Taking on the Sargent Farmers in the first round of state tournament competition, the Holyoke Dragon basketball team earned the opportunity to keep moving forward in the tourney by defeating Sargent, 44-35, on Thursday, March 12.

“It felt good to win the first game,” said coach John Baumgartner, adding there have been too many times in the past when the Dragons haven’t won the first game.

“We got off to a great start,” he continued. “The boys were well-prepared. The defense really stepped up. We held them to single digits until the final quarter.”

The Dragons set the tone early on in the game when Austin Tharp made two threes in the first two minutes. On the other hand, it took the Farmers almost two and a half minutes to get on the board with a free throw. At the end of the first eight minutes, HHS already held a seven-point advantage.

Rolling right along in the second, Holyoke continued to widen the scoring gap, adding another 10 points and leading to a 23-14 halftime score. Kyle Carper and Tharp made all 10.

The halftime break did little to cool Carper and Tharp’s hot streak, with the two putting up Holyoke’s entire eight points in the third. Sargent was held to only six.

With HHS up by 11 heading into the fourth quarter, the Far-mers ran into foul trouble, and sent Tharp to the line four times, as well as Michal Brown and Evan Swanson once each. But the Dragons were on a roll in their free throw shooting, making nine out of 11 attempts in the fourth.

Sargent, on the other hand, hit some big threes, but it wasn’t enough to overcome the deficit built up over the previous three quarters. HHS took the nine-point win to continue on in the state tournament.

Tharp dominated in points with 24 and Carper had 11. Overall, the team was 14 for 30 for a 47 percent average field goal shooting. Sargent was 11 for 33 at 33 percent. On the line, HHS was 15-17 for an 82 percent average.

Brown also had a good game with seven points, two blocked shots and led in rebounding with seven. The Dragons outrebounded Sargent 27-15.

Holyoke 44, Sargent 35

	2 FG	3	FT	F	TP
Tharp	5	2	8-9	2	24
Baumgartner	0	0	0-0	2	0
Carper	4	0	3-4	2	11
Brown	3	0	1-2	2	7
Swanson	0	0	2-2	0	2
TEAM	12	2	14-17	8	44
Sargent					
Hernandez	0	0	0-0	1	0
Van Treese	2	1	2-2	3	9
Price	2	0	5-8	2	9
Biel	0	2	0-0	4	6
Paulson	0	2	0-0	5	6
Jones	2	0	1-2	1	5
TEAM	6	5	8-12	16	35

Scoring By Quarters

Holyoke	13	10	8	13	--44
Sargent	6	8	6	15	--35