

## Dragon VB has busy schedule

Written by Darci Tomky

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With a busy schedule last week, HHS Lady Dragon volleyball team brought home two wins and three losses. They traveled to Grant, Neb. to play Perkins County Thursday, Sept. 10 followed by a tournament at NJC in Sterling Saturday, Sept. 12 where they faced Cheyenne Wells, Fleming, Resurrection Christian and Heritage Christian.

“I saw a lot of growth from many girls over the weekend,” said coach Sandra Rahe. She noted the team will continue to adjust players to capitalize on their strengths and downplay the weaker areas. “We definitely got into a rhythm with substitutions and are finding combinations that work best,” she said.

### Holyoke vs. Perkins County

While the Dragons took Perkins County to five games, they could not hold on to the win in last Thursday’s volleyball match. Final scores were 10-25, 27-25, 16-25, 25-18 and 8-15.

Rahe said the athletes had a lot less unforced errors compared to their game against Burlington, but they also did not have as many kills. Focusing on aggressive serving after the Burlington game made Dragon serving much stronger including more aces. Kendra Timm had four aces, Mallory Bennett three and Marissa Smith two.

Timm and Smith both came away with 38 attacks including nine kills by Timm and six by Smith. Nora Roth led the team in blocking with 7 solo blocks and 17 assists. Chasity Pelle had 77 sets including 17 assists for kills. Timm totaled 33 digs while Smith had 29 serve receives.

### Holyoke vs. Cheyenne Wells

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Holyoke grabbed a win in their first tournament match Saturday against Cheyenne Wells.

“The girls were asleep on the court for the first game but turned it around and played better for the rest of the match,” said Rahe. The Dragons lost the first game 23-25, and it was disappointing to Rahe to watch them drop their level of play to match their opponent. “We need to focus on playing at a high level regardless of who is on the other side of the net,” said Rahe.

HHS won the next three games 25-13, 25-16 and 25-10.

Rahe pointed out Holyoke had several kills including 14 from Timm. In serving, Timm also led the team with 22 serves for 18 points and 10 aces.

Pelle had 92 sets with 28 assists, Roth totaled 22 digs, and Timm had 22 serve receives in the match against Cheyenne Wells.

### **Holyoke vs. Fleming**

In Saturday’s tournament action, Holyoke lost to Fleming 23-25, 21-25 and 19-25.

“Fleming has traditionally been a very strong team, and this year isn’t much different,” said Rahe. The team only has one senior and is relying on a young group of sophomores. Rahe noted, “I felt like we played very well against them, and I look forward to playing them again on our home court.”

According to Rahe, the girls played the best they have so far this year in the match against the Wildcats. They worked the net very well getting several blocks and touches on defense. “This allowed us to control the ball better and set up our offense consistently,” said Rahe. Bennett, Roth and Timm all had two solo blocks.

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In attacks, Timm led the team with 35 including 13 kills. Erin Lebsack had 12 serves earning the team eight points. Pelle set the ball 74 times with 20 assists. Timm had 20 digs and 15 serve receives while Smith had 17 digs and 17 serve receives.

## **Holyoke vs. Resurrection Christian**

Even though Holyoke lost to Resurrection Christian, Rahe noted she was glad they had a chance to play them in the tournament because there is a good chance they will face them again at Regionals. She said the team has consistently finished in the top two teams in their district, and this was a great opportunity to observe them before Regionals in November.

HHS played three close games against the Cougars, losing 20-25, 23-25 and 23-25.

Rahe noted Resurrection Christian has a similar style of play with Fleming, and they have a very strong setter and middle hitter that control their offense.

Holyoke responded to the offense with Roth grabbing three solo blocks and 7 block assists and Timm landing three solo blocks and 5 assists. While the girls did an excellent job blocking, Rahe noted the team needs to work on double blocking and shifting the defense to adjust for that.

In action against the Cougars, Smith came away with 22 attacks for seven kills, and Timm had 18 attacks for nine kills. Pelle earned six points from 14 serves while Megan Colglazier had 12 serves earning seven points.

Timm led in digs with 20. In serve receiving, Colglazier and Timm both had 14.

“The games were very close and we are learning how to go point for point against tough teams,” said Rahe. “We are getting better and not having to play from behind all the time.”

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### **Holyoke vs. Heritage Christian**

Holyoke landed a second win in the tournament in their match against Heritage Christian with scores of 25-18, 25-11 and 25-15.

Facing the Eagles, Timm had 26 attacks including eight kills as well as 21 serve receives, one solo block and two block assists. Kimberly Peña and Smith both dug 14 balls. In serving, Bennett served nine for six points and two aces, Timm served 11 for seven points and one ace and Smith served 12 with three aces.

Overall, Rahe thought the tournament was a great day where everybody improved. "I like to see that early in the season," she said.

### **JV wins two, loses three**

Holyoke's JV team lost 9-25 and 12-25 in their match against Perkins County last Thursday.

The Dragons claimed two wins at Saturday's NJC tournament. Competing against Cheyenne Wells, they won in two games 25-15 and 25-6. Their second victory was over Briggsdale 25-18 and 25-19.

In tournament action with Fleming, the JV athletes lost 14-25 and 16-25. In their three-game match against Heritage Christian, Holyoke won the first game 25-20 but lost the next two 21-25 and 10-15.

### **C team marks one win**

In Thursday's game against Perkins County, HHS C team gained a win over the Plainsmen in

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two games, both with a score of 25-21.

### **Upcoming action**

After an action-packed tournament Saturday, the Dragons hosted a matchup with Imperial Tuesday, Sept. 15. Results will be reported in next week's Enterprise.

Rahe noted the team has a lot of volleyball left to play including an exciting Homecoming game against Merino Thursday, Sept. 17 with games scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. The following week, Holyoke hosts Fleming on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 4 p.m.