

Holtzen earns Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year



Isabelle Holtzen had a senior year to remember when it came to the athletic stage at Louisburg High School.

For starters, Holtzen was a member of the first cross country team in Louisburg history to qualify for the Class 4A state meet. She was also a starting guard and team captain for the Lady Cat girls basketball team.

Holtzen topped it all off this past spring when she medaled sixth in the pole vault at Class 4A state track championships in May.

Those were just one of the many reasons why she was chosen as the 2018 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year.

The award, which is in its first year, is to recognize an outstanding Louisburg High School student athlete. Louisburg Sports Zone asked the head coaches at LHS to submit nominations and those nominations were then organized and submitted back to the coaches for a vote.

The coaches then submitted their top three choices and the number of votes were added up, which decided the winner.

Holtzen finished her high school career on a high note as she racked up 12 varsity letters during her time as a Wildcat and

did all that while earning a 4.0 GPA, which was the top in her class.



Pictured (from left) is Louisburg track coach Andy Wright, cross country and track coach John Reece, Isabelle Holtzen and Lady Cat basketball coach Shawn Lowry.

"Her hard work attitude once again helped her to succeed in all events and rewarded her with a school record in the pole vault and state medals," Louisburg cross country and track coach John Reece said. "It would be cliche to say she is a hard worker as all of her teammates are hard workers and they really compete to do their best in any sport in Louisburg, but she has been a pleasure to coach."

She made her biggest impact in track and field as she had a record-breaking year in the pole vault this past season for the Lady Cats. She broke her own school record in the event with a vault of 11 feet, 6 inches early in the year and went on to earn her second state medal at the Class 4A state track

meet with a clearance of 11-0 and took sixth overall.

Holtzen was also a league and regional runner-up in the pole vault, while also running on legs of the 4x100 and 4x400-meter relay teams.

She also spent a lot of time on the Louisburg cross country and basketball teams, where she was a key part in both of their successes.

“From Isabelle’s first day of basketball at LHS she had a great work ethic, competed hard every day and never gave less,” Louisburg girls basketball coach Shawn Lowry said. “She embodies those things that are at the core of our program and leaves it so much better because of her involvement.”

Holtzen, who graduated in May, will continue her pole vault career at the University of Northern Iowa.

Moore named Louisburg Sports Zone Male Athlete of the Year



No matter the sport, Austin Moore didn’t back down from a challenge and it was evident whenever he took to the field, the wrestling mat or a track runway.

Moore was an all-league and all-state player on the football

field, found himself one victory away from a state wrestling medal and improved throughout the season in the javelin.

It was his success in those athletic avenues that earned him the 2018 Louisburg Sports Zone Male Athlete of the Year honor.

The award, which is in its first year, is to recognize an outstanding Louisburg High School student athlete. Louisburg Sports Zone asked the head coaches at LHS to submit nominations and those nominations were then organized and submitted back to the coaches for a vote.

The coaches then submitted their top three choices and the number of votes were added up, which decided the winner.

On the football team, Moore was named a captain and had success on both sides of the ball. As a running back, he recorded 1,215 yards and 15 touchdowns. Defensively, he tallied more than 70 tackles from the linebacker spot.

Moore, a junior, was named to the all-Frontier League first team on both sides of the ball and was an honorable mention all-state selection by the Topeka-Capital Journal. He was also named an all-state, all-purpose player by K-Preps. Moore was also selected as the team's Offensive Player of the Year and recipient of the BAC Award.

"Austin is a great leader and is always looking to improve himself and his game," Louisburg football coach Robert Ebenstein said. "He is an extremely dedicated athlete to the program, but the most impressive thing about him is how he puts the team before himself all the time. Austin is not a real vocal kid, but actions speak louder than words and Austin is always leading by example."



Pictured (from left) is Louisburg boys track coach Andy Wright, football head coach Robert Ebenstein, Austin Moore and Wildcat wrestling coach Bobby Bovaird.

On the wrestling mat, he was also a team captain where he earned a 43-7 record and eclipsed the 100 career win mark. Moore was a state qualifier at 195 pounds and was a regional runner-up to go along with a Frontier League title. He won the team's Workhorse Award and set a program record with 38 pins. Moore also had the highest GPA on the team.

"Austin has been a pivotal part of our team's success since he joined us as a freshman," Louisburg wrestling coach Bobby Bovaird said. "He has a phenomenal work ethic in the practice room, and he is a relentless warrior in competitions. He knows how to set goals and pursue them with all his heart. He doesn't panic in adverse situations and he finds a way to prevail. No one wants to wrestle him twice. He's all about competitiveness, dedication, improvement and honor."

Moore threw the javelin for the Wildcat track and field team as recorded a season best throw of 151 feet in the regional meet and finished eighth.

With all he accomplished during the 2017-18 season, Moore will

get another crack at it all when he competes for the Wildcats in his senior season.

2018 Male Athlete of the Year Nominees



For the past two years, Louisburg Sports Zone has given out Athlete of the Week awards during each of the three sports seasons. I do it to recognize special athletic achievements and highlight them a little bit. So this year, I wanted to take it a step further.

This year Louisburg Sports Zone will be handing out an Athlete of the Year honor to a male and female athlete at Louisburg High School. I wanted the opportunity to recognize those who exemplify what it means to be an “athlete.”

Although I am giving out the award, I wanted the process to be objective, so I asked the head coaches at LHS to help me out. I asked each coach to send me nominations of who they thought exemplified the Athlete of the Year honor. They will then vote for their top 3 male and female and then I will tabulate the results and determine the winner. In the next couple of weeks, I will announce this year recipient.

Below are the male nominees for this year's award in alphabetical order by last name. Congrats to all those who

were nominated and best of luck!

2018 LOUISBURG SPORTS ZONE

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



Blue Caplinger – Junior – Football, Wrestling, Track and Field

Caplinger played a big role for the Wildcat football team as he shared quarterback duties to start the year and then moved over to the tight end spot, but his biggest impact came on defense where he earned honorable mention all-Frontier League honors. He finished the season with 32 tackles and two interceptions from his secondary spot.

