

Dragons lock up No. 1 seed after splitting with Wray

Written by Chris Lee

Spirits were high in the home dugout and in the stands as Holyoke beat Wray 3-1 in game one of a doubleheader Thursday, April 26 to secure the No. 1 seed in the district tournament.

The Dragons will receive a first-round bye and won't play until Saturday, May 5.

Holyoke looked to complete a sweep of the Eagles and finish out the regular season with two victories, but came up short in game two and fell 0-1. The defense was strong from both teams but Wray managed to cross one run in the fourth inning to seal the game.

Holyoke needed to at least split to secure the No. 1 seed. Had they won both games, Holyoke would've been No. 1 with Wray taking the No. 3 seed. Instead, Wray is the No. 2 seed as both teams finished with a 15-4 regular season record.

"I thought we played very well defensively, only giving up two runs in 14 innings against a very good team," coach Kyle Bules said. "On the same token, we only scored three runs in 14 innings and got shut out in game two."



After receiving an errant throw, first baseman Logan Tharp makes

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a nice recovery to tag out Wray's Matt Hernandez. Tharp had a couple of these nice plays Thursday, April 26 as Holyoke split the doubleheader with Wray, 3-1 and 0-1. The Dragons secured the No. 1 seed in the district tournament after beating Wray in game one last Thursday. —Enterprise photo

Holyoke 3, Wray 1

Holyoke's Deyten Klein had a nice day on the mound keeping the Eagles at bay. He pitched five and one third innings to help lead the Dragons to victory.

With two outs in the top of the first, Wray managed to get two runners aboard before flying out to right field for the third and final out.

With runners at the corners, Holyoke's Logan Tharp stepped up to the plate and roped a stand up double to left center that scored Reid Baumgartner and Jaydin Goldenstein.

Wray went three up, three down in the second inning. Klein led things off for the Dragons in the bottom of the inning with a nice double. Tanner Smith entered to courtesy run for Klein who was still pitching for the Dragons. Austin Killin laid down a nice bunt to advance Smith to third base.

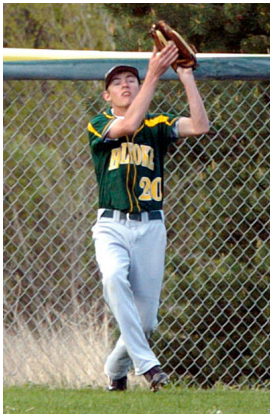
Two batters later, Smith scored after a Baumgartner hit.

Both teams went three up, three down in the third inning and Wray scored its only run of the game in the fourth inning off an RBI single.

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With two runners on in the top of the fifth, a Wray batter stepped up and crushed a ball to left field that looked like it was going to leave the yard. Dragon left fielder Logan Zeiler backed up to the fence and made a nice play to end the inning and get Klein out of the jam.



Logan Zeiler backed up to the fence in left field to catch this fly ball last Thursday during game one of the doubleheader with Wray. Had the long wind-aided fly ball gone over the fence, Wray would've taken the lead in the fifth inning. —Enterprise photo

The Dragons struggled to get anything going in the bottom of the fifth and again were sat down in order.

After a nice strikeout by Klein, two Wray batters mustered the strength to both single. Coach Bules decided to give the ball to Baumgartner who finished out the game. He started with back-to-back strikeouts to end the sixth inning.

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Holyoke was unable to do anything with two runners aboard in the bottom of the sixth.

Baumgartner struck the first two batters out in the top of the seventh but slipped up a bit giving up back-to-back singles. Gathering his composure, he managed to get a Wray batter to ground out to shortstop Trevor Dalton who at first bobbled the ball but made a nice play at second base to get the out.

Only four hits were earned by Holyoke batters in game one last Thursday.

Klein faced 25 batters, earning four strikeouts. He walked three, and gave up six hits and one earned run.

Baumgartner faced seven batters, striking out four, walking none and giving up one hit.

Holyoke's defense really shined, helping the team to victory. Everyone contributed including catcher Jesus Hermosillo who picked off a runner at second base and also was thinking smart backing up Tharp at first who couldn't corral a wild ball. Hermosillo was able to get the ball and throw a runner out at second from around the Wray dugout.

Holyoke 0, Wray 1

Looking to complete the sweep, Holyoke entered game two with lots of energy but came up short after seven full innings of play.

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Goldenstein was given duties on the mound and shined, pitching a full seven innings. He faced 27 batters, striking out seven of them. He gave up one walk, four hits and just one earned run. Unfortunately for Goldenstein, it was the only run Wray would need to win the game.

Strong defense from both sides kept game two a low scoring affair. The only run came in the top of the fourth inning when an RBI single with one out was scored by Wray.

Holyoke had success hitting the ball but was caught stealing a couple times throughout the game. That, coupled with strong defense from the Eagles, kept Holyoke from producing any runs.

“I tried some hit and runs and sacrifice bunts that weren’t executed and I hope that will be fixed by the time the tournament gets here,” Bules said.

Upcoming action

Holyoke receives a first-round bye Friday, May 4. They will face the winner of Akron and Sedgwick County Saturday, May 5 at 11 a.m.

“I look forward to a very good district tournament with some great competition and am pleased we get to play on our home field,” Bules said.

[Click here for more on the district tournament.](#)

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