

# Albright soars atop pole vault rankings



Kansas senior Jake Albright set a new personal best in the pole vault after he cleared 18 feet, 2 inches during a meet on Jan. 21 in Lexington, Ky. Albright's mark put him at No. 1 in the NCAA pole vault rankings at the time.

LAWRENCE – Jake Albright took off down the runway, planted his pole and vaulted into the air.

As he cleared his personal best mark, Albright nonchalantly grabbed his pole and went to talk to his coach. Sitting from afar, you couldn't tell that the University of Kansas senior had set a career best, much less the best mark in the nation.

During the Rod McCravy Memorial on Jan. 21 in Lexington, Ky., Albright cleared 5.54m (18 feet, 2 inches) to finish first – and in the process – soared atop the NCAA Division I pole vault leaderboard and is currently 15<sup>th</sup> on the 2017 world list.

That mark earned Albright the Big 12 Conference Men's Track and Field Athlete of the Week honor as the Louisburg High School graduate is off to a great start in his final season with the Jayhawks.

"I have never really had much of an external reaction when I clear a personal best," Albright said. "When I made 5.54m I clapped twice, picked up my pole, and walked over to my coach

to talk about the next bar. Inside I felt very excited, but I had to get ready to attempt the next height of 5.62m. I knew I could accomplish this indoors, but I was surprised it was this early.”

Albright was a little stunned due to the fact he was dealing with an illness for nearly a month. He was diagnosed with mononucleosis over Christmas break and it lasted from early December to early this month.



**Laura Jacobsen / University of Kansas** Jake Albright currently holds the fourth-highest pole vault mark in Jayhawk history.

Apparently it takes more than that to slow Albright down as this was the second time in seven days that he cleared 18 feet and claimed his third victory of the season. It was also the fourth-best mark in Jayhawk history.

"The vaulters did extremely well, but Jake was unbelievable," Jayhawk coach Stanley Redwine said in a release. "It just seemed like he could do no wrong and I'm excited to see what he's going to do the rest of this year because he's only going to continue to get better."

Albright needed seven tries to get over his first four bars of the competition before needing all three attempts to push past a new career best of 5.54.

"It feels great, but that may easily change," Albright said of the No. 1 ranking. "There are some guys that I know can jump 5.54m-plus this indoor season, including some of my teammates. I am just excited that the 5.54m mark will most likely get me to the Indoor National Championships where I can compete against the best in the NCAA."

On Jan. 29, Albright was knocked off the No. 1 spot by a half-inch by South Dakota freshman Chris Nilsen, but Albright is still excited for what the future holds as the Jayhawk men are currently No. 11 in the NCAA Division I rankings.

The Jayhawk senior has already established himself as one top vaulters – not only in the Big 12 Conference – but in the NCAA as well.

Albright won the Big 12 pole vault title during the outdoor season last May after he cleared 18-0.5 and has experience on the big stage as he finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the NCAA Division I Outdoor Championships in 2015.

"I won conference because my teammates were jumping so well at that meet," Albright said. "They had many first attempt clearances, so in order to win I had to jump a higher bar. It feels great to compete with such a great pole vaulting squad that we have at KU. Conference was a large confidence boost, and I definitely worked harder after that."

Following the conference meet in May, Albright competed in the

Division I West Preliminary, but didn't record a mark and was unable to get back to the NCAA Championships. That feeling stuck with Albright in the offseason and he, and the rest of his teammates, are ready to make amends this year in both seasons.

"In the West prelim, it just came down to pole selection," Albright said. "I was trying to use bigger poles than I should have, and ended up coming up shallow in the pit each time. With all the potential we had it was hard not seeing any KU vaulters qualify for outdoor NCAA's last year. We are definitely back with a chip on our shoulder."

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## Top 10 stories of 2016



Here are the Louisburg Sports Zone Top 10 Stories of the Year. In each brief explanation of the story, there will be a link to the full story of when the event actually happened. Thanks again for a successful 2016 and I am already looking forward to 2017.

### **10. LHS golf qualifies three for the state tournament**



**Hogan Welch (left), Ty Martin (middle) and T.J. Svoboda all earned a spot in the Class 4A state golf tournament in May.**

Three Louisburg High School golfers put together a strong performance in less-than-ideal weather conditions during the Class 4A regional tournament in May.

Hogan Welch, T.J. Svoboda and Ty Martin all three earned qualifying scores to earn a spot in the Class 4A state tournament in the rain at Dub's Dread Golf Course. At the state tournament, Welch led the way as he shot an 84 to finish 34th overall in his second consecutive state tournament.

## **9. Tappan, Conklin win state debate crown**





**Carson Tappan (left) and Curran Conklin (right) pose for a picture with their state championship debate trophy with coach Brian Weilert.**

After 11 rounds and 17 hours of debate over two days, Carson Tappan and Curran Conklin didn't have a lot more left to give.

But all that hard work paid off for the Louisburg High School duo.

During the Class 4A 2-speaker state debate tournament at Independence High School, Tappan and Conklin were awarded their first state championship after finishing with an 11-0 record.

They weren't the only Louisburg team to come home with some hardware.

Sophomores Isabelle Holtzen and Grayson Anderson found

themselves among the final four teams as well. Despite a close split-decision loss in the semifinals, Holtzen and Anderson finished third to win their first state trophy.

## **8. Three Wildcats win regional track titles, qualify 11 events for state**



**Chloe Renner (left), T.J. Dover (middle) and Isabelle Holtzen won regional titles in their respective events in May at the regional meet in Chanute.**

Louisburg High School students Isabelle Holtzen, Chloe Renner and T.J. Dover were among several members of the Wildcat track teams to have big performances at the Class 4A regional meet in May at Chanute High School.

Holtzen won a regional crown in the pole vault, while Renner won the triple jump to lead the Lady Cats as they qualified for six events total. Louisburg sent all three relay teams that consisted of Kaitlyn Gaza, Mikayla Quinn, Megan Lemke, Reilly Alexander, Jordon Leach, Hanna Becker, Lauren Becker, Shaylor Whitham, Liz Hildreth and Holtzen. Sophie McMullen also earned a spot in the discus.

Dover captured a regional crown in the discus as he recorded a personal best throw of more than 150 feet. He was one of five

events to go to the state meet. Teammate Jarod Woodward also qualified in the shot put, while Chris Williams did the same in the 400 dash.

Brandon Cooper, Quinn Rigney, Ben Minster, along with Williams, helped the 4×100 relay team earn a spot, while Wyatt Reece, Ben Hupp, Tanner Belcher and Michael Minster also qualified in the 4×800 relay.

## **7. FFA wins three state titles, shines at national competition**



**Members of the LHS FFA chapter won three state titles in May and later traveled to nationals in October and brought home several honors.**

After three Louisburg High School FFA teams won state titles in their respective career development events in May at the state competition, those same students performed well at the nationals.

