

Louisburg has big presence at GKCVC all-star match



Louisburg's Erin Lemke (left) and Haley Cain go up for a block during the Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches Association small-class all-star match Sunday at Avila University.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The 2019

Louisburg volleyball senior class provided a lot of memories for the program in their four years, but many of them still had one more item on their agenda.

Erin Lemke, Haley Cain, Riley Kallevig and Reilly Ratliff-Becher all took part in the Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches Association Small Class All-Star Match on Sunday at Avila University as the Kansas seniors squared off against Missouri.

The result may not have been what they were hoping for as Missouri won the match for the third straight season, 25-20, 25-23 and 21-25, but all four Lady Cat players saw a lot of court time as they joined players from Bishop Miege, Eudora and Heritage Christian.

"I was extremely honored to be chosen to represent Kansas," Ratliff-Becher said. "I loved playing with the girls from different schools, but my favorite part was experiencing this with my teammates Haley, Erin and Riley. They're my very best friends and we've been by each other's side these past four

years making memories. This experience was a good note to end on with them.”

The four Louisburg seniors weren’t the only local connection to the match as Louisburg head coach Jessica Compliment was named the Kansas Small-Class Coach of the Year for the fourth time in her career and coached team Kansas, along with assistants Leanna Willer and Kallie O’Keefe.

“It’s always a great honor to be recognized by my peers and selected to coach the all-star match,” Compliment

said. “This is the fourth time I’ve been selected, and each year it’s humbling.

I always say though that it’s not about me, but about the players and

recognizing their outstanding senior season and careers they’ve had. It’s fun

to bring together players from opposing teams and see them work

together on the same side of the net rather than opposing sides.



Louisburg head coach Jessica Compliment was named the GKCVCA Kansas Small-Class Coach of the Year. Compliment coached the Kansas team with assistant Kallie O'Keefe (left) and Leanna Willer.

“Having the opportunity to coach the Louisburg seniors one last time is also always exciting. These seniors had a great season and have put a stamp on Louisburg volleyball. The all-star match is a no pressure match but rather an opportunity for players across the metro area to come together and do what they do best – play good volleyball.”

Kansas took an early lead in the first set thanks in part to Cain, who recorded a block to put her team up 3-0 early.

Missouri then went on a run to take a 15-10 advantage, before Cain added a kill to cut into the deficit.

Lemke made an impact late in the set on a kill, while Ratliff-Becher served a pair of points to cut Missouri's lead to 23-19, but could get no closer.

"I was very grateful that I got picked to play in the all-star match and represent Kansas," Cain said. "It is an honor I will always remember. Being able to play with, and against, people of that talent was such an amazing experience. But what I enjoyed the most was being able to play with Erin, Reilly and Riley one last time, along with getting coached by our coaches. It meant so much to me to get to take the court with all of them one last time."

In the second set, Kansas got out to another good start. Kallevig recorded a kill, Ratliff-Becher had an ace on the play and Cain added to kill to help put Kansas up 6-3.



Reilly Ratliff-Becher looks to dig up a ball Sunday during the GKCVCA all-star match..

Lemke notched a kill to put Kansas up 11-5 and Cain later recorded an ace to give Kansas a 19-15 advantage.

Missouri made a late final run to steal the set.

Unfortunately, the night for Kallevig ended early in the second set as she had to leave with an ankle injury and was unable to come back. Despite that, she enjoyed the all-star experience.

"I was so honored to be selected to play at the all-star game this year, and having the opportunity to play with a few of my teammates again," Kallevig said. "I had the best time getting to meet new people as well and to play alongside them representing the Kansas small class."



Louisburg's Riley Kallevig prepares to rise up for a block Sunday at Avila University.

It was all Kansas in the third set as it jumped out to a 17-10 after a Lemke block and it was able to end the night on a positive note.

"I was very honored to have been

selected to play as I was not expecting it at all," Lemke said. "All of us, Haley, Reilly and Riley were excited to play again, especially with each other. Getting to meet and play with girls that we had played against for so long was a really cool experience."

McMullen named to all-state team; 5 Lady Cats earn all-league honors



Louisburg sophomore Rinny McMullen was recently named to the Class 4A all-state second team by the Kansas Volleyball Association and was one of five Lady Cats to earn All-Frontier League honors.

It was another successful season for the Louisburg volleyball team, and with that success, comes a few awards.

After finishing fourth in Class 4A this past season, several Lady Cats were recognized with postseason honors – including one on the state level.

Sophomore setter Rinni McMullen earned second-team Class 4A honors when the Kansas Volleyball Association all-state teams were released over the weekend. McMullen was the youngest player to garner all-state honors, as the three teams were completed with juniors and seniors.

All-Frontier League teams were also recently released and five Lady Cats were recognized by the league's coaches.

Senior Haley Cain, junior Carleigh Pritchard and McMullen earned second-team selections, while senior Reilly Ratliff-Becher and sophomore Davis Guetterman were named honorable mentions.

Spring Hill, which won the Frontier League, had two players earn first team honors. Bonner Springs, which was the league runner-up, earned three spots. Eudora also had two first-team selections.

“The Frontier League is made up of great teams and great players,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “I was happy to see five of our players recognized.”

McMullen, who is a part of a two-setter offense with Guetterman, led Louisburg with 504 assists and also led the Lady Cats with 90 aces on the season. She also added

179 digs and 59 kills to her stat line.

