Top 10 Louisburg Sports Stories of 2022

It was a successful, and eventful, 2022 for Louisburg High School athletics and for those who are connected to the Wildcat program.

This past year created a lot of school history for LHS and a few programs brought back state hardware.

Below are the top stories from 2022, along with a brief explanation of each. Included in the writeup is the link to the actual story from the event.

When putting the list together, I took a lot of things into account – whether it was team vs. individual, popularity of the sport, historical achievements and the interest it drew on the web site.

This year was a blast to cover and I am looking forward to seeing what 2023 will bring. Thank you to everyone for their support and can’t wait for it all to begin again.



10. Louisburg golf qualifies for state

FORT SCOTT – As the scores were rolling in, the Louisburg golf team was a little worried.

The Wildcats were in jeopardy of not qualifying for state after a few of the golfers didn’t have the scores they were hoping for in the Class 4A regional tournament in Fort Scott.

Chanute and Independence had already assured themselves of a spot, but the third place team was up in the air as the top three teams automatically qualify for state.

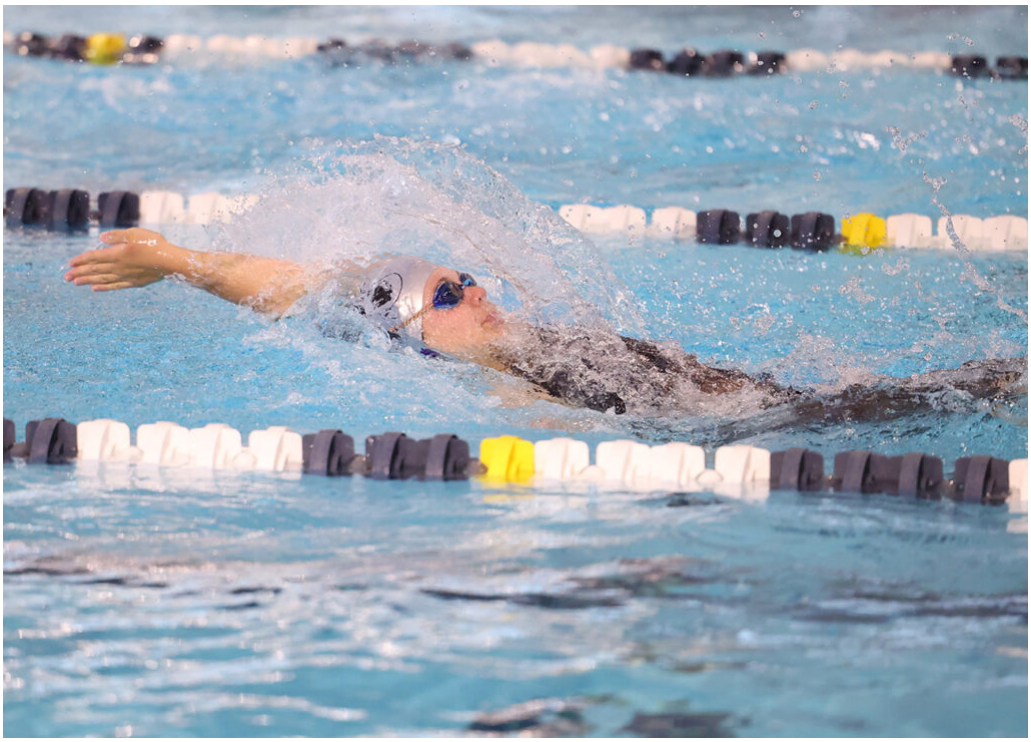
As it turned out, the Wildcats had nothing to worry about as they edged Paola by four strokes to finish in third with a 357 to secure their third consecutive spot in the 4A state tournament.

Seniors A.J. Arriola, Sam Wheeler, Ian Kirkpatrick, Johnny Thompson, along with juniors Jackson Olson and Nick Lancaster, advanced to the state tournament.

Arriola carded a 78 and finished as a regional runner-up, as he was just two strokes behind regional champion Drayton Cleaver of Chanute.

As for Olson, the Louisburg junior set a personal record by six strokes to shoot an 81 and took fourth overall. Those personal bests were enough to get the Wildcats into that third place spot.

At state, Arriola and Wheeler finished as the team's top two golfers. Arriola carded a 97 to take 59th overall, while Wheeler finished with a 98 and came in 66th.



9. Brueggen's earns school's first state swim medal

LENEXA – Even though she is just a freshman, Sabra Brueggen is already putting a stamp on her high school swim career at Louisburg High School.

It all came to a rousing end on May 21 as Brueggen earned her first state medal at the Class 5-1A Kansas State Swim and

Diving Championships at the Shawnee Mission School District Aquatic Center.

Brueggen became the first swimmer in school history to earn a state medal as she finished fifth in the 100-yard backstroke in 1:00.58.

On the day before in the preliminaries, Brueggen also took fifth in a season-best time of 1:00.15.

“Medaling as freshman means the world to me, and it proves to me that all of my hard work for all of these years, has paid off,” Brueggen said. “I feel like I performed my absolute best at state, and I was very happy with the results. It gives me confidence that I will have a bright future representing OzPaLou at the state swim meets.”

She nearly had a second medal in the 50 freestyle. Brueggen put together a season-best time of 25.26 seconds, but finished ninth overall. It was the same finish she had the in the preliminaries.

The top eight in each event earn a state medal as she was just .06 away from earning another spot on the medal stand.



8. Harding takes over as Wildcat football coach

The Louisburg football program had a different leader on the sidelines this past season.

The USD 416 Board of Education approved the hire of LHS assistant coach Drew Harding to be the team's new head coach in January after the district decided not to renew the contact of former coach Robert Ebenstein.

Harding spent the last five seasons as a Wildcat assistant coach, including time as a defensive coordinator. He is a 2010 Louisburg graduate and was a big part of the Wildcat program during his time as a student-athlete at Louisburg High School.

However, Harding didn't see himself be a head coach of any sport coming out of college.

"It means a lot," Harding said. "When I got out of school, I didn't get into education right away and started somewhere else. I decided to get into education because of the impact my former coaches at Louisburg had on me. To come full circle and to be in the position that I am in now, is pretty surreal. I am really excited for the opportunity and hopefully I can have the same type of impact on student athletes as they come through the program."

Ebenstein has the been the head coach the last five seasons and helped the Wildcats to a 30-18 record during that time, including a Frontier League and regional title in 2018. He had a winning record three of those five seasons.

He was also named the KFCA Coach of the Year during that season and was selected to be an assistant coach for the Kansas Shrine Bowl. He was an assistant coach for the Wildcat program for five years before earning the head coaching job.



7. Conley resigns a Louisburg head boys and girls soccer coach

Louisburg High School head boys and girls soccer coach Kyle Conley stepped down from his position after seven years.

He was recently hired to lead the boys and girls soccer programs at Blue Valley West, where he will serve as the head coach of both teams.

Conley, who also taught social studies at LHS, informed the players and parents of his decision on May 4. The Blue Valley Board of Education approved his hire on May 9.

“Making the decision to leave Louisburg was extremely difficult,” Conley said. “The players and parents, both past and present, made this decision tough. No parents or players caused this decision. I am very thankful to Mr. (Dave) Tappan and Mr. (Darin) Gagnebin for giving me this opportunity to coach and teach at Louisburg. The amount of support that my

teams, my family and I received from Louisburg soccer parents and the community was incredible.”

Bobby Bovaird was hired as the new boys head coach, while Ben York returned to the program as the new assistant. York was also named the girls head coach after serving 13 years as the boys head coach previous to Conley.