Louisburg sent three teams to the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual National FFA



Convention in Indianapolis and all three were among the top in their respective Career Development Events (CDE). Each team received a gold emblem, while 11 of the 12 members who attended received individual gold emblems as well.

Paige Buffington, Wyatt Reece, Georgia Wilde, Justin Sievert, Hattie Harris, Hallie Hutsell, Faith Seuferling, Mariah Wrigley, Madelynn Yalowitz, Bryn O'Meara, Morgan Strumillo and Lexie Reece all came away with honors from nationals.

## **6. Cross country sends three to state, Moore captures medal**



Freshman Trinity Moore became the first female runner in Louisburg history to capture a state cross country medal.

Louisburg High School freshman Trinity Moore didn't look like a first-year varsity runner at the Class 4A state cross country meet as she finished 19<sup>th</sup> overall with a time of 20 minutes and 54 seconds – just 10 seconds off her personal best time. That finish was good enough to earn a state medal and became the first female runner in Louisburg history to do so.

Moore joined juniors Wyatt Reece and Tim Smith as all three runners competed in the state meet in Wamego in October. Reece and Smith finished 48th and 68th, respectively, just a week after finishing in the top five at the regional meet.

## **5. Koechner, Keegan earn medals as Wildcat wrestling puts five to state**



**Louisburg's Mason Koechner was one of two medalists for the Wildcats at the Class 4A state wrestling tournament in February. Koechner finished third at 220 pounds and teammate Nathan Keegan was sixth at 120 pounds.**

For the first time since 2011, a member of the Louisburg High School wrestling team left the Class 4A state tournament with a medal – in fact – two of them did.

Mason Koechner and Nathan Keegan finished in the top six of their respective weight classes at state meet in Salina. Koechner took third overall at 220 pounds, while Keegan came in sixth at 120 pounds.

Along with the two state medalists, the Wildcats also sent three other wrestlers to state. Anders Vance (285 pounds), Thad Hendrix (113) and Hunter Bindi (106) competed for



Louisburg as it qualified five for state for the second consecutive season.

## **4. Griffin signs with New Orleans Saints**



Photo courtesy of the New Orleans Saints  
Louisburg native, and Air Force Academy graduate, Garrett Griffin, was signed to the New Orleans Saints practice squad



**in August.**

In early June, Garrett Griffin received his diploma from the Air Force Academy and shook hands with the President of the United States.

That event alone is enough to top most people's list of accomplishments. Four days later, Griffin fulfilled a life-long dream.

Following his graduation from the Air Force, Griffin was signed by the New Orleans Saints and his dream of playing professional football became a reality. The Louisburg native competed in the Saints training camp and later earned a spot on the team's practice squad, where he currently resides.

### **3. Wildcat football rallies around coach, ends playoff drought**



**The Louisburg High School football team celebrates its**

**regional championship and its first playoff win in four years.**

The season didn't get off to the start members of the Louisburg High School football team were hoping for. The Wildcats dealt with the departure of head coach Kyle Littrell before the season, but instead of letting it define their season, it made them stronger.

Louisburg rallied behind its former coach and the Wildcats won their first playoff game in four years after they defeated Independence in November to win a regional title. The Wildcats lost to eventual state champion Bishop Miega in the sectional round of the playoffs and ended their season with an 8-3 record.

## **2. Girls soccer team wins regional crown during inaugural season**



**The Louisburg girls soccer team celebrates its regional championship in the Wildcats' inaugural season.**

As the final buzzer sounded, members of the Louisburg girls soccer team rushed to each other in the middle of the field at the Wildcat Sports Complex. It was a sense of euphoria.

The Wildcats had every reason to be excited.

Louisburg – a program that has been in existence for all of two months – won its first regional title in program history in May after it ousted Basehor-Linwood in a 3-1 victory during the regional championship game. The win put the Wildcats in the state quarterfinals, where their season came to an end with 3-1 loss to De Soto and finished up with a 14-4-1 record on season.



# 1. Boys soccer advances to state final four



The Louisburg High School boys soccer team made history this past season as the Wildcats earned their first state quarterfinal victory and a spot in the Class 4A final four.

The state quarterfinal round had been nothing but heartbreak for the Louisburg High School boys soccer team.

In their previous six appearances, the Wildcats have seen their season come to an end and those players were left only to dream what playing in the state final four would be like.

There was no imagining this time around.

Louisburg got a goal in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute from senior Herman Knipp to give the Wildcats a 1-0 victory over Trinity Academy

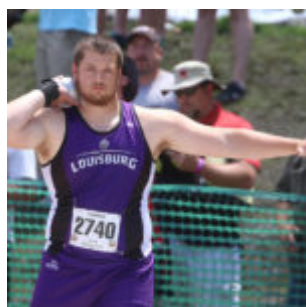


in the state quarterfinals in Louisburg. The Wildcats moved on to the Class 4A state final four in Topeka in November, where they took fourth – the best finish in program history.

The Wildcats (14-6-2) finished their season with losses to eventual state champion Bishop Miege and Andover Central, but doubled their number of wins from the prior year.

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## Woodward joins Fort Hays track program



Louisburg High School graduate Jarod Woodward is getting ready to take the next step in his track career as he signed on with the Fort Hays State track and field program to throw the shot put. Woodward is a two-time state qualifier for Louisburg and had a personal best throw of 53 feet this season.

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Jarod Woodward's track future changed for the better during Louisburg High School's home invitational back in late April.

It was there when Woodward let loose for a personal best throw of 53 feet in the shot put, which was one of the top marks at the time in Class 4A. Not only did it win him the competition, but the throw caught the notice of some college coaches.

About a month later, Woodward was signing with an NCAA Division II program. The 2016 LHS graduate committed to throw for the Fort Hays State track and field team next season.

"I am just beyond excited," Woodward said. "I think it is just a great opportunity for me. Fort Hays is a great fit and has a great agricultural program, which is what I want to do, so it is just the best fit all the way around."

Woodward, a two-time state qualifier in the shot put, was familiar with the Fort Hays track program as he watched his cousin compete for the Tigers in a meet last year. He had the chance to get to know some of the coaches and what their track program was all about.

When the Fort Hays State staff saw Woodward's mark, they reached out to him following the regional meet in May and offered him a scholarship then.

"When I was around the program back then I could tell it was the perfect fit for me," Woodward said. "The coaches were great and I know my cousin was enjoying his time there. Plus Fort Hays is a small school so it was a perfect fit to me and that is what I was looking for."

Track in college wasn't always a sure thing for Woodward and that wasn't his main focus. His priority was to get ready for college and his major of animal science.

"Really, I always wanted to go to Kansas State and be the first in my family to go to college," he said. "That was the dream for me, but Fort Hays is a great school as well and it really worked out for the best."

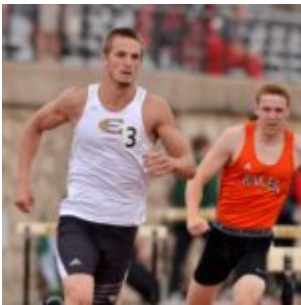
School and track won't be the only thing on his schedule once he reports to Hays. The rodeo coaches at the college have also approached Woodward about joining the rodeo team.