Cain,

who was a middle hitter for Louisburg, was third on the team with 202 kills on the season and was second with 58 blocks. She also added 27 aces on the year.

Pritchard also played in the middle for the Lady Cats and had a big year offensively. She led Louisburg with 232 kills on the year and also had a team-high 66 blocks.



Haley Cain (left) and Carleigh Pritchard both earned second team all-league honors.

“These three players had a great season, and I was happy to see them recognized for their play,” Compliment said. “Haley has been a leader on the court for the past four seasons and had another great year. Rinni and Carleigh both had huge matches throughout the season and plays that helped propel the

team forward. They are both dynamic players on the court and fun to watch. I was also proud to see Rinni earn all-state honors as well. I am very happy for her."

Guetterman

also had a big season for the Lady Cats at the setter position. She was right behind McMullen with 457 assists on the year and also had 39 aces and 141 digs.



Setter Davis Guetterman (left) and libero Reilly Ratliff-Becher were recently awarded all-league honorable mention.

Ratliff-Becher

served as the team's libero and was the leader for the Lady Cat back row. She had a team-high 359 digs to go along with 17 aces and 85 assists.

"Both

Reilly and Davis are so steady and consistent on the court," Compliment said. "Reilly has been a crucial part of our defense and stepped up this

year as one of our leaders. Davis was able to bring a lot of passion and enthusiasm to the team. I love watching her and Riny work so well together and run the offense as well as they both do."

ALL-FRONTIER LEAGUE VOLLEYBALL

First Team

Jalyn Stevenson, Spring Hill, junior; Alli Frank, Spring Hill, junior; Keagan Shockley, Eudora, senior; Kim Whetstone, Bonner Springs, senior; Keyana Cruse, Bonner Springs, junior

Defensive Specialist/Libero:

Delaney Franklin, Eudora, senior

Setter: Mercedes Madlock, Bonner Springs, sophomore

Second Team

Kate Frakes, Spring Hill, sophomore; Haley Cain, Louisburg, senior; Carleigh Pritchard, Louisburg, junior; Molly Olmstead, Ottawa, junior; Darby Weidl, Ottawa, junior

Defensive Specialist/Libero:

Caitlyn Rexroat, Spring Hill, senior

Setter: Daphne Gardner, Spring Hill, freshman; Riny McMullen, Louisburg, sophomore

Honorable mention

Rylee Serpan, Spring Hill,

sophomore; Jayla Pierce, Eudora, junior; Erin Gallagher, Tonganoxie, senior; Jordan Knipp, Tonganoxie, senior; Morgan Clark, Paola, junior; Abby Richmond, Paola, junior; Anna Burnett, Baldwin, senior

Defensive Specialist/Libero:

Reilly Ratliff-Becher, Louisburg, senior; Abby Marcouiller, Tonganoxie, senior;

Kaylin Miller, Piper, senior; Brooklyn Chase, Baldwin, junior

Setter: Davis Guetterman,

Louisburg, sophomore; Emma Durr, Eudora, sophomore; Mikayla White, Paola, sophomore; Emma Stottlemire, Ottawa, sophomore

Four Lady Cats selected to GKCVA all-star match



Louisburg seniors Riley Kallevig (10), Erin Lemke (1), Reilly Ratliff-Becher (16) and Haley Cain (9) were all selected to participate in the GKCVA all-star match this Sunday at Avila University.

Over the years, Louisburg has been no stranger when it comes to the Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches Association all-star match.

The contest, which pits the best senior volleyball players from Kansas against the best from Missouri, features both a small and large-class match. Once again this year, the Lady Cats will be well-represented.

Haley Cain, Riley Kallevig, Erin Lemke and Reilly Ratliff-Becher have all been selected to participate for the small-class team at 5 p.m. this Sunday at Avila University.

The four Louisburg players played big roles in the Lady Cats' fourth-place state finish this past season and have helped the Lady Cats to three straight state tournament appearances, including two runner-up finishes in 2017 and 2018.

Cain, who was a middle hitter for Louisburg, was third on the team with 202 kills on the season and was second with 58 blocks. She also added 27 aces on the year.

Kallevig played all six rotations for the Lady Cats the past two seasons and finished her year with 191 kills and 31 aces. She was also second on the team with 276 digs.

As for Lemke, the Lady Cat outside hitter overcame an injury midway through the season to record 106 kills and 27 blocks.

Ratliff-Becher served as the libero for Louisburg and was the leader in the back row. She had a team-high 359 digs and led the team in serve receive. She also finished with 17 aces and 85 assists on the season.

Lady Cats finish fourth at Class 4A state tournament



Louisburg's Alyse Moore and Reilly Ratliff-Becher celebrate a big point Friday during the Class 4A state tournament in Hutchinson.

HUTCHINSON – The Louisburg volleyball team lost its final two matches of the season, but those setbacks didn't take away from what the Lady Cats accomplished last weekend during the Kansas Class 4A State Championships.

For the third straight season, the Lady Cats were among the last four teams playing and brought home a little hardware for their efforts. Louisburg took fourth overall after losing its third place match to Towanda-Circle, 2-1, on Saturday at Hutchinson Sports Arena.

“Every season our goal is to put ourselves in the best position to qualify for state and then to hopefully advance to bracket play on Saturday,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “Leading up

to state, we talked about how nothing is guaranteed and in order to make it to bracket play on Saturday, we have to show up and play our best from the first whistle to the last whistle. If we play our game, then hopefully the winning will take care of itself and we'd advance.