On the wrestling mat, Caplinger was a state qualifier for the Wildcats at 160 pounds and finished his season with a 34-14 record. He won titles at two different tournaments and holds the team record with most career reversals with 71.

Caplinger also fared well on the track where he ran sprints and relays for Louisburg. Caplinger was a member of the 4x400-meter relay team that finished seventh in the state in Class 4A, and also ran on the 4x100-meter relay team that qualified for the Kansas Relays.



Cade Holtzen – Freshman – Cross Country, Wrestling, Track and Field

Holtzen thrived on the wrestling mat this past season as he earned the Wildcats' lone state medal. He finished sixth overall at 113 pounds and became the second freshman in school

history to place at state with a 45-6 record.

He also broke two team records in the process. Holtzen currently holds the mark for most wins in a season (45), most nearfall-2 (23). He also led the Wildcats in five other statistical categories.

Holtzen was a Frontier League and regional runner-up and won tournament titles at four different competitions.

He also ran on the Louisburg varsity cross country team and ran distance races for the Wildcat track team.



Austin Moore – junior – football, wrestling, track and field

On the football team, Moore was named a team captain and had

success on both sides of the ball. As a running back, he recorded 1,215 yards and 15 touchdowns. Defensively, he tallied more than 70 tackles from the linebacker spot.

Moore was named to the all-Frontier League first team on both sides of the ball and was an honorable mention all-state selection by the Topeka-Capital Journal and Wichita Eagle. He was also named an all-state, all-purpose player by K-Preps. Moore was also selected as the team's Offensive Player of the Year and recipient of the BAC Award.

On the wrestling mat, he was also a team captain and recorded a 43-7 record. Moore was a state qualifier at 195 pounds and was a regional runner-up. He won the team's Workhorse Award and set a program record with 38 pins. Moore also had the highest GPA on the team.

Moore threw the javelin for the Wildcat track and field team as recorded a season best throw of 151 feet in the regional meet and finished eighth.



John Wyatt Reece – Senior – Cross Country, Track and Field

Reece became the first state cross country medalist in several years for Louisburg High School. He finished 11th overall at the Class 4A meet in Wamego to earn a medal and also earned all-state honors for his effort.

He also finished runner-up in the Frontier League meet and currently holds the third fastest time in school history. He earned first-team all-league honors. Reece also competed at the CCCNC National Race where he medaled individually and was a part of the second place team.

In track, Reece qualified for state in the 1,600 and 3,200-meter runs and finished ninth at state in the 3,200. He was also a regional runner-up in both events.

Reece was a Kansas Relays qualifier and medalist in the 2,000-meter steeplechase and currently holds the school record.

Reece has signed with Southwest Minnesota State next season and will run for the Mustangs starting next fall.



Madden Rutherford – Sophomore – Football, Basketball, Baseball

Rutherford took over the starting quarterback role as a sophomore for the Wildcat football team and became a dual-threat athlete at that position. He finished with 670 yards through the air and had eight touchdowns. On the ground, he racked up 318 yards and two more touchdowns. His performance helped him to a second-team honor on the all-Frontier League

team.

On the baseball diamond, Rutherford was the Wildcats' top pitcher on the season and also did his job out on in the field as he earned second team all-Frontier League honors as an outfielder. Rutherford started six games this season and pitched 28 innings with a 5.12 earned run average and struck out 23 batters. At the plate, he finished the season with a .408 average, three doubles, a triple, a home run and had 10 RBIs. He also ended the year with only three errors in 19 games.

Rutherford also saw a lot of varsity time for the Wildcat basketball team as he played in 17 games.



Grant Ryals – Senior – Soccer, Golf

Ryals led the Louisburg boys soccer team as he garnered first team all-league and all-state honors this past season. He served as team captain the past two seasons and scored seven goals and had 11 assists from the midfield spot.

His 11 assists put him fourth in the all-time Louisburg single season record and his 23 career assists place him second all-time.

Ryals will continue his soccer career at William Jewell College next season.

Ryals was also a member of the Louisburg varsity golf team and was a part of several runner-up team finishes with the Wildcats.

2018 Female Athlete of the Year Nominees



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Below are the female nominees for this year's award in alphabetical order by last name. Congrats to all those who were nominated and best of luck!

2018 LOUISBURG SPORTS ZONE

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



Bailey Belcher, Senior, Basketball and Girls Soccer

Belcher led the Wildcat girls soccer team to a state runner-up finish this past season as she was among the leading scorers on the team with 28 goals and 14 assists, which included five hat tricks. She is a three-time all-Frontier League and all-state first teamer, and has been a team captain for the last two seasons.

She holds the Louisburg record for most goals in a season with 33 and in a career with 91. She is will continue her soccer career at Missouri Southern next season.

Belcher was also a starter on the Lady Cats' basketball team and earned honorable mention all-league honors after averaging eight points, four rebounds and two steals a game.



Carson Buffington – Junior – Volleyball, Basketball and Girls Soccer

Buffington helped the Louisburg volleyball team to a state runner-up performance in the Class 4A-Division I state tournament as the team's setter. She finished the season with more than 1,100 assists and had 30 aces. She also helped out defensively with 244 digs.

She earned second team all-Frontier League honors and was also placed on the Kansas Volleyball Association's (KVA) all-state second team. Buffington was also selected to the KVA all-state tournament team.

On the basketball court, Buffington earned second team all-Frontier League honors and led the league in rebounding for the third straight season. She averaged 11.6 rebounds a game

to go along with 9.2 points and 2.7 steals from the forward spot.

Buffington also served as the back-up goalie for the Wildcat soccer team and saw action in several varsity games.



Anna Dixon – Junior – Volleyball

Dixon played a big role in the Lady Cats' state runner-up volleyball team this past season. As an all-around player, Dixon led Louisburg with 613 kills and 61 blocks on the season. She was also third on the team with 58 aces and 329 digs.

