

# Wildcats return 3 state qualifiers to help lead the way in 2019-20



Junior Cade Holtzen returns to help lead the Wildcat wrestling program this season. Holtzen, along with juniors Ryan Owens, Ben Wiedenmann and sophomore Brandon Doles were all named team captains.

It was successful season for the Louisburg wrestling program last year as the Wildcats sent six wrestlers to state tournament and also brought home a medal.

The Wildcats are hoping for that same type of success, if not more, this time around as they return three state qualifiers to the mix for 2019-20 season. Those are just a few of the reasons why head coach Bobby Bovaird is looking forward to seeing what his team can accomplish.

“Practices have been going smoothly, and I’m excited for the season to get underway,” Bovaird said. “We had our annual scrimmage last night and it was great to see the match-ups. The guys are anxious to get out there to

compete, too. They keep asking about going live all the time at practice. I like that – they're chomping at the bit to wrestle.

"We'll have a solid core of wrestlers. I don't think we'll have as much of a problem this year with guys having to bump up to fill empty weight classes. We have more kids who are new to the sport than we've had in previous years, but they're some solid athletes. They've been picking up pretty quickly."

#### Juniors

Cade Holtzen and Ryan Owens, along with sophomore Brandon Doles, are returning state qualifiers who will lead the Wildcats this season and were named team captains along with junior Ben Wiedenmann.

#### Holtzen

earned a state medal his freshman season and was one win away from a second a year ago. Doles was a regional champion a year ago as a freshman, while Owens was also a state qualifier.

#### With

an early portion of their schedule that will be consisted of duals, Holtzen will wrestle at 132 pounds to start the season and Owens will remain at 120 from a year ago. Doles moves up a class to a 160 pounds and Wiedenmann will take the mat at 170.



**Brandon Doles, who won a regional title as a freshman, returns to help the Wildcats at 160 pounds.**

“They’ve been working hard in the off-season,” Bovaird said. “Last summer, Cade and Brandon were on the mat quite a bit, and Ben was hitting the weight room pretty hard. Ryan has been keeping active with working out at Louisburg Jiu Jitsu. These four were voted team captains this season, and I’m excited to see their leadership on and off the mat.”

Louisburg will have two open weights to begin the season, 106 and 152, but Bovaird believes they might be able to fill the 152 slot later in the

season.

Freshman Kaven Bartlett will wrestle at 113 pounds, while Luke Kelly will start the year at 126. Senior Harrison Laney (138 pounds), junior A.J. Drew (145), sophomore Aiden Barker (182), senior Hugh Staver (195), senior Sam Kratochvil (220) and freshman Elijah Eslinger (285) will complete the Wildcats' lineup.

Although he may be one of the youngest on the team, Bartlett provides a good deal of experience as he has wrestled in kids club for several years.

"Kaven

is another kid coming into the program who's been wrestling since a young age,"

Bovaird said. "He's a competitive kid and is really coachable. This past

summer, he's been getting into different practice rooms, getting exposure to

new practice partners and coaches. He's got the right mindset to have a very

successful high school career."

The

Wildcats open their season at 3 p.m., Friday at the Fort Scott Dual Tournament.

As excited as Bovaird is for this season, he is just as optimistic about the

future of his Wildcat program.

"Our overall numbers are back up again this year," Bovaird said. "Last year was a fluke with our low numbers, but we also had a very good retention rate. I'm looking to continue that retention and building our numbers back up to where they were a couple years ago. There's the old saying 'Iron sharpens Iron,' and that's true. With more numbers, we'll find the program back on the growing track.

“In 2018-19, there were over 100 kids in Louisburg (grades K through 8) who were involved in wrestling. That includes the area clubs and the middle school program. There’s a wave of strong wrestlers coming in the next few years, and I’m excited to see what this group establishes as a foundation for the future.”

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## **KSHSAA releases classifications for 2019-20 school year**



The Kansas State High School Activities Association released its classifications for the 2019-20 school year, along with the football classifications for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons.

There were a few changes in both areas, but more so on the football side.

Football classifications are determined based on enrollment figures in ninth, 10th and 11th grade. Louisburg is still in 4A with 432 students and is toward the lower half of the classification.



Entering Class 4A beginning in the 2020 school year will be St. James Academy, Lansing and Great Bend, who have all moved down from Class 5A. Wamego also made the jump back in from Class 3A.

# Kansas State High School Activities Association

## Football Classifications and Enrollments-Descending Order 2020 & 2021

*Enrollment figures are based on ninth, tenth and eleventh grades only.*

*Enrollment figures are as of September 20, 2019.*

6A		5A		4A		3A	
Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 32		Member Schools - 48	
Range: 1854 - 1092		Range: 1083 - 655		Range: 654 - 340		Range: 324 - 168	
Wichita-East	1854	Liberal	1083	Lansing	654	Baldwin	324
Wichita-North	1691	Hutchinson	1049	Great Bend	651	Topeka-Hayden	314
Wichita-Southeast	1662	Wichita-Heights	1045	Lenexa-St. James Academy	649	Parsons	286
Derby	1638	Shawnee-Mill Valley	982	Bonner Springs	640	Andale	279
Garden City	1560	Leavenworth	977	Arkansas City	620	Pratt	275
Dodge City	1533	Wichita-Northwest	970	Andover Central	608	Clearwater	266
Olathe South	1503	Emporia	949	Basehor-Linwood	587	Iola	256
Olathe East	1477	Kansas City-Turner	902	McPherson	535	Girard	252
Olathe North	1469	Wichita-Bishop Carroll	890	Kansas City-Piper	518	Nickerson	252
Topeka-Washburn Rural	1449	Topeka West	882	Ottawa	507	Clay Center Community	247
Wichita-South	1438	Topeka-Seaman	881	Buhler	497	Holton	242
Lawrence-Free State	1411	Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights	876	SM-Bishop Miege	493	Concordia	241
Manhattan	1402	Maize	871	Augusta	491	Kansas City-Bishop Ward	240
Topeka	1364	Kansas City-Washington	850	Winfield	472	Garnett-Anderson County	234
Olathe Northwest	1356	Maize South	842	Tonganoxie	471	Chapman	224
Kansas City-Wyandotte	1355	OP-Blue Valley Southwest	811	Independence	461	St. George-Rock Creek	224
SM East	1353	Salina-South	800	Chanute	452	Baxter Springs	223
Gardner-Edgerton	1325	Newton	788	Paola	447	Osawatomie	221
Haysville Campus	1297	De Soto	758	Fort Scott	434	Columbus	220
SM West	1277	Salina-Central	758	Louisburg	432	Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail	217
SM Northwest	1266	Topeka-Highland Park	757	Towanda-Circle	429	Wichita-Trinity Academy	217
Olathe West	1256	Andover	733	Coffeyville-Field Kindley	409	Hoyt-Royal Valley	216
OP-Blue Valley Northwest	1233	Goddard-Eisenhower	725	El Dorado	400	Hugoton	216
SM North	1226	Valley Center	699	Eudora	391	LaCygne-Prairie View	214
Lawrence	1221	Kansas City-Sumner Acad.	698	Rose Hill	381	Hiawatha	213
OP-Blue Valley	1182	OP-St. Thomas Aquinas	693	Altamont-Labette County	377	Frontenac	211
OP-Blue Valley West	1182	Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel	693	Mulvane	375	Meriden-Jefferson West	211
Junction City	1136	Pittsburg	691	Atchison	355	Holcomb	210
Wichita-West	1129	Hays	687	Abilene	352	Burlington	203
Kansas City-JC Harmon	1110	Kansas City-FL Schlagle	687	Wamego	351	Hesston	202
SM South	1106	Spring Hill	668	Wellington	345	Colby	201
OP-Blue Valley North	1092	Goddard	655	Ulysses	340	Wichita Collegiate	201
						Lindsborg-Smoky Valley	200
						Galena	199
						Scott Community	198
						Caney Valley	192
						Perry-Lecompton	192
						Larned	188
						Cherryvale	186
						Marysville	183
						Cheney	182
						Goodland	182
						Riley County	182
						Russell	181
						Council Grove	180
						Sabetha	173
						Gypsum-Southeast of Saline	171
						Halstead	168

\* *Note: Per classification*

*Rule 5-2-2, enrollment ties are broken by using the previous classification cycle count.*

**2A****Schools - 48****Range: 168 - 112**

Cimarron	168
Lyons	168
Wellsville	167
Haven	166
Hoisington	162
Osage City	161
Seneca-Nemaha Central	161
Fredonia	159
Silver Lake	158
Easton-Pleasant Ridge	156
Riverton	155
Neodesha	153
Norton Community	153
Beloit	150
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral	148
Kingman	148
Eureka	147
Pomona-West Franklin	144
Douglass	142
Kismet-Southwestern Hts.	141
Lakin	141
St. Marys	141
Hays-TMP-Marian	140
Oskaloosa	140
Minneapolis	139
Ellsworth	137
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mt Acad.	135
Rossville	135
Effingham- Atchinson Co Comm.	130
Erie	130
Hillsboro	129
Humboldt	129
Mound City-Jayhawk Linn	128
Phillipsburg	128
Wathena-Riverside	127
Belle Plaine	124
Syracuse	121
Garden Plain	120
Ellis	119
Cherokee-Southeast	118
Belleville-Republic County	117
McLouth	117
Eskridge-Mission Valley	116
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic	116
Leon-Bluestem	112
Marion	112
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan	112
Sterling	112