"It has been awhile since I have done rodeo, but I am looking

forward to getting back in it again,” he said. “With my body build, they thought I could do steer wrestling so I think that can be fun. I report on Aug. 15 and it really can’t get here soon enough. I am just ready to get down there and get started.”

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## Sander shines on track, in classroom for Emporia State



Emporia State sophomore, and Louisburg High School graduate, Wyatt Sander had a successful track season for the Hornets as he earned All-American status for the 4×400-meter relay in both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

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EMPORIA – Wyatt Sander joined the Emporia State track and field team two years ago wondering where his place was going to be on the Hornet roster.

Sander seems to have found the right fit. The Emporia State sophomore is now an indoor and outdoor All-American.

The 2014 Louisburg High School graduate was a member of the Hornet 4×400-meter relay team that finished fifth at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Florida in late May. Sander, who runs the third leg of the relay, helped the team to a time of 3

minutes and 9.53 seconds.

Earlier in May, Sander, along with teammates Duke Tibbs, Parker Evans and Taysean Goodwin, won the 4×400 relay at the MIAA Championships.

It turned out to be the perfect ending for what has been a long season.

“To get down to Florida and be back at the national meet was a great experience all around,” Sander said. “We went to the meet hoping to finish in the top eight because that meant we would become All-Americans again. I knew we could do it too because during the whole outdoor season we never ran to our full potential it felt like. We finished second overall in the collegiate division at Drake Relays so that gave us a big confidence boost before our conference meet and before nationals.

“To earn the All-American status is one of the best feelings I’ve had in my athletic career. All of us on the relay team went a little crazy on the infield when we saw that we made it in the finals for the 4×4 outdoor. Probably the only feeling better would be to become a national champion.”

Sander also helped the Hornets throughout the season in the hurdles as he finished fourth and sixth, respectively, in the 400- and 110-meter hurdles at the MIAA Championships.

Still, it has been the 4×400 relay where Sander has thrived and it all started during his indoor season. Sander, along with Evans, Goodwin and Luke Stenzel, shattered the 32-year-old MIAA indoor record by three seconds in 3:13.71.

The team also broke the Emporia State school record by four seconds and went on to finish sixth in the nation in the NCAA Indoor Championships to earn All-American status there as well.



Sander was also a part of Emporia's distance medley relay team that took third at the MIAA Championships. He also finished sixth in the conference in the high hurdles during the indoor season.

"Indoor really set the tone for me, I believe, for the rest of the season and maybe even for the rest of my career at ESU," Sander said. "When we won the indoor title it was a great feeling because not only did we beat the meet record, we were able to clinch our spot at the indoor nationals and get a conference title."

As well as Sander has performed on the track, he has fared even better in the classroom and the school rewarded him for it. In early May, Sander was awarded the school's Undergraduate Award of Excellence.



**Wyatt Sander (second, from left) receives the Undergraduate Award of Excellence from Emporia State in early May.**

The award is given to an outstanding male and female underclass student athlete who excels in athletics and academics. Sander has a 3.94 grade point average and is a member of the Emporia State Athletic Director's Honor Roll,

the MIAA Academic Honor Roll and is an MIAA Scholar-Athlete.

“Generally all the awards given at the athletics banquet go to the seniors with the occasional junior in the mix so I figured the undergraduate award was going to go to a junior, someone who has had more time at ESU to establish themselves,” Sander said. “When I heard my name called it was a complete shock. Walking up to the front of the big ballroom we were in, my heart was racing due to excitement and some nerves. It was definitely an honor to receive that award. I hope I can maybe get it again next year, but just to receive it once is awesome.”

Life as a college athlete is never easy as students are constantly trying to divide their time between academics and athletics, which makes the award an even bigger accomplishment for Sander.

“Things do get very stressful with balancing school work and athletics,” Sander said. “You really have to buckle down and have your priorities straight. If you don’t have your school work at the top of your list, followed by your athletics, and you let other extracurricular activities take priority then you will see a major decline in your academics as well as your performance athletically.

“People generally worry that playing college sports takes up all your time, which don’t get me wrong it takes up a lot of time, but if you manage your time wisely and find what works best for you it becomes much easier to balance your academics, your athletics and your social life.”

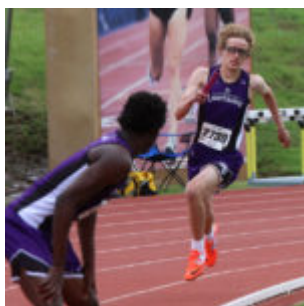
As good of a year as Sander had, he is looking toward bigger and better things next season with the Hornets.

“Some great things happened this last year for me athletically, so my goals are to just improve upon those accomplishments,” Sander said. “If for some reason I can’t improve then I at least want to repeat the accomplishments, I

don't want to do any worse. My goals are to be conference champions and All-Americans in the 4x4 for both indoor and outdoor seasons, but I also want to improve individually in my hurdle races. I am really looking forward to it."

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## Louisburg track gains experience at state



Louisburg freshman Chris Williams rounds the curve in the 4x100-meter relay as he prepares to handoff to teammate Brandon Cooper on Friday at the Kansas State Track and Field Championships in Wichita.

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WICHITA – The Louisburg High School track team traveled to Class 4A Kansas State Track and Field Championships on Friday and it was on a momentum high.

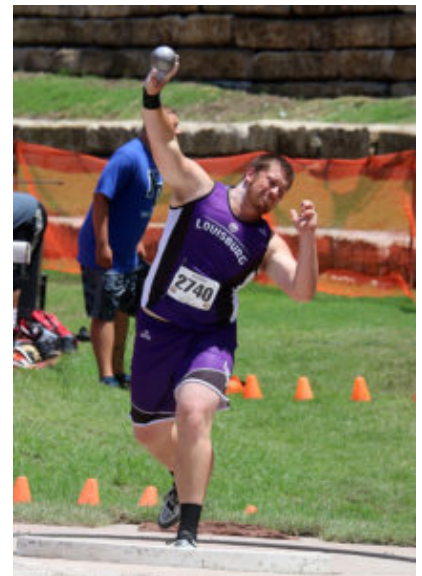
Louisburg captured three regional titles the previous week and qualified for state in 11 events. The momentum died down a little bit Saturday as the Wildcats left Wichita State University without a state medal when the two-day meet concluded.

Even though they didn't leave with any hardware, the Wildcats gained valuable experience as many of those who attended were

either freshmen or sophomores.

That was especially true on the boys side as freshman Chris Williams nearly found himself on the medal stand. Williams finished ninth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 51.48 seconds and just missed out on the finals.

The top eight in each event earn a state medal.



**Louisburg senior Jarod Woodward launches the shot put Saturday at the state meet in Wichita.**

"I thought we competed pretty well," Louisburg boys coach Gary Griffin said. "We were within range of our personal record in most events. We didn't place that well, but we took a lot of younger kids that I hope will get there again and perform better."