She earned first team all-Frontier League and all-state honors. Dixon was named as the Kansas Volleyball Association's Class 4A-D1 Co-Player of the Year and was selected to the KVA

all-state tournament team.

Dixon also earned Best of Kansas Preps selection by the Topeka Capital-Journal, which is a new award this season. She has committed to Kansas State University to play volleyball in the fall of 2019.



Carlee Gassman – Sophomore – Cross Country, Basketball, Track and Field

Gassman had a record-breaking season for the Louisburg track team. She broke a 29-year old school record in the 300-meter hurdles in early April and then broke her own school record several more times this season, including at the Class 4A state meet where she ran a time of 45.68 to finish second in the state.

It was her first of two state medals on the season as she also finished fifth in the state in the long jump with a mark of just more than 17 feet. She also won a regional title in the 300-meter hurdles.

Gassman was also a consistent runner on the Wildcat cross country team that qualified for the state meet for the first time in school history. She served as the No. 2 runner for most of the season.

On the basketball court, Gassman saw a lot of varsity time for the Lady Cats as well as one of the team's point guards.



Isabelle Holtzen – Senior – Cross Country, Basketball, Track and Field

Holtzen had a record-breaking season in the pole vault this past season for the Lady Cats' track and field team. She broke her own school in the event with a vault of 11 feet, 6 inches

and went on to finish sixth at the Class 4A state track meet with a clearance of 11-0.

She was also a league and regional runner-up, while also running on legs of the 4x100 and 4x400-meter relay teams.

On the cross country team, Holtzen was a consistent runner on a varsity team that qualified for state for the first time in school history.

On the basketball court, Holtzen served as a team captain and was a full-time starter for the Lady Cats at the guard spot.

At the end of the school year, Holtzen became the first Lady Cat in several decades to earn 12 varsity athletic letters and did so while earning a 4.0 GPA, which is first in her class.



Sophie McMullen – Senior – Volleyball

McMullen was another key piece to the Lady Cats' success this past season on the volleyball court. She made the switch from setter to outside hitter and defensive player to help Louisburg to a state runner-up campaign.

She was first on the team with 114 aces to go along with 437 digs defensively. As an outside hitter, McMullen added 381 kills.

McMullen was selected to the all-Frontier League and all-state first team and was named to the Kansas Volleyball Association all-state tournament team. She was also selected to the Greater Kansas City Coaches Volleyball Association all-star team.

McMullen signed to play volleyball at Northwest Missouri State this coming fall.

Gassman earns state runner-up; 'Cats bring home 6 state medals



Louisburg sophomore Carlee Gassman clears a hurdle during the preliminaries of the 300-meter hurdles Friday at the Class 4A

Kansas State Track and Field Championship in Wichita. Gassman finished second overall with a new school record time.

WICHITA – Carlee Gassman has broken the Louisburg High School 300-meter hurdle record three different times this season prior to last weekend's state track meet.

She picked the perfect time to make it a fourth.

Gassman broke her own school record in the 300 hurdles Saturday at the Class 4A Kansas State Track and Field Championships in Wichita as she ran a time of 45.68 seconds to earn a silver medal as she was the Wildcats' top performer on the weekend. Andale's Abby Smarsh, who is a senior, won the event in 44.73.

It was the Louisburg sophomore's first time competing at the Kansas meet as she transferred in from Iowa last year, where she qualified for the state meet there in the 400 hurdles.

"It meant a lot to me when I broke the record again," Gassman said. "It gives me confidence that I can keep improving. I was so happy about the second place medal. To come from Iowa, where everything's a lot different and to take on a challenge and to come out successful means a lot to me."

Gassman's medal in the 300 hurdles was just one of six the Wildcats were able to bring home following the two-day meet. Those six medals were the most Louisburg has earned since 2011, when the Wildcats combined to medal in 10 events and the boys won their first team state title.

The 300 hurdles wasn't the only event Gassman found success in as she also medaled in the long jump. Gassman, who hadn't competed in the event prior to this year, finished fifth with a mark of 17 feet, 0.25 inches.

"That medal was very special to me," she said. "This is my

first year long jumping and to come out that successful gives me hope that I can try anything. Obviously, I was very happy with it.

"This track meet gives me so much confidence for next year and the future. I have a dream and I can't wait to continue on this adventure."



Isabelle Holtzen successful clears a height in the pole vault Saturday during the state meet in Wichita. She finished sixth overall at 11 feet.

Senior Isabelle Holtzen finished out her high school pole vault career on a positive note as she medaled sixth overall in her final meet as she cleared 11 feet. Holtzen, who broke her own school record at 11-6 earlier in the season, faced some difficult competition.

Paola's Samantha Van Hoecke, who is one of the nation's top

pole vaulters, won the event after clearing 12 feet and Marysville's Grace Stohs also cleared 12 feet to take second.

Holtzen's clearance of 11 feet would have won her a state title in four other classes and she also had a top 10 vault at the state meet. Her state medal was her second straight after she finished seventh a year ago.

"It is exciting," Holtzen said. "This is such a big meet and there is a lot of competition, especially on the 4A level. I think it is an honor to be able to stand on a podium with such a great group of kids who are some of the best vaulters in the nation. It is a little disappointing because I was hoping to get a PR, or maybe even tie my record and medal a little higher, but it is alright. It was a good year."



Louisburg junior Chris Williams sprints to the finish line in the 400-meter dash. Williams took eighth overall.

On the boys side, junior Chris Williams picked up a pair of medals after he ran a personal best in the 400-meter dash in the prelims on Friday that helped him qualify for the finals. Williams ran a time of 50.01 to take the last spot in the finals by just .02 seconds.

Williams officially earned his first state medal Saturday after he finished eighth in the 400 meter finals Saturday with a time of 52.18.

