

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



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

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

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

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

to state.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

"We really did leave it all out there on the floor," Willer said. "After the game, we talked about how we all should walk out of that gym with our heads held high knowing that we gave it our all and played what I think was our best volleyball of the season. The environment in the gym was great – I'll give

credit to the Rock Creek Student Section – they sure brought the noise.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

with a team-high two blocks.

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

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

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

Wildcats down Wamego, Ottawa in regular season finale



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wildcat volleyball takes second at Atchison to stop losing skid



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Moore had 17 and senior Jaden Bentz had 15.

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

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

Wildcats drop league finale at Tonganoxie

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Week 6 Athlete of the Week: Adelyn Moore



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week six of the fall sports season, sponsored by Landmark National Bank.

ADELYN MOORE, SOPHOMORE, VOLLEYBALL

Louisburg sophomore Adelyn Moore did a little bit of everything for the Wildcat volleyball team last week as she helped the Wildcats to a second place finish Saturday at the Atchison Invitational. Moore, the team's setter, helped Louisburg to a 3-1 record on the day and led the team with 111 assists.

Moore was also big from behind the service line as she led the Wildcats with nine aces on the week and also tallied 19 kills. She also played well on the defensive end with 23 digs. Moore helped Louisburg to wins over Schlagle, Atchison and Perry-Lecompton in the tournament, with their lone loss coming in three sets to Shawnee Mission South.

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

Previous Winners:

Week 1: Myles Vohs

Week 2: McKenna Lohse

Week 3: Ashton Moore

Week 4: Levi Cotter

Week 5: Colton Blue



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**Wildcats fall to Spring Hill
on Senior Night; get road win
over Paola**



Louisburg head coach Leanna Willer (left) and the Wildcat volleyball team honored their five seniors Thursday against Spring Hill. The seniors are (from left) Aspen Coulter, Katie McKain, Ally Brown, Evyn Richardson and Jaden Bentz.

Senior Night is always a special moment for any team and it was the case again Thursday as the Louisburg volleyball team hosted Spring Hill for a Frontier League dual.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, Spring Hill put a damper on the evening as the Broncos handed Louisburg a 25-16, 25-19 and 25-13 loss in what was the final home game this season.

Still, the Wildcat players and fans had a chance to say thank you to the five Louisburg seniors – Jaden Bentz, Ally Brown, Aspen Coulter, Katie McKain and Evyn Richardson – as they played their last game in the LHS gymnasium.

“Senior Night is always a very special night for our program,” Willer said. “With volleyball, the timing of senior night can be tricky, and this year was no different – senior night is

happening yet we still have quite a few games left to play. I think that helps our girls to know that we still have time with our seniors left, but it definitely brings attention to how that time is winding down and how we want to make the most of the time we have left with this particular group of girls.

“These seniors have brought so much fun and energy to our program and they each bring their own unique personality to the gym every day. They have truly impacted our program and are going to leave their mark on the team this year.”

Spring Hill is currently undefeated in Frontier League play and is on pace to win the league title and the Broncos made it tough on the Wildcats.

“Against Spring Hill, we saw our team do some really great things and make some big plays that had us hanging in there, especially in the second set,” Willer said “Unfortunately, we couldn’t string enough of those good plays together to come out on top in the end. Overall, I thought we fought hard and our seniors especially really tried to make the most of playing on our home court for the last time.”



Louisburg senior Aspen Coulter dives to the floor to get a piece of the ball Thursday against Spring Hill.

Richardson had a big night in her final home performance as she finished with a team-high 10 kills to go along with two blocks. Juniors Caileigh Kilgore and McKenna Lohse added five kills each.

Louisburg setter Adelyn Moore had a team-high 23 assists to go along with nine digs and two blocks. Brown was also second the team with nine digs.

The Wildcats will try and get back in the win column Tuesday when they travel to Tonganoxie for their final league dual of the season. Varsity is set to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Louisburg gets league road victory

at Paola

It may not have been as easy as the 3-0 score indicated, but Louisburg picked up a win over its rival last Tuesday in Paola.

The Wildcats defeated the Panthers 25-23, 26-24 and 25-22 as they were able to pull out three close set victories on the road.

“Winning another league match is always going to be a positive, especially when we can do it in straight sets,” Willer said. “With Paola being our closest competitor geographically in the league, we have a natural rivalry, so beating them is always important to us. We didn’t play our best, but I’m proud of the team for being able to dig themselves out of some holes in each set and come back to win.”

