

# Title game rematch fuels Lady Cats' fire for another state run



Members of the Louisburg High School volleyball team run onto the court to celebrate their sub-state championship last Saturday in Louisburg. The Lady Cats open the Class 4A state tournament against defending state champion Rose Hill this Friday in Hutchinson.

Throughout the offseason and into this season, the Louisburg volleyball team has always had last year's state championship match fresh in its mind.

The Lady Cats lost by two points to Rose Hill in the state title game last season, and the loss has been a driving force in their success this season.

"It is just the worst feeling and it still burns," senior Carson Buffington said. "It is definitely motivation for us and it started right after we lost to Rose Hill. We knew that the next year that we are going to come out and win a state championship, and that is what we plan to do."

Louisburg won its seventh sub-state crown in the last nine years last Saturday in its 2-0 win over Eudora in the sub-state championship game, and on Sunday found out who it was going to play.

The Lady Cats (32-8), which earned the No. 5 seed, won't have to wait that long for their rematch with Rose Hill. They face the No. 4 seed Rockets (31-6) in the first match of pool play at 8:30 a.m., Friday in the Class 4A state tournament at Hutchinson Sports Arena in Hutchinson.

"When we found out Rose Hill was going to be in our pool, I think that just fueled our fire even more, especially with it being our first match of the day," senior Anna Dixon said. "Hopefully we can come out and have a lot of energy. Everyone has been pretty motivated. We have been watching a lot of film and scouting other teams. We have been incorporating their habits into our practice to prepare us for what we see on Friday."

What Louisburg will see Friday is several difficult opponents. Not only will the Lady Cats square off with the defending state champion in Rose Hill, Louisburg will also face No. 1 seed Independence (37-2) and No. 8 Topeka-Hayden (21-17), who is a three-time defending state champion in the former Class 4A-Division II.

The Lady Cats will meet Independence at 11:30 a.m. and follow it up with their match against Hayden at 12:30 p.m.



**Carleigh Pritchard and Anna Dixon combine for a block Saturday during the sub-state tournament.**

No. 2 Chanute (33-6), No. 3 Andale (32-6), No. 6 Wichita-Trinity (22-15) and No. 7 Bishop Miege (21-16) are in the other pool. The top two teams in each pool will advance to bracket play at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

"We were a little nervous when the seedings came out, but yet excited at the same time," Dixon said. "Rose Hill ended our season last year in the championship game and we have the opportunity to send them home after day one."

"We also have the No. 1 seed and another defending state champion in Hayden. We know we are going to have to play them eventually if we want to win the whole thing, so we might as well get it done the first day."

The first match of the day against Rose Hill could be a pivotal one for the Lady Cats as they want to get started strong and not have the pressure of playing from behind to make sure they get to Saturday.



**Senior Carson Buffington celebrates a point last Saturday during the sub-state tournament against Iola.**

“The first match sets the tone for the day and you have to come out awake and ready,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “The players are smart and they know how the system works and they know how important every match is. Each set is important and we haven’t dropped very many when we have won matches, so it will be important for them to come out ready to go.”

The Louisburg-Rose Hill match-up brings even more intrigue as it will feature two of the best hitters in the state of



Kansas. Dixon, who will attend K-State next season, will go up against Rose Hill's Gracie Van Driel, a University of Kansas commit.

Dixon and Van Driel were selected as Co-Players of the Year in Class 4A by the Kansas Volleyball Association and the Louisburg senior is excited for the matchup.

"I love playing against Gracie," Dixon said. "We have been good friends since middle school. Our dream was to always play together, but I have enjoyed playing against her and it is always fun to go up against a good team and trying to defend big hitters like her."

Dixon herself has had another good season for Louisburg and currently has a team-high 510 kills on the year. She is also second on the team with 45 aces and 276 digs as an all-around player.

However, all of the Lady Cats have taken a step forward this season, especially when it comes to their setters. Going into the season, Compliment decided to run a 6-2 offense, and handed the reigns to two freshmen setters in Rinny McMullen and Davis Guetterman.

Compliment asked Buffington, who served as the team's setter the last two seasons, to move to an outside hitter position and the change has worked out well for the Lady Cats. McMullen currently leads the team with 558 assists and Guetterman has 391.



**Freshman setter Rinny McMullen rises up for a serve last week.**

Both players are also among the team's best servers. Guetterman is third on the team with 44 aces and McMullen has 35 on the year.

"I don't think a lot of people realize that both of them are freshmen," Compliment said. "I've had people come up to me, even at sub-state, and say 'Your setters are freshmen? You can't even tell.' You can't tell that when you watch them play and that is kudos to those two and the experience they had coming in.

"Also, as the season has progressed they have gotten more and more comfortable adjusting on how to run things and getting to know their hitters. They have done a really good job of figuring out strengths, weaknesses, what works and what doesn't. I am just proud of both of them and they have gotten

stronger as the season goes on.”

The Lady Cats also take pride in their defense, which changed up from last season. Reilly Ratliff-Becher took over the libero spot from Riley Kallevig and Kallevig moved on to play all six rotations.

Kallevig leads the team with 296 digs on the season, while Ratliff-Becher is third on the team with 274. Kallevig also has a team-high 69 aces and both players are key in the back row with Dixon, along with McMullen and Guetterman.