"The eight teams at state this year were all very talented. I was happy that we qualified for the semifinals because that put us one step closer to the championship. Even though we didn't reach the championship match and finished fourth, I was still very proud of how the team played throughout the tournament."

It appeared Louisburg was going to bring home a third-place trophy as it jumped out to an early lead against Circle. The Lady Cats took the first set 25-19, and despite falling 21-25 in the second, they held a 20-13 lead in the third.



Carleigh Pritchard (left) and Liz Jacobs go up for a block Friday in Hutchinson.

Circle battled back to tie the match at 23-all, but junior Alyse Moore registered a kill to give Louisburg match point. Instead, Circle won the last three points and took third place from Louisburg.

Moore and senior Haley Cain led Louisburg with eight kills each, while junior Carleigh Pritchard had six. Louisburg also served well as it recorded 13 aces in the match, including five from sophomore Riny McMullen.

McMullen also shined defensively as she had a team-high 15 digs to go along with 18 assists. The Louisburg setter went

on to be named to the All-Tournament Team.

Pritchard led the Lady Cat defense at the net with four blocks, while senior Riley Kallevig and sophomore Chase Kallevig each had nine digs in the loss.

“We made some errors at the end of the third set that allowed Circle to gain some momentum and win,” Compliment said. “It does go to show that you can’t take any rally or play off because a good team will capitalize on those mistakes or ‘off’ rallies.

“I was still proud of how we finished our season. Placing fourth at state is still a great accomplishment. We talked as a team afterwards about the tradition of Louisburg volleyball and how they helped to create another great season. These players are great role models and have shown once again what can be accomplished with hard work and teamwork.”



Sophomore Rinny McMullen goes up for a jump serve Friday. McMullen was later named to the state's all-tournament team.

On Friday, the Lady Cats were forced to battle their way through pool play. Louisburg opened with a 25-10 and 25-19 loss to No. 1 seed Andale.

The Lady Cats were able to keep their hopes of a state title alive with a 26-24, 23-25 and 25-20 win over Holton to even their record at 1-1 in pool play.

Seniors Liz Jacobs and Riley Kallevig led the way for the Lady Cats offensively as they had 13 and 11

kills, respectively, while Moore was third on the team with six. Sophomore setter Davis Guetterman ran the offense with a team-high 22 assists and McMullen had 13.

Defensively, Riley Kallevig led Louisburg with 16 digs, while senior Reilly Ratliff-Becher had 12 and Chase Kallevig finished with 11.

Louisburg (23-18) faced an even tougher test against No. 5 Nickerson as it lost the first set 19-25, but rallied to take the next two, 25-10 and 25-20, to earn a spot in the state semifinals.

Riley Kallevig had eight kills to pace the Lady Cat offense, while senior Erin Lemke, Cain and Moore each finished with five. McMullen and Chase Kallevig added four and two aces, respectively.



Senior Sydni Keagle leaps in the air to celebrate a point Friday against Nickerson.

Ratliff-Becher had a big match in the back row for Louisburg as the senior libero led the way with 12 digs, while Riley Kallevig added seven.

"There were many times they could have given up on Friday during the Holton and Nickerson matches," Compliment said. "Instead, they fought through and pulled out two wins to end pool play 2-1 and lock in our place in the semifinals. Every team we played at the state tournament showed up to play, which is the way it should be. We had some difficult times on Friday, but the team persevered."

That set up a match with Topeka-Hayden in the semifinals on Saturday, and the Lady Cats couldn't get into a rhythm in their 25-14 and 25-18 loss to the eventual state champion.

The tournament also marked the end of the high school volleyball careers of six seniors as Haley Cain, Liz Jacobs, Riley Kallevig, Sydni Keagle, Erin Lemke and Reilly Ratliff-Becher all played their final match for the Lady Cats.



Senior Erin Lemke goes up for a kill Friday against Nickerson.

"These players are great role models and have shown once again what can be accomplished with hard work and teamwork,"

Compliment said. "The seniors have been a part of three state appearances and

three finishes in the top four. That is pretty cool.

"The seniors, and the rest of the players, weren't ready for the season to be over. The season was a bit of a roller coaster, but I think they learned a lot throughout the season and grew as a team. These six seniors will be missed. They have been great role models over the past four years and I'm excited to see what their futures outside of Louisburg High School has in store for them."

Lady Cats hope experience puts them over the top at state tourney



Louisburg senior Erin Lemke (left) and junior Carleigh Pritchard go up for a block during last Saturday's sub-state tournament. The Lady Cats begin state tournament play at 4:30 p.m. today in Hutchinson.

For the last two years, the Louisburg volleyball team has found itself in the last match of the season.

It is a pretty good place to be, and for some programs, it would be monumental to reach the state championship game in back-to-back years. The Lady Cats were proud of what they accomplished, but finishing second both times has left them wanting more.

"We all are tired of talking about taking second because this and that happens," Louisburg senior Reilly

Ratliff-Becher said. "I've been saying third time is the charm and I think this is our year."

Louisburg will soon find out as it begins its journey toward a state title today at the Class 4A state tournament in Hutchinson. The Lady Cats will open with pool play at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon and will face off against No. 1 Andale, No. 4 Holton and No. 5 Nickerson.