For his second medal, he had some help to get that one as Williams, along with junior Blue Caplinger and freshman Ben Wiedenmann and Justin Collins also ran a personal best time in the preliminaries to qualify for the finals. The Wildcat quartet took the final spot in 3:26.49.



Junior Blue Caplinger hands the baton to teammate Justin Collins during the prelims of the 4x400-meter relay. The Wildcats took seventh overall.

Then in the final event of the day Saturday, the 4x400 team took to the track one more time and ran a 3:30.69 to finish in seventh.

The medalists continued in the boys pole vault as sophomore Trent Martin, in his first state meet action, left Wichita with some hardware as he placed in the top eight.

Martin tied a season-best Friday by clearing 13 feet and finished in a tie for eighth, but won the tie-breaker based on the number of misses to take the final medal. Freshman teammate Luke Faulkner also competed for the Wildcats and took 13th overall after he cleared 12 feet.



Sophomore Trent Martin pumps his fist after he cleared 13 feet in the pole vault Friday at the state meet in Wichita.

"It was one of my best achievements in track and it meant a lot to me to be on the podium at state," Martin said. "The competition was pretty good this year at regionals and at state. It was a big relief to clear 13 feet again.

"I feel very good about next season and I think I will have an even better chance at getting a higher place next year."

Also on the track, Louisburg senior Wyatt Reece finished one spot out of a medal in the 3,200-meter run Friday morning. Reece ran a personal best time of 10:11 to take ninth overall.

Reece also competed in the 1,600 run on Saturday afternoon and finished 13th in 4:47.

In the girls triple jump, senior Kaitlyn Urban ended her Wildcat track career as she finished 14th with a mark of 31-6.25. Urban had a successful final year as she was the Frontier League champion in the event and also set a personal record of 34 feet at the regional meet two weeks ago.

Gassman, Williams win regional titles, 'Cats qualify for state in 9 events



Louisburg sophomore Carlee Gassman clears the final hurdle on

her way to a regional title in the 300-meter hurdles Friday during the Class 4A regional meet in Eudora. Gassman qualified for state in two events.

EUDORA – When the Kansas State Track and Field Championships kick off this Friday in Wichita, Louisburg will have its fair share of representation at Cessna Stadium and they hope to return with more than what they came with.

The Wildcats qualified for state in nine different events last Friday during the Class 4A regional meet at Eudora High School and also left with a pair of regional champions under their belt.

Junior Chris Williams won the 400-meter dash and sophomore Carlee Gassman captured gold in the 300-meter hurdles to lead the Wildcats as both qualified in two events.

It was a successful day for the Louisburg program as Isabelle Holtzen (pole vault), Trent Martin (pole vault), Wyatt Reece (1,600 and 3,200-meter run) and the boys 4x400 relay each finished second in their events to qualify. Kaitlyn Urban (triple jump) and Luke Faulkner (pole vault) came in third, while Gassman qualified fourth in the long jump.

“We always want more kids to go to state but it is tough to get there,” Louisburg girls coach John Reece said. “Our regional meet was tough. All of the Frontier League was present except for DeSoto, and the teams that rounded out the 16 schools made it even more competitive.”

Gassman blew the competition away in the 300-meter hurdles as she recorded a time of 46.03 seconds to win by nearly a full second. Earlier in the day she even surprised herself when she recorded a personal-best in the long jump with a mark of 17 feet, 3.25 inches.

"It is special to me because this is my first year long jumping and it is has been a lot of fun," Gassman said. "I blew my own mind when I found out I jumped 17-3 and I definitely didn't think that was going to happen.

"It was also pretty amazing to qualify in the hurdles. I wasn't sure what to expect coming out here because there are some talented girls. It was a lot of fun though and it is my favorite race."

The Louisburg sophomore is currently ranked No. 2 in Class 4A in the 300 hurdles behind Andale senior Abby Smarsh, who will be competing for Wichita State next season.

"Carlee ran well and is setting herself up to be a top finisher at state," coach Reece said. "She could medal in both of her events as her long jump distance gives her a chance to be in finals as well as the 300m hurdles."



Junior Chris Williams sprints to the finish to win the 400-meter dash.

As for Williams, he was able to hold off Burlington's Jayden Payne at the finish line of the 400 dash as he won his regional title in 50.80 seconds – just .01 seconds in front of

Payne.

"It was really cool and winning the regional is pretty exciting," Williams said. "I felt I ran pretty good for the most part. I died basically on the last 100 meters and that guy from Burlington scared me a little bit, but it was pretty fun."

Williams picked up the pace again in the 4x400-meter relay as he helped Blue Caplinger, Justin Collins and Ben Wiedenmann to a personal record time of 3 minutes and 26.76 seconds.

The Wildcats were sitting in fifth place through half of the relay before Wiedenmann made up ground and then Williams followed suit as he put the team into second place after he passed Spring Hill and Eudora.

"Going into regionals we knew we would have to PR or run close to our very best to be in the top four," Louisburg boys coach Andy Wright said. "I couldn't be happier with all four runners as they came and competed, with each of them running a PR split."



Senior Wyatt Reece celebrates his state berth in the 1,600-meter run.

Louisburg continued its success on the track as Reece, a senior, was able to qualify in both distance events and exercise some demons in the process.

The last two seasons, Reece had finished one spot out of qualifying for state in the 1,600 run, but he left no doubt this time around. Reece held off a pair of four runners to take second in 4:42 and raised his arms with excitement following the finish.

He later went on to take second in the 3,200 in 10:49 and will have a busy state experience this coming weekend.

“It is awesome,” Reece said. “I went to state with the 4x800 relay before, but the last two years have either been in fifth place or sixth place in both events at regionals, so it is

just nice to be able to go and it really means a lot to me. It means a lot because I was able to get second in both events and I can see that I am improving.

"The mile has always been my race. It hasn't always been my fastest, but it is definitely a fun race for me. When I crossed the finish line, it was just a big relief to realize that I had finally done it. It took four years to get here, but I did it."