“I think everyone knows this, but defense wins game,” Ratliff-Becher said. “Being a libero, I have to be the loudest in the back row, especially for this tournament. Defense is hard, but it is all about your mindset. If you don’t think you can play defense, the ball is going to come right to you. You have to have the confidence to go get it.”

Louisburg has also improved at the net throughout the season as junior Haley Cain and sophomore Carleigh Pritchard have emerged as big hitters in the middle, and also on defense. Cain is second on the team with 169 kills and Pritchard has 119. Pritchard also leads the team with 45 blocks.



**Junior Haley Cain goes up for a kill during the sub-state championship match against Eudora.**

On the outside, Buffington, Kallevig and junior Erin Lemke also give the Lady Cats good hitting options as they have combined for more than 300 kills on the season.

Even with all the success and big wins they have posted this season, the Lady Cats realize the stakes are high and are hoping to bring home the school's first state volleyball title. They just need to have the right frame of mind.

"When they just unload, unleash it, don't hold anything back and just have fun, they are a very tough team to beat," Compliment said. "That is what we have done all season long. Some of the matches we have lost is when we have played it safe and over-analyzed everything, rather than just playing aggressive. For Friday, we just need to play the way we know how and have fun. When they have fun, I think these girls are

unstoppable.”

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## **TITLE TOWN: Louisburg earns 7th trip to state in last 9 years**



Louisburg senior Anna Dixon holds the Class 4A sub-state championship trophy up high following the Lady Cats’ 2-0 win over Eudora in the title game Saturday at Louisburg High School.

The last time the Louisburg volleyball team hosted a sub-state tournament, the Lady Cats had to watch an opposing team celebrate a trip to state on their home floor.

It was a thought that was never too far from some of the players’ minds.

“When we hosted sub-state my sophomore year, we ended up losing to Paola by two points,” Louisburg senior Anna Dixon said. “I just kept thinking that we weren’t going to let that happen this year and we were going to finish out strong as my last time playing on this court.”

Dixon and the rest of the Lady Cats made sure it didn’t happen



again.

Louisburg captured its seventh sub-state tournament title in the last nine seasons as the Lady Cats defeated Iola, 2-0, in the sub-state semifinals, before downing Eudora, 2-0, in the championship match on Saturday at Louisburg High School.

The Lady Cats, who are the No. 3-ranked team in Class 4A, will get another shot at state championship this weekend in Hutchinson.

"It is an amazing feeling because I know this is my last year and that I am not done playing quite yet," Louisburg senior Carson Buffington said. "I am so pumped to get back to state. I want to play Miego, I want to play Rose Hill and all the other good teams and I am just so excited. I know what our potential is and I know that we can get to it out at state."

Louisburg (32-8) didn't face much resistance to start the day as the Lady Cats controlled the match against Iola, 25-4 and 25-8, and came out strong from the beginning.

Dixon finished the match with 10 kills to lead the Lady Cats and junior Haley Cain finished with four. Buffington and sophomore Carleigh Pritchard each added three.

Offensively, they also served well from behind the service line as the Lady Cats recorded nine aces, including three each from Dixon and Cain. Freshman Rinny McMullen led the offense with 15 assists.

On defense, Louisburg junior Riley Kallevig finished with a team-high seven digs and junior libero Reilly Ratliff-Becher added four.

"We just wanted to come out, take care of business and just do our job," Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. "I thought they played great against Iola and had high energy. They

didn't hold back on anything and came out and played tough."



**Louisburg's (from left) Riley Kallevig, Anna Dixon, Carson Buffington and Carleigh Pritchard erupt with excitement after securing match point against Eudora on Saturday.**

It was much of the same in the first set against Eudora as the Lady Cats jumped out to a quick start and won the first set, 25-14.

The second set was a little different as Louisburg had to face some adversity. Eudora looked like as if it was going to force a deciding third set as the Cardinals held an 18-13 lead late.

That was until McMullen got behind the service line as she recorded five straight service points to give Louisburg the lead and it wasn't going to let it go. The Lady Cats went on to take the second set, and the match, 25-22.

"Rinny stepped up big and it all started with her serving,"

Compliment said. "It took Eudora out of their offense and kept them guessing on what they were going to do. It just helped us dig out of it."



**Freshman Davis Guetterman sets up teammate Erin Lemke for a kill with the student section cheering behind her.**

"The girls were just on fire in that first set against Eudora, but that second set we made a few errors and missed a couple serves and that slowed our momentum down a little bit. I was proud of the girls with how they finished it out and it just showed how much they wanted it."

Dixon had another big showing for the Lady Cats offensively as she finished with a team-high 12 kills and Cain was second on the team with seven.

McMullen had a team-best two aces and 13 assists, while fellow freshman setter Davis Guetterman added 12 assists as both



players distributed the ball well offensively. Pritchard also had four kills and a team-high two blocks for Louisburg.



**Freshman Rinny McMullen runs down a ball to keep it in play Saturday against Eudora.**

On defense, Kallevig and Ratliff-Becher both led the team with six digs each, while Dixon and Cain both had five. It was a defense that also came up big late against Eudora.

“Everyone really showed their strength out there, especially Reilly Rat,” Kallevig said of the defense. “She was able to pick up all the tips and Haley really stood out too when she filled in on the back row. It really was a great team effort.”

