

Dragons score double wins in Phillips County doubleheader

Written by April Peregoy

Holyoke Dragon baseball team brought its season record to 4-2 when it hosted a doubleheader against the Haxtun Bulldogs on Tuesday, April 7.

HHS held off the Bulldogs in the first game to beat them 11-8. Brandon Price's phenomenal pitching led the team to another victory in the second game, winning 8-3.

"Our pitching did a wonderful job," said coach Kyle Bules. "Haxtun is a good team, but we were able to keep them a little off balance."

However, both teams committed their fair share of errors, with a combined 10 in the first game. Holyoke committed six of them. Three more errors occurred in the second game, and in addition, the Dragons allowed a total of eight unearned runs on Tuesday.



"We need to continue to work on not committing so many errors," said Bules, adding, "That is way too many runs to be giving up."

"I was very impressed with our younger players," added the coach. "They made some big plays on defense and put the ball in play to score some runs and move base-runners in scoring position."

Holyoke 11, Haxtun 8

Tuesday's games were originally intended to take place in Haxtun, but the field still wasn't ready after the previous weekend's snowfall so they were moved to Holyoke. Still, the Dragons played as the road team and were the first to bat, making two runs in the top of the first.

After two innings, the score was tied at four, but Haxtun failed to score in the third and fourth innings while Holyoke put two more runs up on the board.

An action-packed fifth inning saw the Dragons bringing home three more runners. The Bulldogs replied with two of their own in the bottom. Ahead by three, HHS added two more to the score in the sixth, and Haxtun one.

The Bulldogs pushed one more player across the plate in the seventh, but it wasn't enough to overtake the lead and Holyoke won it by three.

Contributing a home run in the first game was Austin Tharp. He was 3-4 at bat, with a double, two runs and five RBIs. Also hitting a double was Austin Killin.

On the mound, Tharp pitched four innings and struck out six batters. Logan Krueger pitched the remaining three innings and was credited with the win. He had three strikeouts.

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Statistics

	AB	R	H	RBI
Reid Baumgartner	3	1	0	0
DeBoer	1	2	0	0
Tharp	4	2	3	5
Ryan Baumgartner	4	3	1	1
Krueger	2	1	1	1
Pelle	2	1	0	0
Killin	4	0	2	1
Gerk	3	0	1	1
Price	2	1	1	1
Totals	25	11	9	10

2B - Tharp, Killin. SB - Price.

Holyoke	2	2	1	1	3	2	0	—11
Haxtun	1	3	0	0	2	1	1	—8

Holyoke 8, Haxtun 3

First-inning action for the second game had the two teams tied at one. However, Haxtun was held scoreless during the next five innings.

Meanwhile, Holyoke pushed ahead, adding two runs in the second and three in the third. Failing to get anybody across in the fourth and fifth innings, the Dragons brought home two more players in the sixth for a seven-point advantage.

In one last effort, the Bulldogs pulled off two more runs in the seventh to narrow the gap, but the Dragons still came up with the five-point victory.

Brandon Price went the distance, pitching six strikeouts, 10 hits and one earned run. At bat, Tharp hit a triple, while Krueger and Brett Gerk had one double each.

Statistics

	AB	R	H	RBI
Reid Baumgartner	2	0	0	0
DeBoer	4	0	2	1
Tharp	4	1	1	0
Ryan Baumgartner	4	0	2	2
Krueger	4	0	1	1
Killin	3	1	1	0
Gerk	4	2	2	0
Vasa	4	1	2	1
Price	2	3	1	0
Totals	31	8	12	5

3B - Tharp. 2B - Krueger, Gerk. SB - Ryan Baumgartner.

Holyoke	1	2	3	0	0	2	0	—8
Haxtun	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	—3

Upcoming action

Yet another game, this one against Burlington, had to be canceled last Thursday, April 9 due to inclement weather. Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate this week, as Holyoke has a busy schedule lined up.

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The Dragons are expected to host Caliche in a varsity doubleheader on Wednesday, April 15 at 10 a.m. The next day, April 16, they travel to Idalia for JV and varsity match-ups, starting at 4 p.m. Another away game will take place in Akron on Saturday, April 18 with varsity doubleheader action slated for 11 a.m.

Holyoke's JV team is also scheduled to host Caliche and Haxtun in a triangular on Monday, April 20, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

"Right now, we just need to be consistent and we will be tough to beat," said Bules.