Louisburg will also be represented well in the pole vault as the Wildcats will take three vaulters to Wichita.

On the girls side, Holtzen will look to get her second straight state medal after she cleared 10-6 to take second overall. Last season, she finished seventh at state to earn a spot on the medal stand.

"I sprained my ankle a little bit in practice, so I was a little bit nervous coming in and I didn't have the best warm up," Holtzen said. "It wasn't the best meet for me, but all that matters at regionals is just getting to state. This week I am just going to work hard and perform to the best of my ability."

Martin, a sophomore, cleared 12-6 to take second overall and will make his first state appearance. Faulkner, who is in his first season of varsity action as a freshman, will also make his state debut after he took third and cleared 12 feet.

"Trent and Luke were ready when the opportunity to make state presented itself," Wright said. "They competed hard, mentally and physically were focused, and used their determination to earn their spots competing against some of the best vaulters in 4A. State competition is going to be hard against a very tough field of vaulters. Trent and Luke both have continued to work very hard in practice, and hope to improve their heights at state."



Kaitlyn Urban took third in the triple jump with a personal best mark of 34 feet.

The success continued in the jump as Urban, a senior, will be making her second trip out to state in the triple jump and pulled out a personal record in the process. Urban jumped 34 feet to take third overall.

"I am so excited because last year at state I feel that I didn't do as well as I wanted, so this year I am already starting off better than I was going into it," Urban said. "I am excited to go and try my best and hopefully PR again."

State action will begin Friday morning at 7:45 a.m., and will continue through the afternoon. Action will then pick up again Saturday morning with more field events and finals on the track.

To view a photo gallery from the regional meet, make sure to click here.

Other regional results are:

GIRLS

400 dash: Mikayla Quinn, seventh, 1:05

800 run: Shaylor Whitham, 11th, 2:45

100 hurdles: Sydni Keagle, 8th, 24.22

4×400 relay: Isabelle Holtzen, Quinn, Kaitlyn Urban, Carlee Gassman, fifth, 4:16

High jump: Eileen Benne, 10th, 4-10

Pole vault: Avery Graham, sixth, 9-6

Shot put: Shea O'Hara, 15th, 27-8

Discus: Lexie Reece, seventh, 101-4: Melia Rice, 18th, 75-8

Javelin: Lakin Cunningham, 13th, 79-4

BOYS

100 dash: Brandon Cooper, 7th, 11.42

200 dash: Blue Caplinger, fifth, 23.11; Cooper, 10th, 23.31; Ben Wiedenmann, 12th, 23.40

4×100 relay: Cooper, Caplinger, Wiedenmann, Justin Collins, fifth, 44.70

Shot put: Kiefer Tucker, fifth, 45-1.5; Brayden White, 14th, 40-6.25

Discus: Tucker, ninth, 128-8

Javelin: Michael Waldron, seventh, 159-5; Austin Moore, eighth, 151-4

Photo gallery: Wildcats qualify several for state



Louisburg freshman Ben Wiedenmann takes a handoff from fellow freshman Justin Collins during the 4x400-meter relay Friday in Eudora. Wiedenmann and Collins, along with Blue Caplinger and Chris Williams, finished second and qualified for state.

The Louisburg High School track and field teams found a lot of success Friday during the Class 4A regional meet at Eudora High School. The Wildcats qualified for state in nine events and are as follows:

- Chris Williams, regional champion, 400-meter dash
- Carlee Gassman, regional champion, 300-meter hurdles
- Chris Williams, Ben Wiedenmann, Blue Caplinger and Justin Collins, second place, 4x400-meter relay

- Wyatt Reece, second place, 1,600-meter run
- Wyatt Reece, second place, 3,200-meter run
- Trent Martin, second place, pole vault
- Isabelle Holtzen, second place, pole vault
- Kaitlyn Urban, third place, triple jump
- Luke Faulkner, third place, pole vault
- Carlee Gassman, fourth place, long jump

Here is a photo gallery of all the qualifiers from Friday. Congrats again to all who made it state tonight.



Isabelle Holtzen finished second in the pole vault



Kaitlyn Urban took third in the triple jump with a personal best.



Carlee Gassman finished fourth in the long jump.



Freshman Luke Faulkner clears a height to take third in the pole vault.



Sophomore Trent Martin finished second overall in the pole vault.



Senior Wyatt Reece celebrates his state berth in the 1,600-meter run.



Junior Chris Williams sprints to the finish to win the 400-

meter dash.



Sophomore Carlee Gassman won the 300-meter hurdles.



Coach John Reece congratulates his son Wyatt after he took second in the 3,200-meter run



Junior Blue Caplinger gets off to a good start in the 4x400 relay.



Freshman Justin Collins ran the second leg of the 4x400 relay.



Chris Williams takes a handoff from Ben Wiedenmann for the final leg.



Louisburg boys coach Andy Wright congratulates with his 4x400 team after they qualified for state.

Wildcats win three league titles, Gassman breaks record again



Louisburg junior Chris Williams won the 400-meter dash Thursday at the Frontier League meet in Ottawa. Williams ran a season best time of 50.60 seconds.

OTTAWA – It was another week and another record broken for Louisburg sophomore Carlee Gassman.

For the second time in as many weeks, Gassman eclipsed her own record in the 300-meter hurdles Thursday at the Frontier League meet at Ottawa High School. She won a league title with a time of 45.78 seconds, which shattered her old mark of 47.07.

“Carlee is a competitor,” Louisburg girls coach John Reece said. “It is no surprise that she has continued to improve her 300 hurdle time. Yes, she made a big jump in her time, but she also ran a great race and was rewarded for her effort. Keeping fingers crossed, but I think state is going to be fun for her.”

Gassman wasn’t the only Wildcat to find success at Ottawa as two other Wildcats also came home with league titles.

Senior Kaitlyn Urban put together one of her best performances in the triple jump this season as she won with a leap of 33 feet, 9 inches. She captured the gold medal after winning the competition by almost foot.