Although they didn’t necessarily like trailing for much of the second set, the Lady Cats hope to turn it into a positive that they can use for even bigger stakes this weekend.



**Reilly Ratliff-Becher dives on the floor to dig up a ball Saturday against Iola.**

"All season we were taking one game at a time, one point at a time and we kind of got shook up a little bit when Eudora took the lead, but we decided we were going to defend our home court," Dixon said. "It shows a lot of progress because there would be times earlier in the season where we would dig holes and we weren't able to come out and finish. It showed we have come a long ways, and we were able to get it out of our heads and finish strong."

Louisburg, which finished as the state runner-up a season ago, will try for the program's first state title beginning Friday during the Class 4A state tournament at Hutchinson Sports Arena.

The Lady Cats, which earned the No. 5 seed, will start pool play against No. 4 Rose Hill (31-6) – last year's state champion – at 8:30 a.m. on Friday. Louisburg will then play No. 1 Independence (37-2) at 11:30 a.m., and No. 8 Topeka-



Hayden (21-17) at 12:30 p.m.

The top two in each pool will advance to bracket play at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

“There are a lot of teams that we have heard about, or even seen that should be out there next weekend,” Dixon said. “We just want to take it one point at a time and one game at a time and make it to that championship game again.”

For a photo gallery from Saturday’s tournament, make sure to [click here](#).



Members of the team (front row, from left) are: Davis Guetterman, Chase Kallevig, Anna Dixon, Carson Buffington, Rinny McMullen, Reilly Ratliff-Becher, manager Bailey Kern; (back row) assistant coach Leanna Willer, assistant coach Mary Quinn, Erin Lemke, Riley Kallevig, Alyse Moore, Carleigh Pritchard, Haley Cain, Sydni Keagle, head coach Jessica Compliment and manager Cameron Rogers.

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# PHOTO GALLERY: Lady Cats take sub-state title



The Louisburg High School volleyball team doesn't mind all the winning and it continued Saturday when the Lady Cats captured their seventh sub-state championship in the last nine years as they defeated Eudora, 2-0, in the championship game at Louisburg High School. Louisburg also defeated Iola, 2-0, in the sub-state semifinals.

The Lady Cats were greeted with a great atmosphere from its fans and student section, and they thrived on it as they breezed to title.

Louisburg, which finished second at state last season, will try for the program's first state championship starting on Friday when it faces Rose Hill, Independence and Topeka-Hayden in pool play at Hutchinson Sports Arena.

Here are some photos from Saturday's thrilling action. Make sure to travel to support the team if you can this week. Congrats again to all the players and coaches.









Senior Carson Buffington celebrates a point last Saturday during the sub-state tournament against Iola.







Carleigh Pritchard and Anna Dixon combine for a block Saturday during the sub-state tournament.

















Reilly Ratliff-Becher dives on the floor to dig up a ball  
Saturday against Iola.



















Freshman setter Rinny McMullen rises up for a serve last week.







Junior Haley Cain goes up for a kill during the sub-state championship match against Eudora.





























Freshman Rinny McMullen runs down a ball to keep it in play Saturday against Eudora.





Freshman Davis Guetterman sets up teammate Erin Lemke for a kill with the student section cheering behind her.











Louisburg's (from left) Riley Kallevig, Anna Dixon, Carson

Buffington and Carleigh Pritchard erupt with excitement after securing match point against Eudora on Saturday.











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## Lady Cats wrap up league title on Senior Night



Louisburg volleyball manager Bailey Kern gets a hug from junior Erin Lemke, while senior Anna Dixon (back) shares a hug with teammate Reilly Ratliff-Becher during Senior Night ceremonies on Tuesday at Louisburg High School.

The reality started to sink in for Anna Dixon and Carson Buffington.

The Louisburg seniors walked onto the court for their final home regular season contest and memories started to rush back. Their time as Lady Cats are coming to a close.

Both players, along with manager Bailey Kern, were honored during their Senior Night ceremony prior to Tuesday's home dual with Piper.

"It was very emotional," Dixon said. "I started having flash backs of seeing both of my older sisters walking out on the court for their senior nights and it was crazy that it was my turn. It hasn't fully hit me yet that my last time playing in a Louisburg jersey is coming to an end."

The same could be said for Buffington.

"The emotions didn't hit me until Erin (Lemke) and Reilly (Ratliff-Becher) came out to give me the senior gifts," Buffington said. "That was when it hit me that I'll be leaving my teammates and best friends next year. It was a special night because it was the last time playing a regular season game in high school for me."

Emotions were all over the place Tuesday as there was a little bit of sadness, but there was also plenty to be excited about as Louisburg entered the dual undefeated in league play. The Lady Cats already clinched the Frontier League crown, and this match was only a formality.

Louisburg had no problem with Piper and rolled to a 25-9, 25-5 and 25-9 victory over the Pirates to finish with a perfect league record and moved its overall record to 30-8 on the season. It was the first league title for Louisburg since 2015.



**Senior Carson Buffington gets a hug from Reilly Ratliff-Becher, while Carson's mother, Amy, shares a hug with Erin Lemke.**

"It means so much to be able to win the league title," Buffington said. "We know that we have done everything we could have to earn it. It feels especially great beating every team in the league."