**1A****Schools - 28****Range: 111 - 62**

Whitewater-Remington	111
Conway Springs	110
Horton	110
Sedgwick	108
Arma-Northeast	106
Brookville-Eli-Saline	106
Richmond-Central Heights	106
Wabaunsee	105
Wichita-The Independent	102
Lyndon	99
Sublette	99
Ellinwood	98
Oakley	98
Salina-Sacred Heart	98
Uniontown	98
Johnson-Stanton County	96
Winchester- Jefferson Co. North	94
Inman	93
Elkhart	90
Plainville	89
Pleasanton	86
Allen-Northern Heights	85
Blue Rapids-Valley Heights	82
Smith Center	82
Holton-Jackson Heights	78
Troy	70
Olpe	69
Centralia	62

**8-Player Division I****Schools - 48****Range: 98 - 66**

Herington	98
Bennington	97
Hoxie	97
Yates Center	96
Medicine Lodge	95
Hill City	94
Howard-West Elk	93
Pratt-Skyline	93
Leoti-Wichita County	90
Spearville	90
WaKeeney-Trego Community	89
Moundridge	88
Sedan	88
Cottonwood Falls-Chase Co.	84
Stockton	84
Attica/Argonia	82
Valley Falls	82
Burlingame	80
Canton-Galva	79
Goessel	79
Meade	79
Ness City	79
Washington County	79
Little River	78
Shawnee-Marana	77
Christian Academy	77
Cedar Vale/Dexter	76
Burden-Central	75
Langdon-Fairfield	75
Madison/Hamilton	75
Solomon	75
Udall	74
Atwood-Rawlins County	72
Highland-Doniphan West	72
La Crosse	72
Oswego	72
Kinsley	71
Clyde-Clifton Clyde	70
Oberlin-Decatur Community	70
Rosalie-Flinthills	70
Jetmore-Hodgeman County	69
Lincoln	69
Macksville	69
Oxford	69
Moran-Marmaton Valley	68
Greensburg-Kiowa County	67
St. John-Hudson	67
Montezuma-South Gray	66
Pretty Prairie	66

**8-Player Division II****Schools - 52****Range: 66 - 29**

Sylvan-Lucas Unified	66
Rural Vista ( <i>White City/Hope</i> )	65
Peabody-Burns	64
Bucklin	61
Minneola	61
Victoria	61
Caldwell	60
Satanta	60
Kensington-Thunder Ridge	59
Onaga	59
Downs-Lakeside	58
Mankato-Rock Hills	58
Coldwater-South Central	57
Lebo	57
Quinter	57
Beloit-St. John's/Tipton	54
Osborne	54
South Haven	53
Wakefield	52
Hutchinson-Central Christian	51
Ingalls	51
Sharon Springs-Wallace Co.	51
St. Francis	51
St. Paul	51
Claffin-Central Plains	50
Hartford	50
Norwich	50
Scandia-Pike Valley	50
Colony-Crest	49
Frankfort	49
Melvern-MDCV	49
Buffalo-Altoona Midway	48
Dighton	48
Hanover	47
Leroy-Southern Coffey Co.	47
Chetopa	46
Logan/Palco	46
Lost Springs-Centre	46
Otis-Bison	46
Linn	43
Waverly	42
Southern Cloud	
( <i>Miltonvale/Glasco</i> )	40
Stafford	40
Wetmore	39
Grainfield-	
Wheatland/Grinnell	38
Randolph-Blue Valley	38
Kiowa-South Barber	37
Winona-Triplains/Brewster	36
Chase	33
Axtell	30
Tescott	30
Wilson	29



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Goddard, Pittsburg and Spring Hill all saw their enrollment grow and will be moving up from 4A to 5A next year. Baldwin

saw their enrollment decline and will move down to Class 3A in football the next two years.

In the rest of the sports, not much changed with regards to Class 4A for this year.

Enrollment figures for all grades in Louisburg this year is 573, which puts the school in the upper half of Class 4A. The biggest school is Buhler with 661 and Bishop Miege is the second biggest at 656 and Ottawa is third at 653.

## 2019-2020 Classifications and Enrollments

**Enrollment figures as of September 20, 2019 based on ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades.**

**Note:** Schools are listed in descending order

- ↑ School Moved Up in Class
- ↓ School Moved Down in Class

[Printable View](#)

[Sort By School](#)

<b>6A</b>			<b>5A</b>			<b>4A</b>		
<b>Member Schools: 36</b>			<b>Member Schools: 36</b>			<b>Member Schools: 36</b>		
<b>Range: 2431-1312</b>			<b>Range: 1305-710</b>			<b>Range: 661-312</b>		
Wichita-East HS	2431		↓ Leavenworth HS	1305		Buhler HS	661	
Wichita-North HS	2190		Wichita-Northwest HS	1260		Shawnee Mission-Bishop Miege HS	656	
Wichita-Southeast HS	2164		Emporia HS	1245		Ottawa HS	653	
Derby HS	2105		Maize HS	1194		Winfield HS	642	
Dodge City HS	2010		Wichita-Bishop Carroll HS	1153		Kansas City-Piper HS	638	
Olathe South HS	2005		Topeka-Seaman HS	1150		Augusta HS	632	
Garden City HS	1985		Topeka West HS	1146		Paola HS	603	
Olathe North HS	1976		Tecumseh-Shawnee Heights HS	1131		Tonganoxie HS	599	
Topeka-Washburn Rural HS	1933		Overland Park-Blue Valley Southwest HS	1089		Fort Scott HS	592	
Olathe East HS	1927		Kansas City-Washington HS	1084		Chanute HS	584	
Olathe Northwest HS	1880		Kansas City-Turner HS	1076		Independence HS	581	
Lawrence-Free State HS	1855		Maize South HS	1060		Louisburg HS	573	
Wichita-South HS	1852		Salina-South HS	1046		Towanda-Circle HS	562	
Manhattan HS	1823		Newton HS	1044		Coffeyville-Field Kindley HS	531	
Shawnee Mission East HS	1758		Salina-Central HS	1001		El Dorado HS	528	
Gardner-Edgerton HS	1729		De Soto HS	992		Mulvane HS	520	
Topeka HS	1728		Andover HS	959		Eudora HS	493	
Wichita-Haysville Campus HS	1712		Topeka-Highland Park HS	959		Altamont-Labette County HS	490	
Shawnee Mission West HS	1638		Goddard-Eisenhower HS	952		Rose Hill HS	485	
Kansas City-Wyandotte HS	1637		Overland Park-St. Thomas Aquinas HS	925		Atchison HS	472	
Shawnee Mission Northwest HS	1624		Kansas City-FL Schlagle HS	909		Wellington HS	465	
Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest HS	1619		Valley Center HS	904		Abilene HS	460	
Lawrence HS	1601		Lenexa-St. James Academy	902		Warrego HS	446	
Overland Park-Blue Valley HS	1600		Great Bend HS	884		Ulysses HS	433	
Overland Park-Blue Valley West HS	1582		Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel HS	880		Baldwin HS	421	
Shawnee Mission North HS	1557		Kansas City-Sumner Academy	871		Topeka-Hayden HS	408	
Olathe West HS	1535		Pittsburg HS	867		Andale HS	375	
Overland Park-Blue Valley North HS	1498		Hays HS	863		Clearwater HS	367	
Shawnee Mission South HS	1469		Lansing HS	859		Parsons HS	363	
Junction City HS	1440		Goddard HS	848		Pratt HS	355	
Wichita-West HS	1421		Spring Hill HS	825		Iola HS	339	
Kansas City-JC Harmon HS	1399		Andover Central HS	810		Nickerson HS	323	
Hutchinson HS	1386		Bonner Springs HS	793		↑ Holton HS	322	
Liberal HS	1371		Basehor-Linwood HS	791		↑ Girard HS	315	
↑ Wichita-Heights HS	1357		Arkansas City HS	765		Chapman HS	314	
Shawnee-Mill Valley HS	1312		McPherson HS	710		↑ Clay Center Community HS	312	





