

## Dragons claim District title, head to Regionals

Written by Chris Lee

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**Brian DeBoer follows a pop up during the district championship game. The Dragons will play Front Range Christian in the opening round of regionals.**

**—Enterprise photo**

Holyoke won the Class 2A District 7 championship after a 5-4 victory over Wiggins Saturday, May 8.

After receiving a bye in the first round, Holyoke faced two teams who had handed them losses during the regular season.

Akron emerged from the first round after beating Sedgwick County to face Holyoke. The Dragons came away with an 8-4 victory to advance to face Wiggins.

Wiggins beat Holyoke 17-3, 6-3 earlier this season so the Dragons were looking for payback,

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and in a close 5-4 game, the Dragons emerged as District 7 champions.

“It was a very exciting day,” coach Kyle Bules said.

Holyoke will take their 13-6 record and face Front Range Christian Saturday, May 15 at 10 a.m. in the first round of the regional tournament at NJC.

### **Holyoke 5, Wiggins 4**

Logan Krueger spent all seven innings on the mound for the Dragons in their district championship win. He faced 31 batters and gave up one earned run, six hits, one walk and earned six strikeouts.

Holyoke grabbed the early lead after scoring two runs in the top of the second inning. They added one more in the top of the third before Wiggins finally got on the board after scoring one in the bottom of the same inning.

The Dragons scored their fourth run in the fourth inning and their last run in the top of the fifth when they took a 5-1 lead. Wiggins added one run in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings but was one short, giving Holyoke the championship.

Coach Bules said the Dragons hit the Wiggins pitchers well. The final pitcher they faced threw a no hitter against Wray, but Holyoke managed to get two hits off him.

Jaydin Goldenstein finished one for one from the plate with an RBI and two runs.

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“Krueger pitched very well and the defense behind him was equally impressive,” Bules said. “We executed very well on the bases.”

### **Holyoke 8, Akron 4**

Goldenstein got the start on the mound and pitched for three and two-thirds innings giving up three earned runs, four hits, three walks and earning six strikeouts. Krueger came in to finish out the fourth inning and rest of the game. He gave up one earned run, two hits, one walk and earned four strikeouts.

“We did not commit any errors and that was the difference,” the coach said. “We put the ball in play having only three strikeouts. My guys were very motivated to win.”

The Dragons grabbed an early 1-0 lead after the first inning, but the Rams put up three runs in the top of the third to take the 3-1 lead.

Holyoke scored three runs in the fourth and fifth innings to lead by four, 7-3. They added their final run in the sixth and managed to only allow Akron one run in the final inning to take the victory.

Francisco Diaz had a great game at the plate going three for three with a triple and three runs.

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