

Expectations high for boys' basketball program

Written by Chris Lee

Coming off a 25-2 season and finishing as state runners-up, goals and expectations are set high for the 2009-10 Holyoke boys' basketball team.

"I hope they're still hungry," coach John Baumgartner said referring to the run through the state tournament last year. He said his players have set a goal of playing deep into March again.

Baumgartner said their schedule is wide open. He also said the district looks to be pretty even. He is expecting Wray and Wiggins to be tough opponents as well as Akron.

Practice began Nov. 12 and so far Baumgartner is pleased with the progress the players have shown.

"I like the effort they are showing us now," he said. "They are getting after it. They've shown me a lot."

Developing the younger players is another key area for the team to concentrate on.

The coach also said they will need to become better shooters because they don't have a lot of size.

The Dragons' two losses last year came to eventual state champions, Caliche in 1A and 2A Colorado Springs School. They fell to Caliche on Feb. 12, 50-55 and to CS School 39-42 in the state championship on March 14.

Holyoke held opponents to an average of 34.30 points per game last season earning state record #76, (Team Defensive Average per Game). Baumgartner said the players know they will have to play defense and hustle 100 percent of the time.

Baumgartner enters his 16th season coaching at HHS. Assisting him is Scott Dille who enters his fourth year at Baumgartner's side.

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Holyoke returns nine letterwinners from the 2009 runner-up team. They are Cody Fricke, Ryan Baumgartner, Reid Baumgartner, Logan Krueger, Willie Greenman, Preston King, Evan Swanson, Kyle Carper and Brian DeBoer.

Other team members include seniors Brandon Oosthuysen, Matt Harvey and Shaun Beck; juniors Joel Rodriguez, David Gulbrandson, Perry Garrett and Seth Baker; sophomores Alex Quintana, Austin Killin, Jeremy Loutensock, Chris Bieber and Kris Loya; and freshmen Logan Zeiler, Jaydin Goldenstein, Brett Cumming, Bradley Coyne, Deyten Klein, Mike Kuehl, José Jaquez, Matt Golden and Phillip Beck.

Tate Dille, Levi Dille and Mason King will serve as managers while Trevor Dalton, Zach Roll, Tanner Smith and Logan Tharp will handle the stats.

Carper and Ryan Baumgartner were chosen by teammates as captains for the season.

The Dragons open up the schedule Friday, Dec. 4 in Idalia and will host Wray Saturday, Dec. 5.