**3A****Member Schools: 64****Range: 305-172**

Garrett-Anderson County HS	305
Concordia HS	303
Wichita-Trinity Academy	303
Kansas City-Bishop Ward HS	300
Columbus HS	296
Osawatomie HS	296
St. George-Rock Creek HS	294
Baxter Springs HS	286
Carbondale-Santa Fe Trail HS	286
Hoyt-Royal Valley HS	283
Hugoton HS	280
Hesston HS	279
Frontenac HS	276
Meriden-Jefferson West HS	275
Hiawatha HS	273
Galena HS	270
LaCygne-Prairie View HS	270
Holcomb HS	266
Marysville HS	266
Wichita Collegiate HS	266
Scott Community HS	265
Caney Valley HS	263
Lindsborg-Smoky Valley HS	263
Colby HS	262
Burlington HS	260
Perry-Lecompton HS	252
Goodland HS	246
Wellsville HS	243
Larned HS	242
Russell HS	239
Cheney HS	238
Sabetha HS	237
Riley County HS	231
Council Grove HS	229
Cherryvale HS	225
Gypsum-Southeast of Saline HS	223
Halstead HS	221
Haven HS	220
Riverton HS	214
Fredonia HS	213
Lyons HS	213
Silver Lake HS	213
Beloit HS	212
Seneca-Nemaha Central HS	210
Cimarron HS	207
Hoisington HS	205
Norton Community HS	204
Osage City HS	204
Easton-Pleasant Ridge HS	203
Kingman HS	202
Nesdesha HS	200
Anthony/Harper-Chaparral HS	199
Pomona-West Franklin HS	192
Kismet-Southwestern Heights HS	190
Eureka HS	188
Lakin HS	185
Atchison-Maur Hill-Mount Academy	184
Minneapolis HS	184
Hays-Thomas More Prep-Marian HS	182
St. Marys HS	182
Douglass HS	178
Effingham-Atchison Co Community HS	174
Humboldt HS	174
Phillipsburg HS	172

**2A****Member Schools: 64****Range: 171-109**

Mound City-Jayhawk Linn HS	171
Oskaloosa HS	171
Belle Plaine HS	170
Rossville HS	169
Elsworth HS	168
Erie HS	166
Wathena-Riverside HS	164
Conway Springs HS	160
Bellville-Republic County HS	158
Garden Plain HS	158
Hutchinson-Trinity Catholic HS	158
Cherokee-Southeast HS	157
Esbridge-Mission Valley HS	156
Arma-Northeast HS	155
Hillsboro HS	155
Olathe-Heritage Christian Academy	155
Ellis HS	154
Syracuse HS	153
McLouth HS	152
Whitewater-Remington HS	152
Horton HS	150
Sterling HS	147
Marion HS	146
Leon-Bluestem HS	144
Wichita-The Independent HS	142
Richmond-Central Heights HS	141
Sedgwick HS	140
Alma-Wabaussee HS	139
Brookville-Elk-Saline HS	139
Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan HS	139
Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian HS	136
Medicine Lodge HS	134
Lawrence-Bishop Seebury Academy	132
Salina-Sacred Heart HS	131
Winchester-Jefferson County North HS	130
Bennington HS	128
Johnson-Stanton County HS	128
Lyndon HS	127
Oakley HS	127
Plainville HS	127
Sublette HS	127
Inman HS	126
Yates Center HS	126
Elinwood HS	124
Pratt-Skyline HS	123
WaKeeney-Trego Community HS	122
Uniontown HS	120
Herington HS	119
Smith Center HS	119
Pleasanton HS	118
Elkhart HS	117
Hill City HS	117
Hoxie HS	116
Allen-Northern Heights HS	115
Howard-West Elk HS	115
Sedan HS	114
Cottonwood Falls-Chase County HS	113
Holton-Jackson Heights HS	113
Canton-Galva HS	112
Blue Rapids-Valley Heights HS	110
Moundridge HS	110
Shawnee-Maranatha Christian Academy	110
Leoti-Wichita County HS	109
Spearsville HS	109

**1A****Member Schools: 117****Range: 108-14**

Stockton HS	108
Elbing-Berean Academy	105
Little River HS	105
Meade HS	103
Ness City HS	103
Washington County HS	103
Udall HS	102
Goessel HS	101
Valley Falls HS	101
Oswego HS	98
Burdett-Central HS	97
Troy HS	97
Macksville HS	96
Atwood-Rawlins County HS	95
Rosalie-Flinthills HS	95
La Crosse HS	94
Solomon HS	93
Burlingame HS	92
Lincoln HS	92
Oberlin-Decatur Community HS	91
Oxford HS	91
St. John-Hudson HS	91
Clyde-Clifton Clyde HS	90
Jetmore-Hodgeman County HS	90
Peabody-Burns HS	90
Kinsley HS	89
Langdon-Fairfield HS	89
Highland-Doniphan West HS	87
Olpe HS	87
Centralia HS	86
Montezuma-South Gray HS	86
Moran-Marmaton Valley HS	86
Greensburg-Kiowa County HS	85
Wichita-Classical School Of Wichita	83
Onaga HS	82
Caldwell HS	80
Lebo HS	79
Minneola HS	79
Bucklin HS	78
Pretty Prairie HS	78
Sylvan-Lucas Unified HS	78
Norwich HS	77
Victoria HS	77
Coldwater-South Central HS	76
Mankato-Rock Hills HS	76
Satanta HS	76
Kensington-Thunder Ridge HS	75
Osborne HS	75
Madison HS	74
Dexter HS	72
Hanover HS	71
Burton HS	70
Hutchinson-Central Christian HS	69
St. Francis HS	69
Ingalls HS	68
McPherson-Elyria Christian HS	68
Downs-Lakeside HS	67
Wakefield HS	67
Hartford HS	66
Quinter HS	66
Dighton HS	65
Frankfort HS	65
Melvorn-Marais Des Cygnes Valley HS	65
St. Paul HS	65
Clafin-Central Plains HS	64
Colony-Crest HS	63
Randolph-Blue Valley HS	63
Scandia-Pike Valley HS	63
Lost Springs-Centre HS	62
South Haven HS	62
Rexford-Golden Plains HS	61
Chetopa HS	60
Sharon Springs-Wallace County HS	60
Buffalo-Altoona Midway HS	59
Leroy-Southern Coffey County HS	58
Otis-Bison HS	58
Grainfield-Wheatland/Grinnell HS	57
Stafford HS	57
Ashland HS	56
Linn HS	56
Tribune-Greeley County HS	55
Beloit-St. John's HS	54
Waverly HS	54
Wellmore HS	51
Attica HS	50
Deerfield HS	49
Argonia HS	48
Cunningham HS	48
Kiowa-South Barber HS	48
Rolla HS	46
Moscow HS	45
Axtell HS	42
Bird City-Cheylin HS	42
Chase HS	42
Hope HS	42
Cedar Vale HS	40
Rozel-Pawnee Heights HS	40
Tescott HS	40
Wichita-Central Christian Academy	40
Almena-Northern Valley HS	39
White City HS	39
Logan HS	38
Wilson HS	35
Fowler HS	32
Natoma HS	30
Ransom-Western Plains HS	29
Weskan HS	29
Brewster HS	28
Palco HS	28
Glasco HS	27
Longton-Elk Valley HS	26
Hamilton HS	25
Miltonvale HS	22

Three schools will make the move up to Class 4A this year. Clay Center, Girard and Holton all saw their enrollment increase and will come back to 4A, while Osawatomie, Anderson County and Wichita-Trinity Academy will move out of 4A to 3A this year.

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## **Frontier League sends proposal to KSHSAA to separate private schools**



A big change to the Kansas High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) postseason could be coming sooner rather than later if a proposal, submitted by the Frontier League, passes the KSHSAA Board of Directors and its member schools.

Last month the Frontier League, led by Paola High School principal Jeff Hines and Louisburg superintendent Dr. Brian Biermann, petitioned KSHSAA to separate public and private schools into their own postseason competitions.

In order for it pass, the petition must be signed by 20 percent of the 355 member schools

according to KSHSAA  
bi-laws. The Frontier League got the 71 needed petitions and  
have now submitted  
this to appear in front of the KSHSAA Board of Directors for  
vote in their  
Sept. 18 meeting.

The board of directors would then  
have to pass it by simple majority of those in attendance to  
bring the proposal  
to a vote from all the member schools.

“Kansas needs to catch up with  
the rest of the country and get this competitive imbalance  
under control in our  
state,” Hines said. “The longer we wait then more students  
will be negatively  
impacted. We have a responsibility as educators to create the  
best  
opportunities possible for our students. No one can honestly  
say we have  
the best system possible right now. It can definitely be  
improved.”

The proposal submitted by the Frontier League is the same one  
the state of Texas uses that keeps the schools in their same  
classification, but only separates the schools come  
postseason.

Other options were discussed  
before submitting the proposal, such as implementing a  
multiplier on all  
private schools like Missouri currently does. In fact, it is  
the most popular  
proposal among the schools that were surveyed by Hines last  
January.

They also talked about the “Oklahoma

model” where schools are bumped up a classification based on success for competitive balance.

Seventy-four percent of the schools said they would support a population multiplier, 64 percent would support competitive balance factors and 51 percent would support separate divisions.

However, KSHSAA would not be able to make this change with a multiplier due to state statute K.S.A. 72-130 that states a high school association “must establish a system of classification of member high schools according to student attendance.”