Winning a league crown was the perfect way to honor both Dixon and Buffington, according to Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment.

"With Anna playing four years of varsity, Carson playing three and then Bailey being a manager for a while, they have just been a lot of fun to coach and be around," Compliment said. "They are great seniors, who provide great leadership, work well with their teammates and have put in a lot of time in the offseason, whether it be with club or playing multiple



sports. It has been a lot of fun to be with Anna and Carson and I just wanted them to go out and have fun and just play.”

The dual itself provided little drama and gave the Lady Cats opportunity to play loose. Louisburg got contributions from up and down its lineup, and it even allowed bench players Sydni Keagle, Alyse Moore and Chase Kallevig to see action in the final set.

Dixon led the Lady Cats offensively with seven kills, while Buffington was right behind her with six. Juniors Haley Cain and Erin Lemke both had three kills as well.

Louisburg had 10 aces on the night, including four from freshman Davis Guetterman and a pair from Cain and Riley Kallevig. Sophomore Carleigh Pritchard, who normally doesn't serve during a match, got an opportunity to close out the second set and she did just that by serving the final six points to seal the win and recorded two aces in the process.

Freshman setter Rinny McMullen finished the night with 14 assists and Guetterman added six in the win. Defensively, Dixon led the way with six digs, while junior libero Reilly Ratliff-Becher finished with five.

“We still missed too many serves, but at least we were aggressive,” Compliment said. “But if we would miss a serve, we would come right back and we were effective with the serve receive, then with the pass and then side out right away. I was happy with how they played and I was glad to see that their energy was high.”



**(From left) Anna Dixon, Reilly Ratliff-Becher, Rinny McMullen, Alyse Moore and Carson Buffington were all smiles following a point late in Tuesday's dual with Piper.**

Louisburg will have one final opportunity to play at home Saturday when it hosts a Class 4A sub-state tournament as the No. 4 seed. The Lady Cats will face No. 13 Iola (10-17) at 2 p.m., and if they advance, will meet the winner No. 5 Eudora (22-11) and No. 12 Fort Scott (11-23) at 4 p.m., in the championship match.

A win there would give the Lady Cats another trip to the state tournament, after they finished second a year ago.

"I'm so excited for sub-state and even more excited that we are hosting," Dixon said. "We are pretty pumped about it and staying humble. We want to focus on point after point and take one game at a time."

The two Louisburg seniors are also looking forward to one more opportunity to play on their home floor.

“I couldn’t be more excited for Saturday with my team, who we are playing, and that it’s on our home court,” Buffington said. “We are all super pumped but we all know we have to come out and play our best and that absolutely nothing is handed to us. I am so ready to see what Saturday will bring us.”

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## **Lady Cats rally to finish fifth at Emporia Invitational**



Louisburg juniors (from left) Erin Lemke and Haley Cain go up for a block during a match earlier this season. The Lady Cats competed in the Emporia Invitational on Saturday and finished with a 4-2 record and took fifth overall.

EMPORIA – If the Louisburg High School volleyball team wanted one final tune-up before the start of the postseason, the Lady Cats certainly got it in the Emporia Invitational.

Three of the top six teams in Class 6A made an appearance in the tournament and the Lady Cats faced all three Saturday at Emporia High School. Although it got off to a rough start, Louisburg finished with a flurry of wins.



The Lady Cats won their final four matches of the day to finish in fifth-place overall, including a victory over Lawrence Free State, the No. 6 team in Class 6A, in three sets in their final match of the day.

After losses to No. 2 Lawrence High and No. 3 Washburn Rural, Louisburg bounced back with victories over Shawnee Heights, Maize, Bonner Springs and Free State.

“The Emporia tournament was an important one, and one that I was hoping would provide us with some positive motivation leading up to sub-state,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “Overall, we played well. We did come out a little slow against both Washburn Rural and Lawrence High. We got behind in both matches and had difficulty digging ourselves out of the hole. We picked it up during the Shawnee Heights match and maintained it for the rest of the tournament.”

Louisburg, the No. 3-ranked team in Class 4A, had a tough draw to start the day as it faced two of the top three teams in 6A in Lawrence High and Washburn Rural. The Lady Cats fell to Washburn Rural 25-16 and 25-20 and then dropped their next match to Lawrence, 25-21 and 25-16.

The Lady Cats (29-8) dropped their fifth set in a row in its next game with Shawnee Heights in a 25-12 loss, but they were able rebound for a pair of 25-16 victories to win its first match of the day.

From there, Louisburg was able to put it all together with a 25-19 and 25-16 victory over Maize and a 25-15 and 25-23 win against Bonner Springs.

Free State was the Lady Cats’ opponent in the fifth-place match and they had to play from behind from the start. Louisburg lost its first set 23-25, but responded with a 25-21 and 25-22 win over the Firebirds.

“Lawrence Free State was the last match of the day, and I

talked to the team about finishing on a high note,” Compliment said. “Any momentum we could get through that match would also help set the tone for sub-state. We played well against Free State. Our offense was consistent and aggressive, and our defense made some big plays.”

Offensively, the Lady Cats got big plays all over the floor against Free State, most notably from outside hitter Anna Dixon. The Louisburg senior recorded a team-high 17 kills, while fellow senior Carson Buffington and junior Erin Lemke both had five.