The top two teams in each pool will advance to the semifinals at 1 p.m. on Saturday at Hutchinson Sports Arena, on the campus of Hutchinson Community College.

The Lady Cats, who are the No. 8 seed with a 21-15 record, will open against Andale, which has been ranked the No. 1 team in Class 4A for most of the season. Louisburg defeated Andale in the state semifinals a year ago, so the Lady Cats are somewhat familiar with their first opponent.

"I am excited to see them again," Louisburg senior Erin Lemke said of Andale. "Every team is different this year, and I think it is exciting for us to see them again after playing them last year. Them being No. 1 most of the year is not a fear of ours, and I think we are more excited than anything. When we play together, and for each other, is when we play our best."

Louisburg will also see a pair of unfamiliar foes in Holton and Nickerson, but the Lady Cats aren't as worried about their

opponents as much as they are about themselves.

"We will play whoever we get paired up against," Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. "It was the same thing we told the girls getting ready for sub-state, that regardless who is on the other side, no one else can control what we do on our side of the court. If we take care of our business, and keep our energy level high, then no one can stop us. If we leave it all out on the court, it doesn't matter who is on the other side."

The Lady Cats took care of business this past week as they knocked out perennial state tournament participant, Bishop Miege, in the first round of sub-state.

Louisburg brought its energy level up and it translated into one of its better matches of the season. The Lady Cats hope to use that same recipe this weekend in Hutchinson as they try to earn the school's first state volleyball championship.

"This week, coach said this is the most energy a team has played with during practice since she has been here,"

Ratliff-Becher said. "Since I've been here, I think we are the most prepared than we have ever been and every single player is ready to do their job.

"I think if we come out with the same energy that we did last week, we are going to win every single game. I told my teammates that we are winning every single game, no matter how sloppy or awful it looks."

Experience will certainly be on Louisburg's side as the Lady Cats have six seniors on their roster, and many of

them will participate in their third state tournament. They have several players back who saw state action last season, including seniors Haley Cain, Lemke, Ratliff-Becher and Kallevig.

Junior middle blocker Carleigh Pritchard, along with sophomore setters Rinni McMullen and Davis Guetterman, also played big roles on last season's state tournament team. All of the players realize what they are going to have to do to reach their goal.

"We all know what it takes to win to get to state, and once we get there, we know what it is like playing with those teams," senior Riley Kallevig said. "Hopefully we can all play our game, everyone will do their part and we can have a good weekend.

"Being able to get second is a good accomplishment, but twice in a row is kind of tough. I think we are ready to bring home that first state title. It would be amazing."

If anything, the Lady Cats will try to use those back-to-back state runner-up finishes as a reminder of what they have missed out on heading into this weekend.

"For a few of them, they have their two second place medals and I think that is added motivation for them to go down there and win a state title," Compliment said. "A lot of people would be happy in getting second at state last year, but I think after it was over, there was a lot unfinished business left there with some of these seniors. They

know this is their last chance to get that title for those seniors. We have to take care of business first on Friday, but they definitely have a little motivation after the last couple of years."

After their match with Andale, the Lady Cats will face off with Holton (30-11) at 5:30 p.m. and Nickerson (27-13) at 7:30 p.m.

No. 2 Independence (35-3), No. 3 Towanda-Circle (33-6), No. 6 Eudora (26-13) and No. 7 Topeka-Hayden (25-14) will compete in the other pool.

Lady Cats knock off Miege en route to sub-state championship



Louisburg senior Haley Cain holds up the Class 4A sub-state championship trophy and celebrates with her teammates following the Lady Cats' 2-0 win over Atchison in the championship match Saturday at Atchison High School. Louisburg also upset Bishop Miege in the sub-state semifinal match, 2-0.

ATCHISON – The sub-state semifinal game between Louisburg and Bishop Miege on Saturday had all the feels of a state tournament match.

Partially because a year ago, it was.

Louisburg met Miege in the state championship match only to see the Stags send the Lady Cats to a runner-up finish in two sets. Then three weeks ago the two teams met again, and like before, Miege dispatched of Louisburg in two sets.

However, Bishop Miege saw a different Louisburg team during the sub-state tournament at Atchison High School – one they didn't expect.

The Lady Cats came out on fire and never let up in a 25-18 and 25-22 win over Miege to end the Stags' season. It marks the first time in at least 12 years, if not longer, that Miege will not be at the state tournament.

Since the state tournament began in 1971, Bishop Miege has made 39 state appearances during that time in either Class 5A or 4A and is the most in Kansas history.

“Our energy was going to be the difference in that match, so we knew we had to bring it,” Louisburg senior Erin Lemke said. “We knew we had the same skill set as Miege, but our energy was what was going to pull us through there in the end. To get there, we just had to believe in ourselves and work hard this past week to give us the confidence that we needed.”

However, even after pulling off a big revenge win that expended a lot of energy, the Lady Cats still had a sub-state championship match to play against No. 2 seed Atchison. The No. 7 seed Lady Cats took care of business as they won in straight sets, 25-12 and 25-15, at Atchison High School.

This will be the eighth time in 10 years that Louisburg has qualified for the state tournament, including three straight appearances. The Lady Cats have also finished second at state the last two seasons.

“I am super excited,” Louisburg senior Reilly Ratliff-Becher said. “We have worked so hard this past week in practice, especially coming off a bad tournament the week before. Our mentality changed and that was big for us.”