KSHSAA would not be able to pass a new bi-law that goes against state statute, and therefore, the Kansas State Legislature would have reword the statue to allow the association to make those changes.

The Frontier League believes the Texas model, or separate postseason divisions, does not deal with classifications. Also, this model had more support from 5A and 6A schools as neither classification would likely vote for a multiplier.

“We don’t view that as a classification decision as we are not affecting classification, but KSHSAA and their lawyers view that it is,” Biermann said. “5A and 6A schools that we talked to really wanted us to push for the Texas model because they don’t want to play them (private schools) either. The biggest thing for me is if 5 and 6A schools don’t want to play them, then why do we? As a superintendent, I am supposed to create opportunities for kids. We had four teams last year in both



soccer teams, football and volleyball that all saw their season end to Bishop Miege. It is not right that we have kids and coaches that work their tails off and they don't have the opportunity to win.

"Am I all about state championships? Absolutely not. But we also know the reality of it in the current system. Winning state championships is important for communities and is always a goal. I am not ever going to give up on this idea and neither will the Frontier League."

The public versus private school debate has been going on for the last several years and Hines has been leading the charge since 2015 when he put together a study that displayed the disparity of state championships won by private schools.

In 2018-19, private schools won 32 percent of the state championships in Classes 5A through 1A. There are currently no private schools in 6A. Twenty-one of those 24 state titles were won by private schools in Class 4A and 5A.

That is a high number considering that out of the 355 member schools, only 27 of them are private.

The Frontier League wanted to see change, so Hines surveyed the 355 member schools late last year and presented his findings to KSHSAA in January. More than 88 percent of the schools responded, that included 22 private institutions, and 87 percent said they want the current system changed.

**Presentation of Public/Private School Survey Results  
to The KSHSAA Executive Board**

January 10, 2019

**Results from Survey**

313 of the 355 KSHSAA Member Schools Responded – 88.2%

291 Public Schools Responded

22 Private Schools Responded

273 Member Schools voted YES to support a change in the current structure

271 Public Schools Voted Yes for Change

2 Private Schools Voted for Change

40 Member Schools voted NO to support a change in the current structure

20 Public Schools Voted No for Change

20 Private Schools Voted No for Change

**87.2% voted that they want the current system changed.**

	<b>Survey Response Rate</b>	<b>Support Change</b>
<b>1A</b>	82.9%	92.8%
<b>2A</b>	89.0%	84.2%
<b>3A</b>	98.4%	85.6%
<b>4A</b>	100.0%	88.9%
<b>5A</b>	88.8%	81.3%
<b>6A</b>	77.7%	82.1%
<b>Total</b>	88.2%	87.2%

**School Superintendent Response Rate**

175 School Superintendents Responded

169 out of 175 Support Change

96.6% Support Change

**Principal Response Rate**

182 Principals Responded

84.6% Support Change

**Activities Director Response Rate**

200 Activities Directors Responded

85% Support Change

Although most schools said they would support the multiplier model more, Hines and the rest of the league schools, believe it is the best way to proceed at this time.

“Our survey indicated that separate divisions was the least popular option among member schools, however as a league we feel like it is the most appropriate option,” Hines said. “A multiplier will pass through and will be our next option if this does not go through. A multiplier will impact many private schools that are not quasi sports academies that are not very successful in athletics. The separate divisions avoids this situation.”

If the proposal does pass the board of directors, KSHSAA will then put it to a vote with all 355 member schools and it must pass by a simple majority and by four of the six classes.

From there, KSHSAA executive director Bill Faflick would take it to the Kansas Legislature before change could be implemented.

“We know it won’t happen overnight,” Biermann said. “Even if this passes, nothing will change this year and probably not the following year. It could be three years out with the way football schedules take shape. We are honestly ok with that if we knew that there was light at the end of the tunnel. If this would not pass, we would turn right around and do the multiplier one.”

Despite what happens at the

upcoming board of directors meeting, Hines believes changes to the system will happen sooner rather than later.

“I am now confident something will get done,” Hines said. “I think it will ultimately take a multiplier to get something done. If the separate divisions fails then we will propose a multiplier for the spring board of directors meeting.”

A lot of obstacles are still in the way for change to happen, whether it has to deal with state statues or member votes, but none of the schools in the nine-member Frontier League are going to stop until they see a more even playing field.

“I am very proud of the Frontier League, and even though we compete against each other, we are very unified on this,” Biermann said. “It is about fairness and equality and I am tired of having my kids at Louisburg High School not having the same opportunity as some others. The throttle is down and it is going to stay down.”

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## USD 416 to offer new sports for upcoming year



The Louisburg High School cross country team will have some

company this season as Louisburg Middle School is offering cross country for the first time this year and the younger Wildcats will attend many of the same meets as the high school. LHS will also offer boys and girls swimming this year and have discussed girls wrestling for the future.

There are always changes with every incoming school year, but Louisburg residents will see a couple major ones for the 2019-20 school year on the activities side.

Late last spring, the USD 416 Board of Education approved to add three new activities to the Wildcat sports slate in middle school cross country and boys and girls swimming. All three will give students opportunities to try something different for the upcoming year.

Middle school cross country will coincide with the high school season in the fall and those athletes will attend many of the same meets in 2019. Louisburg will open its season on Sept. 5 at the Anderson County Invitational in Garnett.

The Wildcats will then travel to Wellsville and Prairie View on Sept. 19 and 26, respectively, before wrapping its season on Oct. 10 in Eudora for the Frontier League meet.

There will be separate seventh and eighth-grade divisions for the meets and the middle school runners will run two miles, while the high school will continue to run its usual 5-kilometer course.

Current high school coach John Reece will also serve as the middle school head coach, while Paul Restivo takes over assistant coach duties. It is an exciting time for Reece and the Wildcat program.



“Having a feeder program at the middle school level feeding into the high school level is invaluable,” LHS activities director Scott Hinkle said. “Having a feeder program is what builds and sustains successful programs.”

Louisburg will also participate in boys swimming, which takes place during the winter season, along with girls swimming that competes in the spring. USD 416 approved to co-op with the current Osawatomie-Paola team during the season, and if any swimmers should qualify for the state meet, they will compete on their own for Louisburg.

USD 416 superintendent Dr. Brian Biermann met with interested swim parents last year and worked with the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) in getting the approval to join the Osawatomie-Paola team for this school year.

Hinkle conducted interest meetings late in the spring with current high school students and eighth-graders moving up into high school.

“The students that attended the initial organizational meeting were very excited and inquisitive,” Hinkle said. “We had approximately 24 at the high school meeting – 12 boys and 12 girls. We probably had 10 or 12 show up for the middle school meeting. Usually when you introduce a new sport a lot of kids are interested in hearing about the new opportunity

and what options are available to them.”

Due to the possible increased numbers for the Osawatomie, Paola and Louisburg team, there was also a new hire made as Maddie Carrigan, who is in her first year as a para at LHS, will be the assistant coach and will help out current head coach Gerri Hart.

When the addition of swimming was first announced, there was talk of how to get the swimmers to and from practice every day at the Miami County YMCA in Osawatomie. If the numbers worked, the parents were going to be allowed to take a school van and do a rotation schedule to take the athletes to practice.

However, due to what could be bigger numbers than anticipated, the district might have to come up with a different option.

“We have explored many options in regard to transportation,” Hinkle said. “We may have gotten real lucky in hiring an assistant swim coach who could help with the transportation. If numbers dictate more than a van, then the district is committed to transport the swimmers in a district school bus. The logistics of all of those factors will have to be worked out.”

Another activity that the district considered adding was girls wrestling. The sport was approved by KSHSAA as a sanctioned sport last April and it became the 23<sup>rd</sup> championship sport in Kansas.

Although some schools will begin programs right away, Louisburg head wrestling coach Bobby Bovaird knows it might

take a little time to get a team put together here.

"I'm pretty excited for girls wrestling to finally become a sanctioned sport in Kansas," Bovaird said. "I'm on the state board of directors for USA Wrestling – Kansas, and we've been seeing huge numbers out for girls wrestling at the youth level. Because of that, we've known for a while that it was bound to happen at the high school level. Neighboring schools have been seeing a big interest in girls wrestling, and I hope we're able to see some of that same interest here.

"Last year, we had five girls join the Wildcat Wrestling Club, and I think it was a great experience for them. As they get older and continue with the sport, I hope to see them bringing their friends to try it out."

Louisburg won't be the only district in Kansas where girls wrestling will take time to develop, but Bovaird has a plan in place for current female athletes to begin their journey into wrestling.

"I plan on working with our AD (Hinkle) to set a plan in place to accommodate interest in girls wrestling at the high school," Bovaird said. "For the next two seasons, if a tournament only offers a boys division, then girls will be allowed to compete against male wrestlers. If there is a girls division, then they will compete against females only. After the 2020-21 season, all competitions will be separated by gender. For the time being, we're going to operate as a single program – one practice, one

coaching staff, one team, regardless of gender. As numbers grow and we get closer to the 2021-22 season, we'll need to restructure to accommodate the state's requirement for separation.

