Louisburg Volleyball Brings Home Two More Victories



The Louisburg High School volleyball team continues to play well, and with the season in swing, they are beginning to hit their stride.

The girls played two games last week and took home two victories, the first being a 3-2 victory over Bonner Springs, and then 3-1 against Harrisonville.

“I think we are developing a sense of what we are capable of doing as a team,” head coach Rich Brown said. “As a total program, we have had a good week with JV taking 2nd at their home tournament and the freshmen taking third at Wellsville. I think we had some success with our right side defense and switching our defensive alignment as a team made a huge difference.”

Brown mentions a variety of different players who have been major contributors, including seniors through freshmen who have been pivotal for their success. “On varsity Adelyn Moore is taking a stronger leadership role on the court for varsity”, Brown said. “Alice Fyock has been very effective on JV, especially with hitting out of the backrow. For our

freshmen, Paige Jewett and Brielle Lierz have started connecting better on quick attacks.”

The sense of capability of the game isn’t just felt by the coaching staff, but also the players themselves can feel the momentum. “From a player’s side, this season has been a year of growth, “said senior Adelyn Moore. “We have many girls that have had little to no varsity experience and they have all done an amazing job stepping up and working hard to be a beneficial aspect for the team.”



Volleyball also has their stiffest challenge of the year so far, playing in multiple games a day in tournaments and

triangulars coming up. “I think this week’s tournament will be really good for us,” Moore said. “We will play very tough teams, so they will challenge us and help push us to become a better team.”

Not only has the team been winning and losing they have also been growing and bettering their skills as a whole. They are building confidence with each team they play. “After looking back at last week’s matches, I believe our proudest breakthrough moment was defeating Bonner Springs in five sets,” said senior Regan Williams. “It was a long game, but all of us girls came together and finished the game strong.”



The players also note that defense and playmaking is what is keeping them heading in the right direction. “The highlight of the past few weeks has definitely been our aggressive out-of-system hitting,” Williams said. “We had a couple of plays where a scramble defense turned into a perfect cross-court kill that completely shifted the momentum of the match. Our

pin hitters are swinging with immense confidence right now.”

While continuous the team’s skills helps develop by embedding the skill-building into measurable performance gains, and playable results. “We were pushed by Bonner Springs and they are significantly better than they were last season,” Brown said. “I’m glad we managed to come out on top. Against Harrisonville, we played them last season and it was a long 5 set match. They play defense well and made us work for every point.”

The team fell to Eudora on Tuesday night, but rebounded with a triangular victory over Girard and Fort Scott. They look to compete in the Louisburg Invitational tomorrow, beginning at 8 AM.

– Will Leach

Soccer Goes 1-0-1 on the Week, Look to Eudora



The Louisburg boys soccer team has high hopes on the season, and that doesn’t change depending on who they play.

Last week, they won a tough game against a good Pittsburg team 3-1. They also played a tough Bonner Springs squad and ended up in a 2-2 draw.

The expectations are always high, and despite the strong showing, the goals stay the same. “The goal for the team this week was to win both games,” head coach Dawson Schoning said. “The goal for this coming week is the same. We feel we should be in every game we play this year.”

While the Wildcats have relied on strong upperclassmen for a lot of their success, one name was emphasized as a major contributor to the 3-0-1 start. Freshman Mason Hull has been a

key component of the Wildcats 2026 season, and will be relied upon moving forward. “He played some heavy minutes for us this week and played in a few different positions for us,” Schoning said. “It has been exciting to see him grow into the team and play well”.

Hull wasn’t the only player who has been an early season standout. Some other players that have stood out are Cooper McDaniel, Finn Viterna and Liam Burch. “They stepped up for us a few times this week,” Schnoning said, “when we needed them late in the game and played pretty well”.

The team has played well to start, but there is still some areas of improvement moving forward. “Being able to keep possession of the ball and move channels or playing back whenever we win the ball,” Schoning noted of his biggest area for growth. ” Something we have seen is that teams are starting to press us so being able to play out of that press could play a big role in being able to be successful this year.



