

## **Dragons fall to Yuma, slay the Tigers**

Written by Chris Lee

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Holyoke added one win and one loss to its stats following another tough week of basketball.

Tuesday, Jan. 17 the Dragons traveled to Yuma and suffered a 56-63 loss.

Friday, Jan. 20, the team traveled to Wiggins and walked away with a thrilling 74-72 victory.

The Dragons will now take their 7-4 season record into another tough weekend of action. They will travel to Akron Friday, Jan. 27 and Caliche the following night.

### **Holyoke 56, Yuma 63**

"I feel like that's the best we've played this year. Yuma played really good," coach Scott Dille said after Holyoke's Jan. 17 loss to the Indians.

The coach said Holyoke just didn't get any loose balls and the Indians drained just about everything they threw up.

The first quarter was the main difference in the game. The Indians built up a big 23-12 lead which rattled the boys in green and gold a bit. It didn't totally knock them to their knees as they continued to fight. Yuma added 11 more while Holyoke scored eight and trailed 20-34 at the half.

The Dragons won both the third, 14-11, and fourth, 22-18, quarters but didn't have enough to top the Indians.

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“The second half was great,” Dille said. The Dragon offense came alive in the second half and Dille said the defense was right about where it needed to be. “They just made more shots,” he added. “Some nights I guess that’s just the way it goes.”

Despite the loss, there were some bright points. As a team, the Dragons finished a perfect 16 for 16 from the charity stripe.

Reid Baumgartner led the team with 26 points. The only other Dragon in double digits was sophomore Logan Tharp with a career high 20. It was only Tharp’s third varsity start.

### **Holyoke 74, Wiggins 72**

After four quarters of a close and competitive game, it was the Dragons celebrating as they avenged an earlier loss to the Tigers last Friday night at Wiggins.

Earlier this season, Holyoke built up a sizeable lead only to see the high-powered Tigers battle back to win on Holyoke’s home court. This time, things were a bit different.

Wiggins did jump out early on but the Dragons fought back and trailed by one, 12-13 after the opening period.

The teams battled back and forth and each scored 22 points keeping things very close at the half, 34-35.

Wiggins scored 20 in the third as a pesky Holyoke team didn’t budge and scored 19.

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Free throws played a key role in the fourth quarter after the Dragons had built up a six-point lead. The Tigers were forced to foul and the Dragons answered by shooting 15 of 20 in the final quarter to lock up the win.

“The thing I’m most proud of is we kept doing what we’re supposed to do,” Dille said. “It didn’t matter what the score was ... the kids just kept doing what they needed to do.”

The coach said when Wiggins tried to make a big run this time, the Dragons handled it well. “Instead of panicking, we kept playing together and working hard,” he added.

For the second game in a row, the Dragons shot very well from the free throw line. The team finished 24 for 31 for 77 percent.

The team made them when it counted the most. Trevor Dalton finished 9 for 11 in the final quarter to help Holyoke hang on for the win. Baumgartner went 3 for 3 in the closing minutes while Austin Killin went 3 for five.

Baumgartner led all scorers with 30 points. Dalton was the only other Dragon in double digits with 16.

### **Upcoming action**

The Dragons will travel to Akron Friday, Jan. 27. Games are set to tip off at 4 p.m. Holyoke will cap off their five-game road trip with a tough contest at Caliche Saturday, Jan. 28. Games are scheduled to begin at 3 p.m.

Beginning Friday, Feb. 3, Holyoke will play five consecutive games on the home court. Four of those games will be played within six days.

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