

McKain excited to join Neosho County volleyball



Katie McKain, a 2025 Louisburg graduate, is looking forward to her journey with Neosho County Community College volleyball.

As Katie McKain got older, it became apparent to her that she wanted volleyball to become an important part of her life.

McKain wanted a chance to play volleyball in college and so she began the journey of making that happen. Her hard work and dedication to the sport presented her with an opportunity that she wasn't about to pass up.

Earlier this year, McKain signed her letter of intent to play volleyball at Neosho County Community College and it was an eye-opening moment for the Louisburg graduate.

"I've wanted to play college volleyball ever since I was around 13-14 years old," McKain said. "It was very surreal to

be able to sign. I started playing volleyball when I was 7 years old, and I have loved it ever since, and it's been a huge part of my life."

McKain spent most of the winter trying to find the best landing spot for her, and after a few visits, it became apparent that Neosho was the play for her.

"The thing that stuck out to me here was the group of girls on the team that automatically became friends the second I talked to them," McKain said. "Everyone was so welcoming, along with the coaches, and that's not something I got from other schools I visited."



Louisburg's Katie McKain signed her letter of intent with Neosho County volleyball earlier this year. Seated next to Kaite is her mom, Michelle. Standing (from left) are her brothers Ben and Jacob.

She was a part of a Louisburg team this past season that reached the sub-state championship, before falling to the

state runner-up in Rock Creek. McKain played the right side for the Wildcats and the coaches see her playing a similar role for the Panthers.

“When I first did a visit and practice with them the coach had me playing multiple different positions to just see where she wanted to put me, and she told me she sees me as a right side hitter,” McKain said.

McKain reported to the Neosho team in late July and practice has already begun for the upcoming season. She is excited to get going with her new team.

“My goals are to further my ability on the court and just see where these two years here take me,” she said. “I can’t wait to see what this year has in store for me.”

Brown named 2025 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year



Louisburg senior Ally Brown was voted as the 2025 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year by the Louisburg High School coaches.

As her basketball season was nearing an end, Ally Brown thought her Louisburg playing career was as well.

Brown, a senior, was a starter on the volleyball and basketball teams and was preparing for her life after sports. However, something happened that changed all of that.

At the time, Louisburg soccer coach Jordan Roquemore asked Brown if she would consider trying out for the soccer team – more specifically – goalie. It left her a little taken aback.

“I laughed at first and told him I’d think about it, fully intending on saying no,” Brown said. “Then the other soccer seniors kept talking to me about it and my parents said I should take the chance and do it. So I did and it was the best decision I’ve ever made.”

That decision turned into a fourth-place state medal as she helped the Louisburg program to a state final four appearance. It was a memorable ending for Brown in her Wildcat career. She was the lone senior athlete to play three sports, which led

her to earn the 2025 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year award.

The award was given based on a vote by Louisburg High School coaches as Brown was recognized for her achievements on the volleyball and basketball courts, along with her time with the soccer program.

“Being honored with Female Athlete of the Year means so much to me,” Brown said. “I truly see it as an honor because there are so many amazing female athletes around me. It fills me with a sense of pride knowing that four years of hard work got me to this moment. The support of my family and friends through my athletic journey allowed me to succeed so this award is not only for me, but all of the people who helped me along the way.”

On the volleyball court, Brown was a first-year varsity player this year and was one of the top defensive players – not only on the team, but in the Frontier League.

As a team captain, Brown was an honorable mention all-league defensive specialist and was second on the team with 228 digs and was also second in aces with 47. She also led the team in serve attempts and points scored while serving.

“Ally was largely the heart and soul of the volleyball team as a really strong leader, and I have no doubt that she helped lead her teammates in other sports the same way,” former Louisburg volleyball coach Leanna Willer said. “She is the girl who always shows up for her teammates. She is reliable, dedicated, and she truly understands the balance of encouraging/motivating her teammates and holding them accountable. She works her butt off and made some incredible plays in each season. Her dig numbers were right up there close to a lot of the Liberos while only being on the court half the time, and that speaks volumes about what she was able to do for our team.

“She is the voice of reason that we all turn to in times of trouble, and she is also the one who hypes up every single one of her teammates. Ally took on her roles in each sport this year with pride and made the most of every opportunity. Each of our three teams were undoubtedly better because she was a part of them.”



Louisburg senior Ally Brown was joined by former Louisburg volleyball coach Leanna Willer as she received the athlete of

the year award.

As a member of the basketball team, Brown did a little bit of everything. She was a starter for the Wildcats and averaged four points a game. She also led the team in assists (35) and steals (24).

“Ally is a very hard worker, she always has a positive attitude, and she is a great role model to the younger players,” Louisburg basketball coach Adrienne Lane said. “This season I felt that Ally stepped up her game. She had a streak in the middle of the season where it seemed like she didn’t miss a shot. I know whatever Ally chooses to do in life she will be great at.”

Then came the soccer program, where she started in goal for the Wildcats. In her first year playing high school soccer, Brown thrived as she helped Louisburg to a No. 1 seed in the state playoffs and a fourth-place state finish.

As the team’s starting goalie, she made a big impact in the back of the Wildcat defense. She finished with 12 clean sheets and had 91 saves on the year. For that effort, she was named to the All-Frontier League second team.

“For a first time goalkeeper, that save rating is exceptional,” Roquemore said. “She faced far fewer shots than the average keeper because of our team defense, but when she does get them, she does a great job.

“Ally has always been a humble leader, a voice of reason, a positive influence, and has a determined work ethic. She balances a good sense of humor with a focused and sincere way of approaching athletics. She’s hard on herself but never gives up and is constantly willing to take feedback and apply it. I can’t imagine this season without her.”

Although it was a successful experience for her, it was about more than just wins and losses for Brown.

“Yes I got a fourth place state medal out of it, but I got so much more than that,” Brown said. “I gained girls who will be sisters for life and a sense of girlhood that is unmatched. I will never forget my one year in the LHS girls soccer program and will be forever grateful that I chose to take a chance.”

In her four years at Louisburg High School, Brown was a 3-sport athlete in two of them. Playing multiple sports in high school is something she believes was an important and rewarding experience for her.

“Playing sports in Louisburg is such an exciting experience,” Brown said. “The feeling of the Louisburg community rallying behind you while you’re on the court or field is indescribable. You are playing next to the same girls that you grew up with. Even you are doing the horrible weights and conditioning, it’s ok because the girl next to you is making you laugh. Playing competitive high school sports isn’t easy, but at Louisburg when you have people rallying around you every step of the way, succeeding is that much easier.”

Previous winners:

2018: Isabelle Holtzen

2019: Carson Buffington

2020: Reilly Ratliff-Becher

2021: Alyse Moore

2022: Delaney Wright

2023: Adyson Ross

2024: Hailey Sword

2025 Louisburg Sports Zone Female Athlete of the Year finalists



Louisburg seniors Ally Brown, Sabra Brueggen and Addy Stohs were named as finalists for the Louisburg Sport Zone Female Athlete of the Year.

For the eighth 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. Then I sent the nominations back to the coaches and they voted for their top 3 male and female athletes. The recipient will be announced in the coming days.