Serving and defense provided the Wildcats with a good starting point against Paola as Louisburg tallied eight aces in the those three sets, including three each from Ally Brown and Delaney Nelsen.



Louisburg senior Ally Brown digs up a ball during last week's road win at Paola.

Brown also stepped up in the back row as she tallied a team-high 21 digs and another senior, Jaden Bentz, had 11 and Nelsen added nine.

Offensively, junior McKenna Lohse had a big night as the Wildcat middle blocker led the team with five blocks and also had a team-high 11 kills. Junior Caileigh Kilgore added nine kills in the win.

Louisburg sophomore setter Adelyn Moore had a team-high 31 assists.

"I thought our defense was really strong and we made some great digs that we were able to then convert to offense which is exactly what we need to do," Willer said. "Defensively, Ally stood out as she made some really great digs out of middle back. Offensively, I think Kenna stood out as she took some big swings and finished as the kill leader for our team."

Wildcats battle to take second place at home tourney



Louisburg senior Evyn Richardson sends a kill over the net Saturday during the Louisburg Invitational.

The Louisburg volleyball team put itself to the test Saturday during the Louisburg Invitational.

The Wildcats went up against five bigger schools during the round-robin tournament and finished with a 3-2 record. When it was all said and done, it was enough to garner themselves a runner-up trophy.

Louisburg earned victories over three Shawnee Mission schools – South, West and East – and suffered losses to eventual champion Olathe North and Basehor-Linwood. It was a strong showing in what started a busy week for the Wildcats.

“We are very proud of our second place finish at our home tournament,” Louisburg coach Leanna Willer said. “It’s a tough tournament filled with all 5A and 6A schools aside from us, so we always know that it’s going to be a challenge going into it. Teams throughout the day did seem to be pretty evenly matched as many games went to three sets.

“Overall, Saturday was a good day for our team. It was a good test to see what we can do against tough competition all day long, and how we can bounce back from a rough game in the middle of the day. I think we had some good learning moments throughout the day and we learned more about each other as a team and how we respond in tough situations.”

All those evenly-matched teams provided some drama at the end as there was a 3-way tie for second place when it was all finished. Louisburg came out on top due to win percentage and head-to-head battles.



The Louisburg volleyball team took second at its home tournament. Pictured (front row, from left) is Aspen Coulter, Katie McKain, Ally Brown, Evyn Richardson, Jaden Bentz; (back row) Addi Mallett, Adelyn Moore, Stella Bohnenstiehl, Delaney Nelsen, McKenna Lohse, Rylee Telken, Caileigh Kilgore and coach Leanna Willer.

As it turned out, the Wildcats' victory over Shawnee Mission South proved to be its most important as South was one of the teams tied with Louisburg at the end of the day.

It was a rocky start for Louisburg as it lost the first set 21-25, but rebounded to win the second 25-18. The Wildcats put together a big rally in the third set and eventually held on for the 30-28 victory.

The Wildcats found themselves down 23-17 in the third set, but junior Delaney Nelsen served six straight points and recorded an ace in that stretch to tie it up at 23-all.

South had match point three different times after that, but

all three times junior Caileigh Kilgore staved off elimination with a kill. The Wildcats eventually held on for the victory and forced a couple South mistakes.

"The match against Shawnee Mission South proved to be one of the most exciting of the day as we went extra points in that final set," Willer said. "It did take us a little bit to wake up and get going in the morning, but having that high of an intensity level during the first match of the day was good for us moving forward, and we were able to carry that momentum into the game against Shawnee Mission West as well."

Louisburg took care of business against Shawnee Mission West, 25-14 and 25-22, before moving on to tough matchup with Olathe North. The Wildcats fell 25-15 and 25-12 to the tournament champion.



Louisburg senior Katie McKain rises up for kill Saturday

against Shawnee Mission South.

Basehor-Linwood was next up for the Wildcats in what proved to be another three-set match. After taking the first set, 25-22, the Wildcats couldn't quite pull off the upset as they lost the next two, 18-25 and 21-25.

"The loss to Basehor was tough as we were close and went back and forth a bit throughout the whole match, but we did recognize that they are a solid team and we just couldn't quite get over the deficit we built for ourselves," Willer said. "It wasn't fun to lose of course, but we held our own more than in the previous match against Olathe North, so I was happy to see that we put up more of a fight even in the loss."