Senior Jarod Woodward found himself in a loaded shot put competition that saw seven competitors throw for more than 50 feet, including state champion Ian Rudzik (Ulysses) who threw 62 feet, 7 inches. Woodward recorded a toss of 48 feet to



come in 10<sup>th</sup> overall.

Junior T.J. Dover tried to build off his personal best throw in the discus from the regional meet, but came up just short with a throw of 138-3 and came in 11<sup>th</sup>.

Louisburg also had a pair of relays who ran strong times. The 4×800-meter relay of Wyatt Reece, Tanner Belcher, Ben Hupp and Michael Minster came in 14<sup>th</sup> in 8 minutes and 47 seconds.

The 4×100-meter relay team of Ben Minster, Quinn Rigney, Williams and Brandon Cooper tied a personal best in 45.1 seconds and came in 15<sup>th</sup>.

On the girls side, sophomore Isabelle Holtzen was one spot away from earning her state medal. In the pole vault Saturday, Holtzen came in ninth after she cleared 9 feet.

Kaitlyn Gaza, Mikayla Quinn, Reilly Alexander and Megan Lemke ran just off their personal best in the 4×400-meter relay and took 15<sup>th</sup> in 4:19, while Lemke, Gaza, Jordon Leach and Hanna Becker came in 16<sup>th</sup> in the 4×100 relay in 53.1 seconds.



**Senior Megan Lemke sprints to the finish in**

**the final leg of the  
4×400-meter relay Friday  
at Wichita State  
University.**

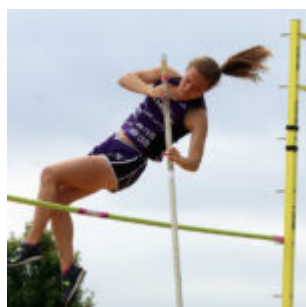
Liz Hildreth, Lauren Becker, Shaylor Whitham and Holtzen took 16<sup>th</sup> in the 4×800 relay in 10:55 to round out the track events Saturday.

“Overall we came into the state meet with some of the slower times,” Louisburg girls coach Greg Darrington said. “I will say I was pleased on the track. All the relay teams ran some of their best times, or close to their personal record. We are young and I think next year we have a chance to head back to state and earn some medals.”

In the field events, junior Chloe Renner recorded a mark of 31-8.25 in the triple jump to come in 15<sup>th</sup>. Sophomore Sophie McMullen was also 15<sup>th</sup> in the discus with a toss of 99-10.

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## **Holtzen, Renner win regional crowns to lead Lady Cats**



Louisburg sophomore Isabelle Holtzen clears a mark in the pole vault during the Class 4A regional track meet Friday at Chanute High School. Holtzen won the event after she cleared 9

**feet, 6 inches. In all, the Lady Cats qualified in six events for this week's state meet.**

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CHANUTE – Isabelle Holtzen and Chloe Renner couldn't believe their eyes.

In two separate events at the Class 4A regional track meet, going at the same time just feet apart, the unthinkable was happening for both Louisburg athletes.

They were about to become regional champions.

Holtzen watched as one of the state's top pole vaulters failed to make a height, while Renner took off in the triple jump and recorded the best mark of her life – by far.

Both of those developments gave them a regional title and got the day started right for the Louisburg girls track and field team in Chanute.

Along with Holtzen and Renner, the Lady Cats qualified for state in six events. Louisburg will send all three relays to this weekend's state meet at Wichita State University, while sophomore Sophie McMullen also qualified in the discus.

The top four in each event earn a spot at the state competition.



**Junior Chloe Renner lands in the sand pit following an attempt in the triple jump Friday in Chanute.**

As a team, the Lady Cats finished fifth overall with 40 points and Paola won the regional team crown with 144 points. Chanute was second with 92.

Holtzen, a sophomore, became the first to punch her ticket to state as she cleared 9 feet, 6 inches in the pole vault – which tied a personal best. Holtzen and Paola's Samantha Van Hoecke were left at 10 feet.

Although Holtzen went out at 10, Van Hoecke didn't enter the competition until 10 feet and was unable to clear the mark.

"I was not expecting her to get out and it really surprised me," Holtzen said. "I really feel bad for her. We are friends and we have been to a lot of meets together so I have gotten to know her. When she got out it really hurt me too.

"At the same time I was really excited that I won, but I really wanted to get 10 feet. That is ok though because I know I still did well so I was pretty happy with that."

Just across the way at the triple jump, Renner got the mark she has always been looking for. Renner, a junior, recorded a jump of 33-9.5 to win the event by three inches.

Renner's mark was a personal best by more than a foot and she will make her first ever state appearance. She nearly qualified in the long jump as well, but finished fifth at 15-10.5, losing a state spot by two inches.

"I did a lot better than I expected to do, that is for sure," Renner said. "My expectations weren't that high this year and I was so thrilled to finally get a compliment from (jump coach Kyle) Littrell.

"I am excited to go. It will be good to focus just in the triple jump all week in practice, so I hope to go even further and Littrell said I could have a good shot at medaling at state."

McMullen continued the good run for the Lady Cats she recorded her best throw of the season in the discus. The Louisburg sophomore had a toss of 105-8 to take fourth.

"It is nerve-racking but at the same time I am really excited to go to state," McMullen said. "Last year I didn't spin at all, and this year I am really working on my spin so I can hopefully get a better mark at state.

"I just want to go and see what happens. Just like this time, this is my first regional meet and I just wanted to come out and compete."





**Louisburg sophomore Reilly Alexander runs stride for stride with a Paola runner during a leg of the 4×400 relay Friday in Chanute.**

The Lady Cats continued their success on track as all three relay teams qualified and each came in fourth overall.

Two of those races provided a lot of drama as the 4×100- and 4×400-meter relays held off competitors at the end to earn that state berth.

The 4×400 team of Kaitlyn Gaza, Mikayla Quinn, Reilly Alexander and Megan Lemke recorded a time of 4 minutes and 18 seconds to shave five seconds off their previous best time.

“I think the last meet we came out and coach (Greg Darrington) told us to come out and run a 4:18 and we all looked at him like he was crazy,” Gaza said. “I knew that when I handed off to Mikayla that I kept us in a good spot.”

Quinn and Alexander kept Louisburg in the top four before Lemke took the baton on the anchor leg. Lemke actually came out fast and took the lead for a few seconds before the other three teams – Girard, Paola and Anderson County – were able to make up ground.

"Even my mom came up to me and asked why I ran so fast and then lost it," Lemke joked. "I just wanted to beat Paola because they beat us in everything. I started out really fast because I had a lot of adrenaline going, but I kind of died at the end but it was worth it because we got a PR (personal record)."

The 4×100 team of Gaza, Lemke, Jordon Leach and Hanna Becker also ran a good time of 52.59 to take fourth.

It was Gaza's sprint in the anchor leg that sealed it for the Lady Cats as she passed two teams in the final 100 meters to edge Spring Hill at the finish line.