(Editor’s Note: Normally, the coaches send me their votes and

I tabulate the winner. However, due to a conflict of interest, I handed those duties to LHS AD Ty Pfannenstiel this year and he graciously gathered all the votes from the coaches and I was not a part of the process.)

Below are the three finalists for the Female Athlete of the Year award in alphabetical order by last name.



Ally Brown – Senior – Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer

Ally was a 3-time letterwinner this past season in volleyball, basketball and soccer. In volleyball, Brown earned honorable mention all-league honors for her work as a defensive specialist as she helped the Wildcats to the sub-state championship game. She finished with 228 digs, which was second on the team and was also second in aces with 47. She led Louisburg in serve attempts and points scored while she

was serving.

On the basketball court, Brown was a starter for the Wildcat basketball team and averaged four points a game. She also led the team in assists (35) and steals (24).

Brown joined the Wildcat soccer team for the first time in the spring and made the most of her opportunity. She started in goal and finished with 12 shutouts on the season as she helped the Wildcats to a fourth-place finish at the Class 4-1A state tournament and finished with a 16-5 record. Brown was also named second team All-Frontier League goalie as she had more than 80 saves on the year and had an 87 percent save percentage.



Sabra Brueggen – Senior –

Basketball, Swim

Sabra was a letterwinner for the Louisburg basketball and swim team this year. On the basketball court, Brueggen was a starter for the Lady Cats as she was third on the team with 85 rebounds on the year and averaged five points a contest.

Brueggen really made her mark in the pool as she earned two medals at the Class 5-1A state swim meet this spring. She medaled sixth in both the 200-yard individual medley and 100 backstroke. Throughout the season, Brueggen earned state qualifying times in all of the individual events and she also qualified in three relays.

She swam in two of those relays at the state meet as she helped the 200 freestyle relay to victory in the consolation finals and finished ninth overall. Brueggen also swam the 400 free relay as they took 13th. Overall, Brueggen earned at least one state medal in each of her four years with the program.



Addy Stohs – Senior – Basketball, Softball

Addy was a letterwinner for the Louisburg basketball and softball teams. It was in softball where Stohs made her biggest mark. The Louisburg senior was named to the All-Frontier League first team after strong season as the team's first baseman.

Stohs had a big year at the plate for Louisburg as she had a .435 average, which included 27 hits, four doubles and a home run, to go along with 13 RBIs. Stohs also had a .950 fielding percentage and only had 3 errors on the year.

On the basketball court, Stohs was a forward for the Wildcats as she had 23 rebounds on the year to go along with 10 blocked shots.

Brown approved as new head coach of Louisburg volleyball



Rich Brown was recently hired as the new head coach of the Louisburg volleyball program. He replaces Leanna Willer, who resigned her position back in December.

Rich Brown has spent close to four decades around the sport of volleyball and has held several different positions during that time.

It is a sport that has consumed much of his life, including the past 15 years as an assistant coach at different levels in the Louisburg school district. Now, Brown will focus on a new role for the upcoming season – as head coach.

Brown was approved to be the next leader of the Wildcat program following the most recent USD 416 Board of Education meeting. He takes over from former head coach Leanna Willer, who resigned to take the same position at Olathe East.

"I'm both excited and nervous, which is pretty much my MO anytime I start something new," Brown said. "I think I'm fortunate in that I've been in the program for more than 15 years as an assistant at all levels. I know there is a culture of success the volleyball program has and I will do what I can to continue that."

Brown has most spent of his time at Louisburg as an assistant coach under Willer and former head coach Jessica Compliment, who both had state tournament runs during their tenures.

It is that experience working with both coaches that Brown believes will help him with the upcoming season and those moving forward.

"Working with Willer and Compliment helped me immensely," Brown said. "I have always gone into every job as a learner, and that attitude hasn't changed even as I get older. Compliment has taught me how important routine is to a team as the season reaches its end. She has also taught me that there is no limit to the amount of things she can fit in her backpack. She could give lessons to the Army.

"Willer has really helped bring back my love for the game. I feel that she always is looking ahead at what will give the team the best chance at success. And I have never worked with anyone as organized as her. It's going to be a challenge to try to be 50 percent as organized as she is."

This won't be Brown's first head coaching experience, however. He has spent time as head coach at Ottawa, Central Heights, Lyndon and Topeka West. He also has some collegiate experience as he served as the first assistant at Ottawa University.

“Well I think I started coaching just a couple of years after the sport was invented,” Brown joked. “It feels that way sometimes. I graduated college in ’85 and started coaching in ’86 when the game was very different when there was side-out scoring and no libero. College matches between good teams could last 3 hours or more.”

Al
th
ou
gh
Br
ow
n
wi
ll
ha
ve
a
ne
w
tit
le,
he
is
a
fa
mi
li
ar
fa
ce
ar
ou
nd
th



PRIME
Accounting Solutions, LLC

**Tax Prep, Payroll and
Accounting Services**
Doug Strubbe, owner
doug@primeaccounting.net

We are in your neighborhood!

Paola 913-294-3713	Louisburg 913-837-4230	Spring Hill 913-592-2050
Osawatomie 913-755-1909	Harrisonville 816-730-2304	Shawnee 913-962-8297
		Overland Park 913-962-8297

e
pr
og
ra
m
as
he
has
co
ac
hed
d
mo
st
of
th
e
up
co
mi
ng
va
rs
it
y
pl
ay
er
s
on
th
e
ju
ni
or
va

rs
it
y
le
ve
l.

Despite losing five seniors from last season, the Wildcats will bring back a core group of players from a team that reached the sub-state championship.

With a new head coach comes some changes, but Brown is looking forward to working this group of athletes.

“I am very fortunate to come to the head coaching position with a very experienced group of players,” Brown said. “I am hoping to use that experience to allow players to work from a variety of positions and try to open up the offense with better communication between the kids on the court. There are a couple of places where we have made changes in the schedule so we don’t end up playing the same teams three or four times a season.

“I also want our team to learn to treasure the team attitude and limit the amount of time we are dividing our attention between the court, and the things that happen in the stands. So there will be a little more isolated approach when it comes to competition time.”

With summer workouts approaching in the next couple of months, Brown wants to make sure his team is prepared and ready to go when the season starts.

“This season will have a different feel for the players in many ways,” Brown said. “There are new KSHSAA restrictions on 2-a-days, and length of practices will make the beginning of the season feel a bit frantic in those first 2 weeks of practices. But I also think that will help the players understand just how important it is to be ready to work each

day.”

Top 10 Louisburg Sports Stories of 2024



It was a successful, and eventful, year 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 made their way to state competition.

Below are the top stories from 2024, 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 2025 will bring. Thank you to everyone for their support and can't wait for it all to begin again.



Jordan Roquemore was hired as the new head coach of the Louisburg girls soccer program after serving four years as an assistant.

10. Coaching Changes: Willer steps down from LHS volleyball, Roquemore takes over girls soccer

Louisburg volleyball and girls soccer saw some big changes in their respective programs.