"We have a history of solid female athletics in Louisburg, and I think the timing is just right for us to expand our wrestling program to include more females. Since I've been here, we've had girls join the team, but never in big numbers. I hope to be able to build a foundation for a solid girls program, especially since I have a 7-year-old daughter whom I'd love to see get the benefits of the sport of wrestling."

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## **Blue Caplinger selected as 2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Male Athlete of the Year**



Blue Caplinger made history in a few different ways for Louisburg High School during the 2018-19 season.

Caplinger, along with fellow LHS student Alyse Moore, became the first Wildcat athlete in recent memory – if ever – to participate in two sports during the same season. All that led up to what was a spectacular finish to his senior year.

Caplinger helped the 4×400-meter relay to a state championship in late May, which was the school's first individual track title since 2015. When all was said and done, Caplinger lettered in four sports this past year.

These are just a couple of the reasons why Caplinger was chosen as the 2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Male Athlete of the Year.

The award, which is in its second year, is to recognize an outstanding LHS student athlete. Louisburg Sports Zone asked the head coaches at LHS to submit nominations and those nominations were then organized and submitted back to the coaches for a vote.

The coaches then submitted their top three choices and the number of votes were added up, which decided the winner.

Caplinger was one of the leaders of the Wildcat football team that reeled off 10 straight wins to start the season and captured a regional championship before falling to eventual state champion Bishop Miege.

He was an All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball as he earned first team defensive honors from the safety spot with 31 tackles, two fumble recoveries and an interception.





**Blue Caplinger poses for picture with his coaches (from left), boys track coach Andy Wright, head football coach Robert Ebenstein and baseball coach Joel McGhee. Not pictured is wrestling coach Bobby Bovaird.**

Caplinger played a couple different positions offensively and earned second team all-league honors as a multi-purpose player. He had 310 yards rushing and four touchdowns to go along 234 yards receiving and two more scores.

He was also the lead blocker on a lot of the big runs that teammate Austin Moore – who was a first-team all-league and all-state running back – had during the season.

“Blue was the most all-purpose player we had,” Louisburg football coach Robert Ebenstein said. “He was the ideal teammate who put the team first all the time. He always did anything that was asked of him. He was a tough competitor and a great all-around person.”

During the wrestling season, Caplinger was a state-ranked wrestler at 170 pounds for much of the year. He ended his season with a team-high

33-5 record and was a regional champion.

At the Class 4A state tournament, Caplinger finished one win shy of his first state medal. In all, Caplinger finished with a team high in wins and also holds the school record for most career reversals (72) and most career escapes (86). He ended his Wildcat career with a 111-57 record.

“Anyone who knows Blue understands what a great young man he is,” Louisburg wrestling coach Bobby Bovaird said. “Blue embodies so much about what wrestling is all about. I wanted him to get that state medal so badly, and he came so close not once, but twice. With these sorts of setbacks, Blue has demonstrated that he’s gained the resilience to be a champion in life.”

In the spring, Caplinger became a dual-sport athlete as he participated in both baseball and track and field.

Although his focus was on track, Caplinger helped out the Wildcat baseball team as a pinch-runner as he stole five bases in eight games.

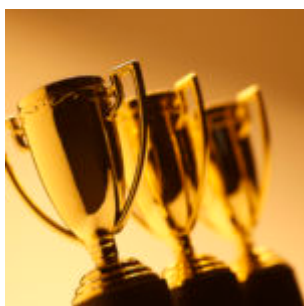
However, Caplinger did a lot of his damage on the track as he was one of the Wildcats’ top sprinters. He joined Justin Collins, Ben Wiedenmann and Chris Williams to win the Class 4A state title in the 4×400-meter relay.

Caplinger, along with Charlie Koontz, Wiedenmann and Collins, also medaled fifth at state in the 4×100 relay. Both relays broke school records this past season in the Frontier League and regional meets.

Caplinger will continue his athletic career this fall as he plans to attend Benedictine College on a football scholarship.

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# 2019 Louisburg Sports Zone Athlete of the Year nominees



For the past three years, Louisburg Sports Zone has given out Athlete of the Week awards during each of the three sports seasons. I do it to recognize special athletic achievements and to highlight the athletes.

For the second straight year, Louisburg Sports Zone will be handing out an Athlete of the Year honor to a male and female athlete at Louisburg High School. I wanted the opportunity to recognize those who exemplify what it means to be an "athlete."

Although I am giving out the award, I wanted the process to be subjective, so I asked the head coaches at LHS to help me out. I asked each coach to send me nominations of who they thought exemplified the Athlete of the Year honor. They will then vote for their top 3 male and female athletes and then I will tabulate the results and determine the winner. In the next week, I will announce this year's recipients.

Below are the nominees for this year's award in alphabetical order by last name. Congrats to all those who were nominated and best of luck!

# FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



## **CARSON BUFFINGTON – SENIOR – BASKETBALL, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL**

Carson was a 3-time letter winner in her senior season and was named as a team captain in volleyball, basketball and soccer.

In volleyball, Buffington earned second team All-Frontier League honors as she helped lead the Lady Cats to a Class 4A state runner-up performance. She also moved from her starting setter position to the outside hitter spot and had a lot of success for the Lady Cats as she tallied 130 kills in her new position. With all that success, Buffington was also selected to the Greater Kansas City Volleyball Coaches Association Senior All-Star Match.

Buffington also wrapped up a strong career for the Louisburg basketball team as she averaged eight points and seven rebounds to go along with three steals a contest. She was named as a Frontier League honorable mention this past season, and she also was selected as an all-state honorable mention.

In girls soccer, Buffington was the starting goalie for Louisburg in all 20 games. She posted 13 shutouts, which is a school record and had a .952 goals against average, which is also a school record. Buffington had 90 saves on the season that ended as a Class 4-1A state runner up for the second consecutive year. For her efforts, she was also selected second team All-Frontier League. Buffington was also named first team all-state goalie and was named Goalkeeper of the Year.





## **ANNA DIXON – SENIOR – VOLLEYBALL**

Anna wrapped up her fourth volleyball season as a varsity starter for the Lady Cats and guided Louisburg to its second consecutive Class 4A-state runner-up finish.

Dixon, who is currently with the Kansas State volleyball team, ended her senior season with 584 kills and had a hitting percentage of .260. She also added 325 digs, 50 aces and 42 blocks as she played all six rotations. With those lofty numbers, Dixon earned several big time honors in her final season.

She was selected as an All-Frontier League first team player and was also named to the 4A State All-Tournament Team. Those honors continued as she was named the Kansas Volleyball Coaches Association Class 4A Player of the Year and earned a spot on KVA All-State First Team.

Following the season, Dixon was also named as an Under-Armour All-American also earned MaxPreps/American Volleyball Coaches Association Player of the Week honors.



## **ALYSE MOORE – SOPHOMORE – BASKETBALL, SOFTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD**

Alyse is a 3-sport varsity letter-winner this past year as she earned letters for the basketball, softball and track and field teams. This past spring season, Moore went to state in two different sports and became the first Wildcat athlete in recent memory to do so.

In her first season in track and field, Moore threw the javelin for the Lady Cats and went on to become regional champion as she eclipsed her personal best throw by almost 25 feet in just her third competition of the season. The following week, she medaled fourth at the Class 4A state tournament with a personal best throw of 131 feet and

9 inches.

Moore was also the starting shortstop for the Lady Cats as she helped Louisburg to its first regional championship since 2014.

During the basketball season, Moore was a starter for the Lady Cats and averaged six points, five rebounds and three steals a game.



## **TRINITY MOORE – JUNIOR – CROSS COUNTRY, SOCCER**

Trinity is 2-sport letter-winner for Louisburg this past year as she had state performances in both cross country and soccer.

During the fall, Moore was the top runner on the Louisburg girls cross country team as she helped the Lady Cats to a regional runner-up finish and qualified for state as a team for the first time in school history. Moore medaled fourth at the Class 4A state meet in Wamego and currently holds the school record for the fastest time in program history. She

also earned first-team All-Frontier League honors for her third place finish at the league meet.

In soccer, Moore was a starter on the Wildcat team that recently finished as the Class 4-1A state runner-up for the second consecutive year. At the midfield spot, she finished the season with 12 goals and six assists and was also named to the All-Frontier League first team.



## **DELANEY WRIGHT – FRESHMAN – BASKETBALL, CROSS COUNTRY, TRACK AND FIELD**

Delaney is a 3-sport letter-winner as she took part in cross country, basketball and track and field and competed at the state level in two of those.

Wright found most of her success in track and field as she

earned four medals at the Class 4A Kansas State Track and Field Championships in Wichita this past month. She medaled in the long jump, 400-meter-dash, 200-meter dash and as a member of the 4×400-relay.

During the regional meet, Wright broke two school records (long jump, 400 dash) and earned a regional and Frontier League title in the long jump. She also earned a medal in the long jump at the Kansas Relays earlier in the season.