Conley has the been head girls coach at Louisburg since its inception in 2016 and has led that program to four consecutive state final fours.

Twice, the Wildcats made the state championship game and finished runner-up on both occasions. He has guided the program to an 82-34-3 record.

Conley took over the boys program in 2016 and finished with a 77-32-3 record. He led the Wildcats to two state final fours during that span, including a third place finish in 2020.

“I am so proud of the things that our student athletes in the soccer programs have accomplished both on and off the soccer field,” Conley said. “I will always cherish the memories that we have made here with the Louisburg soccer programs.”



6. Girls cross country qualifies for state, Vohs earns state medal

WAMEGO – For the second consecutive season, Emma Vohs left the Class 4A state cross country meet with more than was she arrived with.

Vohs earned her second state medal at Wamego Country Club as she finished 10th overall with a time of 20 minutes and 51 seconds. The Louisburg junior did what she set out to accomplish.

“I was so excited to win another state medal this season and couldn’t be happier that I reached my goal for that race, which was placing top 10,” Vohs said. “The race was a tougher course, as was the competition this year, but I am blessed to run with such talented girls that push me to do better each race.”

Vohs led the Lady Cat team that qualified for state for the sixth consecutive season. As a team, Louisburg finished eighth overall with 208 points.

A week earlier at regionals, the team of Vohs, Maddy Rhamy, Lola Edwards, Nova Ptacek, Bree Gassman, Erin Apple and Madison Huggins finished third to punch their ticket to state

“It never gets old seeing the joy in the team’s eyes when they hear they qualified for state,” Louisburg coach John Reece said. “The girls work hard to accomplish this goal each year, and because of their dedication to their sport, they achieve great things even if they might not make it, but they did.

“The program has built itself and I’m just glad to be a part of it. Yes, we put together a training plan to accomplish great things at the end of the season, but the runners do the work to get there. It takes self discipline, motivation and

guts to be there at the end of the season.”



5. Wildcat wrestling medals 3 at state

Louisburg wrestling has had its fair share of state medalists in its long history, but what the Wildcats accomplished in February at the Tony’s Pizza Events Center in Salina was something the program had never seen before.

The Wildcats left the Class 4A state tournament with three state medalists, the most for one year in program history.

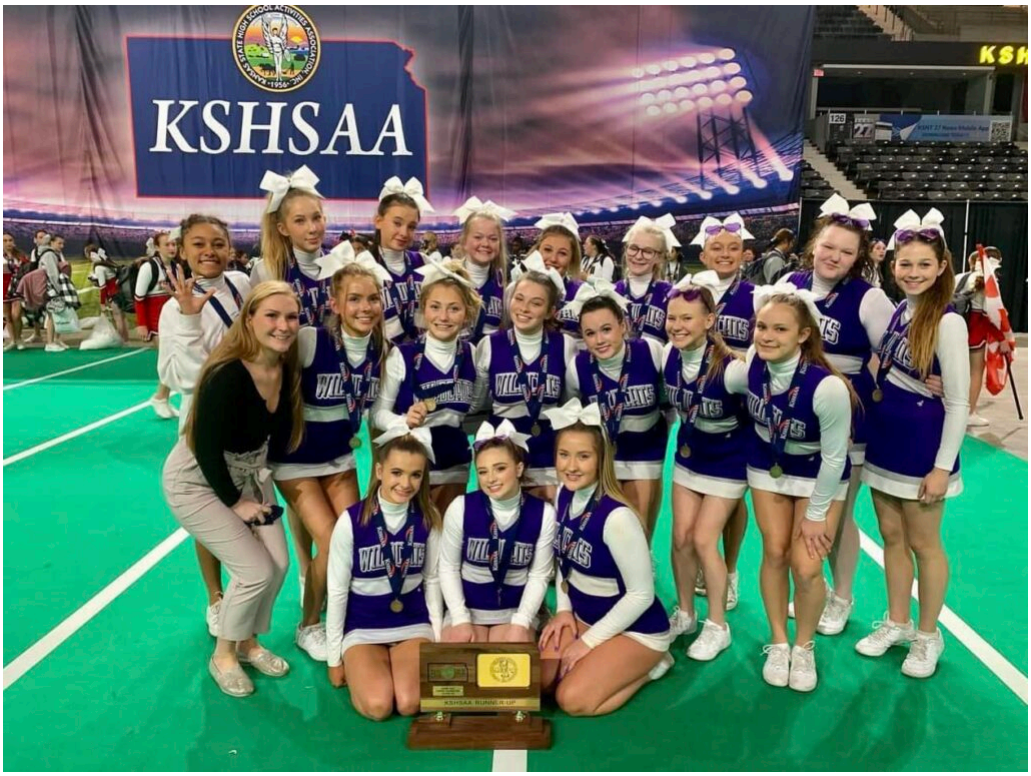
Aiden Barker (195 pounds), Kaven Bartlett (126) and Elijah Eslinger (285) each finished in the top six in their respective weight classes and put together their best performances of the season. It was also the first time each of them earned a state medal.

“This season was the most state placers we’ve had in a single year in program history,” Louisburg coach Bobby Bovaird said. “Prior to 1992, KSHSAA only medaled the top 4 in each weight. In both 1988 and 1989, we had two top-4 placers and one top-6 placer, but this really shows how the program is progressing

and developing. We nearly had four medalists, too.”

Barker, a senior, was a favorite for a medal heading into Salina and finished fifth overall with a 13-1 major decision over Ottawa’s Jared Ferguson in the fifth-place match.

Bartlett and Eslinger also left lasting impressions on the Wildcat program as each medaled sixth overall after both nearly turned their brackets upside down as they advanced to the semifinals on Friday. They both guaranteed themselves a medal on the first day.



4. Louisburg cheer earns state runner-up performance

TOPEKA – It has almost become commonplace to see the Louisburg High School cheer squad in the finals of the Class 4A Gameday Spirit Showcase.

However, that doesn’t mean the cheerleaders are any less excited about it.

For the second straight season, the Wildcats finished as the state runner-up in the Class 4A competition at the Stormont-Vail Events Center. They finished with a score of 79.45 and were one point behind champion Paola.

It is the fourth straight season that the Wildcats have finished in the top three, which included a state championship in 2019.

“I am so unbelievably and incredibly proud of this team,” Louisburg coach Marissa Morrow said. “This positivity and attitude that these girls have shown this year have been the key to our success. I had no doubt that the material and performances we brought on Saturday had the potential to do well, but it was the girls who made it possible to pull it together. They were all such competitors and left it all out on the mat, and I couldn’t ask for more. We also could not have done it without the support of our amazing cheer families.”

Members of the team are Sydney Dudzik, Bella Feikert, Zoe Cutshaw, Caroline Dugger, Elizabeth George, Addison Drake, Brooklyn Harmon, Adison Vargo, Maddy Carpenter-Ross, Sienna Finch, Alayna Stohs, Alaina Dudzik, Maddie O’Keefe, Liz Willming, Kayleigh Ramsey, Taryn Osborn, Anna Brizendine and Jocelyn Burk.



3. LHS football secures Frontier League title

With just over a minute left in regulation, Louisburg was staring at the possibility of their first league loss and was watching an outright Frontier League title slip away.

Spring Hill scored a touchdown and took a four-point lead with 1 minute and 12 seconds left. Things were looking bleak for the Wildcats.

