

Dragon baseball team suffers first loss of season to Limon

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

The Dragons finally met their match in Limon Saturday, April 20 as HHS fell 6-5, snapping a 10-game winning streak.

With the loss the Dragons are now 10-1. The game will not affect Holyoke's top-ranking in league play, however, as Limon was not a conference game. HHS maintains a perfect 8-0 conference record.

Holyoke 5, Limon 6

The two teams play very similar ball. Each squad has the potential to hit the long ball and each roster contains pitchers who can shut down opposing batters.

Up until the weekend game, HHS could do no wrong at the plate. Coach John Zilla said Limon's pitchers may have thrown a bit harder than what the Dragons have faced this year, but the problems in the batting box stem more from players not swinging the bat.

"We did not hit the ball like we are capable of," Zilla said. "We were tentative at the plate and we're usually much more aggressive."

Of the 32 plate appearances by the Dragons, 15 ended in strikeouts.

"It was just one of those days where nothing went our way, but we still kept it close," Zilla said.

The Dragons lit up the scoreboard first, touching home twice in the first inning.

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Jaydin Goldenstein picked up an RBI on a sacrifice fly that scored Brett Cumming, and Deyten Klein scored Trevor Dalton on a single to right-center.

Limon responded in the second inning with a two-run home run to tie the game up at two apiece.

Goldenstein and Klein each knocked in another run in the third inning to take a 4-2 lead. The Dragons actually had the bases loaded with no outs in the inning, but three strikeouts in a row derailed an opportunity to put some distance between them and the home team.

Limon once again used the deep ball to tie the Dragons. In the bottom half of the third inning, Limon batters hit back-to-back solo home runs to force the 4-4 tie.

Limon added a run in each of the next two innings to take a 6-4 lead.

With two outs in the seventh inning and facing their first loss of the year, Jesus Hermsillo laced a Limon pitch over the fence, cutting the lead in half and breathing some life into the Dragon squad.

Unfortunately the late-inning comeback fell short as HHS lost 6-5.

“The loss showed us what we need to work on,” Zilla said. “We became complacent, and it opened our eyes that we need to work every day at practice.”

While batting may have hit a rough patch in the game, the Dragons’ defense looked sharp, not committing a single error on the day.

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Alfredo Santos, Klein and Dalton all handled pitching responsibilities in the game. The trio combined to allow six runs on seven hits. Three Limon plate appearances resulted in strikeouts, three in walks and one batter was hit.

Klein was the only Dragon with a multi-hit game as he went 2-4 with a pair of runs batted in.

Junior Varsity tops Limon

The Dragon junior varsity squad topped Limon 11-10 Saturday, April 20.

Coach Marcus Kammer noted that the team showed a lot of improvement at the plate.

“We hit the ball really well,” Kammer said. “Offensively we did a lot of good things.”

The two weeks of break from action and time off the field for practice indoors took a toll on the team, however. Kammer said the team looked rusty at points defensively. They made no fielding errors, but mental errors were more common.

In anticipation for the triangular scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, four pitchers were used five innings as to not put a strain on any arms. Kammer said the move may have actually hurt the team as the triangular has since been canceled, and the short pitching stints didn't allow for kids to get into a groove on the mound.

The junior varsity team will host a doubleheader with Wray Tuesday, April 30.

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Upcoming action

The Dragons were scheduled to host Akron Wednesday, April 24. Results will be featured in next week's Enterprise.

HHS will return to action Saturday, April 27 to square off with Caliche on the road at 10 a.m. for a doubleheader. They will head to Sedgwick County Tuesday, April 30 for the makeup of the Monday, April 15 doubleheader that was canceled due to the weather.

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