

## Winning streak comes to end after loss to Limon

Written by Chris Lee

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Riding a four-game winning streak, Holyoke played host to the undefeated Limon Badgers Friday night, Oct. 12 at Max Bernard Field hoping to improve to 5-2 on the season.

A win in the non-league match wouldn't help the Dragons' 4-0 conference record but it sure would've shown people where Holyoke stood.

Unfortunately, Limon came ready to play and pounded the Dragons 41-0 on a chilly October Friday under the lights.

Holyoke had no answer for the rushing attack from the Badgers and in turn, had trouble getting anything going on the ground themselves, finishing with only 111 rushing yards.

Coach John Zilla knows Limon is a good football team but said the Dragons didn't play up to their potential at all last Friday. "It's frustrating," he added. "I don't know what the deal was."



**Holyoke's offensive line had trouble opening holes for the Dragon running game Friday night, Oct. 12 as the home team fell 0-41 to the Limon Badgers.□□**

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### —Enterprise photo

Zilla said the team hit the field in the first quarter and looked nervous. “We didn’t even look like ourselves.” The coach said Holyoke only played about two out of the four quarters. “You can’t do that against a great team.” He said in the second quarter, the Dragons seemed to settle down.

Limon scored touchdowns on its first two possessions. A bad snap on the first PAT turned into a two-point conversion after Limon scampered into the end zone. The PAT on the second touchdown was no good.

Holyoke went three and out on its first two possessions. The Dragon defense bit down and held the Badgers to a three and out on their third possession.

Holyoke’s next drive also was a three and out. Limon’s Gavin Liggett fielded Wyatt Powell’s punt and rushed his way down the field for the third touchdown of the game. Holyoke was flagged for hurdling on the PAT attempt, which prompted the Badgers to try for two. They were successful on the two-pointer to take a 22-0 lead with just over a minute left in the opening quarter.

The Dragons again couldn’t get anything going and were forced to punt. Limon moved the ball down to Holyoke’s 23 yard line before stalling out. A bad snap on the field goal attempt led to an incomplete pass and a turnover on downs.

The Dragons picked up their first first down of the game midway through the second quarter on a pass to Brett Cumming from T.J. Gertner. On the next play, Bradley Cumming had a nice run, but the home team was flagged for an illegal block in the back, backing them up inside their 20. The drive stalled out, forcing a Powell punt.

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Limon began at the Dragons' 39 yard line and moved down to Holyoke's 13 before Liggett threw a touchdown pass with just over 2:12 left in the half. A PAT attempt was no good.

Holyoke's next drive looked to be going nowhere and on fourth down, they were forced to punt. Powell fired off a nice punt but the field was littered with yellow flags. Limon was flagged for running into the kicker as well as unsportsman-like conduct, injecting life into the Dragon sideline. Time would run out on the half, however, before Holyoke could get any sort of momentum going.

The home team won the toss and deferred which gave them the ball to begin the second half. The drive showed a bit of promise, but a penalty and a few plays for losses forced an eventual punt.

Neither team could build up any steam in the third quarter and they entered the fourth with the same 0-28 score.

Limon scored a touchdown with 11:44 left in the game. The PAT was no good as the scoreboard read 0-34. Just over two minutes later, Liggett busted off a 72-yard touchdown run, giving the Badgers a 40-0 lead and a running clock. The PAT was good, adding one more point to the total.

The remainder of the quarter moved quickly and ended with the shutout.

Holyoke will host Wiggins Friday, Oct. 19 for the final home game of the season. The Tigers enter with a 6-1 overall record and are 3-1 in conference play after a close 7-14 loss to Wray two weeks ago.

The Dragons' defense will have to slow Thayer Sauter, the Tiger quarterback who loves to run the ball—much like Limon's Liggett and Perkins County quarterback Elliot Carlson, who the Dragons faced earlier this season. Holyoke will wrap up the regular season next Friday in Wray.

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Coach Zilla said the next two games are very important. Holyoke still has a chance to win the league and earn a nice seed in the playoffs.

“I want the seniors to finish off on a good year,” Zilla said. “Six and three is a whole lot better than four and five.”

Zilla said he told the kids they took three steps back and now is the time to move forward, keep fighting and get better.

### Stats recorded

The Dragons, who have three running backs capable of eclipsing the 100-yard mark, finished with just 111 on the ground and 17 through the air.

Brett Cumming led the rushing efforts with 46 yards on 12 carries. Bradley Cumming, Dylan Kotch and Gertner also carried the ball during the game.

Gertner connected on four out of 10 throws for 17 yards.

The Badgers gashed the Holyoke defense for 384 yards of total offense. They had 305 on the ground and 79 through the air.

Jesus Hermosillo led the team with 17 tackles. Logan Tharp also finished in double digits with 12.

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Ben Martinez covered a fumble in the fourth quarter.

Powell punted the ball seven times with a long of 46 yards.

### **Other North Central action reported**

Other North Central Conference teams played last week. Wiggins downed Yuma 34-7, Wray beat Highland 56-6 and Resurrection Christian beat Cornerstone Christian Academy 57-30.

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