As it turned out, 52 seconds was all the Wildcats needed to pull off one of the season's most memorable moments. Louisburg quarterback Declan Battle found junior Caden Caplinger in the endzone on an 18-yard touchdown pass with 20 seconds remaining to give the Wildcats a 20-17 victory.

The win was the Wildcats' seventh straight on the season and clinched the team's first Frontier League championship since 2018.

“There weren’t a lot of people who thought we could be league champions,” Louisburg coach Drew Harding said. “I don’t think it was anything that people expected out of us, and the Frontier League is really good. For this group to come to work, get better every day and to see success is pretty sweet.”

The win was extra special for 16 Louisburg seniors as they were also able to celebrate that league title on Senior Night.

Jackson Kush, Nathan Apple, Carson Wade, Isaiah Whitley, Riley Van Eaton, J.R. Rooney, Will Hutsell, Brayton Brueggen, Christian Golladay, Nathan Vincent, Jase Hovey, Mack Newell, Hunter Moore, Mason Dobbins, Corbin Hamman and Layne Ryals all got to end their final regular season home game with a win.

“The Frontier League title means so much to me and this team,” Rooney said. “As a team before the season, the seniors wrote down our goals, and league champs was on everyone’s list. To clinch it on senior night was amazing. Going undefeated at home, to win it on our field in front of our town – it was an indescribable feeling.”



2. Wildcat volleyball finishes fourth at state

HUTCHINSON – The state tournament ended the way it started for the Louisburg volleyball team – with a loss to Towanda-Circle.

Still, it was everything that happened in between that made for a lot of lasting memories for the Wildcat players.

Louisburg went 2-1 in pool play at the Hutchinson Sports Arena, which included a revenge win over Tonganoxie in the final match of the day. That gave the Lady Cats a spot in the state semifinals Saturday, where they finished fourth in Class 4A.

The Wildcats suffered a 2-0 loss to both Bishop Miege and Circle, but they still ended their season as one of the state's top teams.

"I am extremely proud of this team," Louisburg coach Leanna Willer said. "Looking at how we started this season, and our ups and downs along the way, it is a huge accomplishment for them to have come together as a team at the end of the season and play our best volleyball yet. It was apparent in the last couple of weeks that they really started playing for each other and capitalizing on the strong team bonds they built throughout the year."

It was all thanks to an upset the previous week. Louisburg defeated the state's No. 1 seed, Baldwin, in the sub-state championship match to earn the state berth.

The Wildcats, the No. 9 seed, knocked off No. 1 seed Baldwin, 25-18 and 25-19, at Baldwin High School in the finals of the Class 4A sub-state tournament. That win puts Louisburg in the state tournament for the first time since 2019.

Members of the team are Emma Prettyman, Adyson Ross, Claire

Brown, Allie Kennedy, Ashlyn Berck, Delaney Nelson, Izzy Moreland, Bronwynn Williams, Caileigh Kilgore, Megan Quinn, Hailey Sword and Madelyn Williams.



1. Wildcat boys take third at state track; Koontz, Caplinger win state titles; Lady Cats medal nine

WICHITA – For the second consecutive season, the Louisburg boys track and field team brought home hardware from the Class 4A state meet.

After winning the state championship in 2021, the Wildcats once again found their way to the podium in Wichita as they finished third overall with 67 points.

Andale won the state championship with 101 points and Chanute was the state runner-up with 71.

Louisburg got points from a lot of different areas as the Wildcats medaled in 10 events and had 12 medalists overall, including all three of their relays.

Louisburg senior Tom Koontz won a pair of state titles in the hurdles, while sophomore Caden Caplinger captured the gold medal in the pole vault.



“I am not going to complain at all,” Koontz said. “I believe we came here with less people than we did last year and everyone did their best. Even though we didn’t get exactly what we wanted, third place is still a great achievement.”

What he couldn’t believe was he had just won his first state title in the 300 hurdles and Koontz did so by breaking a 14-year-old school record. Koontz ran a time of 38.98 seconds to break R.J. Saunders’ record of 39.16 set in 2008 to earn the gold.

It turned out to be his second state title of the day as he also earned the gold medal in the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 14.61 seconds. Koontz won the state in that event last season as well.

Caplinger cleared a lot of his marks in the pole vault and did so in convincing fashion as he was able to win a state title in just his second year with the program.



Last season at state, Caplinger medaled eighth after he cleared 12-6. A year later, the Louisburg sophomore improved his mark by two feet and is a state champion.

It was an impressive showing from Caplinger as he didn’t miss an attempt until he tried for 15 feet at the end. He entered the competition at 12-6 and had five straight successful clearances.

“At first I was really nervous, but then it just kind of turned into a routine thing,” Caplinger said. “I started going over heights consistently and the rest just kind of fell into place. I cleared 14-6 earlier this week twice in a row, so I knew I could do it. I was still a little nervous though.”

As for the Lady Cats, Delaney Wright left the state meet with three medals. Wright, who has been coming back from a severe injury for most of the season, finished as the state runner-up

in the 400-meter dash, third place in the 200 dash and fifth in the long jump.

A season ago, Wright was the state champion in all three events, but couldn’t get the repeat she was hoping for.

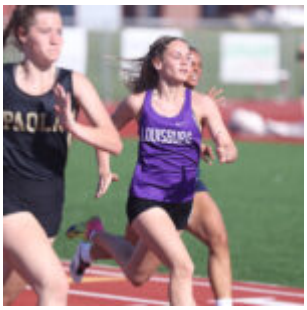


“Going into state I knew I still wasn’t where I want to be due to my injury a couple months ago,” Wright said. “But I wanted to attack it still and give it all I had. I am blessed I was there to compete and earn three medals cause in the beginning I didn’t even know if I was going to compete my senior year.”

In all, the Lady Cats put together a strong state performance as they medaled in nine events and finished with 40 team points and took sixth overall. They were just eight points away from the third place spot, and a plaque.

“Once again the state qualifiers did an amazing job,” Louisburg girls coach John Reece said. “They all performed well and most beyond expectations. To leave the meet finishing in sixth place was outstanding. We left with lots of medals and great memories.”

Lohse excited to join Washburn University track program



Louisburg senior Emma Lohse signed her letter of intent to join the Washburn University track and field team during a ceremony at LHS on Nov. 9.

At this time a year ago, Emma Lohse hadn't stepped foot on the track for a competition since the seventh grade.

The idea of participating in the sport really hadn't appealed to her. Fast forward to the present, and Lohse is signing on the dotted line to compete at the college level.

During a signing ceremony on Nov. 9, Lohse signed her letter of intent to join the Washburn University track and field team next season as a sprinter for the Ichabods.

"Signing with Washburn means everything to me," Lohse said. "Ever since I started track last season, I knew I wanted go to Washburn to further my academic and athletic career.

"If you would have told me a year ago that I would be signing to run track in college, I wouldn't have believed it, only because it was my first year. I didn't know what to expect."

That one season was a big one for Lohse. A year ago, she qualified for state in both the 100 and 200-meter dashes and medaled fourth in the 100.



Louisburg senior Emma Lohse signed her letter of intent to join the Washburn track program on Nov. 9. Seated next to Emma are her parents Sarah and John Lohse. Standing (from left) are basketball coaches Joel McGhee, Nick Chapman, Adrianne Lane and track coaches John Reece, Andy Wright and Leanna Willer.

Earlier last year, Lohse also broke the school record in the 100 dash and became a big point-getter for the Wildcat girls track team.

All of that almost didn’t happen, if it wouldn’t have been for a certain coach who nudged her into the sport.