The Wildcats had a chance to end their tournament with a winning record against Shawnee Mission East, and they took advantage as they went three sets again. Louisburg won the match 25-19, 17-25 and 25-23 to secure the second place finish.

"Going into the last match of the day, we talked about how we wanted to leave it all out there on the floor and end the day on a positive note," Willer said. "We rallied around each other and pushed hard to make sure that we ended up on top against a solid Shawnee Mission East team and we were happy to walk out that day knowing we finished on a more positive note than we had seen through most of the day."

Several different players stepped for Louisburg throughout a long day of volleyball and it started with setter Adelyn Moore. The Wildcat sophomore did a little bit of everything as she led the team with 107 assists on the day and had a team-best 37 digs.

Moore finished with 16 kills, five aces and two blocks. She also distributed the well to several different hitters.



Louisburg senior Aspen Coulter dives on the floor for a dig Saturday at the Louisburg Invitational.

Kilgore and junior Addi Mallett led Louisburg with 29 kills on the day and junior McKenna Lohse was right behind them with 28. Senior Evyn Richardson had 26 kills and led the team in blocks, along with Lohse, with five.

The Wildcats also did a lot of work from behind the service line as the team tallied 29 aces on the day. Senior Ally Brown had strong performance with a team-high 10 aces and Lohse finished with six.

Senior Aspen Coulter and Nelsen each finished the day with four aces. Coulter also tied Moore with a team-high 37 digs, while Brown had 29.

“Throughout the day, I was happy to see different players step up at different times to lead both verbally and by their actions on the court,” Willer said. “We are working to develop our team identity and I think we are growing closer with each

and every game."

Louisburg is back on the court tonight as the Wildcats will celebrate Senior Night against Spring Hill. Varsity is set to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Wildcats sweep Girard triangular, lose first league match



Louisburg sophomore Adelyn Moore sets up teammate McKenna Lohse at the net Thursday in Girard. The Wildcats defeated both Girard and Fort Scott.

GIRARD – Fresh off its first Frontier League loss of the

season, the Louisburg volleyball team responded in a big way – with a pair of road victories.

On Thursday, the Wildcats traveled to Girard for a triangular with Fort Scott, and despite a slow start, earned a 2-1 win over Girard and a 2-0 victory against Fort Scott.

Louisburg dropped the first set of the night to Girard, 22-25, but responded nicely to win the next two 25-13 and 25-21. The Wildcats continued that momentum against Fort Scott in the 25-12 and 25-9 victory.

"We were happy to come out of Girard with two wins," Louisburg coach Leanna Willer said. "Going on the road is always a challenge, but we were able to pull out a win against a really tough and scrappy Girard team. We definitely didn't play our best, but Girard played smart and blocked really well too.

"They are 18-3 on the season and a really strong 3A opponent for us to play so we were glad to get a little gritty to pull off the win. Then, we were really able to find our groove against Fort Scott for the second win of the night."

It was a slow start, but the Wildcats were able to get back in it thanks to their efforts from behind the service line – more specifically Delaney Nelsen.

Nelsen finished the match with six of the team's 10 aces and the Wildcats made it difficult on Girard. Senior Aspen Coulter and junior McKenna Lohse each added two of their own.

"Some big positives on the night were us focusing on winning the serve and pass game, and buying into that need for our team," Willer said. "It took us a little while to get there, but once we settled into that I think we were able to see some great plays made."

Offensively, the Wildcats had a strong outing as sophomore setter Adelyn Moore led the way with 33 assists against Girard

as they had a balanced attack at the net.

Junior Caileigh Kilgore led Louisburg with 10 kills, while senior Katie McKain and Lohse each finished with eight.

Defensively, senior Evyn Richardson and Kilgore led the way at the net with seven combined blocks, with four of those from Richardson.

Coulter, the team's libero, led the Wildcat back row with 10 digs, while Addi Mallett, Ally Brown and Kilgore each had five digs.



Louisburg senior Jaden Bentz gets on the floor for a dig during last Tuesday's match against Eudora.

Against Fort Scott, Louisburg had another balanced attack at the net as Mallett, Kilgore and Lohse each led the team with six kills and Moore added four.

The Wildcats also had nine aces on the match, including three

from Coulter, along with two from Brown, Moore and Lohse.