“Kaitlyn won a well-deserved league title,” Reece said. “She works hard and is always up for even more when we push her at practice. She has competed at high level meets and is always

up for a challenge and she rose to the top this meet. I expect the same at regionals."

On the boys' side, junior Chris Williams ran his best time of the season in the 400-meter dash and it was good enough for a league title. He recorded a time of 50.60 seconds as he edged out De Soto's Graham Hudelson, who ran a 50.63.

As a team, the Louisburg girls finished fifth overall in the Frontier League standings with 65 points and Paola won the league crown with 188.5 points. The Wildcat boys took sixth with 53 points and De Soto won the league title with 134 points.

The Lady Cats finished in the top three in a number of different competitions, including a pair of field events.



Kaitlyn Urban stretches out in her attempt in the triple jump Thursday in Ottawa. Urban won the league title with

a leap of 33-9.

Gassman picked up her second league medal in the long jump with a mark of 16-8, which tied league champion Carly Lindenmeyer from Baldwin, but lost the tiebreaker to finish second.

In the pole vault, senior Isabelle Holtzen continued her strong strings of vaults as she cleared 10-11 to take second, while sophomore teammate Avery Graham also earned points for the Lady Cats as she finished fourth after clearing 8-11. Paola's Samantha VanHoecke broke the league record to win the event at 12-8.

Sophomore Sydni Keagle had another good performance in the 100-meter hurdles as she took third in 16.51 seconds.

Keagle also joined Gassman, Holtzen and Urban in the 4×100 relay and came in fourth in 51.69 seconds, while Gassman, Holtzen, Urban and Mikayla Quinn ran a season best time of 4:17 in the 4×400 relay to also take fourth.

"It was good to see that 4×400 team run their best time of the season," Reece said. "They ran against great competition at league and they will have to bring it at regionals to qualify for state. The same goes for the 4×100 team. They will need to post a great race to punch their ticket to Wichita."

Quinn scored points in the 400-meter dash in 1:07 and finished fourth, while junior Eileen Benne had a personal best mark in the high jump after she cleared 5-1 to also take fourth. Keagle finished seventh in the long jump at 15-3.

The Louisburg boys also had three runner-up finishers in their respective events.

Senior Wyatt Reece had one of his best performances of the season in the 3,200-meter run as he took second in 10:32. Reece also scored points in the 1,600-meter run as he finished

sixth in 4:52.



Senior Wyatt Reece leads a pack of runners Thursday at the Frontier League meet in Ottawa.

Ben Wiedenmann, Blue Caplinger, Justin Collins and Charlie Koontz helped the 4x100-meter relay team to a second place finish in 44.25 seconds, while Caplinger also finished fourth in the 200-meter dash in 23.22 seconds.

Freshman Luke Faulkner continued his steady climb in the pole vault as he tied a personal-best 12-6 to take second in league and senior teammate Frankie Hurst was fifth at 12 feet.

In the 4x400 relay, the team of Williams, Wiedenmann, Caplinger and Collins finished fourth overall in 3:31.

Sophomore Michael Waldron scored points in the javelin as he

took fifth with a throw of 147-7, while junior Kiefer Tucker was sixth in the discus with a throw of 134-2.

The season will wind down for several athletes Friday when Louisburg competes in the Class 4A regional meet at Eudora High School. Field events will get underway at 1 p.m. with the running events to follow.

The top four in each event will qualify for the state meet next weekend in Wichita.

"As I have emphasized since the start of the season, you go to every meet with the intention to better yourself and good things will happen," coach Reece said. "Regardless of being top 4 at regionals, we go there to compete and to set personal records for ourselves. If we do that, we will have a successful last meet of the season and many of the girls will be going to state. We have put in the time and now it is time for us to show it."

Other results from league are:

GIRLS

100 dash: Jordon Leach, 13th, 13.70

200 dash: Leach, 10th, 28.40

800 run: Shaylor Whitham, 10th, 2:47; Payton Shaffer, 11th, 2:53; Kennady Wilkerson, 13th, 3:14

100 hurdles: Kristen Bell, 9th, 19.37; Shelby Grandon, 11th, 20.79

300 hurdles: Sydni Keagle, 8th, 54.69; Grandon, 12th, 58.76

4x800 relay: Sixth, 12:00

High jump: Grandon, 8th, 4-8

Triple jump: Eileen Benne, 10th, 29-7

Shot put: Shea O'Hara, 15th, 26-9; Melia Rice, 16th, 23-11; Lexie Reece, 17th, 21-10

Discus: Lexie Reece, 8th, 104-0; Kody Lowry, 14th, 80-4; Rice, 15th, 76-2

Javelin: Lakin Cunningham, 15th, 70-3; Lowry, 17th, 63-9

BOYS

100 dash: Justin Collins, 9th, 11.66; Ben Wiedenmann, 10th, 11.70

200 dash: Wiedenmann, 8th, 23.75

800 run: Chris Williams, 8th, 2:14

Long jump: Blue Caplinger, 14th, 17-4

Triple jump: Kyle Allen, 14th, 35-1

Shot put: Kiefer Tucker, 8th, 42-7.5; Brayden White, 13th, 39-10; Jonathan DePriest, 18th, 35-7.5

Discus: Carter Anglin, 13th, 114-2; Michael Waldron, 19th, 91-3

Gassman breaks own school record to lead Wildcat track



Louisburg sophomore Carlee Gassman eyes the finish line in the 300-meter hurdles Friday during the Redbud Classic in Wellsville. Gassman broke her own school record in the event as she took first in 47.07 seconds.

WELLSVILLE – In just her second meet of the season, Louisburg sophomore Carlee Gassman broke a 29-year old school record in the 300-meter hurdles.

About a month later, Gassman saw that record fly out the window as she improved her own record time Friday at the Redbud Classic at Wellsville High School. She ran a time of 47.07 seconds to win the event comfortably and broke her old mark of 47.57.

