

Dragons finish 1-3 in regular-season softball outings

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Finishing out its regular season last Wednesday and Thursday, the HHS softball team defeated Weld Central 11-5, while suffering shut-out losses to Platte Valley, Burlington and Strasburg.

The games were postponed from the previous Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, due to snow and wet fields.

Holyoke ended the regular season with a 5-13 record before heading into district action Saturday at Burlington.

Holyoke 0, Platte Valley 5

Wednesday's contest at Platte Valley marked the first game back for Ashley Campbell, after being sidelined most of the season due to a back injury.

"It was nice to have her leadership back on the mound and in the batter's box," said coach Ashley Clayton.

Campbell pitched all seven innings against the Broncos, giving up six hits, two walks and five runs, while earning two strike-outs.

"The Dragons played tough three-up, three-down softball with Platte Valley most of the game," said Clayton.

Having just one rough defensive inning and failing to get base runners on brought the Dragons to the 5-0 loss. The Broncos scored all five of their runs in the seventh.

Campbell was one for three in batting, with a single and reaching base on an error. Molly Fricke was one for three with a double and Karci Lockwood was one for two.

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Holyoke 11, Weld Central 5

Heading over to Weld Central later on Wednesday, the Dragons faced a much different team and were able to get a much-needed win, 11-5.

Weld Central took a 3-0 lead in the first inning, but HHS was able to hold them to just two more runs in the fifth. Meanwhile, the Dragons found their bats and were able to score 11 runs against Weld Central.

“It was nice to see the hits coming throughout the batting order,” said coach Clayton.

Campbell claimed the win on the mound, pitching four innings. She gave up two runs on two hits and five walks, while earning three strike-outs.

Macey Pierce pitched three innings for the Dragons, giving up three hits, three runs and two walks, earning one strike-out.

Campbell was three for four in batting with two RBIs; Marci Vasa and Fricke were both two for four and a walk; Ashley Gragg, two for four and reaching on an error; Lockwood, one for four with two RBIs and a double.

Makenzie Ault, one for five and reaching on an error; Laura Gerk, one for five, with an RBI and a walk; Jordan Zeiler, one for one; and Pierce, two RBIs.

Holyoke 0, Burlington 12

Burlington put four runs across the plate in the first inning and six in the second to take an early 10-point advantage over the Dragons Thursday, Oct. 15. The Cougars led 12-0 after four

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innings, and held HHS scoreless in the top of the fifth, ending the game with the 10-run rule.

Brittany Durbin started off pitching for the Dragons, where she gave up 10 runs on five hits and nine walks.

Zeiler went in in relief in the second inning, giving up just two runs on five hits.

Coach Clayton pointed out Zeiler did a nice job coming in to pitch in the second inning. "She and the Dragon defense were able to hold Burlington to just two runs."

"The Dragons played a good defense game behind Jordan, however offensively the bats were pretty quiet," added the coach.

Ault was two for two and Chandler Gerck one for two in batting.

Holyoke 0, Strasburg 16

In a game originally scheduled in Holyoke Oct. 12, Holyoke met Strasburg at Burlington on Oct. 15.

Strasburg claimed seven runs in the first and nine in the second inning to seal a 16-0 win over the Dragons.

Zeiler began pitching for the Dragons, giving up 15 runs on 10 hits and six walks.

Pierce went into the game in the second inning, where she held Strasburg to one run on one hit

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and two walks, and earned one strike-out.

“The Dragons were outhit by Strasburg, and just as in the earlier game with Burlington, the bats were very quiet,” said Clayton. Defensively, the Dragons struggled as well, giving up five errors, noted Clayton.

Ault and Lockwood were both one for one in batting for the Dragons, with Ault hitting a triple and Lockwood a double.