Over the summer, Jordan Roquemore was hired as the head coach for the Wildcat girls soccer program after spending several years as an assistant.

He became the third head coach in the history of Louisburg girls soccer. He replaced former coach Ben York, who coached the Wildcats the last two seasons.

“I feel tremendously honored to take over as head coach,” Roquemore said. “It’s an amazing opportunity to take over an exceptional program with a great group of athletes, supportive parents and invested community members. I don’t take the responsibility lightly, but I am also really excited.”



Louisburg volleyball coach Leanna Willer is stepping down from her post after serving as head coach for the last four seasons.

On the volleyball side, head coach Leanna Willer submitted her resignation in early December.

Willer has spent eight seasons with the Wildcat program, including the last four as head coach. She accepted a new position as head coach at Olathe East.

"This decision is bittersweet, but deep down I know that this is the best decision for me and my life," Willer said in an email to parents. "The team will move on, and I feel lucky that I could play a small part in the long-standing traditions of the program. To the alumni and class of 2024, I thank you for your commitment to this team and to this program, and for making my time at Louisburg unforgettable. To our younger players, I am sorry for not seeing your journeys all the way through, but please know that you have my unwavering support and I cannot wait to see what you all can accomplish with the

time you have left as Louisburg Wildcats.”



Louisburg junior Sabra Brueggen swims the backstroke during the prelims of the Class 5-1A state meet in Lenexa.

9. Brueggen wins state swim medal

For the third straight season, Sabra Brueggen left the Class 5-1A state swim meet with some hardware.

The Louisburg junior showed why she is among the state’s best as she earned a fourth place medal in the 200-yard individual medley – her first ever state medal in that event – Saturday at the Shawnee Mission Aquatic Center.

The 2-day meet provided a lot of ups, and some downs, for the Louisburg swim program, but for Brueggen it was nice to return to the medal stand.

“I was very happy and content with my 200 IM swims last

weekend,” Brueggen said. “Not only did I set a new personal best time, but I also walked away with fourth place in an event that is not one of my primaries.”

Janie Harth, Ella Bockelman and Cadence Weichert also joined Brueggen at the state meet as they qualified for the consolation finals in the 200 medley relay 400 freestyle relay.



8. Dixon achieves pro volleyball dream

It was setting up to be an epic finish to Anna Dixon's collegiate volleyball career.

Dixon, as a graduate transfer, made the move to the University of Florida for her final season and quickly made an impact on the Gators' roster.

Despite have to learn a new position due to an injury on the team, Dixon seemed to flourish. She helped the Gators out to a quick start and everything was going according to plan.

Then, the unthinkable happened.

Dixon suffered a season-ending elbow injury that put a premature end to her collegiate career. It was a devastating blow.

However, instead of sulking, Dixon worked that much harder to get back to the court and achieve her ultimate goal – playing professional volleyball.

All that hard work finally came to fruition back in July when Dixon, a 2019 Louisburg High School graduate, signed with the Atlanta Vibe, which is a part of the Pro Volleyball Federation.

"I am super excited to compete at the highest level, but also to be able to do that here in the US," Dixon said. "It has been a dream of mine to be able to play professionally, in front of club girls who are in the same shoes that I was in many years ago. I am excited to give them the opportunity to have something to look forward to and work toward. Blessed for the opportunity and ready to get to work."



Members of the Louisburg cheer team are: (Front row) Anna Brizendine, Addison Vargo, Reece Jones; (middle row) Leia Ward, Lilly Burnett, Taryn Osborn, Elle Keating, Brooklyn Roney, Harper Boyle, Kelsey Shelton, Kim Powls, Gretchen Reitz, Kinsley Rayne; (back row) Will Leach, Kayleigh Ramsey (Laney Stohs, Reece Younggren, Reese Anderson, Greta Gatzka, Addison Bishop, Maggie Wanjigi

7. Cheer takes third at state

TOPEKA – The Louisburg High School cheerleading squad is no stranger to the finals of the Class 4A Game Day competition.

Heading into the Nov. 23 showcase in Topeka, the Wildcats have made the final round in each of the last five seasons. Louisburg had no problem making it a sixth straight, and for the fifth time in six years, they came home with a state plaque.

Louisburg finished third in the state competition as it edged out Baldwin for the top three spot in Class 4A.

“Bringing home another trophy from the Game Day Cheer competition was a testament to our team’s hard work, dedication, and growth throughout the season,” Louisburg cheer coach Breanna Kostroske said. “It means so much to us because it reflects their skill, their heart, and spirit—three things we emphasize daily. For our athletes, it symbolizes their resilience and the countless hours they’ve spent perfecting their routines.

“As coaches, we are incredibly proud of their overall performance. They left it all on the floor, and while there is always room for improvement, they gave a performance that showcased their teamwork, precision, and energy.”



Louisburg junior Ashton Moore took fourth overall at 190

pounds at the Class 4A state wrestling tournament in February.

6. Moore medals at state wrestling

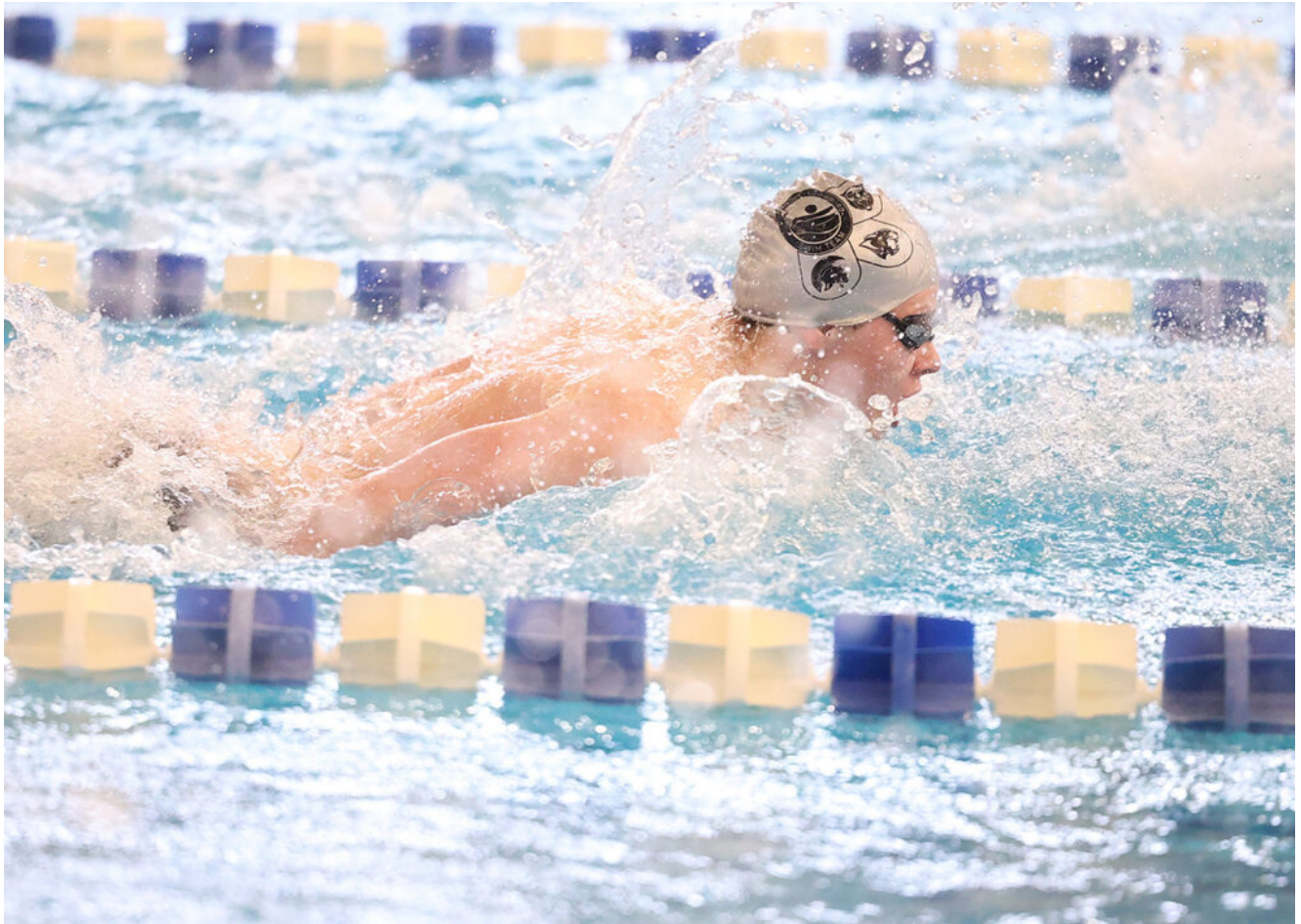
SALINA – Louisburg has been no stranger to the medal stand at the Class 4A state wrestling tournament and it was the case again back in February in Salina.