Freshman setter Rinny McMullen set the tone for the offense with a team-high 21 assists against Free State and another freshman, Davis Guetterman, added 12 of her own.

Defensively, the Lady Cats also played big at the net as junior Haley Cain led the way with five blocks and sophomore Carleigh Pritchard added three. Junior Riley Kallevig also had a team-high eight digs in the win.

“Haley and Carleigh both had a great tournament,” Compliment said. “They both stepped up big during our afternoon matches and made some big plays at the net. I was glad to see our middle offense step up. Erin made some key plays on the right side. She had a few big blocks and attacks that helped us against Bonner Springs and Free State too.”

Dixon finished the tournament with double digit kills in five of the six matches. On the day, she recorded a team-best 72 kills and now has 474 on the season, which averages out to more than five per set.

Pritchard was second on the team with 29 kills Saturday, including a team-high nine in the Lady Cats’ win over Maize. Cain added 22 on the day and Kallevig finished with 19.

Louisburg also created some momentum from behind the service line as it had 22 aces over the six matches. Dixon and

Guetterman both had five to lead Louisburg, while Kallevig and McMullen each had four.

McMullen also had a big day running the offense with a team-high 92 assists and Guetterman was second with 61.

Defensively, Kallevig had 47 digs to lead the Lady Cats, while Dixon and junior libero Reilly Ratliff-Becher had 39 and 35 digs, respectively. At the net, Pritchard led Louisburg with 10 blocks and Cain added nine of her own.

Louisburg will conclude its regular season tonight when it hosts Piper for Senior Night. The Lady Cats will honor Dixon, Buffington and manager Bailey Kern during pregame ceremonies.

Also, should the Lady Cats defeat Piper, they will wrap up a perfect Frontier League season and earn their first league crown since 2015.

“Senior night will be special,” Compliment said. “Both Anna and Carson have been a part of the program for four years, and they have both brought a lot to the program as well. Bailey has also been a great addition to the team as our manager for the past three years. It will be a special night and a great way to honor our seniors.”

## **Louisburg sweeps Olathe North in dual**

In a tune-up before the Emporia Invitational, the Louisburg volleyball team traveled to Olathe North last Thursday and left with a 25-16, 25-18 and 25-14 win.

Senior Anna Dixon pestered the Eagles as she was a difficult matchup at the net with a team-high 21 kills and fellow senior Carson Buffington had six. Junior Erin Lemke had five kills and junior Haley Cain had four in the win.

Cain and Dixon were also strong from behind the service line



with four and three aces, respectively. Freshmen setter Rinny McMullen had a team-high 19 assists and freshman Davis Guetterman was also in double digits with 11.

Defensively, junior Riley Kallevig and junior Reilly Ratliff-Becher both led Louisburg with 10 digs, while sophomore Carleigh Pritchard finished with a pair of blocks.

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## **Louisburg volleyball gets road sweep over Eudora**



Louisburg libero Reilly Ratliff-Becher receives a serve during a match earlier this season. The Lady Cats traveled to Eudora on Oct. 2 and left with a 3-0 win over the Cardinals to stay perfect in Frontier League play.

The Louisburg High School volleyball team is inching closer to an undefeated league season and they took another step in the right direction last week in Eudora.

The Lady Cats had no problems with the Cardinals on the road as they earned the 25-22, 25-19 and 25-19 sweep on Oct. 2 at Eudora High School. Louisburg improved its record to 24-6 on the season and are 7-0 in Frontier League play.

Louisburg has one more league match left, which is against Piper next week, and a win would give the Lady Cats an undefeated league championship.

“We played well at Eudora,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “The team came out fired up and ready to compete, and they did a pretty good job of maintaining control of the match. We made a few errors which swayed the momentum Eudora’s way, but the team rallied back and regained control.”

Anna Dixon once again led the Louisburg play at the net with a team-high 17 kills, but setters Rinny McMullen and Davis Guetterman spread the ball around to get several different players involved.

Carson Buffington was next on the team with six kills, but middle hitters Haley Cain and Carleigh Pritchard each finished with five. McMullen added three of her own, while Erin Lemke and Riley Kallevig each added two.

McMullen also had a strong night setting as she finished with a team-high 23 assists and Guetterman was second with nine. The Lady Cats also recorded six aces, including three from Kallevig.

Kallevig was also strong defensively with a team-high 15 digs, while libero Reilly Ratliff-Becher and Dixon had 12 and 10, respectively.

Louisburg returns to action Thursday when it travels to Olathe North for a dual and then will travel to the Emporia Invitational on Saturday.

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# Here are the 2018 LHS Fall Homecoming Candidates



The 2018 Louisburg High School fall homecoming candidates are (front row, from left) Anna Dixon, Billie Casebeer, Carson Buffington, Shaylor Whitham; (back row) Noah Hill, Blue Caplinger, Brayden Gage and Austin Moore.

Homecoming week at Louisburg High School kicked off Monday and events are in full swing. With something going on every day this week, it will be a busy time for students. All of it is, of course, centered around the crowning of the 2018 fall king and queen. Eight students were selected as nominees and here are their names and profiles.

The crowning will take place on Friday before the Wildcats' home football game with Atchison. Kickoff for that game is set for 7 p.m., with the crowning to take place at 6:30. Good luck to all the participants and make sure to come out on Friday to support the Wildcat football team.