“I tried track last year mainly because (coach Andy) Wright kept trying to convince me to do it and I was like why not,” Lohse said. “I knew I was fast and could definitely succeed at it. So I gave it a shot and it was the best decision I’ve made. I tried track in seventh grade and did not like it and quit until my junior year. I’m so glad I went through with this decision because it definitely paid off.”

Her one season of success brought out opportunities for Lohse

in the college ranks and Washburn was right up there at the top. After a taking her visit, there wasn't much of a doubt where she wanted to go.

"When I had my official visit at Washburn I immediately fell in love with the school and especially the indoor facility," Lohse said. "Meeting the coaches and some of the girls made it feel like home."

Lohse, who will also be running the 100 and 200 at Washburn is looking forward to what her final high school season has in store as she hopes to have an even better season this time around.

"I am really excited to see what the this track season brings," she said. "I am hoping to break my 100 record and make it to state again, but this time medaling in all my events."

Delaney Wright named 2022 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year



Delaney Wright had a junior year to remember.

She won three state titles in track and was also a key member

of the girls basketball team that had the school’s best finish in 2021.

Life couldn’t have been better.

In 2022, Wright was poised for bigger and better things and it got off on the right foot with a commitment to run track and Kansas State University.

It was still a memorable time for the Louisburg senior, but her final campaign as a Wildcat was one that was filled with obstacles. It all started with one outside of the athletic arena.

Wright came home to find her house filled with smoke. Fire had erupted on one side of the house, causing major damage.

Luckily, no one was home at the time, but it was a major upheaval for Delaney and her family.

“Coming home to a house fire in the first semester of senior year, I wasn’t sure what was going to happen next,” Wright said. “I’m so thankful for our community and being so generous for helping us in many ways after it happened.”

If that wasn’t difficult enough, Delaney encountered one of the more bigger obstacles of her life.

During a shoot-around in January, Wright sustained a severe high-ankle sprain that forced her to miss half of her senior year of basketball.

Then came her track season, and despite a slower recovery than she would have hoped, Wright finished with three regional titles and three state medals, including a state runner-up finish in the 400-meter dash.

Her resiliency was one of the many reasons she was chosen as the 2022 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year.

“I am honored and grateful to win this award,” she said. “Looking back on my last four years, senior year definitely was a character build for me.”



The head coaches from Louisburg High School voted Tom Koontz and Delaney Wright as the Louisburg Sports Zone Athletes of the Year.

It was a long road to recovery for Wright as she had ligament damage in her ankle that took a couple months to bounce back from.

Wright, who was known as the basketball team’s best defender, was forced to support her team from the bench and she became the team’s top cheerleader instead.

“Getting injured and sitting the bench my senior year was tough, I’m not going to lie,” Wright said. “But as I sat there and watched my teammates, I realized I can still be a team player and encourage them from the bench. I was grateful for the last three years of basketball and knew I never wasted a moment of it. I wouldn’t have kept a positive mindset without having God in my life.”

Then came track, where Wright was hoping to repeat as a state champion in all three of her events. Instead, hiccups came in

her recovery and her timetable kept getting pushed back and she was running out of time.

Despite that, Wright still finished with the three regional titles and qualified for four events at state. She ended up with three state medals and finished with 10 for her career.

In turn, Wright became one of the more decorated female track athletes in Louisburg High School history.

“In the beginning of the track season I didn’t know if I was going to end up competing,” she said. “From swimming exercises to physical therapy and acupuncture, I was going to come back and at least compete.

“Being behind by a couple weeks and not having much strength though, didn’t stop me. By the time it was regionals I felt I was just starting. I was grateful I was able to compete one last time at state my senior year after everything that had happened.”

There are plenty of memories for Wright to look back on during her time at Louisburg and she definitely left her mark on a couple different programs. Now she is looking to create new ones as a member of the K-State track and field program.

“Being a 3-time state champion and going to state in basketball for the first time in 47 years sticks out the most to me, as well as all the other memories that came with,” Wright said. “I’m sad that I’m leaving it behind, but I’m looking forward to the future and excited to start my next chapter in track.”

Previous winners:

2018: Isabelle Holtzen

2019: Carson Buffington

2020: Reilly Ratliff-Becher

2021: Alyse Moore

Tom Koontz named 2022 Louisburg Sports Zone Male Athlete of the Year



It was the middle of December, with the temperature near freezing, and Tom Koontz was at the track.

Yes, the outdoor track at Wildcat Stadium. As you might expect, there weren't many people around on that frigid day.

Almost six months earlier, Koontz won a state title in the 110-meter high hurdles as a junior, but it was the 300 hurdle race that haunted him. He just couldn't get over finishing as a state runner-up.

"All I could think about was winning state and winning the 300s this time around," Koontz said. "It drove me so much, so winning that race, when it came down to the inches, was basically the definition of achieving a dream."

The hard work, and practicing his craft, all paid off as he got his revenge and won state in the 300 hurdles along with defending with 110 hurdle title in Wichita back in May.

It was Koontz's drive that helped him become one of the

pillars of a team that finished as the state champion in 2021 and also one that took third at state this past May.

It was also one of the reasons why Koontz was chosen as the Louisburg Sports Zone Male Athlete of the Year.

“To win this is a huge honor because it adds me to a list of former Louisburg athletes like Blue Caplinger and Weston Guetterman, both people I looked up to for a long time,” Koontz said. “Now it feels like I can be one of those people to be looked up at, and it’s an amazing feeling.”

There weren’t a lot of people necessarily looking up at Koontz on the track – a lot of them were trying to catch him from behind.

Koontz dominated both hurdle races all season long and only lost on a few different occasions. It is a sport, and event, that is a passion of his and it started as freshman.

He came out of nowhere and qualified for state in the 300 hurdles and that lit the spark for what he was to become.

“Track started simply as another sport, but as I started to get better and impress myself with what I was capable of, I felt the need to devote more and more time to it,” Koontz said. “I changed so much for it, like my diet and sleep habits, where I went and who I hung out with, what I did after practice, etc… It was the most important thing to me for a long time.”

Still, as much as he wanted to win a state title in the 300 hurdles, he wasn’t exactly loving it.



The Louisburg High School head coaches voted Tom Koontz and Delaney Wright as the Louisburg Sports Zone Athletes of the Year.

“Since I started running the race freshman year, I never really liked it,” Koontz said. “In fact, I despised it and only liked it for the feeling of finishing it. But coach (Leanna) Willer knew I had potential to be great at it.

“It was the only event I qualified in freshman year, and I was the only freshman on the list for it. So to come back my junior and just barely lose, stuck with me and it was my focus to win this year.”

Not only does Koontz have three state titles under his belt, he has eight career state medals, including four as a member of the 4×100 and 4×400 relay teams. He was a member of the 4×100 that broke the school record at the Frontier League meet last month.

As much love as he has for track, football is right up there for Koontz.

He found himself as one of the Wildcat starting cornerbacks this past season. Koontz finished the year with 46 tackles, four deflections and a forced fumble.

“Football was a sport for me to be a part of a team, that really made me feel like a part of something,” he said. “So finally getting to play the field the whole season was exhilarating, and I wish I could do it again. Having to say goodbye to it was difficult, just ask any of them who saw me after the St. James (playoff) game.

“Playing a sport that creates such powerful emotions like football and track and anything else helped me grow as a person and an athlete, and each one sharpened my ability in and out of the classroom. It’s hard work, but the work is rewarding.”

After four years of competing at the high school level, Koontz doesn’t really have a favorite moment. It is the overall experience that he will remember most.