Gassman was lone Lady Cat to win an event, while junior Kiefer Tucker won the discus with a throw of 138 feet, 8 inches and was only Wildcat to win gold on the boys side.

Both teams finished fifth in the team standings as boys totaled 48 points and the girls had 45 in the 13-team meet. Paola won the girls title with 181 points and Spring Hill won the boys with 101.

“We did a great job as a team at a tough meet,” Louisburg girls coach John Reece said. “It definitely readies us for the

league meet. Carlee got out well in the 300 hurdles and finished strong which led to another record breaking race."

Louisburg senior Isabelle Holtzen had another strong outing in the pole vault as she finished runner up after clearing 11 feet. Paola's Samantha Van Hoecke set a meet record in the event after she cleared 13-1.5.

Before competing in the hurdles, Gassman was less than inch from winning another event. She took third in the long jump with a season-best mark of 16-8, which was just a half-an-inch behind the champion Carly Lindenmeyer from Baldwin.

Eileen Benne also scored points in the field events as she was fifth in the high jump after clearing 4-10 and senior Kaitlyn Urban was sixth in the triple jump at 31-11.

On the track, sophomore Sydni Keagle finished third in the 100-meter hurdles in 16.93 seconds.

The Lady Cat relays also placed as the 4x100 team of Jordon Leach, Holtzen, Urban and Gassman took third in 51.99 seconds. Holtzen, Urban, Mikayla Quinn and Gassman also ran a season best time in the 4x400 relay as they took fifth in 4:19.

"Sydni ran an awesome 100 hurdles race to take third and she really competed well," Reece said. "Our 4x400 relay ran strong as always and improved their season best time. I hope to see the team rise to the challenge of our league meet as to prepare us for regionals."

Quinn also scored points for the Lady Cats in the 400-meter dash as she finished fourth in 1:08, while Quinn, Payton Shaffer, Shaylor Whitham and Kennady Wilkerson took seventh in the 4x800 relay in 11:30.



Louisburg junior Kiefer Tucker lets the shot fly Friday in Wellsville. Tucker won the discus competition and set a personal record in the shot.

Tucker led the Wildcat boys in the throws as he won the discus competition for the first time this season and later set a personal record in the shot put with a toss of 41-9, which was good for eighth overall.

Sophomore Michael Waldron got off a good first throw in the javelin of 155-11 to take fifth overall.

The throwers then did some damage on the track as Tucker, Waldron, John DePriest and Austin Moore set a new meet record in the thrower's relay with a time 47.83 seconds. That time ranks them third in the nation according to milesplit.com

Also in the field events, sophomore Trent Martin had a solid performance after he cleared 12-6 to take third. Freshman teammate Luke Faulkner also cleared 12-6 and finished fourth. That mark for Faulkner was also a personal best.

Junior Chris Williams helped lead the Wildcats on the track as he took second in the 400-meter dash in 51.66 seconds. He also took fifth in the 800-meter run in 2:05.

Williams later joined Ben Wiedenmann, Justin Collins and Blue Caplinger to take second in the 4x400 relay in a season best time of 3:28.56.

The boys 4x100 relay of Charlie Koontz, Wiedenmann, Collins and Caplinger came in third in 44.20 seconds. Brandon Cooper (100 dash) and Wiedenmann (200 dash) took seventh and eighth, respectively.

Louisburg will begin postseason action at 3:30 p.m. Thursday when it travels to Ottawa for the Frontier League meet.

Other results are:

GIRLS

High jump: Shelby Grandon, 10th, 4-6

Long jump: Sydni Keagle, 10th, 14-1

Triple jump: Eileen Benne, 13th, 28-3.5

Discus: Lexie Reece, 9th, 107-6; Melia Rice, 13th, 88-11; Aiyana Penca, 19th, 79-3

Shot put: Shea O'Hara, 13th, 29-2.5; Reece, 21st, 25-9; Rice, 22nd, 25-4

Javelin: Lakin Cunningham, 27th, 61-9; Rice, 29th, 58-7; Kody Lowry, 30th, 57-7

100 dash: Jordon Leach, 13th, 14.29; Andrea Gaza, 17th, 15.09

200 dash: Leach, 17th, 31.62; Gaza, 19th, 32.06

800 run: Payton Shaffer, 13th, 2:44; Shaylor Whitham, 14th, 2:45; Kennedy Wilkerson, 18th, 3:04

100 hurdles: Kristen Bell, 11th, 19.58

300 hurdles: Sydni Keagle, 11th, 58.67; Grandon, 13th, 59.56

BOYS

High jump: Jack Mick, 12th, 5-4

Long jump: Charlie Koontz, 11th, 17-9; Blue Caplinger, 13th, 17-2

Discus: Carter Anglin, 19th, 99-0; Michael Waldron, 22nd, 94-11

Shot put: Brayden White, 15th, 38-2.25; John DePriest, 21st, 35-8.5

Javelin: Austin Moore, 16th, 121-0; Jay Scollin, 25th, 108-6

100 dash: Koontz, 11th, 12.0; Justin Collins, 12th, 12.06

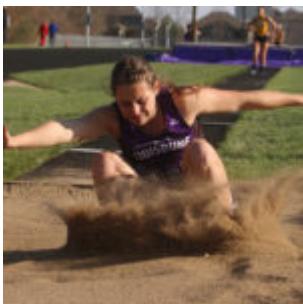
200 dash: Collins, 15th, 25.03; Brandon Cooper, 22nd

800 run: Jackson Staab, 25th, 2:56

1,600 run: Wyatt Reece, 13th, 5:06

300 hurdles: Daulton Davis, 14th, 48.22

Wildcat track sweeps team titles at Prairie View



Louisburg senior Kaitlyn Urban sticks a landing in the triple jump during a meet earlier this season. Urban won the triple jump and helped the Lady Cats to a team title as well.

