

Dragons end road trip with two losses

Written by Chris Lee

Holyoke boys' basketball team entered last weekend knowing they were facing two pretty tough opponents in Akron and Caliche. There were only two losses between the two teams with Akron having two and Caliche playing with a perfect record.

The two games closed out a five-game road trip which leads into a five-game home stand.

Friday night, Jan. 27, the Dragons traveled to Akron and fell 55-67. The following night, they fell to the undefeated Buffaloes 58-73.

Coach Scott Dille felt the Holyoke boys weren't sure if they could compete with the Rams and Buffaloes so they didn't hit the court as focused and intense as they have been the last few weeks.

"They knew they were two difficult games," Dille said of his Dragon players.

Holyoke 55, Akron 67

"I think Akron is a tough place to play," Dille said. "It has a different feel. In that huge gym it's a little harder to shoot."

Things started off in favor of the Dragons as they built up an early 10-point, 18-8 lead. Akron hung tight and outscored the Dragons 15-14 in the second quarter to pull within nine at the half.

"They started making some shots," Dille said of the Rams in the second half. He also noted

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Holyoke didn't rebound the ball very well at all. "They got a lot of second shots, third shots, and they finally caught up to us."

Akron completely turned the table in the third period when they hung 26 points on the board while holding the Dragons to just 11. Fourteen of those 26 came from Jared Clarkson who finished the game with 18.

The Rams didn't let up in the final quarter as they hung on to earn the victory.

This was the first meeting between the two teams this season so the game played in Holyoke Feb. 16 will count for district seeding.

Reid Baumgartner led the team with 25 points. Logan Tharp was the only other Dragon in double digits with 14.

Holyoke 58, Caliche 73

Holyoke fell behind by 11 early which may have gotten the team a little rattled at Caliche. They bounced back nicely in the second quarter to outscore the Buffaloes 18-12 and pull within five, 28-33 at the half.

Caliche built up a 10-point lead heading into the final quarter. Dille said the team tried its best to fight back but was forced to foul in the closing minutes which led to the 15-point, 58-73 deficit.

Baumgartner again led the team with 20 while Deyten Klein, 13 and Tharp, 11 also hit double digits.

"Caliche is a good team," Dille said. "They play really, really hard."

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Upcoming action

The Dragons will host Burlington Friday, Feb. 3 with games beginning at 4 p.m. The following night, the Eagles from south of the county line will visit Holyoke's home court. Games are scheduled to begin at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 7, Dundy County, Neb. will travel to Holyoke for games scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

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