Sophomore setter Riny McMullen sends the ball to the back corner for a point Saturday in Atchison.

Louisburg (21-15) came out with a purpose to open the tournament and put Bishop Miege in a hole early as the Lady

Cats jumped out to a 14-5 lead in the first behind kills from junior Carleigh

Pritchard, seniors Liz Jacobs, Lemke and junior Alyse Moore. Senior Haley Cain

also provided two blocks during that span and the Lady Cats were off and running.

The Lady Cats went up 22-12 after sophomore setter Riny McMullen sent the ball to the back corner for a point away from the Miege defense and they were able to close out

the set.

"They were amped up and ready to play Miege," Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. "I think with all the talk with private schools against public schools, I think the girls just said enough is enough and we are going to do this. They realized it is just a name on the jersey and that they can beat them."

In the second set, the two teams were tied at 10-all before the Lady Cats went on a 7-0 run as McMullen served six straight points, including three aces, to put Louisburg up 17-10.

Miege cut the Lady Cat lead to 21-18 late, but kills from Pritchard and Lemke closed out the 25-22 victory and put them in the sub-state championship.



Louisburg head coach Jessica Compliment talks to her team during a timeout Saturday.

"I don't think Miege expected us to come out this way," Compliment said. "They saw us three weeks ago at the Ottawa tournament and went on an 11-0 run on us. I think our energy, our aggressive offense and our defense really was the difference. We had some amazing blocks up front and I think all our girls played great and I don't think Miege was expecting that."

"They are a good team and you have to respect good teams and the tradition they have. Both programs have that tradition of making it to state and doing well there and this

was a rematch of the state finals and it is odd that it is in the first round of sub-state. Now one of those teams that usually goes to state isn't going to be there and I told the girls that we don't want it to be us."

The Lady Cats had a balanced attack offensively as Pritchard, Jacobs and Lemke each had five kills to lead the way, while senior Riley Kallevig added four. McMullen also finished with a team-high four aces and had nine assists along with fellow setter Davis Guetterman.

Louisburg also stepped up on defense as Lemke, Pritchard, Cain and Kallevig each had a pair of blocks in the win. Kallevig also finished with a team-high eight digs, while Ratliff-Becher and McMullen both had five.

"I wasn't surprised because this summer we did amazing things like that and that is how it felt out there on the court," Cain said of the Miege win. "It seemed like we had been missing something lately and I think we brought it out for sub-state.

"I think we played amazing. We were all consistent and played so well and beating Miege is one of the best feelings I've had."

Louisburg finished the first match on a high, but the Lady Cats had to keep that momentum going against Atchison in the championship game.

McMullen helped the Lady Cats jump out to a 6-1 lead over Atchison in the first set thanks to three aces and they held the advantage throughout the set. Louisburg finished the first set on a 7-2 run thanks to a pair of kills from Moore and an ace from Chase Kallevig.



(From left), Riley Kallevig, Reilly Ratliff-Becher, Haley Cain and Liz Jacobs celebrate a big point during the Lady Cats' win over Bishop Miege.

The Lady Cats picked up right where they left off in the second set as they opened on an 11-5 run after two aces from Chase Kallevig and kills from Moore, Riley Kallevig, Pritchard and Cain. Louisburg then took a 21-9 lead after a pair of kills from Cain and never looked back.

"When we play for each other is when we have our best outcome," Lemke said. "We had to have same mentality that we had against Miege. We knew the skill level wasn't exactly the same, but we knew we had to play the same way and we are able to go to state."

Cain led the Lady Cats with eight kills in the championship match, while Moore finished with five and Pritchard added four. McMullen set up some of those kills with 10 assists and Guetterman added seven.

Serving was a strength for Louisburg as it recorded 10 aces, four of which came from Chase Kallevig.

McMullen recorded three aces and Ratliff-Becher had two.

Defensively, Ratliff-Becher had six digs to lead the Lady Cats and Riley Kallevig had five.



Sophomore Davis Guetterman sets up junior teammate Carleigh Pritchard for a kill Saturday in Atchison.

“Every year going to state is our goal, but every year you know that you can’t take anything for granted and you can’t expect that trip to state to happen,” Compliment said. “Kudos to the girls because every year they have made the time in the offseason, they have come in during the summer and they have worked hard. We had kind of an up and down year, and I think some people thought that we weren’t going to be as good this season.

“It says so much for the girls this year and I told them that they are capable of doing this

but they had to believe in themselves, put in the work and become a team. This whole season we have been struggling to find who the go-to person was going to be, and Anna (Dixon) was that person for us for the longest time, and I am proud of how they stepped up to play."

Louisburg will now prepare for the Class 4A state tournament which begins Friday afternoon at Hutchinson Community College. The Lady Cats are the No. 8 seed and will open pool play at 4:30 p.m. against No. 1 Andale (35-2), and then follow up with matches against No. 4 Holton (24-11) and No. 5 Nickerson (27-13).



Members of the Louisburg sub-state championship volleyball team are (front row, from left) Reilly Ratliff-Becher, Sydni Keagle, Riley Kallevig, Haley Cain, Erin Lemke, Liz Jacobs;

(back row) assistant coach Kallie O'Keefe, head coach Jessica Compliment, Madi Quinn, Chase Kallevig, Carleigh Pritchard, Davis Guetterman, Rinni McMullen, Alyse Moore and assistant coach Leanna Willer.

