

Dragons fall 20-41 in final game, finish 2009 with 1-8 record

Written by Chris Lee

Holyoke traveled to Wiggins Saturday, Oct. 31 for the final football game of the 2009 season. The game was held on Saturday because of the heavy snowstorm that dropped large amounts of snow throughout Colorado Thursday, Oct. 29.

The Dragons were looking to improve their record to 2-7 but came up short, losing 20-41. Holyoke trailed by just one point heading into the final quarter of play but Wiggins managed to put up three late touchdowns to secure the win.

Coach Rod Trumper said he was pleased with how the team played and the game could have gone either way towards the end. "It was a pretty close ball game all the way through," he added.

Trumper said the coaches were pleased with how the younger kids played.

"On our most successful set, we had five freshmen on the field," Trumper said. "We feel like they did really well."

Holyoke takes lead into locker room

The Dragons managed to put up points on the first possession of the game after moving the ball down the field on a 75-yard drive and quarterback Logan Krueger scored on a run. After a failed two-point conversion, Holyoke led 6-0.

Wiggins also scored on their first possession taking the lead 6-7 after they converted the extra point.

Kyle Carper put up the second Dragon score on a 79-yard touchdown catch from Krueger regaining the lead 14-7 after Brett Cumming converted the two-point conversion.

With time running down in the first half, Wiggins had a chance to even things up but the Dragon

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defense was able to stop them after a couple of nice stops by Broc Pelle. Holyoke took over and ran out the clock to take their 14-7 lead into halftime.

Wiggins got the ball to begin the second half and moved it down the field into Dragon territory. After a 23-yard run straight up the middle for a touchdown, Wiggins was able to tie things up at 14.

On Holyoke's next possession, they moved the ball nicely down inside Wiggins' territory but turned the ball over on downs at the 26-yard line.

On the first play from scrimmage, Wiggins took the ball and went 74 yards down the field for a touchdown. The extra point was good and the Tigers led 21-14.

The Dragons took the ensuing kick off to their 35-yard line where they again mounted another nice drive. This time it would result in points for the Dragons. Krueger connected on passes to Ryan Baumgartner and Parker Redfern before finding Baumgartner on a 17-yard touchdown toss.

Flags were thrown on the two-point conversion moving the Dragons back and they were unable to convert leaving the scoreboard reading 20-21 in favor of Wiggins.

Wiggins went three and out on their next drive giving the ball back to the Dragons.

Holyoke began at their own 24-yard line with the clock running down in the third quarter. Krueger opened up the final stanza with a 34-yard strike to Carper, moving the ball into Wiggins territory. The drive stalled after Wiggins picked off the Holyoke pass. The Tigers' first play went 79 yards down to the Holyoke 15-yard line. With 7:54 left in the game, Wiggins punched in another touchdown moving their lead to 28-20.

Pelle returned the ensuing kickoff to the Dragons' 45-yard line. The drive didn't gain much

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momentum as Holyoke was flagged for a couple of penalties and was forced to punt.

The Tigers began near midfield at their 47-yard line. After moving into Dragon territory, they were flagged for a false start but it didn't matter as the next play went 49 yards for a touchdown. Jaydin Goldenstein blocked the Tigers' PAT leaving the score 34-20.

Holyoke's next drive was short as Wiggins intercepted the ball and returned it for the final touchdown of the game.

The Dragons couldn't turn the momentum back to their sideline and turned the ball over on downs to end the game.

Holyoke finishes the season with a 1-8 record with the lone win coming over Peyton during the homecoming game on Sept. 18.

Stats recorded

Krueger finished the game 18 of 28 for 238 yards and two touchdowns. His long was a 70-yard toss.

Pelle led rushing with 70 yards on 12 carries. Cumming finished with 37 yards on nine carries. Baumgartner had 15 yards on one carry and Goldenstein finished with two yards on two carries.

Carper finished with a game high 128 yards receiving on five catches. Redfern followed with 50 yards on three catches. Baumgartner hauled in four catches for 46 yards. Goldenstein finished with 10 yards on two catches and Pelle and Cumming each had two receiving yards.

Luke Garrett led Holyoke with 10 tackles, Krueger nine, Casey Sage eight, Pelle six, Brandon

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Oosthuysen five, Baumgartner and Jesus Hermosillo each had four. Carper and Redfern each had two tackles while Goldenstein added one.

Reid Baumgartner, Oosthuysen and Sage each had a sack. Krueger picked off one Tiger pass and returned it for 12 yards.

Goldenstein blocked an extra point and had one punt that went 23 yards.

Pelle returned three kickoffs for a total of 65 yards while Cumming had one return for 23 yards.

Looking to next season

“You start looking to the future at this point and we’re pretty excited about what we have coming up,” Trumper said.

Coach Trumper said they are excited about the freshman and sophomore classes growing up. The team will again be young but with the experience gained from this year, the coaches hope that will help in the long run.

Holyoke played some of the toughest competition in the state and five teams they faced this year in Colorado are in the playoffs and each have a shot at a state title. Imperial, Neb. and Perkins County, Neb. are two teams the Dragons faced early on in the year and both made playoffs in Nebraska.

Trumper said they will try and get players to a team camp this summer. He also mentioned the weight room will be open throughout the summer and they will hold some agility workouts as well.

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Trumper said he hopes to see all the athletes get involved with a winter sport to keep involved.

Other North Central action

Other North Central Conference teams played Friday, Oct. 30.

Akron (8-1) squeaked by Wray (6-3) 15-12. The Rams will host Lutheran in the first round of the playoffs on Saturday, Nov. 7. Wray will travel to Burlington for their first round game.

Yuma (9-0) stomped Highland 56-12 and will host Crowley County in the first round. Highland finished the season with a 4-5 record.

Wiggins will take their 5-4 record into the playoffs and travel to Limon for the first round game on Saturday.