**Anna Dixon and Noah Hill**

## **Anna Dixon**

Anna is the daughter of Beth and Jerry Dixon. Anna has participated in volleyball for four year and FFA for three years. She plans to graduate in December and will attend Kansas State University to play volleyball and major in Kinesiology and Nutrition.

## **Noah Hill**

Noah is the son of Megan and Andy Hill. Noah has been involved in student council for four years, basketball for three years, football and golf for two years and Leo's, Debate and Choir for one year. Noah plans to attend Kansas State University and dual major in Marketing and Management.



**Billie Casebeer and Blue Caplinger**

## **Billie Casebeer**

Billie is the daughter of Chris Casebeer and Linda Shipp. Billie has been involved with debate, cheerleading and band for for years. She has also participated in forensics, FCCLA, Model United Nations and Leos Club for two years and Spanish CLub, TedX and Scholars Bowl for one.

Billie is undecided on what college to attend, but would like to major in political science with an emphasis on international affairs, a minor in Spanish and then would like to further her education by completing law school.

## **Blue Caplinger**

Blue is the son of Sirena and Wade Caplinger. Blue has participated in football, wrestling and track and field for four years and is currently undecided on plans for after high school.



**Austin Moore and Shaylor Whitham**

## **Shaylor Whitham**

Shaylor is the daughter of Karen and Rusty Whitham. Shaylor has participated in cheerleading, band, FFA and track and field for four years, and has also participated in cross country and musicals for three years. She plans to attend Pittsburg State University and major in nursing.



## **Austin Moore**

Austin is the son of Alison and Tom Moore. Austin has participated in football for four years, wrestling, track and field and choir for three years and student council and National Honors Society for two years. Austin would like to play football after high school, but is unsure of his destination.



**Brayden Gage and Carson Buffington**

## **Carson Buffington**

Carson is the daughter of Amy and Dave Buffington. Carson has participated in choir, basketball and volleyball for four

years, and soccer and musical for three years. She has also participated in FFA for two years. Carson plans to attend the University of Kansas to major in behavioral science.

## Brayden Gage

Brayden is the son of Melissa and Jason Gage. Brayden has participated in football, basketball, choir and Spanish Club for four years and baseball and National Honors Society for two years. Brayden plans to attend college after high school, but is undecided on his destination and major.









# Lady Cats fall to Bishop Miego at Ottawa, finish second overall



Louisburg middle hitter Haley Cain goes up for a kill against Bishop Miego on Saturday in the Ottawa Invitational. The Lady Cats fell to Bishop Miego in three sets, but finished the day 4-1 and took second overall.

OTTAWA – The Louisburg High School volleyball team was on quite a roll going into the Ottawa Invitational on Saturday at Ottawa High School.

The Lady Cats won their first two matches of the day to give them a 14-match winning streak, with state-ranked Bishop Miego next on the slate in the round-robin tournament.

Louisburg looked every bit of the No. 2-ranked team in Class 4A as it took the first set 25-22. The Lady Cats were on their way to winning their 15th straight, but Miego had different ideas.

Bishop Miego rallied back to defeat Louisburg, 25-13 and 25-14, and handed the Lady Cats' their lone loss of the day. Louisburg finished the tournament with a 4-1 record and took second overall.

"The team played well during the first set against Bishop

Miege, but we struggled with serve receive during the second and third,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “We made too many unforced errors, and against a good team like Miege, we can’t do that.”

In the three tournaments the Lady Cats have competed in this season, they have finished in the top two in all three events.

Louisburg (23-6) opened the tournament with an easy 25-5, 25-13 victory over Highland Park. Olathe West, a Class 6A program was next, and the Lady Cats won the first set 25-22 and then rallied to win the second 25-23.



**Junior Riley Kallevig tries to keep the ball in play during a volley against Bishop Miege on Saturday in Ottawa.**

Following its loss to Bishop Miege, Louisburg ended the tournament with a 25-19 and 25-15 win over Ottawa, and then

downed Basehor-Linwood 25-23 and 25-18 to complete play on a positive note.

“Overall we had a pretty decent day,” Compliment said. “We saw a few teams we’d played before in Olathe West, Ottawa and Basehor. We actually saw Olathe West twice before and they played us tough again. Sometimes it can be hard to beat a team for the third time.

“It was good to finish the day on two wins, but I don’t feel like we really played our best on Saturday. We were missing some energy throughout the day.”

Senior Anna Dixon provided Louisburg with strong play at the net and also in the back row. Dixon had a team-high 54 kills – including 16 against Bishop Miege and 15 in the win over Olathe West. She also led the team in digs with 34, including 15 in the match against Miege.

Sophomore Carleigh Pritchard was second on the team with 22 kills, including 10 against Highland Park and also led Louisburg with six blocks on the day. Junior Haley Cain finished with 15 kills, while Erin Lemke and Carson Buffington had 14 and 11, respectively.





**Freshman Davis Guetterman puts up a set Saturday during the Ottawa Invitational.**

Junior Riley Kallevig was strong from behind the service line with nine aces and freshman Davis Guetterman had seven, including five against Highland Park to start the day. Freshman Rinny McMullen had six aces, with five coming in the win over Highland Park as well.