Louisburg junior Ashton Moore reached the semifinals at 190 pounds on the first day to secure himself a medal, and then finished fourth overall on the tournament's final day.

Moore had several close matches throughout the 3-day tournament at the Tony's Pizza Events Center and was challenged each day.

"I thought I wrestled some of my best matches of the season and it felt great to have it pay off with a medal," Moore said. "It felt amazing to win those first two matches and know I was guaranteed my medal. Those wins really helped me gain a lot of confidence going forward in the tournament."

Five other Wildcats made the trip to state, but faced some tough matchups. Juniors Canaan Clayton (113 pounds), Will Showalter (120), Logan Henry (132), Jay McCaskill (157) and senior Traden Noll (150) each finished 0-2 on the first day.



Louisburg sophomore Colin Brown earned medals in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke during the Class 5-1A state meet in Topeka.

5. Wildcat boys swim makes history earning 5 medals at state

TOPEKA – The Louisburg boys swim program is still relatively new compared to other teams around the state, but the Wildcats made its presence felt back in February at the Class 5-1A state meet in Topeka.

Louisburg had its best postseason finish in its young history as the Wildcats finished eighth overall in the team standings with 104 points thanks in part to just four swimmers.

Two of those athletes – Colin Brown and Andrew Jamison – each brought home individual medals. Brown, Jamison, Colton Prettyman and Noah Sharp also medaled in the 200-yard medley

relay.

Brown hit the pool strong as the Wildcat sophomore medaled fourth in the 100-yard butterfly and later finished fifth in the 100 backstroke with personal best times.

Jamison, another sophomore, earned two medals of his own. He finished fifth in the 200 individual medley and later took sixth in the 100 breaststroke.

Prettyman reached the consolation finals in the 50 freestyle and took 13th overall with a personal best time.



Louisburg senior Myles Vohs makes a leaping catch in the fourth quarter of Friday's game against Bishop Miede.

4. Wildcat football nearly pulls upset of Miego as successful season comes to early close

The mountain of playing Bishop Miego is always a tough one for public schools to climb, especially when it comes to football.

Miego, which has won seven state titles in the last 10 years, has never lost to a non-private school in the playoffs during that decade long of dominance.

Louisburg wanted to be the first team to hand it that loss as the No. 2 seed Wildcats hosted the No. 15 Stags in the first round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

The Wildcats were so close to that mountaintop, but came up just short as they fell to Miego, 21-14, to end their season with a 7-2 record.

Louisburg was behind 14 points, only to rally and tie the game at halftime. The Wildcats had one final drive to try and tie it again late, but a Miego interception dashed the Wildcats' hopes of an upset.

"In this moment, the only word I can come up right now is proud," Louisburg coach Drew Harding said. "I am so proud of the team. Our biggest emphasis was we had to start fast and we didn't. They got out to a 14-0 lead, and most times when you play teams like Miego that can snowball and get out of hand quick. Those guys just battled and were able to tie it up at halftime. Then for us to continue to fight and have a chance to tie it at the end – proud is all I can say about them."

The Wildcats ended their season with back-to-back losses after they won their first seven games of the season. They were in line to win their third straight league title, but lost a close game the week before to Spring Hill that also bumped

them off their No. 1 seed line, forcing a matchup with Miego in the first round.

Miego's streak of state titles came to an end later in the season as the Stags fell to Andover Central in the state championship game.



(Photo courtesy of Minna Meyer)

The Louisburg girls soccer team hoists the regional championship plaque following their 2-0 win against Maranatha Academy.

3. Wildcat girls soccer wins regional championship

For the last two seasons, the Louisburg girls soccer team has seen heartbreak in the Class 4-1A regional championship.

Losses to Topeka-Hayden and Bishop Miego have prevented the Wildcats from that regional title, with their last coming in