Brown led the Louisburg back row with eight digs and Coulter added seven in the win.

Following its home tournament last Saturday, the Wildcats are in the middle of a stretch that sees them play 12 matches in eight days. It continues today when they travel to Paola for a Frontier League dual.

"This is a very important stretch for us," Willer said. "That being said, we try to really only focus on one game at a time. This past weekend, we had all 5A and 6A opponents, followed by two big league games with Paola and Spring Hill during the week, and then we finish off next weekend at the Ottawa tournament where we will see some really good 4A and 5A teams as well.

"While winning every game is the ultimate goal, we want to continue to focus on improving as a team through each one. We learn more and more about ourselves and the things we can do to get better each game, so I am looking forward to seeing how this team grows and responds to the challenges of this intense part of the schedule."

Wildcats lose first league match of season to Eudora

Louisburg faced its toughest Frontier League challenge to date last Tuesday as the Wildcats hosted Eudora, and while they battled the Cardinals, they came up short 25-17, 25-21 and 25-23 loss.

"I think our team played with a lot of heart," Willer said. "That's a really, really solid team, and we fought hard throughout each of the three sets to compete the best we could. There were some weaknesses of ours that got exploited a little bit, but that gave us some things to focus on in

practice in the following days. Overall, we battled hard and I am proud of the way we played."

Louisburg had a balanced attack at the net as junior Caileigh Kilgore led the way with six kills, while senior Evyn Richardson, and juniors McKenna Lohse and Addi Mallett each had five. Sophomore Adelyn Moore tallied 20 assists on the night.

Richardson led the Wildcats with four blocks on the night, while junior Rylee Telken had two. Mallett led the back row with 11 digs on the night, while senior Ally Brown was also in double figures with 10.

However, the loss was not the most important thing for Louisburg that night. The Wildcats hosted Dig Pink Night in an effort to raise money for a local family battling cancer.

In all, the team was able to raise more than \$1,200 that they will be able to present to the family.



"Our Dig Pink Night was a huge success and we were able to raise a lot of money for a local family who is currently fighting the good fight against cancer," Willer said. "We had some amazing donors and participants in our serving competition, and our surprise auction was a great addition thanks to a generous donation.

"Every one of us knows someone who has had their life turned upside down by cancer, so it's a really meaningful thing for our players to get to dedicate the night to those loved ones. Our community showed up big time for us that night and supported us the whole way through, making it very clear that Louisburg is a special place to be."

Wildcats keep winning ways going with victory over Bonner Springs



Louisburg junior Addi Mallett led the way with 11 kills last week against Bonner Springs.

Fresh off a tournament win, the Louisburg volleyball team got right back into Frontier League play last Tuesday against Bonner Springs.

The Wildcats picked up right where they left off as they continued their perfect start to the league season with a 25-15, 25-23 and 25-12 win over the Braves at Louisburg High School.

The victory improves the Wildcats to 8-4 on the season and are currently 3-0 in league play, in what was their lone

competition for the week. It was also their seventh consecutive win.

"It's always a good feeling to get another league win under our belt, especially as we were headed into this 'week off' of playing at the varsity level," Louisburg coach Leanna Willer said. "We faltered a bit in the second set and played with them more than we would have liked, making more hitting errors as well.

"I was proud that we held on and fought through some challenges as a team, and then we came back in a commanding way in the third to finish out the game."

Louisburg got out to a good start in the first set and ended strong thanks to Addi Mallett. The Wildcat junior served six points at the end, including two aces, to seal the first set win.

Mallett finished the match with a team-high 11 kills to go along with eight digs and two aces.

"It was nice to see our team start off strong in the first set and finish the game thanks to a great serving run by Addi," Willer said. "I thought she played a great overall game as she played all six rotations and she led our team kills."

After a back-and forth set in the second in that ended with a Wildcat victory, Louisburg took control in the final set. The Wildcats jumped out to a big lead and never looked back.

Along with Mallett, the Wildcats were well-balanced at the net. Juniors McKenna Lohse and Caileigh Kilgore each finished with seven kills, as did sophomore setter Adelyn Moore.

Moore did a little bit of everything for Louisburg as she led the Wildcat attack with 28 assists to go along with her seven kills.



Louisburg senior Evyn Richardson led the Wildcats with five blocks last week against Bonner Springs.