Coach Schoning also noted keeping the ball on the ground and keeping the ball moving, as well as defending corner kicks as key parts to work on. Two goals were given up on corner kicks against Bonner.

The Louisburg boys soccer team’s game against Lansing on Tuesday at home was postponed to a later date, but Schoning brought up the big matchup against Eudora on Thursday. “It could make a difference on where we finish in the league with either a win, a draw, or a loss.”.

– Mathias Wright

Louisburg Volleyball Goes 3-1, 2nd at Frontenac Tourney



Louisburg Volleyball had a great second week with matches against Piper and Ottawa last week.

They next had a weekend tournament at Frontenac, and then two wins vs. Bonner Springs and Harrisonville.

A busy start to the year, but successful.

They started with Piper, which resulted in a 3-0 win on Tuesday, but fell short on Thursday against Ottawa at a 3-2 loss.

Against Piper, Louisburg opened with a 25-23 win in the first set, followed by 25-23, and ending 25-19, securing their third win of the season.

Unfortunately, the Wildcats were handed their first loss against Ottawa on Thursday. Louisburg gave a good fight, but ended up losing 3-2. They started with a 25-22 win, but Ottawa battled back, going into five sets (25-22, 20-25, 25-19, 21-25, 14-16). While the loss was disappointing, the Wildcats still played a great game.



Seniors Breck Nielsen, Alexi O’Dell and Adelyn Moore, juniors Mia Norton and Ellie Vohs, and sophomore Reagan Varns all gave excellent performances last week. These players are not only talented on the court, but also serve as role models and leaders within the team.

“These girls are all people who I can count on to make something happen on the court. and they are all someone I can lean on during tough, close games,” senior Adelyn Moore said.

The Wildcats continue to work well together, and support each other on the court. Head coach Rich Brown has noticed the trust the players have with each other.

“The personality of this team is total support and trust. We have a unique group of players on varsity who have set their egos aside and know the others on the court have their back,” Brown said.

The Wildcats next finished 2nd in the Frontenac Tournament on the 12th. Then next faced off against Bonner Springs on Tuesday, which resulted in a 5 set win, and ended the week with a 4 set win against Harrisonville on Thursday.



It’s been a successful year for the Wildcats, as they look to build off of last week’s performances.

– Addy Wiese

Louisburg residents to compete in National Granny Basketball Tournament



Louisburg residents (from left) Ellen Moreland, Jean Carder and Janet York are among local players who will compete at the National Granny Basketball Tournament.

Miami County's Granny Basketball players will be competing in the league's national championship this weekend at the Hy-Vee Arena in Kansas City, Mo.

Nine players from the Louisburg Tonics team will be joined by four players from the Wichita Aerobelles to
play as the Kansas Cougars in the 1920s-style basketball known as Granny Basketball. The tournament, which runs July 30-31 at the Hy-Vee Arena, will feature nearly 250 players ages 50 to 90 playing on 20 different teams.

The Cougars will play in pool play Saturday at 10:15 a.m., 1 and 3:30 p.m. Bracket play, based on seeding from the pool games, is on Sunday.

Representing the Tonics on the travel team are Becky Bowes, Janet York, Diana Moore, Ellen Morland, LaVonne Mize, Julie McKinley, Jayne Schommer, Helen McClain and Jean Carder.

The team to watch is the defending champion of the national tournament, the Harpers Ferry Fireflies hailing from a small town in northeast Iowa. Players travel from Iowa, Kansas,

Oklahoma, Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, and Wisconsin to test their skills in a 6-on-6 style of game that women played a century ago.

Fans are invited to come watch their local favorites. The $5 admission fee at the door will benefit Noah’s Bandage Project, as will donations generated through fun granny shot activities for players, volunteers and spectators. Noah’s Bandage Project also will be accepting donations of colorful, self-adhesive bandages for children with cancer.

The Granny Basketball League is a non-profit Iowa-based organization founded in 2005. Currently, 41 Granny Basketball teams are active in 10 states: Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and most recently, California.

Granny Basketball was created to provide women of a certain age a gentler form of the game, reminiscent of the 6-on-6 game that was played by young women a century ago.

For more information, visit www.grannybasketball.com and www.facebook.com/grannybasketball.