Both Guetterman and McMullen ran the Lady Cat attack well as the two combined for 109 assists in the five matches. McMullen led the way with 57 and Guetterman had 52.

Defensively alongside Dixon, Kallevig was second on the team with 32 digs and libero Reilly Ratliff-Becher finished with 30.

Louisburg will take a little time off before it returns to

action on Oct. 11 when it travels to Olathe North for a dual and will follow it up with the Emporia Invitational on Oct. 13.

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## **Lady Cats stay perfect in league with win over Tonganoxie**



Louisburg freshman setter Rinny McMullen prepares to dump the ball over the Tonganoxie front row Thursday during the Lady Cats' home match. The Lady Cats defeated Tonganoxie, 3-0, to move to 6-0 in the Frontier League.

In the middle of its Frontier League dual with Tonganoxie on Thursday, the Louisburg volleyball team found itself comfortably ahead.

The Lady Cats were never in danger of losing their first league match, but still, they weren't satisfied with how they were playing.

"They are just a fun group and they enjoy playing together so much and I think that shows for the most part," Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. "When I asked them in the

huddle what the problem was in the first set, they were the ones who were saying what they were doing wrong and that is good to hear them acknowledge that. They weren't communicating as well and the energy level wasn't where it needed to be, but they were able to fix that, especially in that third set.

After Louisburg won the first two sets 25-18 and 25-15, the Lady Cats finished the dual with a 25-10 victory in the third set to sweep the Chieftains at home.

Louisburg improved its Frontier League record to 6-0 on the season and 19-5 overall. With two more league matches to go, the Lady Cats have an eye on their first league title since 2015.

"We haven't won the last two years, thanks to De Soto, and I think that winning league is important to the girls," Compliment said. "They want to bring back that tradition of winning league after winning it in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and they want to set that standard and expectation again."

The win over Tonganoxie gives Louisburg its 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive victory on the season and the Lady Cats have solidified their No. 2 state ranking in Class 4A.

The Chieftains had a tough time containing the Lady Cat offensive attack at the net as they tallied 46 kills on the night, with 25 of those coming on swings from senior Anna Dixon. Junior middle blocker Haley Cain was second on the team with seven kills.





**Senior Anna Dixon gets ready to tip the ball over the net Thursday against Tonganoxie.**

Louisburg also served strong as it recorded 12 aces, including three each from junior Riley Kallevig, and freshmen Rinny McMullen and Davis Guetterman. Dixon also added two aces to her line.

Defensively, Cain was active for the Lady Cats as she led the team with nine digs and Dixon finished with eight. Junior libero Reilly Ratliff-Becher, Kallevig and McMullen each had seven.

McMullen and Guetterman each ran the offense well as McMullen notched 20 assists and Guetterman added 17.

"We played ok," Compliment said. "I thought there were times where we just sat back and got a little comfortable, rather than playing our game. In that third set, we decided to play a

little more of our pace and do more things. We were making quite a few errors that we shouldn't make in the first set and I don't think that our energy level was there. Even the girls acknowledged it in the huddle, so it was good to see us finish strong."

The Wildcats will see their competition ramp up on Saturday when they travel to the Ottawa Invitational. Louisburg will match up against state-ranked Bishop Miege in the round-robin tournament that also features Ottawa, Basehor-Linwood, Olathe West and Highland Park.

"It will be a tough tournament with some good challenges for us," Compliment said. "Seeing Olathe West again will be good after playing them close two times earlier this year, and then playing Bishop Miege is always an exciting opportunity. We don't know what is going to happen with sub-state or state yet, but to be able to play teams like them during the season is always a plus and it kind of tells us where we are at."

## **Louisburg picks up win on the road at Baldwin**

The Louisburg volleyball team got its busy week started on the right foot Tuesday when it traveled to Baldwin and picked up a 25-11, 25-12 and 25-15 win over the Bulldogs.

The Lady Cats were strong defensively as they had one of the better performances of the season at the net. Junior middle blocker Haley Cain led Louisburg with four blocks and junior Erin Lemke finished with two.

Junior Riley Kallevig also played well defensively in the back with a team-high 13 digs, while freshman Rinny McMullen and senior Anna Dixon each finished with five.



**Louisburg senior Carson Buffington follows through for a kill Tuesday against Baldwin.**

“Our serve receive the last week-and-a-half has been a lot better and more consistent,” Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. “Reilly (Ratliff-Becher) and Anna have really stepped up in practice and have been working on that. We served more aggressive as well and did some good things there.

“Blocking-wise, they are getting more comfortable with each other, side-by-side, and reading and being patient. We are just trying to get them all on the same page. It is coming along, but we still have a lot of work to do in that area.”

Offensively, Dixon had another strong game with a team-high 18 kills, Cain finished with seven and Kallevig added four in the win. Kallevig also had a big night from behind the service line as she tallied four aces and Ratliff-Becher added two of her own.



McMullen and fellow freshman Davis Guetterman, ran the offense well as they recorded 17 and 15 assists, respectively.

“They played loose and had fun out there,” Compliment said. “We tried a couple different things with our offense. Carson (Buffington) ran a couple quicks on the inside and ran a couple more slides. We are just trying to work with our hitters on trying different things and spreading the offense around. Carleigh (Pritchard) and Haley had some good hits from time to time as well and I think the blocking stepped up a little bit.”