In cross country, Wright was a member of the Louisburg team that finished as a Class 4A regional runner-up and qualified for the state meet as a team for the first time in school history. In basketball, Wright saw playing time at the varsity level as a freshman at different points throughout the season.

## **MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES**





## **BLUE CAPLINGER – SENIOR – BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WRESTLING**

Blue is a 4-sport letter-winner in football, wrestling, baseball and track and field and competed at the state level in two of the sports.

In football, Caplinger was an All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball as he was named to the first team defense as a defensive back and second team offense as a multi-purpose player. On defense, Caplinger, who helped Louisburg to a 10-1 record and a regional championship, had 31 tackles from the safety spot and also had two tackles for a loss, two fumble

recoveries and an interception. Offensively, he had 544 total yards and six touchdowns.

On the wrestling mat, Caplinger was a regional champion at 170 pounds and finished his season with a 33-5 record. The Louisburg senior fell one match short of state medal with a 2-2 record at the Class 4A state tournament. He currently holds the school record for most career reversals (72) and most career escapes (86). Following the season, he was also named to the KWCA Academic All-State first team.

Caplinger split time between baseball and track and field in the spring. Although he spent time as a reserve and pinch-runner on the baseball team, Caplinger found a lot of success on the track.

He qualified for state as a member of two relays. Caplinger was a member of the 4×400 relay team that won the Class 4A state championship in 3 minutes and 25 seconds. Caplinger also helped the 4×100 relay to a fifth place finish and went on to garner two state medals.

Caplinger will join the Benedictine football team this fall.





## **AUSTIN MOORE – SENIOR – FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WRESTLING**

Austin is a 3-sport letter winner in football, wrestling and track and field and was among the state's best in two of the sports.

Moore thrived on the football field for the Wildcats as he helped Louisburg to a 10-1 record and a regional championship. Moore was a first team All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball and was the league's leading vote-getter. He went on to rack up all-state awards as the Louisburg senior earned Class 4A first team all-state honors as a running back from the Topeka Capital-Journal and the Kansas Football Coaches Association. Moore was also named as a Class 4A first team all-state linebacker from the Wichita Eagle.

When the season was all said and done, Moore tallied 1,554 total yards from the running back spot, including 1,428 yards on the ground, and had 21 touchdowns before he broke his collarbone during the regional championship game.

With those numbers, he was named the Kansas Small Class Player of the Year by 810 Varsity and was All-Purpose Player of the Year by Kpreps.com. Earlier this year, Moore was also named to the Kansas Shrine Bowl roster.

On the wrestling mat, Moore missed more than half of the season with his broken collarbone, but came back in a big way. Moore won his first 14 matches when coming back at 220 pounds, which included a regional championship. He went on to earn his first state medal as he finished fourth at the Class 4A state tournament with a 3-2 record. He was also named to the KWCA Academic All-State first team.

During the spring, he was a member of the Louisburg track and field team and threw the javelin for the Wildcats. He was also on the throwers relay that ranked Top 5 nationally at one point in the season.

Moore will join the Kansas State football team this fall.



## **KIEFER TUCKER – SENIOR – FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, WEIGHTLIFTING**

Kiefer is a 2-sport letter winner in football and track and field and also went to state competition in two activities.

Tucker was a presence on the line of scrimmage for the Louisburg football team as he was a first team All-Frontier League player on both sides of the ball and helped the Wildcats to a 10-1 record and a regional championship.

The Louisburg senior was among on the leaders on the offensive line as he helped pave the way for more than 3,500 yards of total offense. On defense, Tucker recorded 55 tackles from the defensive end spot, including three tackles for a loss, three forced fumbles, a fumble recovery and a sack. Those numbers helped earn him honorable mention all-

state honors and was also named to the all-state team by the Kansas Football Coaches Association. The honors kept coming for Tucker as he was recently selected to participate in the Kansas Shrine Bowl.

During the winter, Tucker was a member of the Louisburg powerlifting team and certainly made his mark there as well. Tucker won the Class 4A state championship in the 220-pound class and broke a 24-year-old record in the bench press with a lift of 375 pounds.

In track and field, Tucker qualified for state for the first time in the discus. He finished as a regional runner-up and went on to take ninth at the Class 4A state meet in Wichita, just one spot away from earning a state medal.

Tucker will join the Emporia State football team this fall.

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## **LHS athletic trainer Damon Dennis honored with KWCA award**



Louisburg athletic trainer Damon Dennis was honored last week

## **with the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Support Personnel of the Year Award.**

Damon Dennis knew something was up when Louisburg head wrestling coach Bobby Bovaird asked him if he would attend the team's postseason awards banquet.

In his close to three decades as serving as the USD 416 athletic trainer, Dennis (aka Doc D) had been to these types of things before and enjoys getting to look back on the season with athletes, coaches and parents. However, this time it wasn't all about the wrestlers.

Bovaird announced at the banquet that Dennis had been awarded Support Personnel of the Year by the Kansas Coaches Wrestling Association (KWCA). Dennis, along with other KWCA winners, will be recognized in October during an awards banquet in Salina.

Along with that award, he was also named as the 2019 Contributor of the Year by the LHS wrestling team.

"I was quite surprised," Dennis said. "I don't do the things that I do to get awards, but it is nice to know that you are appreciated."

Dennis, who spends his afternoons and evenings helping to mend the bumps and bruises of the Wildcat athletes while also running his Louisburg Chiropractic business, went above and behind the call of duty this season according to Bovaird.

During the season, Dennis helped a wrestler who suffered a serious concussion at practice and accompanied Bovaird

and another district administrator to the emergency room to visit the wrestler and his family.

“It was an icy evening, and most people would let a phone call or text suffice, but Doc D took the extra step to show his support,” Bovaird said. “Should we ever have an injury during practice time, Doc D has always been a phone call or a text away. At various points of the years, he’s dropped everything at his chiropractic practice to rush to the school to attend to an injured athlete.”

Winter weather provided a lot of obstacles for the Wildcats this past season and Dennis helped in that area as well. During the inclement weather, he arranged with the Louisburg Athletic Club for the varsity wrestlers to get in a good workout prior to the regional tournament since they couldn’t practice at the school.

“He’s gotten to know the families very well ever since he first came to Louisburg, more than 25 years ago,” said Bovaird, who nominated Dennis for the award. “He has been here long enough that he’s worked with multiple generations of LHS athletes. He knows the community very well, he’s been extremely active in the community, and he truly has been an integral part of all our sports teams’ successes.

“Doc D has become an extraordinary part of our community, and his role is truly invaluable. These awards are the least we can do to thank this outstanding man for all he’s done.”

As busy as Dennis was during this wrestling season, he enjoys getting to know the athletes and their families. He also is willing to do whatever is needed to help the wrestling, or any other Wildcat athletic program, when problems arise.

"I am quite close with many of the wrestlers," Dennis said. "I am at the school every day after school to get the kids prepared for practice or evaluate any injuries that they are concerned about. I also coordinated the concussion testing and evaluate skin lesions as needed, which can be quite often with wrestlers. It stands to reason that by the time the athletes are seniors, I know them quite well. This year, we had one of the best classes we have ever had. I mean that athletically, academically and character wise. We had several injuries this year that were a bit of a challenge, from Austin Moore's broken collarbone to Blue Caplinger's concussion and so on.

"It is the highlight of my day to go to the high school every day and be around the coaches and athletes. I appreciate them allowing me to be a part of the program in any capacity. I am always ready to help."

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# Moore's comeback ends with first state wrestling medal



Louisburg senior Austin Moore (right) battles Wellington's Kenny Fehrman during the third-place match at 220 pounds Saturday during the Class 4A Kansas State Wrestling Championships in Salina.

SALINA – Back in early November of 2018, Austin Moore was in a sling with a broken collarbone and he wondered why all this was happening.

Moore suffered the injury during the regional football playoffs and he didn't get to finish his final high school season. Not only that, his hopes of getting his first state wrestling medal was in serious jeopardy.

A little more than four months later, Moore was on the medal stand with some of the state's best wrestlers in his weight class.

The Louisburg senior earned a fourth-place medal at 220 pounds during the Class 4A Kansas State Wrestling Championships last Saturday at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina. It was his first high school state medal and it marked the end of a

long journey for  
Moore.

“It was pretty special for me to get a state medal, especially because it has been a goal of mine ever since I started wrestling,” Moore said. “Overall, I felt like I wrestled pretty well, but I just wish I could’ve ended it on a win.”

Moore got out to a strong start in the state tournament as he earned a spot in the semifinals. He opened tournament action with a 30 second pin of Chanute’s Toker Davis and then pulled out a 3-2 decision in overtime against Scott City’s Kyle Sherwood.

Unfortunately for Moore, he ran into eventual state champion Braden Morgan of El Dorado in the semifinals and was pinned.



**Senior Austin Moore pulls his opponent to the mat Saturday during the Class 4A state tournament in Salina.**

Still, Moore was able to win another match on the back side of the bracket with a 7-2

decision over Winfield's

Zach Phillips and went up against Wellington's Kenny Fehrman for third place.