“It’s hard for me to pick just one thing that sticks out about high school,” Koontz said. “I couldn’t just pick one day. What does stick with me is the idea that one day, I’m not sure when, I went from someone admiring those who could do amazing things, to being the person doing those things. Being able to win homecoming king or be a state champion. It’s unreal that it happened.

“So I would say if anything sticks out the most, it’s the surrealness of it all, and how I was able to make a name for myself, in high school at least. But I’m also glad I could make such good friends and have such great coaches and teachers to support me.”

Previous winners:

2018: Austin Moore

2019: Blue Caplinger

2020: Garrett Rolofson

2021: Weston Guetterman

2022 Louisburg Sports Zone Male Athlete of the Year Nominees



For the past six 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 to highlight the athletes.

For the fifth consecutive 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 subjective, 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 athletes and then I will tabulate the results and determine the winner. The winner will be announced in the coming days.

Below are the nominees for the Male Athlete of the Year award in alphabetical order by last name. Congrats to all those who were nominated and best of luck!



Aiden Barker, Senior, Football and Wrestling

Aiden Barker played big roles on both the Louisburg football and wrestling teams this past season. Barker was a starting lineman for the Wildcat football program and wrestled at 195 pounds for the wrestling team.

Barker was a key fixture on both sides of the ball for the Wildcat football team, but his biggest impact came on the defensive side. He was a first team All-Frontier League selection on the defensive line, where he finished with 58 tackles on the season to go along with 11 tackles for a loss and 5.5 sacks.

On the wrestling mat, Barker finished his season with a 31-8

record and earned a fifth place medal at the Class 4A state tournament in Salina. He was named the Wildcats' wrestler of the year and is a two-time first team KWCA Academic all-state winner. He finished with titles at the December Duals, Tonganoxie and Louisburg Invitationals. He finished his career with a program record of career reversals with 74. He will continue his athletic and academic career as a member of the MidAmerica Nazarene University football program this fall.



Brandon Doles, Senior, Football, Wrestling and Baseball

Brandon was a starter on three Wildcat programs during the 2021-22 school year. Doles was the starting linebacker on the football team, he was a varsity captain and 182-pound wrestler

on the wrestling team and played the outfield and pitched for the Louisburg baseball program.

In football, Doles was a key part of the Wildcat defense as he earned first team all-league honors from the linebacker spot. He finished the season with 90 tackles and averaged 11 stops per contest. He also forced two fumbles and had 11 tackles for a loss during the Wildcats' 4-5 season.

Injuries hampered most of Doles' wrestling season, but he was able to make a comeback late in the season and made his way to his third state tournament. At 182 pounds, Doles was win one short of a medal and finished the year with a 9-5 record. Doles ended his career as a two-time team captain and first team KWCA Academic All-State recipient.

On the baseball diamond, Doles was one of the Wildcats' top hitters during the 2022 season that saw them end with an 8-14 record and a spot in the regional championship game. Doles, who started in left field, finished with a .338 average and a .969 OPS. He also had 24 hits, seven doubles and two home runs to go along with 17 RBIs and 22 runs scored. Doles also earned second team All-Frontier League honors.



Kolby Kattau, Senior, Football and Baseball

Kolby was a senior starter for both the Louisburg football and baseball teams this past season. Kattau was the starting first baseman and pitcher for the baseball program that reached the regional championship. He was a two-way starter on the football team at running back and safety.

On the baseball diamond, Kattau thrived for the 2022 season as he was named as a first-team All-Frontier and all-state selection for his play at first base. Kattau had a team-high .471 average in 82 plate appearances. He had an OPS of 1.294 and had 33 hits on the season with seven doubles, five triples and a home run. He also scored 24 runs and had 13 RBIs from the leadoff spot. He started five games for the Wildcats and

earned three wins with 25 strikeouts. Kattau was also selected to participate in the KABC all-star game.

On the football field, Kattau was one of the team’s starting running backs and recorded two touchdowns with more than 200 yards of total offense. He also started at safety for much of the season as well, and finished with 27 tackles and three deflections.



Tom Koontz, Senior, Football and Track and Field

Tom was a starting defensive back for the Wildcat football team that finished with a 4-5 record, along with being a hurdler and sprinter on the Louisburg track team.

On the track, Koontz helped the Wildcats to a third place team finish at the Class 4A state meet as he earned a pair of state titles in the hurdles and two more medals on relays. Koontz won the 300-meter hurdles with a school record time of 38.98 seconds and also won the state title in the 110 hurdles for the second straight year in 14.61 seconds.

He also helped the 4×400 relay to a fourth place state finish and the 4×100 relay to a sixth place medal. Koontz was also a part of the 4×100 team that broke the school record earlier in the year. He ends his Wildcat career as a 3-time state champion in the hurdles and garnered eight state medals. He was also a member of the 2021 state championship team.

Koontz also made his presence known on the football field as he was a starting cornerback for the Wildcats. He finished the year with 46 tackles, four deflections and a forced fumble.



Maverick Rockers, Senior, Basketball and Baseball

Maverick played key roles for the Wildcat basketball and baseball teams this season. Rockers was the starting point guard in basketball and made an impact on the baseball team as the starting shortstop.

On the baseball diamond, Rockers helped the Wildcats to their second straight regional championship game and had a big year at the plate. Rockers finished with a .406 batting average with a 1.111 OPS. He recorded 28 hits, seven doubles and two home runs to go along with 22 runs scored and 16 RBIs. He also had just six errors from his shortstop position. Following the season, he was named as a second team All-Frontier League player.

Rockers also had a big year on the basketball court as the team’s starting point guard. He averaged 11 points a game to go along with three rebounds, two assists and 1.5 steals a game.



Michael Seuferling, Senior, Soccer and Basketball

Michael had big seasons for the Louisburg soccer and basketball teams in 2021-22. Seuferling was a starting defender for the Wildcat soccer team that made it to the regional championship game and was a starting guard for the Wildcat basketball program.

On the soccer field, Seuferling was one of the best outside backs in the Frontier League and was a first team all-league performer for Louisburg. He was also a first-team all-state player as he helped the Wildcats to a No. 1 seed in the Class 4-1A state playoffs.

Seuferling was also one of the top basketball players in the

Frontier League as earned honorable mention honors after leading the Wildcats in scoring. He averaged 13.3 points per contest to go along with 3.4 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game.



Braden Yows, Senior, Soccer

Braden had a big season for the Louisburg boys soccer team as he helped lead the Wildcats to the No. 1 seed in the Class 4-1A state playoffs and a spot in the regional championship game.

Yows was named as a first-team All-Frontier League and all-state player from his midfield spot and was named team captain. He ended his season with a 17 goals and 11 assists. He will continue his soccer career this fall at the University

of Missouri-Kansas City.

2022 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year Nominees



For the past six 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 to highlight the athletes.

For the fifth consecutive 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 subjective, 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 athletes and then I will tabulate the results and determine the winner. The winner will be announced in the coming days.

Below are the nominees for the Female Athlete of the Year

award in alphabetical order by last name. Congrats to all those who were nominated and best of luck!



Davis Guetterman, Senior, Volleyball and Track and Field

Davis made an impact on a pair of Louisburg athletic programs this past season. The Louisburg senior was a starting setter for the Lady Cats and she was also a thrower on the Wildcat track team.

On the volleyball court, Guetterman finished her year with a 138 kills, 436 assists, 184 digs and 58 aces as she helped the Lady Cats to the sub-state championship this season. In her four year career, she tallied 199 kills, 1,603 assists, 564 digs and 184 aces as she helped the Lady Cats to two state

tournament appearances. She also earned honorable mention all-league honors this season as a setter and earned the AVCA Best and Brightest First Team Award and was chosen as the recipient of the 2021 Lady Cat Volleyball award.