Senior Evyn Richardson led the Wildcats at the net defensively with a team-high five blocks, and in the back-row, senior libero Aspen Coulter had a team-best 14 digs.

The Wildcats also thrived behind the service line as senior Ally Brown led the way with four aces, while Mallett and Lohse each added two. Brown and senior Jaden Bentz each had six digs in the win.

“Ally led the charge from behind the service line and her serve receive was top notch,” Willer said. “Our outsides and middles were all really effective offensively, with impressive hitting percentages for the night.

“Evyn stood out as a force at the net with her blocking. As always, Adelyn ran the show and put our hitters in great positions to be successful.”

Louisburg will try to continue its winning ways this Tuesday (Sept. 24) as the Wildcats host Eudora in a Frontier League dual.

Week 2 Athlete of the Week: McKenna Lohse



Here is the Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Week for week two of the fall sports season, sponsored by Landmark National Bank.

MCKENNA LOHSE, JUNIOR, VOLLEYBALL

Louisburg senior McKenna Lohse put together a strong performance, in what was a busy week for the Wildcat

volleyball team. Lohse and the Wildcats ended it with a first place finish at the Frontenac Invitational on Saturday and the team wrapped up the 8-game week with a 6-2 record.

Lohse, a middle blocker for the Wildcats, was a big reason for all that success. In those eight games, Lohse tallied 46 kills and also had seven aces. Against Pittsburg in the championship match Saturday, she finished with a team-high seven kills, and had 29 kills and four blocks total in the tournament.

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

Previous Winners:

Week 1: Myles Vohs



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Wildcats capture Frontenac Invite championship



The Louisburg volleyball team celebrates match point of the championship match Saturday at the Frontenac Invitational.

FRONTENAC – Louisburg volleyball had a difficult schedule through its first six matches of the season, that included two-ranked opponents, and it lost four of them.

Despite its rough start, Louisburg showed out in its first tournament of the season Saturday at the Frontenac Invitational. The Wildcats won all five matches, including a 25-19, 26-24 win over Pittsburg in the championship, to capture the tournament title.

Following a league victory Thursday over Ottawa, the Wildcats have now won six straight and are starting to build momentum on the young season.

"This was a great start to the tournament season," Louisburg coach Leanna Willer said. "We were really glad to get back on the winning side of our games, and it definitely helped build our confidence as a team. We battled through a couple of three set matches to start the day and worked hard to come back in the third to take them after dropping those second sets.

"Coming home with a first place plaque to display in the front of the school is always a good feeling and we have set team goals to not let that be the only hardware we come home with."

The Wildcats (7-4) got off to a little bit of a slow start as they defeated Cherryvale in three sets, 25-19, 18-25 and 25-12. They went three sets again in their next pool play match against Fort Scott, but again came away with a 25-19, 23-25 and 25-15 victory.

Louisburg won its pool after a 25-19 and 26-24 victory over St. Mary's-Colgan, and once the Wildcats reached bracket play, they stepped it up.



The Louisburg volleyball team poses with its championship plaque Saturday in Frontenac. Members of the team are (front row, from left) Aspen Coulter, Katie McKain, Ally Brown, Evyn Richardson, Jaden Bentz; (back row) coach Leanna Willer, Caileigh Kilgore, Adelyn Moore, Delaney Nelsen, Rylee Telken, McKenna Lohse and Addison Mallett.

"In our final two matches of the day, we hit a point where we decided that we weren't going to let ourselves go to three again," Willer said. "We wanted to focus on our side of the net and take care of business – trusting everyone to do their job and get us where we wanted to be. Thanks to some great serving, we were able to string together a few runs in each set to make that happen."

It was the serving that lifted the Wildcats past a pair of good opponents in Girard and Pittsburg.

Louisburg defeated Girard, 25-21 and 25-18, to reach the championship match in big thanks to its performance from behind the service line.

After the first set win, sophomore Adelyn Moore and senior Ally Brown helped serve the Wildcats to an 8-1 advantage in the second. However, Girard battled back and eventually tied the match at 15.

Brown once again put the Wildcats back on top as she served five straight points, including three aces, to put Louisburg up 21-15 and the Wildcats were able to pull away. Brown finished with five aces in the match.

The serves helped set up kill opportunities from Addison Mallett and Evyn Richardson, who helped continue the run.