Moore and Fehrman went into

overtime, but the Louisburg senior lost a 3-1 decision to give him the

fourth-place medal. The match was tied at 1-all in the third period, but Moore

couldn't get the escape he needed to take the lead and Fehrman forced overtime,

where he was able to get a takedown.

Despite the loss, and shortened

season, Moore was happy with his year and he was able to accomplish his goal of

a state medal.

"It was definitely a quick season,

but I had a lot of fun with my teammates and coaches," Moore said. "I wasn't

even sure if I was going to be able to wrestle at all during most of the season

because of the injury, so at first I didn't even know if it would be possible

for me to get a medal. I am very thankful that I got healed up and decided to wrestle

my senior year.

"I'm already missing it quite a

bit. It feels like I should have more matches left since I really only wrestled

half of the matches that most people usually do in one year. I was a little

disappointed with my last match, but I was also thankful that I even had the

opportunity to wrestle in the state tournament and earn a medal."

Moore's return to the team in late January also helped the rest of the Wildcat squad as they geared up for their stretch run.

"When you think about the fact that Austin missed nearly two-thirds of the season because of the broken collarbone, he finished remarkably well," Louisburg coach Bobby Bovaird said. "He went out and wrestled with kids who had 30-plus matches this season, kids who have been to state before, and kids who had been ranked throughout the season.

"Last season was a tough ending for him, losing a decision in the blood round on a last-second takedown, and then there was the uncertainty for this season. We missed having Austin in the practice room the first part of the season, but once he got cleared, he never looked back and the team morale was definitely boosted with his presence."

Although Moore was the Wildcats' lone medalist on the season, Louisburg had two other wrestlers who were one win away from accomplishing that goal in senior Blue Caplinger and sophomore Cade Holtzen.



**Louisburg senior Blue Caplinger tries to keep Prairie View's Hunter Boone on the mat during his blood round match Saturday in Salina.**

Caplinger was on the verge on the earning a state medal on two different occasions, but in both instances, he was on the wrong end of a call in the final seconds of both matches.

The Louisburg 170-pounder began his state tournament with a 14-1 major decision of Winfield's Cole Finey and then met Smoky Valley's Dax Hopp in the quarterfinals.

Caplinger had a one point lead with less than five seconds left in the match when the two wrestlers were scrambling and Hopp was able to get the takedown as time expired. The lead official didn't see the takedown and didn't award the points, but the second official went over after time was up and told the lead official what he saw and gave Hopp the two points and

the win in the  
6-5 match.

Despite the disappointment, Caplinger (32-5) battled back to pin  
Frontenac's Storm Niegsch in 42 seconds and advanced to the  
blood round where  
Caplinger met Prairie View's Hunter Boone.

Caplinger, who had defeated Boone on a couple different  
occasions this  
season, found himself in a close match with the Prairie View  
junior. The two  
went into overtime, and Caplinger was able to get a takedown  
to take a 4-2  
lead.

As time was running out in the third overtime, Boone was able  
to take  
Caplinger down to the mat as time expired to tie the match  
again. Officials  
confirmed with the table that time hadn't expired and it went  
to an ultimate  
tie-breaker.

Caplinger had to ride out Boone for 30 seconds to get the win,  
but  
Boone was able to get the escape for the victory. The loss  
ended Caplinger's  
Wildcat career as he was trying for his first state medal.

"I think Blue's state tournament is one that will stick with  
me the  
rest of my career," Bovaird said. "Anyone who knows Blue  
understands what a  
great young man he is. Blue embodies so much about what  
wrestling is all  
about. I wanted him to get that state medal so badly, and he



came so close not once, but twice. He'll get over the pain of the loss, as will I. With these sorts of setbacks, Blue has demonstrated that he's gained the resilience to be a champion in life."



**Sophomore Cade Holtzen tries to turn his opponent Saturday during the Class 4A state tournament at 113 pounds.**

As for Holtzen, the Wildcat 113-pounder opened the tournament with a pin of Augusta's Collin Jackson and then met the state's No. 1-ranked wrestler in the quarterfinals in Abilene's William Stroda.

Holtzen and Stroda were in a low scoring match, but Stroda was able to get a third-period escape and leave with a 1-0 decision.

That loss sent Holtzen (33-6) to the consolation side where he won a 4-2 decision over Russell's Stephan Baldwin that sent him to the blood round.



It was there where he saw Rose Hill's Kyle Sackett and lost a 4-0 decision that dashed Holtzen's hopes of earning his second consecutive state medal.

"That sophomore year is always tough when it follows such a successful freshman season," Bovaird said. "Cade made some huge strides this season with his technique and his mindset approach to wrestling. Regardless of the preparation and the focus we put on our wrestling mindset, there's always going to be that pressure in the back of the guys' minds. It's human nature to remember past successes and for those things to be present.

"That's the mark of a champion, to be able to overcome those voices of doubt and questioning. And I think Cade did just that. He demonstrated it throughout the season. He just fell in a tough part of the bracket."

Freshman Brandon Doles (145 pounds) finished his first state tournament with a 1-2 record after winning a regional title the week before, while senior Gabe Bonham (138) and sophomore Ryan Owens (120) each finished the tournament 0-2.

"One of the toughest parts about coaching wrestling is when you have a senior who has just wrestled his last match," Bovaird said. "There's not a lot you can say to make it easier, and sometimes all you can do is pick him up and give

him a hug, let him know it's going to be all right. Gabe wrestled phenomenally for us this season, and he was a great addition to the program.

"Ryan and Brandon both had some great moments at state, and that's awesome experience for them down the road. Ryan overcame the fact that he's giving up so much weight and he still battled with some of the state's toughest. Brandon came out as a freshman in the middle weights – a weight usually populated by seniors – and won a regional championship for us. At state, he won a big match to make it to the second day."

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## Wildcats hope to bring home multiple medals from state



Senior Blue Caplinger is one of three state-ranked wrestlers from Louisburg High School that will compete in this weekend's state tournament in Salina. The Wildcats qualified six wrestlers in all.

It has been a few years since

Louisburg has left the Class 4A state tournament with multiple state medals.

The Wildcats hope to reverse that trend this weekend when their six qualifiers travel to the Kansas State Wrestling Championships at Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina.

Louisburg features three state-ranked wrestlers going into this tournament with Austin Moore (No. 3, 220 pounds), Blue Caplinger (No. 4, 170) and Cade Holtzen (No. 6, 113). Added to that list is Brandon Doles, the 145-pound regional champion, and senior Gabe Bonham (138) and sophomore Ryan Owens (120) who qualified for state for the first time.

The road to a state medal won't be easy for any of the six wrestlers, and Holtzen is the lone Wildcat to have earned a state medal in the past when he finished sixth last season.

"The way the brackets were drawn and the regionals were matched up, it'll be a tough road to the finals for our guys," Louisburg coach Bobby Bovaird said. "Every year, you see crazy match-ups that happen before the state finals. Austin has the No. 1 ranked guy on his side of the bracket, so hopefully that will be our semifinals match. If Cade wins his first match, he has the No. 1 wrestler in the quarterfinals.

"Brandon is getting a rematch with a Buhler kid who pinned him at Baldwin last month. Blue has a tough quarterfinals match, but if he gets through that, he's looking good

for a spot in the finals. Gabe and Ryan are both in great positions to win some matches, too. You never know. It happens all the time that top-ranked kids get upset early in the tournament. Kids who are ranked all year get beaten by wrestlers who aren't supposed to win. It's all about the mindset and the preparation.

"With all we've done this season, I'm anxious to see the team's hard work pay off," Bovaird continued. "They've bought in to the mentality we've been preaching this season. Believe, compete, and do one more. These guys aren't finished yet. They're already working hard at practice this week, getting ready to bring home some hardware from state."

Moore, who is currently 12-0 on the season and won regionals last week, is among the favorites to earn a medal at 220 pounds but his path to the finals is a difficult one as he has the defending state champion, Braden Morgan from El Dorado, in his half of the bracket.

He will open with Chanute's Tucker Davis (17-25) in the first round, and if Moore were to advance, he will face the winner between Scott City's Kyle Sherwood (30-8) and Santa Fe Trail's Caleb Harmes (26-12).

Caplinger (30-3) also hopes to bring home his first state medal as he earned a favorable first round matchup after winning regionals last week. He will meet Winfield's

Cole Finey (5-14) in  
the first round.

The Louisburg senior could have a  
tough second round match-up at 170 pounds as he will meet the  
winner of Rose  
Hill's Grant Scheer (26-5) and Smoky Valley's Dax Hopp (36-8).  
Scheer is  
currently the No. 2-ranked wrestler in 4A.

At 113 pounds, Holtzen (31-4) is  
ready to bring home another state medal as he will meet  
Augusta's Collin  
Jackson (20-12) in the first round. If he should advance, he  
will meet the  
winner of Abilene's William Stroda (39-3) and Towanda Circle's  
Wyatt Wright  
(32-12) in the quarterfinals. Stroda is currently the No. 1-  
ranked wrestler at  
113 pounds.