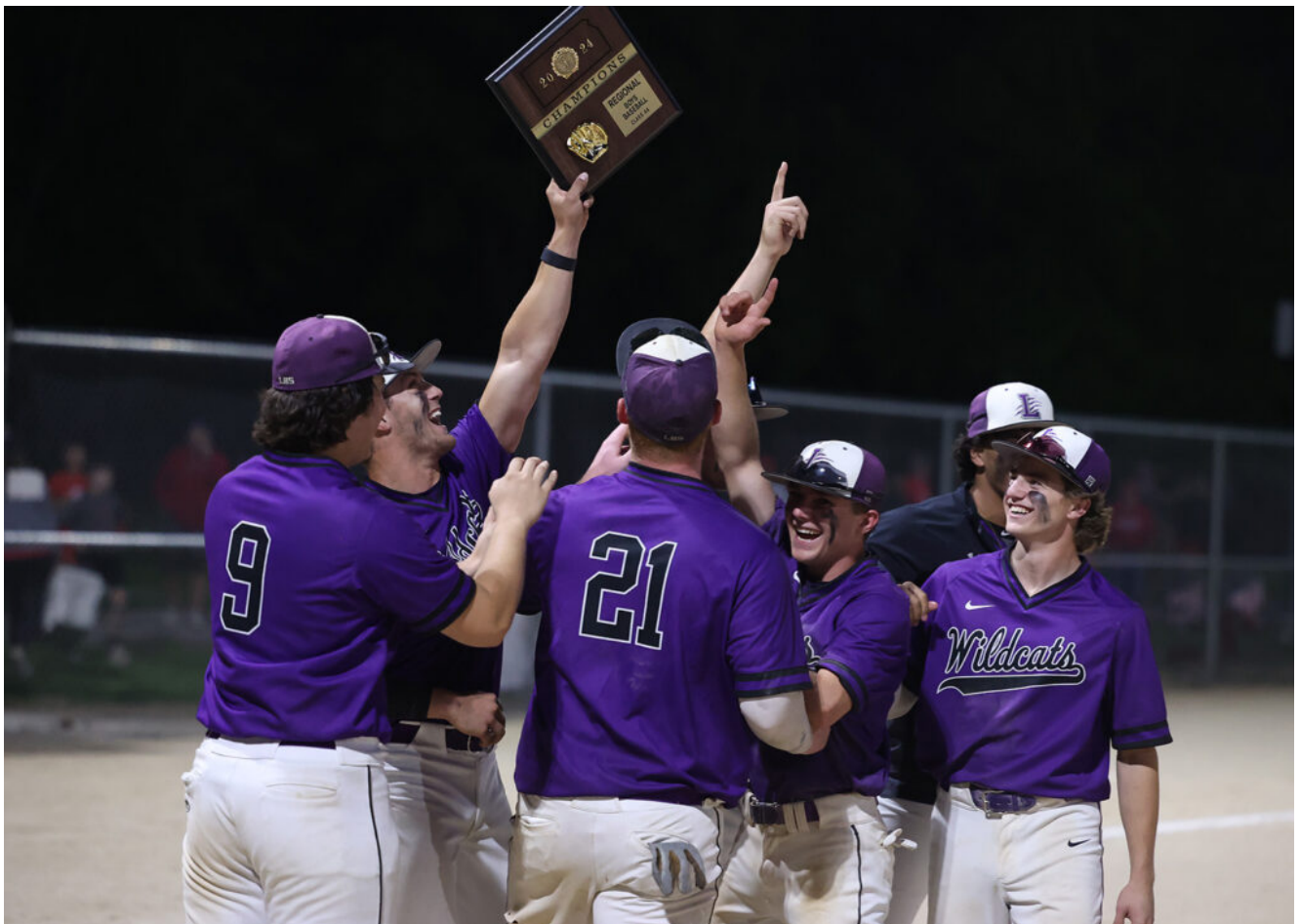
2021.

It is elusive no more.

The No. 1 seed Wildcats shutout No. 8 Maranatha Academy, 2-0, to win the Class 4-1A regional title at Wildcat Stadium. It was a dominating effort from start to finish as the Wildcats improved their record to 13-4-1 on the season.

"This was a preseason goal of ours," Louisburg coach Ben York said. "We fell short last year and we wanted to do as much as we could in the regular season to control our own destiny. The girls put a lot of work in and were focused to get to this game and get a win. They definitely earned this one and it was good to see them enjoy it."

Louisburg faced a tough matchup in the state quarterfinals as the Wildcats lost to Bishop Miege at home, 7-0.



Louisburg senior Declan Battle hoists the regional championship trophy following the Wildcats' 10-3 win over

Wamego in Class 4A regional championship game.

2. Wildcat baseball earns first regional title in 15 years

The current members of the Louisburg baseball team couldn't remember the last time the Wildcats made the state tournament even if they tried.

That's because they were just wee toddlers the last time the Wildcats earned a spot a state – 2009 to be exact.

These players are going to have a hard time forgetting this one.

For the first time in 15 years, Louisburg is headed back to the state tournament after the Wildcats put together a convincing 10-3 victory over Wamego in the Class 4A regional championship back in May at Lewis-Young Park.

The Wildcats also defeated Parsons, 8-0, in the regional semifinal to put together what was a dominating performance from top to bottom.

"This is just amazing," Louisburg coach Kade Larson said. "To see how much work these guys have put in, then to come out and get the job done, it is pretty surreal. We had a bunch of guys step up and do exactly what they needed to do. They played great defense, pitched great and everyone in the dug out was into the game. It was a great win.

"It has been awhile and it has been a long time coming. We have had some great teams and this team finally pushed through and got it done."

In the state tournament, the Wildcats had to battle rival Paola in the first round, but lost in a pitcher's dual to the Panthers, 3-0.



Louisburg senior Maddy Carpenter-Ross celebrates after clearing 12 feet at the Class 4A state meet in Wichita. That clearance gave Carpenter-Ross her second straight state championship in the event.

1. Wildcat sweep pole vault state titles, medal 8 at state

WICHITA — Cooper Wingfield and Maddy Carpenter-Ross found their way atop the medal stand last May at the Class 4A state track meet.

All season, Carpenter-Ross had her eyes set on a second straight state title in the pole vault and she dominated her competition.

Going into the Class 4A state meet at Wichita State, Carpenter-Ross won every competition going away and was ready to do the same against some of the state's best.

This time, however, it was much harder.

To get this state title, Carpenter-Ross was going to have to have to set a new personal best and break her own school record in the process.

She did it and accomplished that feat on her first try.

With two competitors left at 12 feet, Carpenter-Ross cleared it on her first try as did Holton's Piper Robinson. Both competitors missed at 12-6, and since they were tied, they decided the winner based on misses at 11-6, where the Louisburg senior got it on her first try.

"It is pretty awesome," Carpenter-Ross said. "I worked really hard for that and I am so relieved right now. It was a little stressful, but I was in that competitive mindset and I was so happy that I PR'd. Everyone was setting personal records, so I was just like 'My turn.'"



Louisburg junior Cooper Wingfield pumps his fist after

clearing 15 feet in the pole vault at the Class 4A state meet in Wichita. He captured his first state title in the event.

Wingfield, who was the state runner-up last season, entered the competition at 14 feet. He missed the first two attempts on his opening height, and another miss would not only prevent him from a state title, but a spot on the medal stand.

On the third attempt, the Louisburg junior cleared it with ease and eventually cleared 15 feet on his first attempt, which was the winning height.

“I was really nervous there on that last attempt (at 14 feet),” Wingfield said. “All I needed was a good jump to get in the zone and from there I knew I could jump pretty high. The competition was a lot harder this time around than it was last year. I knew I had to make everything on my first attempt and once I had one good jump, I knew I could do it.”

It had already been a special season in the pole vault for Wingfield, as he earned a league and regional title, and broke the school record.

Other state medalists were Gavin Lohse (third, long jump), Jaymes Melton (seventh, shot put), Ben O’Bryan (seventh, discus), Suzanna Dansel (seventh 100 dash) and Jacob Brown (eighth, pole vault). The girls 4×100 team of Dansel, Kendall Crossley, Emma Vohs and Addi Mallett medaled sixth.

Willer steps down as Louisburg volleyball coach



Louisburg volleyball coach Leanna Willer is stepping down from her post after serving as head coach for the last four seasons.

After spending eight years with Louisburg volleyball, including the last four years as head coach, Leanna Willer is saying goodbye to the program.

Willer informed her team last Thursday that she has resigned her post as head coach and will be accepting a new position as the head coach at Olathe East High School.

