

Boys hang on to beat Brush; throttle Akron on road

Written by Chris Lee

Holyoke boys' basketball added two more wins to their record this past weekend with victories over Brush and Akron, improving their record to 3-1.

Brush came to Holyoke Friday, Dec. 11 and the home crowd cheered the Dragons to a 66-57 win over the Beetdiggers. The next night, Holyoke ran away with a convincing 48-20 road win over Akron.



Holyoke 66, Brush 57

Coach John Baumgartner said they were able to shut down the high powered offense of Brush and hold their top scorers to single digits. C.J. Kukus managed to score 22 for the Beetdiggers.

Baumgartner said they were able to control the tempo of the game and shot the ball extremely well, especially from the free throw line.

The Dragons finished 21-27 for 78 percent from the charity stripe. Kyle Carper finished 11-15 from the line Evan Swanson 4-4 and Ryan Baumgartner 2-2.

After a close first quarter, the Dragons managed to take a five-point lead into the locker room. The lead stayed close in the second half and Holyoke was able to hold on for the win.

Reid Baumgartner followed up his performance against Wray, only this time he went 5-7 from

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beyond the arc. He finished with 20 points. Carper led scoring with 23.

Holyoke pulled down 39 rebounds while the Beetdiggers grabbed 24. Carper led with 12 followed by Logan Krueger with eight.

Ryan Baumgartner led the team in steals and assists with 4 and 7 respectively. Brush turned the ball over eight times while the home team gave the ball away seven times.

The Dragons shot 46 percent from the field compared to Brush's 38 percent effort.

Holyoke 48, Akron 20

The Dragons traveled to Akron Saturday to take on the Rams. It was a low scoring first half as Holyoke held a 19-7 lead at the break.

Coach Baumgartner said Akron shut down Carper in the middle while other Dragon players stepped it up. The Dragons hit the floor running in the third period hanging 21 points on the scoreboard.

Brian DeBoer led scoring with 15 points.

Baumgartner said he felt they ran the floor well and got some great looks inside. He also said they moved the ball around better.

"We're feeling good, and we are on a roll," Baumgartner said. "We have some more things to work on but overall we feel good."

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Free throws again were key for the Dragons as they shot 70 percent from the line. Ryan Baumgartner and DeBoer were both perfect from the charity stripe going 4-4 and 3-3 respectively.

The Dragons finished 40 percent from the field and held Akron to 7-46 for 15 percent. Ryan Baumgartner and Krueger each pulled down 10 boards as Holyoke outrebounded Akron 40-24.

Swanson and Ryan Baumgartner each had three steals and Ryan led the team with six assists.

The Rams turned the ball over 14 times compared to Holyoke's eight.

Upcoming action

HHS will play host to Haxtun Friday, Dec. 18 and Sedgwick County Saturday, Dec. 19 heading into break. Games are set to begin at 3 p.m. both days.