No. 2 Independence (35-3), No. 3

Towanda-Circle (33-6), No. 6 Eudora (26-13) and No. 7 Topeka-Hayden (25-14) are

in the other pool. The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the semifinals on Saturday.

After two runner-up finishes in as many years, the Lady Cats are ready to take that next step to the school's first state championship.

"Our mindset is to definitely go out there and win state," Ratliff-Becher said. "We have come up short the last two years and now it is time to win."

Lady Cats preparing for sub-state match with Miege



Sophomore setter Rinni McMullen sets up a teammate during a match earlier this season. Louisburg will face Bishop Miege on Saturday in the first round of sub-state in Atchison.

The last time Louisburg and Bishop Miege met on the volleyball court in the postseason was last year's state championship match.

This time around, the same two teams will be meeting again, but this time in the first round of the sub-state tournament.

Louisburg (19-15), which is the No. 7 seed, will travel to Atchison to face No. 10 Bishop Miege (15-22) at 3 p.m. on Saturday in a rematch of the Class 4A state title match.

Records and seeds don't mean much when it comes to postseason play as Miege is currently the No. 3-ranked team in Class 4A and the Lady Cats are No. 5. Two of the top teams in the state will square off in hopes of making it to Salina for the state tournament.

"The team that shows up is the team that comes away with the win," Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. "Seven of our 10 players have the experience of playing at state, and I think this match will have that feel to it. It is a rematch of the state championship so it should be a good match."

The Lady Cats do have a little momentum going into the match as they defeated Piper on the road Tuesday in their regular season finale, 25-11, 25-9 and 25-19. The victory snapped what was a

five-match losing streak that happened the week before.

“It

was good to end the regular season on a win against Piper,” Compliment said. “We didn’t win the league title this year, but it was still important to finish strong in the league. It wasn’t our cleanest match, but the team was able to loosen up and have fun for their last regular season match.”

Junior Carleigh Pritchard led the charge offensively against Piper as she finished with a team-high eight kills and senior Haley Cain was right behind her with six. Senior Erin Lemke added five in the win.

The Lady Cats did a lot of damage from behind the service line as they recorded 15 aces in the three sets. Cain had a big night with five aces and served a team-high 12 points, while libero Reilly Ratliff-Becher and sophomore Chase Kallevig each had three.

Sophomore Rinny McMullen recorded a team-best 12 assists and fellow sophomore Davis Guetterman finished with nine. McMullen also had team-high six digs and Cain was second with four.

With the regular season behind them, the Lady Cats are putting their focus on the postseason – namely Bishop Miege. The two teams met earlier this season and the Stags took Louisburg down in two sets, 25-19 and 25-15.

Compliment and the Lady Cats believes

Miege will see a different team than the one they saw at the Ottawa Invitational earlier this month.

“The team is excited to see Miege on Saturday,” Compliment said. “We didn’t play our best when we saw them earlier in the season, but I think we’ve gotten stronger since then. Miege always plays tough in the postseason, but we also seem to step up when it comes to postseason play. We have a lot of players who have been in many high stakes matches, and any postseason match is high stakes match.”

The two teams will square off at 3 p.m., at Atchison High School. The winner of that match will play the winner between No. 2 seed Atchison and the winner of the play-in game between Field Kindley and Parsons for the sub-state championship.

Lady Cats come up short to Olathe North on Senior Night



Louisburg senior Riley Kallevig sends a shot over the net

Thursday during the Lady Cats' match with Olathe North on Senior Night.

On what was supposed to be a night of celebrating the work of six Louisburg seniors, Thursday's match against Olathe North ended on a sour note.

The Lady Cats, who were playing their final home match of the season, fell behind early to the Eagles and couldn't catch up in a 25-18, 25-22, 17-25 and 25-23 loss during Senior Night at Louisburg High School.

Before the match, the Lady Cats honored seniors Haley Cain, Liz Jacobs, Riley Kallevig, Sydni Keagle, Erin Lemke and Reilly Ratliff-Becher. Many of those seniors played big roles in the Lady Cats' run to back-to-back state championship appearances.

"These six seniors are a special group," Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. "It's been fun to watch them grow and develop over the years. A good portion of them have been on varsity since they were freshmen or sophomores, so they've been key players in our recent success.

"They've put in a lot of work over the years, and they aren't done yet this year. Hopefully, they'll have an opportunity to play at state again this season. This is a special group of seniors who get along really well. They are a fun bunch

to coach."



Louisburg seniors (from left) Sydni Keagle, Riley Kallevig, Haley Cain, Liz Jacobs, Erin Lemke and Reilly Ratliff-Becher were all honored on Senior Night on Thursday before their match with Olathe North.

Olathe North jumped on the Lady Cats early on in the first set as the Eagles opened the match on a 14-4 run. Louisburg tried to claw back, and cut the Eagle lead to 18-14 at one point, but couldn't get any closer.

In the second set, the Lady Cats traded leads with the Eagles, but back-to-back kills from Jacobs gave Louisburg a 19-17 advantage late. Olathe North responded with a 6-1 run to help win the set and take a 2-0 lead.

Louisburg responded nicely in the third set as it went on a 6-0 run of its own behind the serving from sophomore Davis

Guetterman to put the Lady Cats up 17-8 and they didn't look back. Junior Carleigh Pritchard also recorded a pair of kills and a block during that run.