Doles (28-9) will take part in his  
first high school state tournament as the Louisburg freshman  
will square off  
with Buhler's Nick Elliott (34-8), while Doles lost to earlier  
in the season at  
Baldwin. He will then meet the winner/loser of the other match  
between Chanute's  
Brady McDonald (33-11) and Abilene's Austin Wuthnow (21-23).

After finishing third last week at  
regionals at 138 pounds, Bonham (18-9) will meet Chanute's  
Parker Winder (42-6)  
in the first round and will face the winner/lose between Scott  
City's Kaden  
Wren (34-3) and Abilene's Jackson Randles (24-14).

Owens (28-12), a sophomore, will

have a tough first round match as he will face Santa Fe Trail's Christian Rowe (39-3) in the first round. He would then meet the winner/loser between Winfield's Chris Ray (23-13) and Pratt's Koda Dipman (32-9) in the next round.

Wrestling begins at 10 a.m., on Friday at the Tony's Pizza Events Center and will wrestle through the semifinal round and one round of consolation. The rest of the consolation rounds and the finals will be held Saturday. All that action begins at 9 a.m.

To view all the state brackets and to follow along with all the action from the weekend, make sure to [click here](#).

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## **Wildcats qualify six for state; Moore, Caplinger, Doles win regional titles**



Louisburg senior Austin Moore works for a pin of Perry's Hayden Robb during the 220-pound regional title match Saturday in Paola. Moore, along with teammates Blue Caplinger and Brandon Doles, won regional crowns.

PAOLA – It wasn't easy, and nor is

it supposed to be, but the Louisburg wrestling team made it look that way at times during Saturday's Class 4A regional tournament at Paola High School.

The Wildcats qualified six wrestlers for state, had three regional champions and took third place in the team standings – all while not being able to field a full team.

Louisburg's talent was certainly on full display during the two-day tournament in Paola. Brandon Doles, Blue Caplinger and Austin Moore won regional crowns, Cade Holtzen was a regional runner-up, while Gabe Bonham and Ryan Owens also qualified for state by placing third and fourth, respectively.

As a team, the Wildcats ended up with 138.5 points and was just 2.5 points out of second place. Ottawa won the regional with 149.5 points and Eudora was second at 141. It was the highest regional team finish for Louisburg since 1998.

"The way these guys wrestled this weekend shows that the program has been doing so many things right this season," Louisburg coach Bobby Bovaird said. "We've had the obstacle of low numbers, which hurt us in our duals, but when it comes to tournament time, we have a bunch of guys who are placing high and that gives us a lot of team points. Taking six to state feels pretty encouraging, and finishing third at regionals is an awesome



statement for this  
team.

“If a few things had gone the other way, we would have been in second  
as a team. On paper, we weren’t supposed to be in the race for  
a regional  
plaque. Almost all of our guys stepped up and scored huge team  
points for us.”

Moore was certainly one of those  
wrestlers for Louisburg as he recovered from a broken  
collarbone before the  
season started and eventually turned that into a regional  
title at 220 pounds  
and a 12-0 record.

The Louisburg senior advanced to  
the championship with a 7-2 decision over Anderson County’s  
Dallas Higginbotham  
in the semifinals and then responded with a second period pin  
of Perry-Lecompton’s  
Hayden Robb in the finals.

Moore did have to come from behind against Robb as he found  
himself down 2-0 in the second period, but got a little extra  
motivation to help get the job done.

“I knew after I gave up that takedown, I had to come back,  
stay smart and try not to get all the points back at once,” he  
said. “I tried to circle a little bit better and not get too  
heavy on my toes. He kind of egged me on a little bit and I  
was able to put him on his back. Once I got on him on his  
back, I didn’t want to let him up.

“I am really happy to win  
regionals because when I broke my collarbone, I didn’t even  
know if I was going  
to be able to wrestle or not. I’m just excited because this is

the first time I  
have won regionals and I know this will help me a lot out at  
state and put me  
in a good place in the brackets.”



**Louisburg senior Blue Caplinger lifts Piper's Branden Martin during the 170-pound regional title match.**

Caplinger marched through his  
170-pound bracket much of the same way. He pinned his way to  
the finals, including  
a third period pin of Prairie View's Hunter Boone in the  
semis.

In the championship match,  
Caplinger squared off Piper's Branden Martin, and after  
getting a close win  
against Martin earlier in the year, Caplinger controlled the  
match from the

start and won by an 8-3 decision.

“Last year I got fourth at regionals, and this year there was a lot of pressure coming in with the No. 1 seed, but I was able to come in and do what I needed to get the job done,” Caplinger said. “I am just happy going into state and we will see how everything plays out.

“I feel I did pretty well. I could have done better, honestly. I had some matches where I got a little too tired, but just coming off a concussion that is to be expected.”



**Freshman Brandon Doles was all smiles after he qualified for the state tournament Friday after his win in the regional semifinals.**

As a freshman, Doles had the regional debut he had hoped for as he went out and won the 145-pound title to

secure his first trip to the state tournament.

On Friday, Doles started out with a 2-0 decision over Prairie View's Damien Kline and then followed that up with a tough 4-2 decision over Eudora's Holden Andrews in the semifinals to cement his state bid.

In the finals on Saturday, Doles squared off with Fort Scott's Jon Daniels and controlled the match for an 8-4 decision.

"It is crazy," Doles said of getting a regional title. "I didn't think I was going to do that well this year since I was a freshman and cutting some weight that I did. I wasn't sure how strong I was going to be. I just did a lot of work in practice to get to where I am right now.

"After the first period in the finals match I was a little gassed, but I had to stay with it. I just started shooting in on him, would get the shot and work through that and kept him on that mat."



**Sophomore Cade Holtzen works for a pin Friday during the Class 4A regional tournament in Paola. Holtzen finished runner-up at 113 pounds.**

Holtzen also earned a spot in the regional championship at 113 pounds. The returning Wildcat state medalist advanced to the finals with a tough 11-7 decision over Prairie View's Bodi Isenhower.

That set up a rematch between Holtzen and Osawatomie's Chance Mitzner, the No. 2-ranked wrestler in the state, as they both squared off earlier in the year in Baldwin, with Mitzner winning in overtime.

Mitzner also took round two on Saturday when he downed Holtzen in an 11-2 major decision in the finals.

"I really wasn't wrestling my match in the first period," Holtzen said. "I was kind of tense and not taking



shots. I think I just got off my game plan and he got his game plan going and it went his way from there.

“It is still a pretty good feeling to be able to go back again. Hopefully I can place a little higher than I did last year, but it is a pretty awesome feeling.”



**Louisburg senior Gabe Bonham finished third overall at 138 pounds and qualified for state for the first time in his career.**

Bonham put a nice stamp on his senior season as he qualified for state for the first time. The Louisburg 138-pounder finished the tournament with four pins and his only loss came in the semifinals on a 6-3 decision to Perry-Lecompton's Thad



Metcalfe.

He bounced back from that loss nicely with a pin of Paola' Caden Marcum in the consolation semifinal to qualify for state. Bonham then recorded a first period pin of Fort Scott's Silas Taylor in the third-place match.

"It means a lot to be able to qualify for state," Bonham said. "It has been a long time coming. I should have probably qualified a couple other times, but I was in my head too much. This time, I just went out and wrestled my match.

"I am really proud of all the guys. We have all busted our butts in practice and we get overlooked a lot in duals and tournaments. To be able to take third with only 11 guys is impressive."



**Sophomore Ryan Owens gets some back points Saturday during his third-place match at 120 pounds.**

Owens, a sophomore who is in his first year as a full-time varsity wrestler, moved up to 120 pounds to start the season and hasn't looked back as he also qualified for state for the first time.

He opened the tournament with a 5-3 decision over Baldwin's Lucas Hopper before getting pinned by Anderson County's Ryland Wright in the semifinals.

Owens bounced back Saturday with a 10-6 decision over Eudora's Larry Gulley in the consolation semifinals, before falling to Atchison's Jake Rebant in the third-place match.

"It feels really good because I wasn't expecting to be where I am at right now, bumping up to 120," Owens said.

"I have learned how to handle to kids who are taller and bigger than me and I feel it has improved how I work in practice. I have to work harder to beat good kids."

Sophomore Ben Wiedenmann finished one win shy of a state berth at 182 pounds. Wiedenmann met Paola's Mikey Stribling in the consolation semifinals, but couldn't get the one last win he needed in a 9-1 loss to Stribling. Wiedenmann finished his day with a 3-2 record.

Senior Brian Houck saw his Wildcat career come to a close with a 1-2 record at 195 pounds and sophomore Jacob Briley was also 1-2 at 160 pounds. Freshman Nathan Hamilton was 0-3 at 132 pounds.

Louisburg will try for state medals this weekend when it travels to Salina for the Class 4A Kansas State Wrestling Championships. Friday's opening action begins at 10 a.m. with matches continuing into Saturday.