“This decision is bittersweet, but deep down I know that this is the best decision for me and my life,” Willer said in an email to parents. “The team will move on, and I feel lucky that I could play a small part in the long-standing traditions of the program. To the alumni and class of 2024, I thank you for your commitment to this team and to this program, and for making my time at Louisburg unforgettable. To our younger players, I am sorry for not seeing your journeys all the way through, but please know that you have my unwavering support

and I cannot wait to see what you all can accomplish with the time you have left as Louisburg Wildcats.”

Willer was an assistant under head coach Jessica Compliment her first four years, before taking over the program in 2021. She went on to lead the Wildcats to two sub-state championships during that time, including two fourth-place finishes at the Class 4A state tournament.

“I had a very difficult time making this decision, and the Louisburg volleyball family is a huge reason why,” Willer said in the email. “Over the last eight years, I have grown close with many of you and your families, and I feel incredibly grateful that Louisburg welcomed me with open arms so many years ago. The outpouring of love and support from the community that I have felt as part of this program has been overwhelming, and I could not have asked for a better place to begin my career. Louisburg is truly a special place that I will always hold close to my heart.”

She was hired by Louisburg as a graduate out of Washburn University, where she excelled on the volleyball court. Willer earned All-MIAA honors all four years and was a 2-time unanimous selection. She twice earned Academic All-American honors, was a two-time All-American and was the team MVP on two different occasions.

The Wildcats will have several returning starters next season and Willer knows they will accomplish great things with whoever the new coach will be.

“I know that the Louisburg volleyball program is set up for success, and I know our upperclassmen heading into next year are ready to accomplish some amazing things,” Willer said “I will continue to be Louisburg’s biggest fan and will always celebrate Wildcat victories. I intend to do everything in my power to set up the next head coach to make this transition as smooth as possible.

"I just want to thank the Louisburg staff and administrators for taking a chance and hiring a college girl back in 2017 and providing the mentorship and opportunities for me to grow during my time at LHS. I have been challenged and supported in becoming a better teacher and coach, and I will never forget what being a Louisburg Wildcat has meant to me."

Five Wildcats selected to all-league volleyball team



Louisburg had four second team selections in McKenna Lohse, Caileigh Kilgore, Adelyn Moore and Aspen Coulter. Senior Ally Brown was named honorable mention.

The Louisburg volleyball team saw its season come to an end in the sub-state championship to the eventual state runner-up in Rock Creek, but the Wildcats still put together another successful season.

It was one that caught the eye of some of the Frontier League

coaches as they honored several Wildcat players when the all-league teams were released last week.

Five Wildcats were honored, including four second team selections in senior Aspen Coulter, juniors McKenna Lohse and Caileigh Kilgore and sophomore Adelyn Moore. Senior Ally Brown was named as an honorable mention.

"Overall, we were well-represented," Louisburg coach Leanna Willer said. "This is the first time in a while that we were able to get multiple girls recognized at a higher level than honorable mention, so I was of course happy to see that. Our team is sometimes difficult to vote for as we are very well-balanced. We don't necessarily have 1-2 major studs that everyone knows and recognizes immediately as the player that hurt them the most. Throughout the season we had different girls stepping up at different times and different players who led us through those matches.

"When league coaches vote, they are looking at the season stats that I put in front of them but they are also remembering back to the time(s) that we played against each other and who stood out to them, so it's encouraging to see so many girls get recognized. I think arguments could be made about other players as well, but to have five players be selected to the all-league team is pretty great."

Lohse was a starting middle blocker for the Wildcats and did several things well as she led the team in four different categories. She led the way with a team-high 211 kills, along with a team-best 56 aces and a hitting percentage of .236 and was tops in blocks in league matches.

"Kenna was the player for us that needed to get going, and if we could get Kenna going, everyone else seemed to follow," Willer said. "She also seemed to have very little fear when playing against our tougher opponents this season. In fact, one could argue that her best games were those against the

tougher teams. She truly rose to the occasion in those big moments and we are excited to see what we will be able to get from her in her senior season.”

Kilgore was another weapon at the net for the Wildcats as she was the top hitter from the outside and was second on the team with 205 kills.

“Caileigh was a strong hitter for us and led us in attempts as she had the responsibility of getting not only the good sets to put it away, but also a lot of the out-of-system sets as is common with outside hitters,” Willer said “We love that she is not afraid to take a rip at a ball. Her presence was big for us as her kills were often the most impactful for team momentum. She was in the top 10 in the league for kills, which earned her a place on the all-league team. We are looking forward to seeing what Caileigh will bring to our team next year.”

Setting them up for all those kills was Moore, who was in her second year as the setter after sharing those responsibilities last year as a freshman. As a sophomore, all Moore did was lead the Frontier League in assists with 743.

She made her presence known all over the court as he also had 98 kills, 26 blocks, 31 aces and 186 digs.

“Adelyn ran our team and she proved herself to be one of the best setters in the league,” Willer said. “She is an all-around athlete who works hard non-stop. She plays good defense, leads the team with our offense, and has done a great job of making her presence known at the net despite her height.

“She is the type of kid who puts her head down and gets to work during a match. You’ll never see her complain or get angry with her teammates, and she is always finding a way to get the job done. As she is only a sophomore, we are so excited that she will be back for two more years and can’t

wait to see what she can accomplish.”

Coulter earned a spot on the second team for her defense as the team’s libero. As a team captain, Coulter led the team with 301 digs, which was second in the league.

She was also aggressive from behind the service line with 34 aces and had 65 assists on the season.

“Aspen held down the back court as our libero this year and she did a great job for us defensively,” Willer said. “Additionally, she was our most consistent server and also aggressive from behind the line. She was second in the league in digs this year and made some notably awesome plays on defense, which led to her earning a spot on the all-league team.

“Her willingness to just go for it on defense as she’s not afraid to hit the floor helped our team on the defensive end all year. Furthermore, she expanded her range to play not only left back but also middle back this season and we are proud of her for taking on a change in her role to help the team.”

Another team captain, Brown earned honorable mention from her defensive specialist spot. She made an impact defensively and from behind the service line.

Brown was second on the team with 228 digs and was also second in aces with 47. She also led the team in serve attempts and points scored while serving.

“Ally was largely the heart and soul of this team as a really strong leader,” Willer said. “She was always the one to speak up with words of wisdom, motivation, encouragement, or tough love when needed. She was a defensive specialist for us this year and accepted that role wholeheartedly.

“Her stats earned her a place on the all-league team because coaches recognized the spirit that she brought to the court as

well as the great defense she played. Her dig numbers were right up there close to a lot of the Liberos while only being on the court half the time, and that speaks volumes about what she was able to do for our team.”