OPINION: Cancellations, possible stoppages due to virus leave heartbreak in its wake



The spread of COVID-19 has turned the country upside-down, and it now it threatens schools and spring sports on the high school level. Will it prevent celebrations like this one from happening in 2020?

It is something we can't see. We can't touch it. We can't smell it. That is what makes this all the more scary.

COVID-19, better known as the Coronavirus, has flipped the country's life upside-down in a matter of days. For many of us, this virus will be nothing more than a cold or flu-like disease if we contract it, which is great news for me and my family.

However, those aren't the people I'm too concerned about. I fear for the elderly, or those with underlying conditions, that have a weakened immune system and that is when this virus becomes deadly.

That is what made all the cancellations this week necessary. It isn't to stop, but slow the spread of this disease, so that hospitals do not become overrun with patients and to limit casualties.

It is an unprecedented time we are living in and many people are still unaware exactly what this virus is. If you need proof, look at all the empty toilet paper shelves in stores. Still, don't

get that one myself.

My heart goes out to all the people who are affected by this disease, but I wanted to talk about something that is more in my wheelhouse and something that is a lot less “important” in the grand scheme of things.

As many of you already know, sporting events and leagues across the country have been cancelled. The NCAA basketball tournament being shutdown has given a different meaning to “March Madness” these days.

You watch as athletes, who have trained for years to reach a certain point, see their seasons cut short and may never get that opportunity back again. I feel for the seniors who had no idea they would never be able to play in their final game.

Then you look at the professional level and so many people are impacted by this. It is the people who work concessions, park cars, janitorial staff and others who depend on those paychecks to make a living and now don’t have one. Their lives are basically at the hands of this virus.

At the high school level, it was heartbreaking to read about the state basketball tournaments that were cancelled after the first round. Those players, who had hopes of a state title and had been working months for that moment, had it suddenly taken away from them. Those seniors won’t get another chance at it.

In the context of sports – not life or death – these are all devastating.

As far as Louisburg and the rest of the state is concerned, it

is a reasonable assumption to think the spring season – at the very least – could be delayed. Maybe not, and maybe things will calm down as the spring is scheduled to kick off on March 23 when the Wildcat girls soccer team travels to Harmon for their season opener.

The Wildcats are considered one of the state's best teams in Class 4A as they feature a team with 12 seniors that have played multiple years on the varsity level. They are also back-to-back state runners-up.

Senior golfer Calvin Dillon is poised to get his fourth state medal this year and will try to capture the school's first individual state title. The Wildcats also has another great chance to qualify for state as a team.

Louisburg track returns several state medalists from a year ago and has the potential to do even more damage at the state meet again this season. The school is also competing in girls swim for the first time in school history, while the baseball and softball teams are under new head coaches and having promising seasons in front of them.

If this season gets cancelled, I cannot begin to fathom the amount of heartbreak this town would go through. These are opportunities young athletes – especially the seniors – will never able to get back.

Schools are currently being closed

around the country and USD 416 is in conversations with the state about what
the next step should be.

Luckily, Louisburg just started
Spring Break and will be out of school for the next 10 days. Still, this virus
still figures to linger for longer than that.

So what is the next step?

The news is constantly changing by
the hour and no one really knows what is next. All we can do right now is
follow the guidelines and hope for the best.

No, not hope – pray.

Week 2 Athlete of the Week: Noah Hill



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week two of the winter sports season, sponsored by Elliott Insurance.

NOAH HILL, BOYS BASKETBALL, SENIOR

Louisburg senior Noah Hill was a big factor for the Wildcat boys basketball team last week as he helped them to a 1-1 record. Hill averaged a double-double in the two games with 11 points and 10 rebounds in a win over Burlington and an overtime loss to Anderson County.

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

Previous winners:

Week 1: Alyse Moore



Wildcats suffer overtime loss

to Anderson County



Louisburg senior Kohl Vogel rises up for a shot around four Anderson County defenders Friday in Garnett. Vogel scored a game-high 27 points in the Wildcats' loss to Anderson County

GARNETT – Friday's game between Louisburg and Anderson County featured more twists and turns than your traditional soap opera.

