

Holyoke Lady Dragons score three big volleyball wins

Written by Darci Tomky



HHS Lady Dragon volleyball team came out on top with three big wins in the last week. In away games, they triumphed over Wiggins Tuesday, Oct. 6 and Caliche Thursday, Oct. 8. The Dragons found a win on their home court against Sedgwick County Monday, Oct. 12.

“We are on a high note going into the end of the regular season and post season play,” said coach Sandra Rahe. The team will have some time off before two more regular season games and will then head into district action.

Rahe noted the players are learning how to play against specific opponents, adjusting their offense and defense to match the other team.

Holyoke vs. Wiggins

Rahe said HHS played a consistent, solid match against Wiggins, winning in three games 25-23, 25-16 and 25-21.

“The girls rarely allowed Wiggins to score more than 3-4 points in a row on us,” said Rahe. She noted the team was very aggressive in both serving and offensive plays, and they played defense well, not allowing the Tigers to get many kills except down the line.

One thing the Dragons need to work on is blocking and hitting, said Rahe. Most of Holyoke’s errors came from hitting in the net or out of bounds.

In team stats, Kendra Timm had 39 attacks for 17 kills, two aces, four solo blocks, 19 digs and 14 serve receives. Marissa Smith landed 15 serves for 10 points including one ace. Chasity

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Pelle had 69 sets including 22 assists for kills, and Megan Colglazier had 12 serve receives.

Holyoke vs. Caliche

Holyoke defeated the Buffaloes in four games 25-9, 26-28, 25-16 and 25-15. HHS let Caliche get a win in the second game, but the girls didn't let it get them down, said Rahe.

In Thursday night's competition, there were several close calls by the line judges that didn't go in Holyoke's favor and would have made a huge difference in the game, noted Rahe.

"The girls were well focused and were talking to each other on the court very well," she said. "They were able to read the defense and the blocking to put the ball to the floor."

Dragon serving and hitting was again consistent and aggressive, according to Rahe. Timm led the team with 28 serves for 21 points including seven aces as well as 31 attacks with 16 kills.

Nora Roth totaled six solo and four assisted blocks while Timm had four solo and seven assisted blocks. Dragon setter Pelle completed 90 sets including 29 assists for kills.

In passing, Timm had 34 digs and 19 serve receives, and Smith had 29 digs and 18 serve receives.

Holyoke vs. Sedgwick County

With a win over Sedgwick County just two weeks ago, the Dragons took on the Cougars again, this time on their home court in Holyoke. HHS lost the first two games 21-25 and 24-26 but pulled it together to win the next three 25-16, 25-18 and 15-12.

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Rahe explained the girls adjusted their offense to keep their middle hitters in the game. Sedgwick County had a great all around defense, but specifically some great middle blockers.

To adapt to that, HHS changed the offensive plan so Roth and Timm hit behind the setter instead of in front of Pelle, and this opened up the court to their advantage. "Most of our kills came in the last three games when we made this adjustment," said Rahe.

In practice last Friday, Rahe said they worked on setting up free-ball plays to capitalize on those easy passes. "I think that paid off as the girls were aggressive and quick to set up the offense," she said.

Rahe noted the team was much more aggressive with serving, and Erin Lebsack and KrisAnna Ham both did a great job off the bench with serving.

Pelle had 19 serves for 11 points including five aces as well as 160 sets with 35 assists for kills. Timm had 62 attacks for 18 kills, 21 serves for 10 points including one ace, nine solo blocks and 53 digs. Timm and Smith both landed 23 serve receives.

JV and C teams play

In Tuesday's games against Wiggins, both the JV and C teams lost in two games, with JV scores of 20-25 and 16-25 and C team scores of 19-25 and 14-25.

Thursday's competition with Caliche only had varsity and JV games, and Rahe noted it was nice to win both. JV won in two games 25-21 and 25-17.

All three Holyoke teams were victorious over Sedgwick County Monday night. JV won in three games 17-25, 25-3 and 15-9, and C team won in two 25-17 and 25-17.

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Upcoming action

Upcoming games for the Lady Dragons include 4 p.m. home games against Haxtun Thursday, Oct. 22 where the seniors will be recognized and then parents night Friday, Oct. 23 with games against Wray scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m.