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE VOLLEYBALL

First Team

Sydney Buscher, Spring Hill, senior

Adalyn Hemphill, Eudora, senior

Braydee Miller, Eudora, freshman

Finley Rieke, Tonganoxie, junior

Brylynn Wicker, Paola, senior

LIBERO: Haedyn Lynnes, Spring Hill, freshman

SETTER: Miranda Kuntz, Eudora, senior

Second Team

Leah Askins-Dietrich, Ottawa, sophomore

Brooke Beashore, Spring Hill, sophomore

Caileigh Kilgore, Louisburg, junior

McKenna Lohse, Louisburg, junior

Emily Paget, Baldwin, senior

LIBERO: Aspen Coulter, Louisburg, senior

SETTER: Adelyn Moore, Louisburg, sophomore

Honorable Mention

Lauren Berg, Baldwin, senior

Ally Brown, Louisburg, senior

Cami Collum, Baldwin, freshman

Avery Gallagher, Spring Hill, sophomore

Avery Hemphill, Eudora, sophomore

Kamryn Love, Bonner Springs, junior

Indigo Pruitt, Eudora, senior

Kayleigh Rohr, Ottawa, junior

Addy Schooler, Tonganoxie, sophomore

Ellie Trachsel, Paola, sophomore

Olivia Walters, Ottawa, senior

LIBERO

Claire Baker, Baldwin, senior

Caylee Crawford, Paola, junior

Kaitlyn Dale, Tonganoxie, junior

Bailey Hammerschmidt, Eudora, junior

Addison White, Ottawa, senior

SETTER

Ava Anderson, Bonner Springs, senior

Kalea Baldock, Tonganoxie, junior

Kinzley Meinig, Paola, sophomore

Logan Scoby, Baldwin, freshman

Season comes to close for Wildcat volleyball in sub-state title match



Louisburg senior Evyn Richardson tips the ball over a Rock Creek blocker last Saturday at Rock Creek High School.

ST. GEORGE – For the last two seasons, the Louisburg volleyball team ventured on the road and captured back-to-back sub-state championships.

This season the Wildcats found themselves in the same position and faced a tough task as they traveled to No. 1 seed Rock Creek.

After a 2-0 victory over Independence in the sub-state semifinals, the Wildcats battled Rock Creek in the championship game in hopes of making it a third-straight trip to state.

Although they battled, Louisburg came up short in a 25-18 and 25-23 setback to the Mustangs on Saturday at Rock Creek High School. The Wildcats finished the season with a 20-16 record.

"The end of any season is always tough, and losing in the championship on Saturday was heartbreaking for sure," Louisburg coach Leanna Willer said. "Rock Creek is a great team, but we sure put up a great fight. In the first set I thought we wanted to compete, but let them score too many runs and get too many easy points from us. In the second set, I thought we really went for it and believed that that could be our game.

"We stepped up every aspect of our game it felt like and we were in it right until the very end. We are very proud of the heart that our girls showed in that match."

Rock Creek, which came into the tournament with a 32-4 record, provided a lot of challenges for the Wildcats. Mustang middle blocker Ayla Klingenberg was big at the net with 12 kills on the night, while setter Brynna Moeller had 17 assists.

"Rock Creek is a great team," Willer said. "Their ball control is very solid, and (Moeller) is quite impressive. She is offensive-minded, very athletic and moves the ball around well to put their hitters in good positions. Klingenberg is a force to be reckoned with at the net and we knew it would be a challenge to stop her.

"Additionally, they are just a strong team from every position. They are tall and strong at the net so they put up a good block, and they have girls that can swing aggressively from each position. As I said before, they are a very strong team and one that I imagine will do well at the

state tournament later this week.”



Louisburg junior McKenna Lohse goes up for a block Saturday at Rock Creek.

Still, the Wildcats were able to put up a fight, especially in the second set. Louisburg was down 18-14 when McKenna Lohse tallied two kills and Addi Mallett added another to make it 18-17.

Rock Creek went up 19-17, but Lohse added two more kills to tie the match. The Mustangs went up 22-20, but Caileigh Kilgore answered with two kills of her own to tie the match again.

It wasn't enough as Rock Creek scored three of the next four points to take the set and the match.

“We really did leave it all out there on the floor,” Willer said. “After the game, we talked about how we all should walk out of that gym with our heads held high knowing that we gave

it our all and played what I think was our best volleyball of the season. The environment in the gym was great – I'll give credit to the Rock Creek Student Section – they sure brought the noise.

"That being said, our families, friends, and loved ones that made the trip out there to support us really brought the energy. It means a lot to our girls to be able to look up in the stands and see so much purple."

Lohse and Kilgore led the Wildcats at the net with seven and six kills, respectively. Senior Evyn Richardson added five. On the day, Lohse tallied 13 kills and Kilgore had 11.

The players also fared well at the net defensively as they challenged several Rock Creek attacks.

"Our hitters did a great job at the net overall," Willer said. "We minimized our unforced errors which helped us win the semi-final and compete in the championship. Kenna hit .500 on the day with 13 kills and only 1 error on 24 attempts. Caileigh hit .409 with 11 kills and only 2 errors on 22 attempts.

"Our offense among the rest of our hitters was solid as well – those two just stood out the most for us. On the defensive side of things, I was proud of how well our team blocked against Rock Creek, especially considering they were the taller, bigger team. We played tough at the net and competed well all day."



Louisburg senior Aspen Coulter passes the ball off to a teammate Saturday at Rock Creek.

Sophomore setter Adelyn Moore had 20 assists, while senior libero Aspen Coulter led the team with nine digs. Moore and Mallett each had five.

Against Independence, the Wildcats controlled the game from behind the service line and it started with Lohse. The Louisburg junior led the way with six aces in the Wildcats' 25-19 and 25-14 win.

In all, Louisburg had 12 aces in the semifinal match, including two from senior Jaden Bentz and junior Delaney Nelsen.

Moore ran the offense well as she recorded 23 assists against the Bulldogs, while Mallett and Lohse each had six kills.

Defensively, Coulter led the back row with six digs and senior Ally Brown had four. Another senior, Katie McKain, finished

with a team-high two blocks.

The loss against Rock Creek also meant the final game in a Louisburg uniform for five seniors as Bentz, Brown, Coulter, McKain and Richardson all saw their Wildcat careers come to a close.

“These five seniors have been wonderful with the team this season,” Willer said. “As a group, they faced a unique challenge in the sense that our senior class last year was so big, and really only one of this year’s seniors came in with much varsity experience. That being said, this group didn’t miss a beat and stepped up to the challenge wholeheartedly.

“I have been so impressed by this group of girls this season because of their selflessness and team first mentality. They walked in the gym every day willing to work hard and wanting to get better, and I think that showed on the court on Saturday. They gave so much of themselves to this team and our program and we are so lucky to have had them be a part of it. We will miss them so much next year.”

Wildcats down Wamego, Ottawa in regular season finale



Louisburg's Katie McKain (12) and McKenna Lohse go up for a block last Thursday at Wamego.

WAMEGO – With the Frontier League schedule complete and the postseason right around the corner, the Louisburg volleyball team had two games remaining on its regular season schedule.

As far as the league standings and postseason schedule goes, the matches last Thursday didn't mean much, but the Wildcats wanted to enter the postseason on a positive note.

Louisburg was able to accomplish that as the Wildcats defeated Wamego and Ottawa during a triangular at Wamego High School.

The Wildcats rallied to beat Wamego, 2-1, in the first match of the night and then took care of business against Ottawa in a 2-0 win. Louisburg finished its regular season with a 19-15 record.