Both teams went on big runs and went back and forth at each other on the scoreboard. Neither team could pull away, and one knocked down a shot in the final seconds in regulation to force overtime.

It was a contest where both teams had an opportunity to put the game away in their favor, but unfortunately for Louisburg, the Wildcats just ran out of time.

Anderson County went on a big run to start overtime and knocked off Louisburg, 80-74, and the Wildcats suffered their first loss of the season.

"The locker room is dead in there," Louisburg coach Ty Pfannenstiel said. "They are hurting for sure. If you want to try and spin it as a positive, it is good to know that they care. As coaches, we know that they do because of the time that they put into this and the summer that they had. To be able to play well in this type of game is good to see.

"We are going to see these types of games in the Frontier League all season. We are going to continue to get better and

use this as a momentum builder and not a step back. Our program took a step forward with how we played."

The Wildcats (2-1) got big performances from several players throughout the game. Senior Kohl Vogel had his best game offensively as a Wildcat as he scored a game-high 27 points and pulled down nine rebounds.

Fellow senior Brayden Gage hit several big shots as he finished with 18 points and junior Madden Rutherford was big on the glass with a career-best 23 rebounds. Senior Noah Hill was also close to a double-double with seven points and nine rebounds.

However, the biggest moment came thanks to a sophomore.

With the Wildcats down by three points, and less than five seconds left, sophomore guard Weston Guetterman knocked down a 3-pointer to keep the Wildcats in it and sent the game to overtime.

"It was huge shot and it takes a lot of confidence for a kid to step up and shoot that shot," Pfannenstiel said. "That is kind of kid that Weston is. Playing freshman basketball last year, he hit a half-court shot to win the game, so he is that big shot guy. It was a great job by our kids to get the ball to him and to execute that."



Weston Guetterman (3) puts three fingers up and the Wildcat bench celebrates after Guetterman made a game-tying 3-pointer to end regulation Friday at Anderson County.

After the opening tip, it appeared the Wildcats were going to run away with their third straight win. Louisburg jumped out to a 14-0 lead to start the game after big baskets from Vogel and Gage.

The lead didn't last long,however, as Anderson County went on a 20-9 run the rest of the first quarter to cut the Louisburg lead to three.

"We started the game about as well as we have started a game since I have been here," Pfannenstiel said. "We came out confident and were making plays. Hats off to Anderson County for responding and they made a little run themselves and got it to a back and forth basketball game. I am proud of our guys with how we competed in this type of environment. We were never in this type of game last year and for our kids to play that well in that big of an environment was good to see."

The Wildcats encountered some foul trouble in the second quarter as Guetterman and Vogel both had to sit with three fouls. Louisburg was already without senior Dylan DeShazer, who was out with an injury, so its bench had to respond and it did.



Brayden Gage lays the ball up for two points Friday against Anderson County.

Sophomore Ben Guetterman came off the bench to score 10 points, all of which came in the second quarter, to help give Louisburg a 43-37 lead at halftime.

However, turnovers were a problem for Louisburg most of the evening, including the second half. The Wildcats committed 30 turnovers on the night, including ones in the fourth quarter and overtime that allowed Anderson County to come back and take the lead.

“Anderson County wants to speed you up and they want you to play fast, and to be honest that is how we like to play, but there are times where we would have had an advantage in the halfcourt,” Pfannenstiel said. “At the same time, it is hard for our kids to get out of that attack mode. We were out of control at times and I think we committed like (30) turnovers and you aren’t going to win many games doing that.

“Anderson County just made some plays there in the second half and overtime to get the win. We had opportunities too, but they just rimmed out and that is how the game of basketball goes sometimes.”

Louisburg will try and get back on the winning track tonight when it travels to Frontenac for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

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LOUISBURG (2-1): Kohl Vogel 10-19 5-7 27; Brayden Gage 7-12 1-4 18; Ben Guetterman 4-6 2-2 10; Noah Hill 2-7 3-4 7; Weston Guetterman 2-6 0-1 5; Madden Rutherford 2-9 1-2 5; Garrett Rolofson 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 28-61 12-20 74. 3-point field goals: 6, (Gage 3, Vogel 2, W.Guetterman 1).