In the spring, Guetterman was one of the top throwers on the team in the javelin and earned a state bid in 2021. She will continue her career in both volleyball and track and field at the University of Sioux Falls in the upcoming year.



Reese Johnson, Senior, Cross Country and Soccer

Reese played at a high level for two different Louisburg teams this past season. The Louisburg senior was one of the top runners on the Louisburg cross country team and a starter for

the Wildcat soccer program.

In cross country, Johnson helped the Lady Cat team to the Class 4A state meet for the fifth consecutive time. The team finished fifth overall at state and Johnson earned her third state medal of her career as she finished 19th overall in 21:08 at Wamego Country Club. She was also an honorable mention all-league selection as she finished 16th at the league meet.

Johnson also played a vital role for the Wildcat soccer team that finished the season in the regional championship and a 13-5 record. She finished with nine goals and eight assists on the season and was a first-team all-league selection from her midfield spot.



Corinna McMullen, Senior, Volleyball and Track and Field

Corinna was a big part of two Wildcat programs this past season as she was a member of the volleyball and track and field programs. She was the starting setter for the volleyball team and threw the discus on the track squad.

In volleyball, not only was McMullen one of the team's starting setters, she was also the team's top hitter. McMullen led the Lady Cats to the regional championship and helped the program to two state tournament appearances. This season, she led Louisburg with 284 assists and 224 kills to go along with 194 digs and 35 aces. She was a first-team all-league selection as a hitter and an honorable mention selection as a setter. McMullen also earned all-state honors and was selected to play in the GKCVCA MO-KAN All-Star match. She was named as the team MVP for Louisburg and was given the AVCA Best and Brightest First Team Award.

On the track team, McMullen was the squad's top discus thrower and earned her second consecutive state medal this past May. McMullen placed third at the Class 4A meet with a throw of 117-4. She threw a personal best of 127-3 to win a Frontier League title. She will be continuing her athletic career at Washburn University as a member of the volleyball team.



Delaney Wright, Senior, Basketball and Track and Field

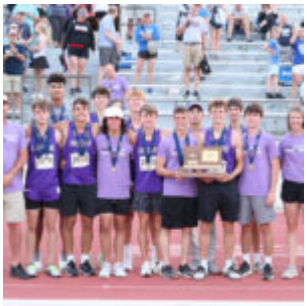
Delaney was a part of the girls basketball program and track and field team for Louisburg High School this past season. She was a starting guard on the basketball team and competed in four events on the track team.

As a member of the Wildcat track program, Wright competed in the long jump, 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash and the 4×400 relay. She qualified for state in all four events and won three regional titles. At the Class 4A state meet she brought home three medals. Wright finished as the state runner-up in the 400 dash, took in the 200 dash and medaled fifth in the long jump. She ended her Wildcat career with 10 state medals, three state championships and holds school records in three

events.

Wright was also a member of the Lady Cat basketball team and was a returning letter-winner off of last season's third place finish at state. She was a starting guard on the Lady Cat team and was considered the team's best defender, before an injury ended her season halfway through. That injury also cost Wright part of her track season, as well. She will continue her track career at Kansas State University next season.

Wildcats take third at state track, medal in 10 events



Members of the Louisburg boys track and field team are (front row, from left) coaches John Reece and Andy Wright, Ethan Ptacek, Caden Caplinger, Jerynce Brings Plenty, Hunter Heinrich, Jaden Vohs, Tom Koontz, Hayden Ross, assistant coaches Shelby Suther and Alex Gentges; (back row) Mason Dobbins, Colyer Wingfield, Nathan Vincent, Cooper Hipp, Nathan Apple and assistant coach Rich Lane.

WICHITA – For the second consecutive season, the Louisburg boys track and field team brought home hardware from the Class 4A state meet.

After winning the state championship in 2021, the Wildcats once again found their way to the podium in Wichita as they

finished third overall with 67 points.

Andale won the state championship with 101 points and Chanute was the state runner-up with 71.

Louisburg got points from a lot of different areas as the Wildcats medaled in 10 events and had 12 medalists overall, including all three of their relays.

Louisburg senior Tom Koontz won a pair of state titles in the hurdles, while sophomore Caden Caplinger captured the gold medal in the pole vault.

“I am not going to complain at all,” Koontz said. “I believe we came here with less people than we did last year and everyone did their best. Even though we didn’t get exactly what we wanted, third place is still a great achievement.”

The Wildcats had several impressive showings throughout the two-day meet at Wichita State University, but none came close to matching the 110-meter high hurdles.



Louisburg junior Mason Dobbins earned three state medals,

including a runner-up finish in the 110 hurdles.

Koontz finished first with at time of 14.61 seconds to win his second straight state title, but it was juniors Mason Dobbins and Nathan Apple that brought it full circle.

Dobbins finished as the state runner-up in a personal best time of 15 seconds and it was one of three medals he earned Saturday.

“I was really excited to finish runner up in the 110 hurdles,” Dobbins said. “I felt that it is my best race and I was happy to see the results of my hard work. It meant a lot to see Tom and Nathan accomplish what they wanted to accomplish. We all pushed each other to be better every day.”



Nathan Apple medaled fourth in the 110 hurdles Saturday at the state meet with a personal best time of 15.11 seconds.

Apple found the state podium for the first time as he picked the perfect opportunity to run his personal best. He finished fourth overall in 15.11 seconds.

“It was amazing to make it to state again and earn a medal this year,” Apple said. “Getting to that point honestly felt like redemption as I missed my shot at medaling last year

because I came out of my blocks wrong. The competition between the three of us only pushes us to do better.

“Tom and Mason have always been a little bit faster than me, and because of this I’ve always had the goal of catching them. In the end, it was incredible to see what we had accomplished as a group for our team and ourselves.”



The three Wildcat hurdlers get together for a group hug following the 110-meter hurdles.

Between the three hurdlers, the Wildcats accumulated 24 points and was big to getting that state plaque. It was an event that the three Louisburg hurdlers have been dominating all season long.

“It’s kinda insane that three of the eight hurdlers that made finals at state were all from the same place and only at most a year apart,” Apple said. “I wouldn’t have gotten this far without the other two and I’m grateful that I had the chance to run with Tom and that I have one more year with Mason.”

Junior Nathan Vincent had his best outing as a Wildcat in the

javelin, and this was after earning a medal at state a season ago.

In his first throw of the competition, Vincent recorded a personal best toss of 183 feet, 5 inches, and also had a throw of 182-2 in his final attempt in the finals.



Louisburg junior Nathan Vincent was third in the javelin at state with a throw of 183-5.

Andale's Riley Marx won the competition at 206-5, while his teammate Jonah Meyer was second at 186-4.

"It was an awesome feeling medaling for the second year in a row, especially rising up another place," Vincent said. "I'm always really amped up for that first throw especially at state, but for me the pressure was always there. I knew the Andale kids were going to bring it and put a few good marks out there so I was always trying to get a farther mark and push for another PR."



Hunter Heinrich helped pair of Louisburg relays to two state medals Saturday at the state meet in Wichita.

In their relays, the Wildcats saved their best finish for last as the 4×400-meter relay team of Koontz, Hunter Heinrich, Colyer Wingfield and Ethan Ptacek ended the meet with a fourth place finish in 3:30.