"When I got the baton, we were either in fifth or sixth, so I knew that I really had to step it up and I just started going," Gaza said. "I knew that I was running for more than myself. I was running for three other people as well. I passed the Spring Hill girl on my right and I knew that we had it and was such a good feeling."

Leach, a freshman, has provided the Lady Cats with a little extra boost as she joined the team a few weeks ago.

"Jordon jumped in as a freshman and has taken to it really well," Lemke said. "She was a little timid at first but she is really talented and really improved our times."

It was less of a dramatic finish for the 4×800 team of Holtzen, Lauren Becker, Shaylor Whitham and Liz Hildreth as they knew they had already qualified before the race began. Since only four teams entered, the Lady Cat team was assured a berth barring a disqualification.



**Megan Lemke (left) takes a handoff from teammate Jordon Leach during the 4×100 relay Friday at the Class 4A regional meet in Chanute.**

That fact didn't make it any less exciting for the four runners.

"It is awesome," Hildreth said. "I have gone to state the last couple of years and watched and that track is just a dream with those grandstands there. I can't believe I get to run there.

Lauren Becker concurred with her teammate.

"This is the first time going to state in anything besides choir so it makes me feel like we accomplished something," Lauren said. "We have been practicing since Feb. 29 and it is a great feeling to know that it has paid off."

Preliminaries for some events will begin Friday morning at Wichita State's Cessna Stadium and the meet will finish up on Saturday.

#### **Other Wildcat results are:**

100 dash: Jordon Leach, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14.17

200 dash: Kaitlyn Gaza, 10<sup>th</sup>, 28.21

400 dash: Mikayla Quinn, 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:04.36

800 run: Liz Hildreth, 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:39

100 hurdles: Klara Riester, 7<sup>th</sup>, 18.63

300 hurdles: Riester, 7<sup>th</sup>, 51.79

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## **Dover wins regional title, Wildcats qualify five**



Louisburg junior T.J. Dover lets the discus fly during the Class 4A regional track meet Friday at Chanute High School. Dover won a regional title in the discus with a throw of 150 feet, 2 inches and the Wildcats qualified for state in five events overall.

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CHANUTE – Before this season, T.J. Dover had never given track much thought.

Then this year he decided to give it a try as a way to stay active for football. Needless to say that choice has worked



out beautifully for the Louisburg junior.

During the Class 4A regional meet in Chanute on Friday, Dover punched his ticket to the state meet as he set a personal record in the discus. Dover recorded a mark of 150 feet, 2 inches and was crowned regional champion.

This was the only time Dover had won the discus competition all season.

“I have been trying to hit 150 for a few weeks now ever since I hit 143 at Gardner and it felt good to finally hit it and win something,” Dover said. “I am happy going into to state and I am excited to see what I can do there.”

Along with Dover’s mark in the discus, Louisburg qualified for state in five events overall as the top four places at regionals will make the trip to the state meet Friday and Saturday at Wichita State University.



**Senior Jarod Woodward lifts the shot put into the air during Friday’s regional track meet in Chanute.**

"TJ has worked really hard this year and to get a throw off like that at the biggest meet of the year, was awesome," Louisburg boys coach Gary Griffin said. "Hopefully he can improve on that this weekend and get a medal."

Senior Jarod Woodward (shot put), freshman Chris Williams (400-meter dash) and the 4×100- and 4×800-meter relays teams will also compete at the state meet for a chance to get a medal.

As a team, the Wildcats finished fifth overall with 42 points and Paola won the regional team title with 116.33 points. Spring Hill was second with 90.

Woodward will make his second straight trip to state after he came in third in the shot put with a toss of 49-3 and hopes to leave state meet with a medal this time around. Woodward has a season-best throw of 53 feet, which would put him in the top five in Class 4A.

"I didn't perform to the best of my ability," Woodward said. "In the past meets, I have been progressively increasing, but this week I was trying to change up my technique. Even though I didn't throw as far as I can, I am going to come back and attack it as best I can."

"I just wanted to make sure I got in the top four and that was the most important thing. Last year at state there was a lot of people there so I had some butterflies, but this year hopefully I can get past that and do some big things out there."



**Louisburg's Quinn Rigney takes a handoff from teammate Ben Minster during the 4×100 relay Friday.**

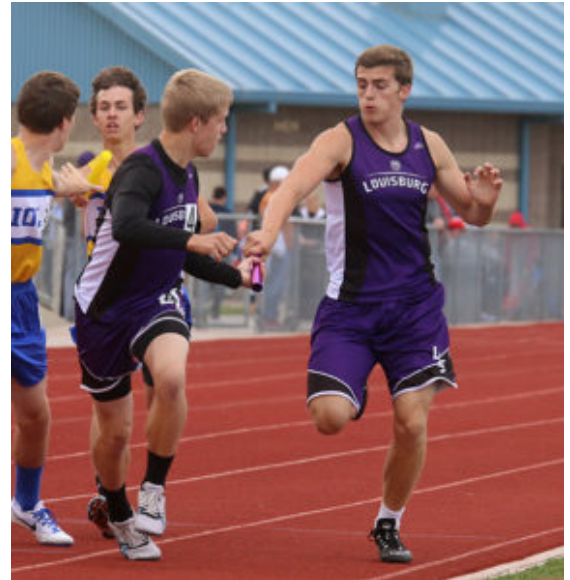
On the track, Williams continues to shave off time in the 400-meter dash and it continued Friday as he finished runner-up with a personal-best 50.67 seconds.

In all the 4A regional meets combined, Williams has the third-fastest time and he hopes to leave Wichita with a state medal.

"Chris is a gutsy, competitive kid who has kind of exceeded my expectations, but he is peaking right now," Griffin said. "That time will get him in the finals if he can run that again, and I think he can."

Williams will compete in two events out at state as he helped the 4×100-meter relay of Brandon Cooper, Ben Minster and Quinn Rigney to a third-place finish in 45.09 seconds, which was a personal best.

"I am pretty happy to go to state in the 400," Williams said. "I really wanted to go with the 4×400, but to go in the 4×100 and 400 is pretty good."



**Ben Hupp hands the baton off to Michael Minster for the final leg of the 4×800 relay.**

The Louisburg 4×800 team of Wyatt Reece, Ben Hupp, Michael Minster and Tanner Belcher didn't have to sweat out if they were going to be a state qualifier. Only four schools entered a 4×800 team so the Wildcats knew they were in before the race, but that didn't stop them from running well.

Louisburg finished in 8 minutes and 48 seconds to take third overall, but to earn a state medal both relay teams will have to take even more time off.

"The 4×800 crew has worked hard all year, and they are capable of cutting quite a bit of time off so hopefully they can run well," Griffin said. "We had pretty good handoffs in the 4×100 and that is the key to that race. We will need to do the same this weekend and hopefully aim for the mid 44's to have a chance to make the finals."