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## Louisburg wins home tourney for first time in five years



The Louisburg High School volleyball team captured its home tournament title Saturday for the first time since 2013. Members of the team are (front row, from left) Riley Kallevig, Rinny McMullen, Reilly Ratliff-Becher, Davis Guetterman, Chase Kallevig; (back row) head coach Jessica Compliment, Alyse Moore, Sydni Keagle, Carleigh Pritchard, Anna Dixon, Carson Buffington, Haley Cain, Erin Lemke and assistant coach Mary Quinn.

A year ago, the Louisburg High School volleyball team found

itself playing at the middle school of their home tournament.

A trip to the middle school usually means you are playing in the consolation bracket and it was a feeling the Lady Cats had a tough time letting go of last season.

They wanted to make sure it didn't happen again.

Louisburg put together a dominant performance Saturday during the Louisburg Invitational as it rolled through five matches without losing a set and the Lady Cats captured their first home tournament title since 2013.

"Last year was not good," senior Carson Buffington said. "We did not enjoy going to the middle school at all. To stay here and win the championship felt really good. It really is exciting because the last tournament we played in we got second and I think we are just getting better and better as the season goes on."

The Lady Cats (17-5) got off to a great start in pool play as they downed Leavenworth (25-16, 25-8), Shawnee Mission East (25-18, 25-12) and Olathe North (25-16 and 25-12).

Shawnee Mission West was Louisburg's opponent in the semifinals of the championship bracket and the Lady Cats rolled to a pair of 25-14 victories. The Lady Cats then moved on to the championship against Basehor-Linwood, and saw their toughest competition of the day, but still won in two, 25-20 and 25-23.

"I am very proud of them," Louisburg coach Jessica Compliment said. "I wanted them to go after every match and not leave anything to chance. I wanted them to leave it all out on the court and finish it. It was big for them because it gives them a confidence boost and it allowed us to pick up five more wins and a tournament win. The biggest thing though is they had fun out there and that is important too."



**Members of the Louisburg volleyball team celebrate a big point Saturday during the Louisburg Invitational.**

Although much of the day happened without a lot of suspense, the Lady Cats did encounter a some adversity in their championship match against Basehor.

After winning the first set, Louisburg built a 14-8 lead on the Bobcats in the second set and appeared as if it was going to run away with the match. Instead, Basehor fought back and took a 20-15 lead late before Louisburg made a run of its own.

The Lady Cats rallied to tie it at 23-all before they won the final two points to secure the championship.

"Teams are going to make good plays over and over again and we just can't let that get in our head and dig a big hole for ourselves," senior Anna Dixon said. "We just moved on to the next play and were able to pull it out."



“We knew coming in that we would be playing teams that we haven’t seen before, but we just wanted to come in and play our game. The record really matters this year for the postseason, so we are just taking it game by game and getting that record up for sub-state.”

Louisburg played well in many different areas Saturday, but its defense was a big reason for its success. Libero Reilly Ratliff-Becher, along with Riley Kallevig and Dixon, provided the team with several key digs throughout the day.



**Anna Dixon sends one of her team-high 47 kills over the net Saturday.**

Kallevig recorded a team-high 43 digs and Dixon finished with 34 as both play all six rotations. Ratliff-Becher also played well with 32 digs and freshman Rinny McMullen had 27.

“I thought our defense, especially Riley and Reilly, had some

great digs and some great saves,” Compliment said. “The libero always controls the defense and runs that back court, but one of the advantages we have is Reilly Ratliff, who is the current libero, running that defense and then we have Riley Kallevig who was our libero the last two years. Both of them back there is just amazing sometimes because of the plays that they get to.

“Then you see Kallevig’s defense show on the front row and she gets a lot of dunks and things that trickle over and she reads tips really well. I think that just comes from playing libero before and they both did really well.”

Dixon was a big threat at the net offensively as she recorded a team-high 47 kills to spark the Louisburg offense. Junior middle hitter Haley Cain had 14 kills, while fellow middle hitter Carleigh Pritchard and Buffington each added 13 win the win.

The setter combination of McMullen and Davis Guetterman also distributed a lot of those swing opportunities. McMullen led Louisburg with 46 assists over the five matches and Guetterman added 35.

Louisburg also served well at times as Kallevig led the team with seven aces, while Cain and Dixon each finished with six.



**Junior Reilly Ratliff-Becher gets ready to make a pass Saturday during the Louisburg Invitational.**

“Our serving was more aggressive this time around, even though we did make some more errors,” Compliment said. “Anna was a little more consistent on her serves, which is big, and we stepped it up there as well.

“Hitting-wise, I think we are moving the ball around more as well and more players are getting more opportunities to swing instead of just setting it to Anna all the time.”

Louisburg will try to keep its winning ways going today when it travels to Baldwin for a Frontier League dual, before the Lady Cats return home for another league dual Thursday against Tonganoxie. They are currently 4-0 in league play.

“One of our main goals to start the season was to win league, and right now we are undefeated,” Dixon said. “As we get



closer and closer to the postseason, we are working harder and harder in practice toward our ultimate goal – which is to get back to state.”

For a photo gallery from Saturday’s tournament, make sure to [click here](#).