Week 4 Athlete of the Week: Thad Hendrix



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

THAD HENDRIX, WRESTLING, SENIOR

Louisburg High School senior Thad Hendrix couldn’t have asked for a better way to go out in his final Wildcat Classic. Hendrix finished his home tournament with a 5-0 record, including a pair of come-from-behind victories and a pin in his finals match to win the 106-pound class. Hendrix also helped the Wildcats to a second-place team finish.
The athlete of the week award is announced every Wednesday morning during the winter season and the winner is selected by Louisburg Sports Zone with the help of nominations from coaches.
Previous winners:
Week 1: Austin Moore
Week 2: Carson Buffington
Week 3: Cade Holtzen

Week 3 Athlete of the Week: Cade Holtzen



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week three of the winter sports season, sponsored by Elliott Insurance.

CADE HOLTZEN, WRESTLING, FRESHMAN

Louisburg freshman Cade Holtzen is off to a great start to his high school wrestling career and it continued Saturday in Tonganoxie. Holtzen went 5-0 with a pair of pins at 113 pounds to help the Wildcats to a third-place finish at the Randy Starcher Invitational. He is now 14-1 on the season.

The athlete of the week recipient will be announced every Wednesday morning. The winner is chosen by Louisburg Sports Zone, with the help of nominations from coaches.
Previous winners:
Week 1: Austin Moore
Week 2: Carson Buffington



Louisburg Cider Run offers new features for annual race



Its name is just one of the many changes to the annual Louisburg 5-kilometer race.

Formerly Blazin' The Burg, the Louisburg Chamber of Commerce is introducing a new version of the event and a collaboration with two other area 5K races.

The Louisburg Cider Run, which gets underway at 5 p.m. on Oct. 7 in downtown Louisburg, features four different courses for group of all ages. It will offer the traditional 5K course, along with a kids fun run, a 10K course and a newly added

relay.

The relay will be a mile course that will include teams of four runners or less.

All participants 21 and over will get a souvenir cup and one pour of hard cider after completion of their event. The event will also feature an after party with food, music and drinks.

“We have two fun new additions that I think will bring more people and more excitement to this year’s run,” Jenny O’Brien, one of the event organizers, said. “The first is the addition of the Mile Hard Cider Relay that consists of a team of 4, with each team member running a quarter-mile. With our new race name, Louisburg Cider Run, the Hard Cider Relay is perfect and offers everyone a chance to get involved because it’s a distance that is attainable for those who do not run or walk regularly to achieve. The team concept also makes this more achievable and something that folks can gather a group of friends and enter for fun.”

For those runners that want to make a weekend out of it, they will have the opportunity to compete in the Fermentation Series. Louisburg Cider Run is one of three 5K races that will be held in a two-day period.

The Fall Fermentation Series is three 5K runs in 24 hours on Oct. 7 and 8. The Series kicks off on Oct. 7 at 8 a.m. at the No One Fights Alone 5K at Night Hawk Winery in Paola, and continues that evening with the Louisburg Cider Run.

The series finishes with the Oktoberfest 5K on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 8 a.m. in Martin City, Mo. Each race will provide shirts and swag and finishers of all three events will receive a Fall Fermentation Series medal upon completion of the Series.

“The second addition that will draw more runners is that the Cider Run is part of a running series of 5Ks this year called the Fermentation Series,” O’Brien said. “KC Running Company is

awarding a medal to each runner who completes the series of races.”

For those that are just interested in the Cider Run, there will be plenty to do before and after the race is complete.

KC Deeyas, Burnt Offering BBQ, Pita for Good, Smoothie Wave and Kona Ice will be on hand for refreshments. Standard Beverage Corporation and Angry Orchard Tap Trailer will also be at the event.

Pre-race entertainment will be put on by the group, Happy Faces. After race music will be put on by Turner Blues Experiment.

For those interested in signing up for the Louisburg Cider Run, please click here.

If you are interested in entering the Fermentation Series, you can click here.

To purchase Cider Run race merchandise, please click here.