#### **Other Wildcat results are:**

100 dash: Brandon Cooper, 6<sup>th</sup>, 11.64

400 dash: Blue Caplinger, 13<sup>th</sup>, 55.72

1,600 run: Wyatt Reece, 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:58

3,200 run: Devyn Small, 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:39; Tim Smith, 12<sup>th</sup>, 12:01

110 hurdles: Jonathan Ventre, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17.67

300 hurdles: Ventre, 13<sup>th</sup>, 46.27

4×400 relay: 5<sup>th</sup>, 3:37

Triple jump: Cooper, 7<sup>th</sup>, 39-0.50

Shot put: T.J. Dover, 5<sup>th</sup>, 45-3

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## Louisburg track captures league medals



Louisburg senior Jarod Woodward rears back for an attempt in the shot put during a meet earlier this season. The Wildcat track teams traveled to De Soto last Thursday and left with several league medals.

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DE SOTO – In a meet that was filled with state champions and medalists, the Louisburg High School track and field teams had



their work cut out Thursday during the Frontier League meet at De Soto High School.

The Wildcats hung in there as they medaled in several events, despite not having a league champion.

The Louisburg girls finished fourth in the team standings with 57.5 points. Paola and Baldwin took a chunk of the team points as Paola won the league crown with 205 points and Baldwin was second at 194.

Still, the Wildcats found several positives to build on and it started with junior Liz Hildreth in the 800-meter run. Hildreth finished second overall with a time of 2 minutes and 34 seconds and was the Wildcats' top finisher on the day.

"I was really proud of the girls," Louisburg girls coach Greg Darrington said. "They showed me some toughness competing on the track. Liz finally got out of her comfort zone and did a great job finishing second. She has a really good chance to compete this week and head to state if she can keep improving."

The league meet was just the precursor to what is an even bigger meet Friday when Louisburg travels to Chanute for regionals. The top four in each event will qualify for state.

Louisburg's relay teams all finished in top four at league. The 4×100-meter relay of Jordon Leach, Megan Lemke, Hanna Becker and Kaitlyn Gaza was fourth in 53.06 seconds

Lemke, Gaza, Mikayla Quinn and Reilly Alexander ran a 4:23 in the 4×400 relay to come in third. Isabelle Holtzen, Lauren Becker, Shaylor Whitham and Hildreth took fourth in the 4×800 in 10:45.

"The relay teams did a nice job," Darrington said. "The 4×100 improved as well as the other two, which is nice to see. They all stand a chance to head to state, but they must run their

best races of the year.”

Also on the track, Quinn ran a season-best time of 1:04 in the 400-meter dash to come in fifth. Gaza took sixth in the 200-meter dash in 28.5 seconds and Leach was seventh in the 100 dash in 13.96.

Junior Chloe Renner scored points in three different field events for Louisburg. Renner came in fourth in the long jump with a mark of 15 feet and 7.75 inches.

Renner was also fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 32 feet and fifth in the high jump after she cleared 4-7.

Kaitlyn Urban led Louisburg in the triple jump with a mark of 32-2 to take third and Lemke came in seventh in the long jump at 14-5.5.

Sophomore Sophie McMullen recorded a couple good throws in the discus, including one that went 103-2.5, which was good enough to take third. Teammate Lexie Reece also scored points in the event with a throw of 95-0.

“It was nice to see Sophie break 100 feet, but she needs to work hard this week at practice if she wants to move on to state,” Darrington said.

Holtzen competed in a tough pole vault field, but came in fourth overall after she cleared 9-2 to round out the Lady Cat point-getters.

The Louisburg boys also went up against some tough competition as the Wildcats were sixth in the team standings with 44.5 points. Paola won the boys league title with 156 points and Baldwin was second at 136.

Freshman Jonathan Ventre continues to make strides in both hurdle events and cut down on time. On Thursday, Ventre was third in the 300-meter hurdles in 42.58 seconds and came in fifth in the 110-meter high hurdles in 16.98 seconds.

"Jonathan has had a really good season," Louisburg boys coach Gary Griffin said. "He has improved with pretty much every meet. He is a hard worker and it is paying off."

The Wildcats also set personal records in all three relay events.

Brandon Cooper, Chris Williams, Ben Minster and Quinn Rigney ran a time of 45.1 seconds to take fourth. Wyatt Reece, Tanner Belcher, Ben Hupp and Michael Minster helped the 4×800 to a time of 8:49 for fifth and set a personal best by nine seconds.

Ventre, Ben Minster, Michael Minster and Williams ran a 3:33 in the 4×400 to come in sixth, but shaved three seconds off their previous top time.

"They all performed pretty well, but all of them are going to have to run well if they want to qualify for state," Griffin said.

Also on the track, Cooper ran a time of 11.68 seconds to finish fourth in the 100-meter dash. Williams came in fifth in the 400 dash in 51.77 seconds and Rigney was seventh in the 200 dash with a time of 23.99.

In the field events, senior Jarod Woodward showed he was among the best in the league in the shot put. Woodward came in third with a throw of 49-7.5.

Cooper set a personal best mark in the triple jump with a leap of 39-8.25 to come in fourth. Junior T.J. Dover was fourth in the discus with a toss of 138-3.

Freshman Ian Combs cleared 10-1 in the pole vault to come in fifth and Kristopher Light was sixth in the high jump with at 5-8.

Louisburg returns to action for the regional meet at 2 p.m. at Chanute High School.

"We did about as well as I expected there," Griffin said. "There were a lot of state champions and state medalists at the meet and we held our own. But we are going to have to take a step up this week if we want to qualify for state. It is an exciting time and we will see who steps up."

Other Wildcat results are:

### **Varsity Girls**

100 dash: Hanna Becker, 14<sup>th</sup>, 14.70

200 dash: Jordon Leach, 11<sup>th</sup>, 29.41

400 dash: Kaitlyn Gaza, 8<sup>th</sup>, 1:05.75; Reilly Alexander, 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:07.54

800 dash: Lauren Becker, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:50.42;

1,600 run: Shaylor Whitham, 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:15

3,200 run: Whitham, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14:42

100 hurdles: Klara Riester, 8<sup>th</sup>, 18:14

300 hurdles: Riester, 8<sup>th</sup>, 53.25

Long jump: Kaitlyn Urban, 13<sup>th</sup>, 13-1.5

Shot put: Morgan Strumillo, 10<sup>th</sup>, 30-3.5; Ellie Katzer, 13<sup>th</sup>, 29-1

Discus: Katzer, 9<sup>th</sup>, 90-0

Javelin: Zoie Gilliland, 9<sup>th</sup>, 88-6; Paige Buffington, 10<sup>th</sup>, 87-1

## **JV Girls**

100 dash: Grayson Anderson, 4<sup>th</sup>, 14.99

200 dash: Julianne Finley, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 30.06; Anderson, 5<sup>th</sup>, 30.69

