

## HHS baseball too much for Caliche

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

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With a pair of lopsided victories over Caliche, Holyoke was able to give some younger players a chance to get some varsity experience as the Dragons topped the Buffaloes 16-2 and 24-5.

As the regular season nears completion, the Dragons are in control of their own destiny. It would take HHS losing at least three of their final four games to be uprooted from their firm position as the No. 1 ranked team in the conference.

### **Holyoke 16, Caliche 2**

Caliche scored all two of their runs in the first inning of play on a two-run home run. While the runs would prove to be irrelevant as Holyoke trounced Caliche, coach John Zilla noted that it was something the Dragons needed to overcome in future games.

“We had one bad inning in the first and we can’t be doing that going into this part of the season,” Zilla explained.

As they have done many times this season, HHS responded vigorously, scoring four runs to snag the lead.

After the first two batters of the game reached base safely for the Dragons, Jaydin Goldenstein cleared the bases with a three-run home run.

Extra base hits were flying to the outfield quite frequently for the Dragons as they continually punished pitches in the strike zone. HHS ended the inning with four runs on four hits.

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Alfredo Santos subdued Caliche batters the rest of the game. After three Buffaloes safely reached base in the first inning, only two hitters would make it to first the rest of the game.

Santos allowed two runs in four innings on three hits and two walks. He struck out six batters in the process.

Logan Tharp picked up the save for HHS, striking out two of the three batters he faced.

Holyoke bats were hot as the Dragons recorded 14 hits in the game. Brett Cumming, Goldenstein, Tharp and Logan Zeiler all had two hits in the match.

Goldenstein knocked in five runs on the day and Brett Cumming batted in three runs on the strength of a two-run home run in the third inning.

### **Holyoke 24, Caliche 5**

Determined not to fall behind early, the Dragons quickly put up nine runs in each of the first two innings of the game.

With a commanding lead, nearly every starter for HHS had been substituted out of the game by the third inning, allowing varsity players to rest and giving junior varsity players an opportunity to prove themselves at the varsity level.

Holyoke batters accounted for 20 hits in the game, five of which were for extra bases. Hermosillo sent a Caliche pitch over the outfield fence for a home run and Tharp and Wyatt Powell each had a triple in the game.

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The Dragons were able to test some arms on the mound in the match. Holyoke pitchers combined to allow five runs on just three hits while striking out 10 batters.

Hermosillo had three hits in the game while Trevor Dalton, Goldenstein, Tharp, Logan Zeiler and Tanner Smith all posted two hits.

### **Upcoming action**

The Dragons will square off with Sedgwick County in Julesburg Thursday, May 2 at 2 p.m.

Sedgwick County was responsible for ending the Dragon season last year, knocking them out of the district tournament.

The boys will head to Wray Saturday, May 4 to play Wray at 10 a.m.

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