The

Lady Cats didn't have enough in the fourth set to keep the match alive, but made it interesting. Louisburg's defense stepped up late won a big point to take a 16-15 lead after a long volley that was kept alive on a big dig from Ratliff-Becher.

Louisburg once again battled back from a three-point deficit to go up 23-22 on an ace from Chase Kallevig, but the Eagles scored the final three points to take the set and the match.

"It was tough to lose on Senior Night," Compliment said. "You always want to be able to send the seniors off with a final win on their home court. Olathe North was smart and played aggressive the entire evening."



Senior Sydni Keagle goes up for a kill Thursday against Olathe North.

Cain and Pritchard played big in the middle as the two players led the Lady Cats with 12 kills each. Jacobs also finished with nine on the outside and sophomore Riny McMullen had six from the setter's spot.

Louisburg also served well at times as it had nine aces, including five from Guetterman, who served 13 points. McMullen led the Lady Cat offense with 21 assists and Guetterman added 12.

Defensively, Riley Kallevig led the team in digs with 15, while Ratliff-Becher finished with 12 and Chase Kallevig added 10. Lemke finished with a team-high three blocks along with Pritchard.

The Lady Cats will try and bounce back tonight when it travels to Piper for their final regular season match of the season.

Louisburg goes winless at Emporia

Louisburg traveled to the Emporia Invitational on Saturday, and like much of its season, the Lady Cats went up against bigger programs, some of which were state-ranked.

It was a tough outing for the Lady Cats as they lost all four of their matches.

Louisburg lost to Bishop Carroll (25-17, 25-21), Shawnee Heights (25-20, 20-25, 25-17), Bonner Springs (25-23, 25-17) and Lawrence (25-22, 21-25 and 25-14).

“Saturday was a rough and tough day,” Compliment said. “Yes, we did see some tough competition, but we had moments where we could have pulled away with a win or at least played closer with a few of the teams. We made quite a few service errors which cost us a lot of points throughout the day. This tournament is similar to the Lansing tournament as far as level of play and teams. We were lacking intensity throughout the day, and other teams showed a lot more emotion and drive.

“There were moments though where I thought we were turning around and fighting back to win, but unfortunately we came up short each time. We had some great defensive plays throughout the

day, and our serve receive was pretty consistent as well."

Lady Cats sweep Eudora in match with postseason ramifications



Louisburg junior Alyse Moore (left) and senior Haley Cain team up for a block during last week's home match against Eudora.

It may have just been a normal Frontier League match to the casual fan, but last Tuesday's dual between Louisburg and Eudora at Louisburg High School had more postseason ramifications than many people may realize.

Both teams have near identical records and are fighting for a top four seed to have the ability to host the upcoming sub-state tournament. They knew what was at stake and both teams played like it, especially in the first set.

Louisburg rallied from four-point deficit late and took the first set 30-28 over the Cardinals. From there, the momentum was with the Lady Cats as they took the next two sets 25-21

and 25-21 to win the match.

"Obviously losing to Bonner Springs and Spring Hill earlier in the year, we are out of the running for a league championship, but this is still a league school and we still have to go for it and fight," Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. "With where the records are falling, and the potential to host sub-state, records become important and Eudora has a good record. There are three of us that are like neck-and-neck. There is still a lot to be played, but it is pretty dicey up there with the top five or six teams."

The top four teams, record-wise, on each side of the state will get to host sub-state and the Lady Cats improved their mark to 18-10 and are currently sitting as the No. 3 seed with two weeks of competition left to go. Since then, Eudora has seen its record fall to 22-13 and in the No. 5 spot.

The Lady Cats were able to get that potentially big victory thanks to the adversity it overcame early. Eudora went on 6-0 run to take a 22-18 lead and was well on its way to taking the first set.

Instead, Louisburg went on a 7-2 run of its own to take a 25-24 lead thanks to kills from junior Carleigh Pritchard and senior Erin Lemke. Eudora won the next two points to force a game point at 26-25, but Lemke and senior Liz Jacobs responded with back-to-back kills to go back up.



Louisburg's (from left) Davis Guetterman, Riley Kallevig, Carleigh Pritchard and Reilly Ratliff-Becher celebrate Liz Jacobs' (4) big point against Eudora.

It went back-and-forth until Jacobs recorded kill at 29-28 and sophomore Rinny McMullen ended it with a tip over the Cardinals front row to give the Lady Cats all momentum.

"This was probably the first time all season where we have played three sets consistently and aggressive the whole time," Compliment said. "We played to win every single ball and we didn't back off on anything. Winning that first set, and battling the entire time was huge for morale and confidence. It was a big first set.

"I just told the girls they need to start putting the ball away and not play timid. You have hit, be smart and

be aggressive. I told them there shouldn't be a ball that gets left untouched and I think they responded."

From there, the Lady Cats took care of business as they took control midway through each of the next two sets and never looked back.



Senior Riley Kallevig goes up for kill last week against Eudora.

Pritchard and senior Haley Cain had a big night in the middle as they led Louisburg offensive attack with 11 and 10 kills, respectively. Junior Alyse Moore finished with nine, while Lemke and Jacobs each had six. Senior Riley Kallevig had six kills in the win.

Setters Davis Guetterman and Riny McMullen served up those kill opportunities as they each finished with 22 assists on the night and McMullen also had a team-high three aces.