400 dash: Finley, 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:06.28

800 run: Alex Miller, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:43

3,200 run: Miller, 1<sup>st</sup>, 14:00

100 hurdles: Kristen Bell, 6<sup>th</sup>, 21.05

300 hurdles: Bell, 5<sup>th</sup>, 59.90

4×100 relay: 5th, 58.49

4×400 relay: 1st, 5:06

High jump: Eileen Benne, 1<sup>st</sup>, 4-8; Makenna Allen, 4<sup>th</sup>, 4-2

Long jump: Benne, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 13-5.25; Allen, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12-3.5

Triple jump: Benne, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 29-3; Allen, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 28-2

Discus: Melia Rice, 5<sup>th</sup>, 57-3.5

Javelin: Rice, 5<sup>th</sup>, 62-0

## **Varsity Boys**

100 dash: Ben Minster, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11.88; Quinn Rigney, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12.01

200 dash: Minster, 9<sup>th</sup>, 24.52; Brandon Cooper, 13<sup>th</sup>, 24.92



800 run: Tanner Belcher, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:10.34; Michael Minster, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2:10.87

1,600 run: Wyatt Reece, 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:56; Tim Smith, 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:02; Devyn Small, 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:15

3,200 run: Smith, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:50; Reece, 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:14; Small, 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:40

300 hurdles: Ben Hupp, 11<sup>th</sup>, 46.96

Triple jump: Kris Light, 9<sup>th</sup>, 36-6.5

Shot put: T.J. Dover, 8<sup>th</sup>, 45-8; Bradley Trageser, 14<sup>th</sup>, 40-2

Discus: Mason Koechner, 12<sup>th</sup>, 110-7

Javelin: Dustyn Rizzo, 11<sup>th</sup>, 120-5; Jacob Jensen, 15<sup>th</sup>, 112-11

### **JV Boys**

100 dash: Jackson Ewalt, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12.29; Will Ridley, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12.76; Austin Moore, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12.76

200 dash: Moore, 6<sup>th</sup>, 25.26; Ridley, 8<sup>th</sup>, 25.54; Ewalt, 9<sup>th</sup>, 25.54

400 dash: Blue Caplinger, 1<sup>st</sup>, 54.83; Scott Murphy, 4<sup>th</sup>, 56.51; Owen Staver, 8<sup>th</sup>, 58.63

800 run: Eddie Murphy, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2:19

1,600 run: Jacob Benne, 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30; Dylan Knipp, 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:05

3,200 run: Eddie Murphy, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12:10; Benne, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:30; Knipp,

12<sup>th</sup>, 13:36

4×100 relay: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 47.56

4×400 relay: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3:49

High jump: Marshall Rooney, 6<sup>th</sup>, 5-4; Dalton Knipp, 7<sup>th</sup>, 5-2

Pole vault: Caplinger, 1<sup>st</sup>, 10-1

Long jump: Rooney, 4<sup>th</sup>, 17-4.25; Kyle Allen, 6<sup>th</sup>, 16-10.5; Jacob Arnett, 9<sup>th</sup>, 15-3

Triple jump: Dalton Knipp, 1<sup>st</sup>, 37-4; Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 36-5.25; Rooney, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 36-0

Shot put: Matt Holloway, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 36-1.5; Nathan Allen, 5<sup>th</sup>, 34-1.5; Kiefer Tucker, 7<sup>th</sup>, 33-5

Discus: Dalton Ribordy, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 109-6; Tucker, 5<sup>th</sup>, 106-1; Holloway, 9<sup>th</sup>, 88-0

Javelin: Holloway, 4<sup>th</sup>, 112-7; Ribordy, 5<sup>th</sup>, 110-5.5; N. Allen, 8<sup>th</sup>, 104-1

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## **Wildcat track teams improve at Redbud Relays**



**Louisburg junior Chloe Renner lands in the sand pit during an attempt in the long jump Friday at the Redbud Relays in Wellsville. In the 14-team team meet, both Wildcat track teams finished seventh overall.**

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WELLSVILLE – It may not have shown in the team standings, but the Louisburg High School track and field teams made strides in different areas during the Redbud Relays on Friday in Wellsville.

Both the boys and girls teams finished seventh in the 14-team meet with 34 and 25 points, respectively, but the Wildcats had several athletes who earned medals.

The Louisburg boys saw a pair of freshmen sprinters run toward the top of the pack with a couple strong showings. Freshman Brandon Cooper was the top finisher on the track as he was second in the 100-meter dash in 11.44 seconds.

Fellow freshman Chris Williams turned in his best time of the season in the 400-meter dash. Williams came in third in 51.14 and was just edged out for second by Baldwin's Dakota Helm by .02 seconds.

Freshman hurdler Jonathan Ventre also hung in with some good competition. Ventre ran a 42.74 in the 300-meter hurdles to finish fourth and a 17.11 in the 110-meter high hurdles to come in seventh.

"I thought we competed a lot better this week as it was a tough meet," Louisburg boys coach Gary Griffin said. "Chris

ran a great race and I think he still has better races ahead of him this year. Brandon ran a good 100 meters and competed really well. I am looking for him to put together a better 200 this week.

“Jonathan is running well right now. I think he is gaining confidence and that will only help him in the next couple of weeks.”

The 4×400-meter relay of Quinn Rigney, Chris Williams, Blue Caplinger and Michael Minster ran a time of 3 minutes and 38 seconds to finish fourth and lead the three relay teams.

Cooper, Williams, Ben Minster and Rigney ran a 45.37 to come in sixth in the 4×100 relay, while Wyatt Reece, Michael Minster, Ben Hupp and Tanner Belcher ran a time of 9:06 to come in eighth in the 4×800 relay.

Ben Minster (24.47) and Michael Minster (2:10) came in seventh in the 200-meter dash and 800-meter run, respectively.

In the field events, senior Jarod Woodward continues to thrive in the shot put as he threw over 50 feet once again. Woodward’s best toss of 51 feet, 1 inch was good for third overall.



**Freshman Chris Williams (left) races down the track in the final stretch of the**

## **400-meter dash Friday at the Redbud Relays in Wellsville.**

Junior T.J. Dover also had one of his better days of the season in discus as he took fifth with a toss of 141-7 and teammate Garrett Lowry was eighth at 125-9.

“Woody got off a nice shot put and T.J. is starting to put it together in the discus, which is really good to see,” Griffin said.

Cooper, who ran well on the track, also recorded a season best mark in the triple jump. Cooper had a leap of 39-2 to take fifth overall.

Sophomore Kristopher Light was sixth in the high jump after he cleared 5-6. Freshmen Ian Combs (10-6) and Caplinger (10-0) were seventh and eighth, respectively, in the pole vault.

On the girls’ side, sophomore Isabelle Holtzen had the Lady Cats’ highest finish of the day as she continues to score well in the pole vault. Holtzen cleared 9-6 to come in second overall.

“I thought the girls did a great job competing with the other girls,” Louisburg girls coach Greg Darrington said. “It was our first meet with prelims and finals so this will help us in the next couple of weeks.

“Isabelle is still competing well and should be making improvement as she keeps working on her new pole.”

