

## Dragons pick up two convincing wins on the home court

Written by Chris Lee

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Holyoke boys' basketball came away with two convincing wins both at home Friday and Saturday, Dec. 18-19.

Haxtun came to town Friday and Holyoke won the Phillips County Shoot-off 55-38. Sedgwick County entered the gym Saturday and the Dragons had no trouble with the Cougars as they handed them a 71-22 beating.

The two wins improved the Dragons' record to 5-1.



### **Holyoke 55, Haxtun 38**

Kyle Carper hung 26 points on the board to help the Dragons to a 55-38 win over county rival Haxtun. Carper finished as the only Dragon in double digits. Evan Swanson finished with nine.

Coach John Baumgartner said his team caused a lot of turnovers and rebounded well to help secure the win. The Dragons out rebounded the Bulldogs 30-24.

"We pressured their guards and our changes on the press helped us out a lot," Baumgartner said.

Reid and Ryan Baumgartner each had five steals to lead the team. Holyoke turned the ball over 13 times and forced Haxtun to cough up the ball 27 times. Ryan also led the team with eight assists.

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The Dragons were 21 of 46 from the field for 46 percent. Haxtun finished 13 of 33 for 39 percent.

Reid Baumgartner and Logan Krueger each finished perfect from the free throw line going 2-2.

### **Holyoke 71, Sedgwick County 22**

For the second night in a row, Holyoke hosted a game on the home court and came away with a win. Balanced scoring and good shooting led to a 71-22 blowout of Sedgwick County.

All 13 players saw action as they did the night before. Carper, Krueger, Brian DeBoer and Swanson all finished in double figures as nine players put points on the board for the Dragons.

“Our kids weren’t thinking about Christmas break,” Baumgartner said. “They attacked the basket and controlled the tempo.”

The Dragons shot 49 percent from the floor finishing 30 for 61. The Cougars mustered a low 21 percent after going seven for 34 from the field.

Holyoke almost doubled up Sedgwick County in rebounding pulling down 42 compared to the Cougars’ 24. DeBoer hauled in seven while Ryan Baumgartner and Carper each added six.

Eight players managed to steal the ball away from the Cougars for a total of 16 steals. Ryan Baumgartner led with five. Sedgwick turned the ball over 24 times while the Dragons only gave

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it up 10.

Holyoke continued to find success at the free throw line going 7-11. Carper and DeBoer each went 2-2 from the line. Krueger finished 3-4.

“It was a good weekend,” the coach said. “We are getting better but have some work to do still,” he added.

Baumgartner said the holiday break comes at a time when the Dragons are on a roll but mentally the kids need a break. He said they will have open gym for a couple of days over the break.

### **Upcoming action**

HHS will come back after the break and travel to Merino on Friday, Jan. 8 to take on the Rams at 4 p.m. The Dragons will then host Wiggins on Saturday, Jan. 9 at 3 p.m.