The Wildcats held on to third place in the team standings by staying with the Topeka-Hayden team that finished third in the relay. Hayden took fourth in the team standings with 64 points and the race was critical in allowing the Wildcats to get another state plaque.



Junior Ethan Ptacek finished with three state medals, including running the anchor on the 4×100 relay team Saturday in Wichita.

Koontz, Dobbins, Caden Caplinger and Ptacek helped the 4×100 relay to a fifth place finish in 44.05 seconds. Ptacek would also go on to take eighth in the 400 dash in 51.54 and finished the meet with three medals.

Dobbins picked up his third state medal in the 200-meter dash as he finished fifth in 23.78 seconds after setting a personal record of time of 22.80 in the prelims Friday.

The Louisburg junior just missed out on getting his fourth medal as he took ninth in the high jump with a 5-10 clearance.



Senior Hayden Ross takes off in the second leg of the 4×800 relay Saturday in Wichita.

In the 4×800-meter relay, the team of Heinrich, Hayden Ross, Jerynce Brings Plenty and Jaden Vohs ran a time of 8:32 to medal seventh overall.

Vohs, a senior, earned his second state medal in the 1,600-meter run as he was sixth in 4:36.

“Leaving with two state medals was an experience I will not forget,” Vohs said. “Those were the last high school medals I will ever get. But now it’s time to start a new chapter of running at the college level.



Louisburg senior Jaden Vohs takes the handoff from Jerynce Brings Plenty during the 4×800 relay.

“With the weather not being the best on Saturday, I didn’t run as fast as I wanted to. But this year, 4A got a lot more competitive, and with all these factors, I’m proud that I was able to place.”

Also in the distance races, Brings Plenty, a freshman, recorded a new personal best time of 10:11 and took 11th overall.

Wingfield just missed out on a medal in the long jump Saturday as he took ninth overall with a mark of 20-8.75. He went on to take 14th in the triple jump Friday with a leap of 39-10.

Senior Cooper Hipp finished 16th in the 200 dash in his first state appearance with a time of 23.88.

STATE CHAMPS! Koontz sweeps hurdles at state, Caplinger takes gold in pole vault



Tom Koontz was all smiles after he finished first in the 300-meter hurdles Saturday at the Class 4A state meet at Wichita State University. Koontz also won a state title in the 110 hurdles.

WICHITA – The look on Tom Koontz's face said it all.

Shock. Excitement. Relief. And everything in between.

When Koontz crossed the finish line following the finals of the 300-meter hurdles Saturday at the Class 4A state meet in Wichita, he was speechless.

After the shock quickly wore off, Koontz fell to his knees on the track. He was spent. The Louisburg senior couldn't even remember part of the race he ran just seconds earlier.

"I crossed the finish line and just snapped back into reality – I just couldn't believe it," Koontz said.

What he couldn't believe was he had just won his first state title in the 300 hurdles and Koontz did so by breaking a 14-year-old school record. Koontz ran a time of 38.98 seconds to break R.J. Saunders' record of 39.16 set in 2008 to earn the gold.

It turned out to be his second state title of the day as he

also earned the gold medal in the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 14.61 seconds. Koontz won the state in that event last season as well.



Tom Koontz clears one final hurdle before winning gold in the 300 meters Saturday at the state meet.

However, those weren't the only state titles captured by Louisburg over the weekend. Sophomore Caden Caplinger took first in the pole vault after he cleared 14 feet, 6 inches, a new personal best, and helped the Wildcats to a third place team finish.

As for Koontz, his title in the 300 hurdles meant a lot to him. He finished second a year ago to Topeka-Hayden's Jake Muller, and did the same this year at the regional meet.

"I woke up knowing it wasn't going to be easy," Koontz said of his Saturday events. "I have been thinking of these races since last year, especially the 300. I wanted to win it last year, but couldn't quite get it. That is what I have been training for, and I was really nervous coming into it, but did what I needed to do. It was just a great day and I am exhausted."



Tom Koontz is filled with excitement Saturday after his victory in the 110 hurdles Saturday in Wichita.

It was a busy day for Koontz that left him with four state medals around his neck, including two on a pair of relays – the second year in a row he accumulated four.

Still, it was his performance in the 300 that left a lasting impression on him. Koontz had wanted to unseat Muller since the end of last season's state race and had been working hard to do so.

Koontz was trailing Muller heading into the final 100 meters, but the Louisburg senior was able to turn it on and pull away down the stretch.

"You could see it in my face, it was almost shock," Koontz said of the finish. "It was a little bit of relief, amazement, just a lot of different emotions. I don't even remember about a third of the race, I just remember needing to get faster. I worked on the final stretch all week because I knew that would be the most important part."

HIs race in the 110s was also a memorable one as he got to share it with a pair of teammates. Louisburg dominated the race as juniors Mason Dobbins and Nathan Apple finished second and fourth, respectively, and both set personal records.



Tom Koontz pumps his fist in the air after receiving his gold medal in the 110 hurdles Saturday in Wichita.

“I couldn’t be more thankful,” Koontz said of his teammates. “They have pushed me just as much as I have pushed them. To finish 1, 2 and 4 like we did was just amazing. I have developed a lot of friends over these few years and I consider them some of the best.”

Winning three state titles in the last three years is something Koontz will always remember, but he does leave Louisburg with a little bit of a regret.

“I really wanted Garrett Griffin’s record (110 hurdles), but

beggars can’t be choosers,” Koontz said. “I am just happy to get one of them and leave my mark.”



Caden Caplinger clears 14-6 Friday morning at the state meet in Wichita.

Caplinger cleared a lot of his marks in the pole vault and did so in convincing fashion as he was able to win a state title in just his second year with the program.

Last season at state, Caplinger medaled eighth after he cleared 12-6. A year later, the Louisburg sophomore improved his mark by two feet and is a state champion.

The final vault came down between Caplinger and Eudora’s Kole Manley, and after Caplinger cleared 14-6 on his first attempt, Manley wasn’t able to get it on his three tries.



Family and friends of Caden Caplinger were all smiles after he secured his first state title in the pole vault.

“I was really shocked, actually,” Caplinger said. “Kole is a really consistent vaulter and I thought he was going to make it for sure. Then when he didn’t, I just couldn’t believe it.”

It was an impressive showing from Caplinger as he didn’t miss an attempt until he tried for 15 feet at the end. He entered the competition at 12-6 and had five straight successful clearances.

“At first I was really nervous, but then it just kind of turned into a routine thing,” Caplinger said. “I started going over heights consistently and the rest just kind of fell into place. I cleared 14-6 earlier this week twice in a row, so I knew I could do it. I was still a little nervous though.”



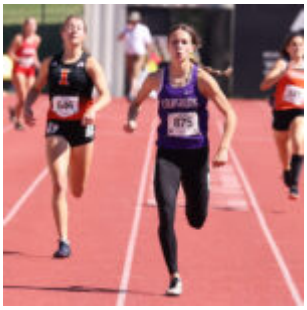
Caden Caplinger slaps hands with head coach Andy Wright following his gold medal performance in the pole vault Friday in Wichita.

Those three state titles were worth 30 points to the Wildcats and accumulated for nearly half of the team's points that led them to their second consecutive state plaque.

Louisburg won the state championship a year ago and recorded 67 points this year to finish third.

"It is very exciting," Caplinger said. "I just love this group. The group above us (juniors), and below us (freshmen), are going to make another good team next year. I hope that we get to do this again."

Lady Cats medal in nine events at state; Wright leads way with three



Louisburg senior Delaney Wright captured three state medals last weekend in Wichita, including a state runner-up finish in the 400-meter dash.

