

Dragons slayed in the final minutes of basketball action at Caliche

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

HHS boys' basketball nearly upset Caliche, the top-ranked team in 1A, but an offensive slump and Caliche's ability to get to the free-throw line at the end of the match had the Dragons at the losing end of the 57-66 game Saturday, Feb. 1.

Holyoke now possesses an 8-5 record, 2-2 in league play.

"That was the best three and a half quarters we have put together all year," Dille said. "I feel like we're right there, we just need to make plays to get over that hump."



Tanner Smith rises above the defense to grab an offensive rebound Saturday night at Caliche. □ □

—Enterprise photo

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Each team had a strong offensive showing in the first quarter, transitioning for quick points and connecting on jump shots within the offense. Tito Fierro led the Dragons with seven points through two lead changes in the opening eight minutes. The two squads were knotted at 15 apiece heading into the second quarter.

Fierro continued to drive the Holyoke offense with 13 points in the second quarter. The two teams remained neck-and-neck through the first half with the Dragons winning the second quarter 18-16 for the 33-31 lead.

Second opportunities helped the Buffs early in the game as they were able to connect on shots after offensive rebounds.

Caliche snatched the lead back with a 6-0 run to open the second half, but could not stretch the lead past four points on the Dragons. Each team had quick offensive possessions, swiftly getting up and down the floor in the fast-paced action.

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Holyoke Enterprise February 6, 2014