconds.

Gassman, Keagle, Pugh and Delaney Wright blew away the competition in the 4×400 relay as they finished first in 4 minutes and 22 seconds and won by five seconds.

Wright finished her outing with four medals overall, which was her second four-medal performance in a week. The Louisburg freshman finished runner-up in the long jump with a mark of 16 feet, 11.75 inches and was also second in the 400-meter dash (1:03) and third in the 200 dash (27.28).

Gassman, a junior, also finished the day with four medals as she was runner-up in the 300-meter hurdles in 49.28 seconds. She also took third in the long jump with a mark 16-2.5, along with her two performances on the relays.

Junior Avery Graham also earned a medal for the Lady Cats as she took third in the pole vault and tied a personal record in the process with a clearance of 9-6. Sophomore Shelby Grandon was other lone point-getter in the field events as she took seventh in the high jump at 4-6.



Louisburg senior Shaylor Whitham leads a pack of runners Thursday during the Paola Invitational.

Along with their performances in the relays, Leach and Pugh both scored points in the 100 dash as they finished fifth and sixth, respectively. Senior Shaylor Whitham also helped the Lady Cats in the distance races as she took eighth in the 800-meter run in 2:49.

Louisburg returns to action tomorrow when it travels to the Anderson County Invitational. Events are set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Other results are:

1,600 run: Shaylor Whitham, 10th,
6:24

100 hurdles: Kristen Bell, 14th,
20.17

Long jump: Rain Pugh, 10th,
14-4.25

Shot put: Shea O'Hara, 10th,
29-11; Melia Rice, 18th, 25-1; Eden Strumillo, 20th, 22-6

Discus: Aiyana Penca, 13th,
77-07; Rice, 15th, 75-9; O'Hara, 19th, 58-0

Javelin: Tae Ellison, 17th,
77-07; Rice, 22nd, 57-08