'It was great to go out to Wamego and get a couple of wins,'" Louisburg coach Leanna Willer said. "We talked a lot about how it was important to us to finish the regular season on a positive note and having fun as a team. There were moments in both games that were touch and go as we had more errors than we would have liked, but each time we were able to turn it around and play at a higher level later in the game.

"Both Wamego and Ottawa are scrappy teams that defended us well to start, but our girls did a good job at making some adjustments to end on a more successful note."

After a tough start in a first set loss to Wamego, the Wildcats were able to rally in the 24-26, 25-13 and 25-19 victory.

Louisburg served tough to help get back in it as the Wildcats tallied 12 aces, including three from seniors Aspen Coulter, Ally Brown and junior McKenna Lohse. They also had two from Addi Mallett and one from Delaney Nelsen.

The middles also had a big night as Lohse and senior Evyn Richardson each had nine kills to lead the team, and junior Caileigh Kilgore had seven.

Sophomore Adelyn Moore had a team high 28 assists to help lead the offensive attack.

Defensively, senior Jaden Bentz and Coulter each had nine digs to lead the way and Moore had eight. Senior Ally Brown and Nelsen each had seven.

Against Ottawa, the Wildcats survived the first set with a 28-26 victory, but dominated the second set 25-10 to earn the sweep.

Mallett led the Wildcat attack at the net with seven kills, while Lohse finished with six. Moore also had 16 assists on the night.

Defensively, the Wildcats found a lot of success at the net with 10 blocks, including three from Lohse and two from senior Katie McKain, Moore and Richardson.

In the back row, Brown led the way with six digs and also had an ace, as did Nelsen.

"Looking at the performances, one of the biggest positives in my mind is that all of our stats were well-distributed among every player," Willer said. "We had 4 players with double digit kills on the evening, and 4 other players with double digit digs. We've been working on balance throughout the season so that was really good to see."

"Both Kenna Lohse and Ally Brown stood out as Kenna led us at the net with 15 kills and 5 blocks. Ally had a great night in the back row as she led the team with 4 Aces and 13 digs."

Now the focus will be on the postseason for Louisburg. The Wildcats are the No. 9 seed and will face off with No. 8 Independence at 3 p.m. Saturday during the sub-state tournament at Rock Creek High School.

If the Wildcats win, they will advance to the championship where they will meet the winner of No. 1 Rock Creek and Labette Co./Fort Scott match.

"As we look ahead to the postseason, we are looking forward to putting in some hard work in the gym in our final guaranteed week of practices so that we are at our best by Saturday," Willer said. "With the positive energy that this team can bring to the court, we know that we are capable of accomplishing some big things."

Wildcat volleyball takes second at Atchison to stop losing skid



Louisburg's McKenna Lohse (left) and Adelyn Moore team up for block during the Wildcats' Oct. 8 match at Tonganoxie. On Saturday, the Wildcats took second at the Atchison Invitational.

ATCHISON – Going into the Atchison Invitational on Saturday, it had been a pretty tough stretch for the Louisburg volleyball team.

The Wildcats had suffered seven straight losses going into the tournament and needed some positives to happen in the biggest way. They got what they were looking for.

Louisburg won three of four matches at the round-robin tournament and finished second overall in Atchison to improve its record to 17-15 on the season.

The Wildcats opened the tournament with a 25-12 and 25-8 victory over Schlagle, but lost in three sets to Shawnee Mission South, 25-20, 19-25 and 25-19. Louisburg rebounded with a 25-14 and 25-19 win over Atchison and ended with a 3-set win over Perry-Lecompton, 18-25, 25-15 and 25-15.

"It was great to get back on the winning side of things on Saturday and put an end to the rough streak we had been having," Louisburg coach Leanna Willer said. "It was definitely needed. Finishing second at that tournament definitely helped our team confidence, especially ending on that win against Perry-Lecompton. I think we learned some things about our team and we showed some growth throughout the day as well."

Louisburg faced adversity against Perry-Lecompton as it lost the first set and was the verge of a tough loss to end its day. However, the Wildcats rallied to win the next two sets in convincing fashion.

It started at the serving line for the Wildcats as they tallied 10 aces in the match, including three each from McKenna Lohse and Aspen Coulter, while Addi Mallett had two.

Sophomore setter Adelyn Moore got her hitters involved as junior Caileigh Kilgore had a team-high 10 kills and Lohse was right behind her with nine. Senior Evyn Richardson, Mallett and Moore had five kills each.

Defensively, Mallett, Coulter and senior Ally Brown led the way with eight digs each and Kilgore had seven.

"The final match against Perry-Lecompton was great because we saw a major turn-around between the first and second sets," Willer said. "We had some leaders step up in big ways, and the

rest of the team really bought in to what we wanted to get out of that game. The energy and atmosphere completely changed for the better, and I'm really proud of the whole group for making that happen."



Louisburg junior Delaney Nelsen digs up a ball during match on Oct. 8 in Tonganoxie.

On the day, the Wildcats had a lot of success serving as they tallied 33 aces in the four matches, including nine from Moore and seven each from Coulter and Lohse.

Moore also directed the Wildcat attack with 84 assists on the day. Lohse led the way at the net with 11 kills, while Kilgore and Mallett each had eight. Richardson and senior Katie McKain had six each.

Defensively, Richardson had a team-high seven blocks, while Coulter had a team-best 33 digs. Brown finished with 20 digs,

Moore had 17 and senior Jaden Bentz had 15.

"I thought that both of our middles (Richardson and Lohse) really had a big weekend, and I'll give credit to Adelyn for making sure that we were running our offense through them when we could," Willer said. "Bringing them into the picture more often also gave our pin hitters a little more breathing room and space around the block, so it helped everyone be more successful."

Louisburg will try to keep its winning ways going Thursday as they travel to Wamego for a triangular with Ottawa in its regular season finale. Matches begin at 5 p.m.

Wildcats drop league finale at Tonganoxie

Louisburg saw its Frontier League schedule come to a close on Oct. 8 when the Wildcats traveled to Tonganoxie.

Unfortunately, they were unable to get that final league victory. Tonganoxie won in straight sets, 25-20, 25-22 and 25-21.

"Ending our league schedule at Tonganoxie last week was tough, and we knew it would be a tough match up after seeing them the previous Saturday at the Ottawa tournament," Willer said. "We had a stronger game plan going into the match, but unfortunately we couldn't quite execute it as we had designed. We did not play our best, and struggled with serve receive and making errors in general.

"To Tonganoxie's credit, they played a very clean game of volleyball and just didn't make a lot of errors which put them in the better position to win. Every team in this league is a strong contender. Although I believe we could have performed better, Tonganoxie was the better team that night."

The Wildcats committed 41 errors on the night, which was hard to battle back from against a good Chieftain team.

Junior McKenna Lohse led all Wildcat hitters with nine kills, while Addi Mallett had six. Evyn Richardson, Caileigh Kilgore and Delaney Nelsen each had five kills.

Adelyn Moore had 27 assists on the night, while Aspen Coulter and Ally Brown had 10 and nine digs, respectively.