WICHITA – Just like a year ago, Delaney Wright left Wichita with three medals following the Class 4A state meet Saturday.

It just wasn't the ones she wanted.

Wright, who has been coming back from a severe injury for most of the season, finished as the state runner-up in the 400-meter dash, third place in the 200 dash and fifth in the long jump.

A season ago, Wright was the state champion in all three events, but couldn't get the repeat she was hoping for.

"Going into state I knew I still wasn't where I want to be due to my injury a couple months ago," Wright said. "But I wanted to attack it still and give it all I had. I am blessed I was there to compete and earn three medals cause in the beginning I didn't even know if I was going to compete my senior year."

In all, the Lady Cats put together a strong state performance as they medaled in nine events and finished with 40 team points and took sixth overall. They were just eight points

away from the third place spot, and a plaque.

“Once again the state qualifiers did an amazing job,” Louisburg girls coach John Reece said. “They all performed well and most beyond expectations. To leave the meet finishing in sixth place was outstanding. We left with lots of medals and great memories.”

The Lady Cats had seven athletes that found their way to medal stand as Wright made three trips and nearly won her fourth state championship.

Wright finished just behind Andale’s Maddie Schrandt in the 400 dash as she took second in 59.52. Later on Saturday, Wright fell to Schrandt and Andale’s Betsy Reichenberger in 26.61 seconds to finish third.

On Friday, Wright competed in the long jump and medaled fifth with a mark of 16 feet, 2.75 inches.



Louisburg senior Corinna McMullen was third in the discus and earned her second straight state medal.

In all, Wright ended her Wildcat career with 10 state medals and three state championships as she moves on to join the Kansas State University track team next season.

“The last four years of track has been a journey, but I’m going to miss every part of it,” Wright said. “My teammates and coaches were the best and I couldn’t be where I am without them.”

Senior Corinna McMullen put together a memorable ending to her track career as she finished third in the discus for her second consecutive state medal. McMullen recorded a throw of 117-4 and finished behind Andale’s McKenzie Fairchild and Emery May, threw 130-1 and 121-1, respectively.

Last season, McMullen took fourth at state and was happy to see some improvement this time around.

“Leaving state track with a third place medal felt so accomplishing and ended a great high school career,” McMullen said. “Going into state, I knew I wouldn’t be a state champ due to my size. But I told myself I would place higher than I did last year. I didn’t throw my best, but I also didn’t throw terrible. With throwing, small technique changes can cause big results – good or bad.

“Overall I’m so happy with my performance even though I wanted to throw just a little farther. I’m so happy I had all my friends and family with my for my last high school event.”



Louisburg junior Emma Lohse earned her first state medal Saturday in the 100-meter dash during the Class 4A state meet in Wichita.

On the track, junior Emma Lohse earned a state medal in her first year of competing on the track. After not qualifying for the finals of the 200 dash, Lohse more than made up for it in the 100.

Lohse qualified for the finals in the 100 dash Saturday and came away with a fourth place medal with time of 12.49 seconds. Lohse, along with Maya Pattison from Eudora and Reichenberger, finished just thousandths of a second apart from second to fourth place.

“It felt good to come home with a medal in the 100,” Lohse said. “Overall I thought I ran well, especially in the 100. Medaling this year was such a good feeling and I’m so excited for next year and will have higher expectations for state.”



Louisburg sophomore Maddy Carpenter-Ross finished fifth in the pole vault after she cleared 10 feet Friday at the state meet.

In the pole vault, sophomore Maddy Carpenter-Ross continued her memorable season as she found the state podium for the first time. Carpenter-Ross finished in a four-way tie for second after she cleared 10 feet, but took the fifth place medal based on number of misses.

Carpenter-Ross had improved throughout the season as she started out at 8 feet, but eventually progressed to a personal best 10-6 she achieved at regionals.

“It was awesome and felt rewarding to medal at state because my personal records have gone up 2 feet throughout this season to enable me to be up on the podium,” Carpenter-Ross said.



Sophomore Katie Elpers recorded a personal best throw of 122-1 in the javelin Saturday to earn a sixth place state medal.

The Lady Cats recorded a personal best in the javelin on a couple of good throws from Katie Elpers. The Louisburg sophomore had a PR in her first throw of the event with a toss of 115-3.

Elpers qualified for the finals and opened with another personal best throw of 122-1 to medal sixth overall.

“I was very surprised with how far I threw,” Elpers said. “It felt awesome being able to leave with a medal and i can’t wait to try to earn another one next year.”



Sophomore Maddy Rhamy broke her own school record in the 3,200-meter run Friday at the Class 4A state meet and finished with a seventh place medal.

The Lady Cats earned two more medals on the track as sophomore Maddy Rhamy opened the meet strong on Friday morning. Rhamy earned her first state medal with a time of 12:28.98 in the 3,200 meter run and finished seventh.

To get that medal, she broke her own school record that she set just the week before at regionals.

“Maddy earning her first state medal and breaking her own school record in the last meet shows how strong she is,” coach Reece said. “She just ran her race and the field came back to her and finishing seventh was great.”



Sophomore Emma Vohs finished seventh in the 1,600-meter run Saturday at the Class 4A state meet in Wichita.

Also in the distance races, sophomore Emma Vohs found the state podium in the 1,600-meter run. Vohs finished seventh in 5:42 after winning a regional title the week prior.

“I felt very proud to leave Wichita with a state medal,” Vohs said. “I knew this race was going to be the hardest I’ve seen all season with the best runners in 4A, so I knew I had to show up and run my race.

“Overall, I feel like I could’ve ran better, I did not PR but coach told me my strategy for the race was what he was looking for me to do. I can’t wait to be back next year.”

Vohs, Lohse, Wright and Mackenzie Rooney just missed out on the finals in the 4×400-meter relay as it took 10th in 4:17.

Rooney, also competed in the 300 hurdles, she she finished 15th in 53.77 seconds. Lohse missed the finals of the 200 dash by one spot as she took ninth in 26.65 seconds.

Week 10 Athlete of the Week: Tom Koontz



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week 10 of the spring sports season, sponsored by Edward Jones- Craig Holtzen.

TOM KOONTZ, SENIOR, TRACK AND FIELD

Louisburg senior Tom Koontz made Wildcat track and field history Saturday at the Class 4A state meet in Wichita. Koontz came home with four state medals, but more importantly, won titles in both hurdle races as he helped the Wildcats to a third place state finish.

His more impressive performance came in the 300-meter hurdles as he broke the school record in 38.98 seconds to win gold and knock off Hayden's Jake Muller, who defeated Koontz at state a year ago. Earlier in the day, Koontz flew to a title in the 110 hurdles as he won gold in 14.61 seconds. In the same race, teammates Mason Dobbins and Nathan Apple medaled second and fourth, respectively.

Koontz was a part of the 4×400 relay team of Hunter Heinrich, Colyer Wingfield and Ethan Ptacek that medaled fourth overall. Koontz, Dobbins, Caden Caplinger and Ptacek also teamed up to medal in the 4×100 as they finished sixth.

The athlete of the week award is announced every Wednesday morning during the spring season and the winner is selected by Louisburg Sports Zone with the help of nominations from coaches.

Previous Winners

Week 1: Lexi Hampton

Week 2: Sabra Brueggen

Week 3: Emma Lohse

Week 4: Nathan Vincent

Week 5: Mia Wilson

Week 6: Reese Johnson

Week 7: Kolby Kattau

Week 8: A.J. Arriola

Week 9: Delaney Wright