“Serving was a big part of our success in the latter half of the day,” Willer said. “We continuously talk about winning the serve and pass game, and we were able to serve aggressively – especially in those last two matches to give us an advantage over each team. Ally’s serve came up huge for us in the semi-final game against Girard. That stretch included three aces and some other killer serves that set us up for success.”



Junior Caileigh Kilgore goes up for a kill Saturday in Frontenac.

Mallett led the Wildcats at the net in that match with six kills and four blocks, while junior Caileigh Kilgore had five kills and Richardson had three blocks. Junior McKenna Lohse had four kills and two blocks.

Moore, the team's setter, ran the offense well with 17 assists. Defensively, senior libero Aspen Coulter led Louisburg with nine digs and senior Jaden Bentz added seven.

The good serving continued in the championship match against Pittsburg.

Coulter, Moore and Lohse all put together key serving runs to give the Wildcats the early lead. Coulter had two aces in the match, while Moore and junior Delaney Nelsen each had one.

"In the championship, Aspen, Adelyn, and Kenna had a combined total of 30 serves, which were all aggressive enough to push Pittsburg out of system as much as we could," Willer said. "When we are tough behind the service line, we are much tougher to beat."

Lohse was big for Louisburg at the net in the championship match as she posted a team-high seven kills and junior Rylee Telken added five of her own.

Defensively, Coulter was all over the floor with a team-high 16 digs, while Kilgore and Brown had seven and six, respectively.

For the tournament, the Wildcats had 31 aces in the five matches. Nelsen led the way with seven aces, while Brown finished with six. Coulter and Moore each had five of their own.

Moore had a busy day running the offense and doing a little bit of everything from the setter spot. She tallied 108 assists in the five matches to go along with 26 digs and 15 kills.

"Throughout the whole day, we ran a really balanced attack," Willer said. "Adelyn did a great job of distributing the ball and finding our hot hitters when we needed a kill, and she threw in a few of her own as well. It was really nice to see that if one of our hitters was struggling, we were able to find others to step up and fill our offensive needs."



Junior McKenna Lohse sends the ball back over the net on an over pass Saturday during the Frontenac Invitational.

Several Wildcats stepped up at the net as Kilgore led the way with 31 kills, while Lohse and Mallett had 29 and 25, respectively. Richardson added 18 kills, while Telken (13) and senior Katie McKain (12) also finished with double-digit kills.

Richardson posted a team-high 11 blocks on the day to lead the way defensively and Mallett had seven. In the back row, Coulter had a team-best 58 digs, while Brown finished 31.

It was exactly the kind of day the Wildcats were hoping for after a rough stretch to start the season.

“Throughout the day, I was constantly changing and tweaking our lineup to try out some different options and just get some different looks with our core group,” Willer said. “No matter

the lineup, our players adjusted and adapted to every different combination and found a way to mesh. Regardless of who was playing in the game or not, everyone remained supportive and encouraging of their teammates which made it a fun day for everyone.”

Wildcats sweep Ottawa in league dual

Before Saturday’s tournament, Louisburg was able to start a winning streak during Thursday’s home Frontier League dual against Ottawa.

Louisburg won the match in three sets, 25-19, 25-8 and 25-22, to move to 2-0 in league play.

The Wildcats got out to a rough start before Ottawa’s starting middle blocker, Dylan Nichols, had to leave midway through the first set with a serious leg injury.

“With the competitive nature of our league, securing those wins on league nights is really great,” coach Leanna Willer said. “It’s tough to do consistently in this league because we have so many strong teams. Ottawa started off really strong, and it was clear our girls were a little nervous heading into the first home league match, but we were making a comeback in the first set.

“Unfortunately, Ottawa did suffer an injury that took their team out of it for a little bit. We never want to see that happen to anyone, but Ottawa came back together and really put up a fight in the third set and it was good for us to remain strong as a team and get the win.”



Louisburg junior Delaney Nelsen rises up for a back row swing Thursday at home against Ottawa.

Louisburg was able to serve well again as it totaled eight aces, including three from junior McKenna Lohse.

Junior Caileigh Kilgore and Lohse were also strong at the net with 13 and 11 kills, respectively, while Moore had 30 assists on the night.

Defensively, junior Rylee Telken had three blocks to lead the Wildcats and senior Katie McKain had two. Senior libero Aspen Coulter had 18 digs to lead the Louisburg back row, while seniors Ally Brown and Jaden Bentz had eight and seven, respectively.