Junior Chloe Renner came in fourth in the high jump after she cleared 4-8 and freshman teammate Eileen Benne was fifth at 4-8 as well. Renner also came in seventh in the long jump (14-6.75) and triple jump (31-2).

Sophomore Kaitlyn Urban (30-9.75) and senior Morgan Strumillo (31-10) finished eighth in the triple jump and shot put,



respectively.

The Lady Cats' 4×400-meter relay of Mikayla Quinn, Megan Lemke, Kaitlyn Gaza and Reilly Alexander had their best day of the season as they shaved nearly eight seconds off their previous best time to take fourth in 4:24.

Gaza, Lemke, Hanna Becker and Jordon Leach helped the 4×100 team to a time of 54.45 to take fifth, while Shaylor Whitham, Lauren Becker, Liz Hildreth and Holtzen ran a 9:06 to take eighth.

"I thought all our relay teams did well," Darrington said. "The 4×100 will do better with more practice on their hand offs. The 4×400 and 4×800 relays are getting better each week. All the girls are finally getting out of their comfort zones and should get better."

Junior Klara Riester had a good day as she took fifth in the 100-meter hurdles in 17.76 seconds and seventh in the 300 hurdles in 51.95 seconds.

Hildreth also earned points for the Lady Cats in the 800-meter run in 2:38 and Quinn was sixth in the 400-meter run in 1:05. Leach made the finals in the 100-meter dash and finished eighth in 13.69.

Louisburg returns to the track Thursday when it travels to De Soto for the Frontier League meet. Field events are set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

"I'm excited to see how we will compete at league this week," Darrington said. "That will tell me who is ready for our regional meet."

Other Wildcat results are:

## **GIRLS**

100 dash: Hanna Becker, 17<sup>th</sup>, 14.15

200 dash: Kaitlyn Gaza, 12<sup>th</sup>, 29.11; Jordon Leach, 13<sup>th</sup>, 29.23

400 dash: Gaza, 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:06; Reilly Alexander, 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:07

800 run: Lauren Becker, 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:54

1,600 run: Shaylor Whitham, 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:25; Madelynn Yalowitz, 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:33

3,200 run: Whitham, 10<sup>th</sup>, 14:17; Yalowitz, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14:42

Long jump: Megan Lemke, 13<sup>th</sup>, 13-11; Kaitlyn Urban, 21<sup>st</sup>, 12-10.25

Discus: Lexie Reece, 11<sup>th</sup>, 90-10; Ellie Katzer, 13<sup>th</sup>, 90-5

Javelin: Paige Buffington, 12<sup>th</sup>, 84-6; Zoie Gilliland, 14<sup>th</sup>, 80-10

## **BOYS**

100 dash: Ben Minster, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11.80

200 dash: Brandon Cooper, ninth, 23.94

400 dash: Blue Caplinger, 16<sup>th</sup>, 56.48; Scott Murphy, 18<sup>th</sup>, 56.88

800 run: Tanner Belcher, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2:12

1,600 run: Wyatt Reece, 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:04; Tim Smith, 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:06; Eddie Murphy, 32<sup>nd</sup>, 5:24

3,200 run: Devyn Small, 18<sup>th</sup>, 11:49; Reece, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12:15

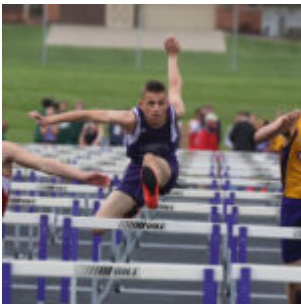
Shot put: T.J. Dover, 10<sup>th</sup>, 45-7; Bradley Trageser, 26<sup>th</sup>, 36-10

Discus: Mason Koechner, 13<sup>th</sup>, 121-0

Javelin: Dustyn Rizzo, 13<sup>th</sup>, 128-3; Jacob Jensen, 16<sup>th</sup>, 126-9

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## Wildcats earn solid marks at Gardner meet



Louisburg freshman Jonathan Ventre clears a hurdle during a meet earlier this season. Ventre placed in both the 110-meter and 300-meter hurdles Monday at the Trailblazer Invitational in Gardner.

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GARDNER – Rain and thunderstorms forced the Louisburg track and field team to make two different trips to Gardner to compete in the Trailblazer Invitational.

Field events took place for an hour Friday before the meet was postponed to Monday. Several athletes couldn't return due to previous engagements, but the Wildcats still scored in several events.

Louisburg got a season-best performance from junior T.J. Dover in both the shot put and the discus. Dover finished third in

the discus with a toss of 143 feet, 11 inches and later took fourth in the shot put with a toss of 44-11.

"I really thought our best performances on the day were from T.J. and Tim Smith in the distance races," Louisburg coach Gary Griffin said.

Smith didn't score points in those races, but he improved his times in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs. Smith was 11<sup>th</sup> in the 3,200-meter run in 10 minutes and 57 seconds and was 14<sup>th</sup> in the 1,600 run in 5:03.

Freshman Jonathan Ventre scored points in both hurdle events on the day. Ventre finished fifth in the 110-meter hurdles in 17.67 seconds and sixth in the 300 hurdles in 44.46 seconds.

Fellow freshman Brandon Cooper had a strong showing in the triple jump as he took seventh with a mark of 39-1.5. Cooper was also sixth in the 100-meter dash in 11.83 seconds.

Chris Williams earned points for the Wildcats in the 400-meter dash. Williams finished fourth in 52.65 seconds. The Wildcats 4×100 and 4×400 relay teams each took fifth.

Overall, the Wildcats were seventh in the team standings with 36 points.

Many varsity members of the girls track team competed in Thursday's Prairie View Invitational, but sophomore Isabelle Holtzen made the trip to Gardner and tied her season best in the pole vault. Holtzen was fourth overall after clearing 9-6.

Louisburg returns to the track Friday when it travels to Wellsville for the Redbud Relays. Field events are set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Other results from the meet are:

## **Boys**

100 dash: Ben Minster, 11<sup>th</sup>, 11.96; Quinn Rigney, 13<sup>th</sup>, 12.10

200 dash: Brandon Cooper, 11<sup>th</sup>, 24.38; Minster, 12<sup>th</sup>, 24.43;  
Rigney, 14<sup>th</sup>, 24.75

High jump: Kristopher Light, 11<sup>th</sup>, 5-4

Triple jump: Light, 14<sup>th</sup>, 33-7.5

Shot put: Garrett Lowry, 16<sup>th</sup>, 39-1.5

Discus: Lowry, 11<sup>th</sup>, 117-9

Javelin: Dustyn Rizzo, 15<sup>th</sup>, 122-1; Lyndon Smith, 16<sup>th</sup>, 117-2

## **Girls**

200 dash: Julianne Finley, 15<sup>th</sup>, 30.47

400 dash: Finley, 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:08

800 run: Isabelle Holtzen, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:47

Long jump: Shae Murphy, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27-1

Javelin: Melia Rice, 16<sup>th</sup>, 47-9