Defensively, senior libero Reilly-Ratliff Becher led Louisburg with 16 digs, while Kallevig also finished in double figures with 12.

Louisburg will play its final regular season home match Thursday when it hosts Olathe North on Senior Night. The match is set to begin at 6 p.m.

Lady Cats finish third at Ottawa Invitational



Louisburg senior Liz Jacobs goes up for a kill during the Lady Cats' match against Olathe West on Saturday at the Ottawa Invitational.

It was another busy week for the Louisburg volleyball team as the Lady Cats played two league duals and a tournament in a five-day period.

Louisburg ventured to the Ottawa Invitational on Saturday and played in five matches during the round-robin tournament. The Lady Cats finished third overall with a 3-2 record, with their only two losses coming against state-ranked teams.

The Lady Cats got wins against Ottawa (2-0), Olathe West (2-1) and Highland Park (2-0), before falling to Bishop Miege (2-0) and Basehor-Linwood (2-1).

“We had a good day at Ottawa,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “The team stepped up and played well together I thought all day. We didn’t come out and play our best versus Miege. We had a bit of a mental block and didn’t put our best effort into that match. Outside of the Miege match, we played really well.”

Ottawa was the first opponent for Louisburg and the Lady Cats took care of business with a 25-17 and 25-21 win.

They faced a tough challenge in their next match when they had to go three sets against Olathe West.

The two teams had split earlier in the year, but Louisburg came out strong with a 25-20 win in the first set. Olathe West countered with a 25-21 victory in the second and were one point away from winning the match in the third set.

Olathe West had a 24-20 lead in the third set, but the Lady Cats responded to go on a 6-0 run as sophomore Davis Guetterman served the last six points, including an ace, to help Louisburg get a big win.

The momentum was short-lived, however, as the Lady Cats had a tough time keeping up with Bishop Miege in the next match as they fell 25-19 and 25-15. Miege, the No. 4 ranked team in Class 4A, took a 14-4 lead in the first set and never looked back.

Louisburg quickly put that loss behind them as it matched up with Basehor-Linwood, the No. 10-ranked team in Class 5A. The Lady Cats lost the first set 25-19, but rallied to win the second 25-18.



Sophomore Davis Guetterman digs up a ball Saturday during the Ottawa Invitational.

The Lady Cats continued to play hard into the third set, before falling 27-25. It was the second loss to the Bobcats this season.

“It was good to beat Olathe West again because they beat us at Lansing,” Compliment said. “We are 2-1 now versus them. The Basehor match was a well-played match. The third set was a close one, and I thought the team played and fought hard until the last whistle.

Junior Alyse Moore had a busy match at the net as she recorded a team-high 10 kills and also had three blocks. Seniors Liz Jacobs and Erin Lemke each had seven kills, while senior Haley

Cain had six kills and a team-high four blocks.

Louisburg served strong as it recorded six aces, including a pair each from sophomores Rinny McMullen and Chase Kallevig, and junior Carleigh Pritchard.

Defensively, the Lady Cats also played well as seniors Reilly Ratliff-Becher and Riley Kallevig led the team with nine digs and Guetterman added eight. Guetterman also had a big outing as the team's setter as she had 18 assists and McMullen had 12.

The Lady Cats closed out the tournament with a 25-4 and 25-12 win over Highland Park.

Jacobs and Riley Kallevig led Louisburg offensively with five kills each, but it was the serving where the Lady Cats did their damage.

Louisburg racked up 19 aces in two sets, seven of which came from Ratliff-Becher and Chase Kallevig added five of her own. Guetterman also had 17 assists in the victory.

Louisburg downs Baldwin, Tonganoxie

Louisburg was also able to find success in Frontier League play as the Lady Cats swept both Tonganoxie and Baldwin.

The Lady Cats traveled to Tonganoxie last Thursday and left with a 25-18, 25-8 and 25-18 victory over the Chieftains. Two days earlier, Louisburg hosted Baldwin and came away with an easy 25-7, 25-14 and 25-17 win.

Against Baldwin, junior Carleigh Pritchard led the Louisburg offensive attack with nine kills, while senior Liz Jacobs finished with eight and seniors Haley Cain and Erin Lemke each added seven.



Alyse Moore (left) and Haley Cain team up for a block last week in Louisburg's home win over Baldwin.

Louisburg was also strong from behind the service line as it racked up 12 aces, including six from sophomore Riny McMullen. Cain and junior Alyse Moore were strong at the net defensively with three blocks each.

Senior libero Reilly

Ratliff-Becher also had a big night in the back row as she tallied a team-high 20 digs. McMullen and fellow sophomore Davis Guetterman also had a strong evening at the setter spot with 22 and 12 assists, respectively.

“The team played well both nights,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “In both matches, we served tough and were able to take both teams out of their offense. Reilly and Chase Kallevig played some great defense both evenings. There are still a few areas we need to work on cleaning up, but overall the team played with a lot of energy.”

In its match with Tonganoxie, Pritchard once again led Louisburg up front with a team-high eight kills, while Moore finished with seven. Lemke and senior Riley Kallevig had six kills each.

The Lady Cats also had nine aces in the match, including four each from McMullen and Chase Kallevig. Ratliff-Becher also led Louisburg defensively with 11 digs.

McMullen had a team-high 21 assists to lead the offense and Guetterman was right behind her with 15.