LA CYGNE – The Louisburg track and field teams found a lot of success during the Prairie View Invitational on Thursday at Prairie View High School.

The Wildcat boys and girls finished atop the team standings as they each won their first team title of the season. The Louisburg girls racked up 105 points to win the 11-team meet and the boys totaled 103.33 points to take first out of 13 teams.

"It was great to win the Prairie View meet," Louisburg girls coach John Reece said. "The girls did an outstanding job competing in their events and relays. We did not win many events, but scored points in almost all of them, which is how

you win a meet as a team."

Seniors Isabelle Holtzen and Kaitlyn Urban, along with sophomores Carlee Gassman and Sydni Keagle, were a part of several bright spots for the Lady Cats.

Gassman had a big day for Louisburg as she captured four gold medals, including two individual events. She won the long jump with a mark of 16 feet, 1 inch and also took first in the 200-meter dash for the first time this season in 27.03 seconds.

"Carlee is a competitor and would do well in most events," Reece said. "I think we have found a few events that suit her and she is a crucial part of two relays that have the potential to qualify for state, so we will wait and see how the next two meets go. She is very strong in the 300-meter hurdles and she will for sure be running them at the regional meet."

Holtzen, Urban, Jordon Leach and Gassman teamed together to win the 4x100-meter relay in 52.83 seconds, while Holtzen, Urban, Gassman and Mikayla Quinn captured the 4x400 relay title in 4:21.

Several of those girls also did well in the individual events. Holtzen won the pole vault competition after she cleared 11 feet to finish first by three feet.

Urban set a new season-best leap in the triple jump with a mark of 33-4.5 to win that event by more than two feet. Keagle won the 100-meter hurdles with a personal-best time of 16.47 seconds and also went on to finish second in the long jump with a mark of 15-4.5.

Keagle also scored points for the Lady Cats in the 300 hurdles as she took sixth in 56.29, while Quinn placed fourth in the 400-meter dash in 1:07. Payton Shaffer, Shaylor Whitham, Kennady Wilkerson and Quinn placed fourth in the 4x800 relay in 11:28.

In the field events, senior Lexie Reece took runner-up for the second straight week in the discus as she recorded a toss of 99-10.5. Eileen Benne (4-8) and Shelby Grandon (4-6) were third and fourth, respectively, in the high jump.

On the boys side, junior Chris Williams had a nice day for the Wildcats as he won a pair of events. Williams took gold in the 400-meter dash in 51.34 seconds and then later joined the 4x400 relay team of Justin Collins, Ben Wiedenmann and Blue Caplinger to take first in 3:29, which is a personal best time.

Collins, Wiedenmann, Caplinger and Charlie Koontz also found gold in the 4x100 relay as they won with a time of 44.41 seconds.

Sophomore Trent Martin had the Wildcats' other lone individual gold as he won the pole vault competition for the second straight week. Martin cleared 12 feet to take first overall and just edged out teammate Luke Faulkner, who was second at 11-6.

"It was really nice to see the team compete with overall success," Louisburg boys coach Andy Wright said. "We had a nice balance of points from both the field events and on the track. It really was a collective team effort to get the win. I was very proud of how we competed and hopefully we can take that momentum into the big meets we have coming up."



Freshman Justin Collins sprints toward the finish line in the 100-meter dash during a meet earlier this season.

Louisburg scored several points on the track as Koontz finished runner-up in the 100 dash in 11.67 seconds and Collins was fourth at 11.83. Wiedenmann (24.05) and Collins (24.38) also finished third and fourth, respectively, in the 200-meter dash.

Senior Wyatt Reece finished toward the top of the 1,600 and 3,200-meter runs. Reece ran a 4:35 in the 1,600 to medal second and later ran a 10:30 in the 3,200 to finish third.

In the field events, junior Kiefer Tucker had a good showing the shot put and discus. Tucker took second in the discus with a personal best throw of 130-6.5. He recorded another PR in the shot put as he took fifth with a toss of 41-3.5.

Sophomore Michael Waldron was runner-up in the javelin with a throw of 142-5, while senior Matt Holloway also scored points in the event as he was sixth with a toss of 121-0.5. Sophomore Jack Mick was sixth in the high jump after he cleared 5-4.

Louisburg returns to action Friday when it travels to Wellsville for the Redbud Relays. The meet is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Other meet results are

GIRLS

100 dash: Kaitlyn Urban, 11th, 14.50; Andrea Gaza, 12th, 14.70

200 dash: Jordon Leach, 13th, 31.13; Gaza, 16th, 31.85

400 dash: Gaza, 12th, 1:15

800 run: Shaylor Whitham, seventh, 2:45; Payton Shaffer, eighth, 2:46; Kennady Wilkerson, 11th, 3:02

100 hurdles: Kristen Bell, eighth, 19.53; Shelby Grandon, 11th, 20.35

300 hurdles: Grandon, ninth, 1:00; Bell, 12th, 1:05

Triple jump: Eileen Benne, seventh, 29-2

Shot put: Lexie Reece, 11th, 28-2; Melia Rice, 15th, 25-5.25; Eden Strumillo, 20th, 22-5

Discus: Rice, 12th, 79-1.5; Kody Lowry, 15th, 69-10.5

Javelin: Rice, 17th, 58-9; Lowry, 18th, 57-5.5

BOYS

800 run: Cade Holtzen, 16th, 2:31

1,600 run: Holtzen, 10th, 5:42

3,200 run: Gareth Baus, eighth, 12:26

300 hurdles: Daulton Davis, 10th, 49.16

Pole vault: Frankie Hurst, seventh, 10-6

Long jump: Charlie Koontz, eighth, 18-2.5; Blue Caplinger, 11th, 17-9

Triple jump: Kyle Allen, 11th, 35-1.5

Shot put: Brayden White, ninth, 38-2.5

Discus: Michael Waldron, 10th, 105-0; Carter Anglin, 16th, 89-2

Javelin: Austin Moore, ninth, 120-2.5