

HHS girls' basketball lands one win, one loss; look to Haxtun on Friday

Written by Darci Tomky

Coming back from a long break for the holidays, Lady Dragon basketball faced fierce competition in a busy weekend of ball games, finishing with one win and one loss.

HHS athletes traveled to Merino Friday, Jan. 8 where they lost to the Rams 35-51. Playing at home Saturday, Jan. 9, the Dragons defeated Wiggins 43-25.

"I feel very good about the effort and progress our team made this past weekend," said coach Arlan Scholl.

"We continue to work hard and improve," he said. "We look forward to our next game with Haxtun."

Holyoke 35, Merino 51

Like the last few games, Holyoke struggled with shooting in Friday's game against Merino. "We simply did not shoot the ball well enough on offense," said Scholl. He noted the team only shot 26 percent from the field, "and that is not good enough to beat a top-ranked team like Merino."

Even though the Rams secured a lead early in the game, HHS only trailed by four at halftime. Struggling in the second half, Holyoke was outscored by Merino 16-28 giving the Rams the substantial lead at the final buzzer.

On a positive note, Scholl said the team played very hard and did well on defense. Holyoke's 3/4 court defense caused some Merino turnovers.

In team stats, Marissa Smith led Dragon scoring with 17 points including four three-point baskets. Chasity Pelle grabbed six points for HHS with three two-pointers.

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Marci Vasa pulled down seven rebounds in Friday's game, and Heather Duester, Vasa and Nora Roth each had two steals against Merino.



Holyoke 43, Wiggins 25

Holyoke didn't let a loss on Friday slow them down. Defending their home court on Saturday, the Dragons blew away Wiggins 43-25. HHS led scoring in the first three quarters, establishing their lead over the Tigers.

"I was again proud of our effort against Wiggins," said Scholl. With a 32 percent field goal percentage, the girls improved their shooting from the previous night. Scholl said they continue to play "awesome defense," noting it is exceptional to hold a team to 25 points in a game.

Leading Holyoke scoring was Smith with 18 points including four two-point shots, one three-pointer and seven for nine from the line. Shelby Beavers and Roth both added six points and were both two for two at the charity stripe.

From the line, Holyoke shot 73.7 percent hitting 14 of 19, while Wiggins was one for seven.

Roth led in rebounds with six, and Vasa totaled five assists. Smith grabbed five steals in the game against Wiggins.

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Upcoming action

With a win over Haxtun just before Christmas break, Holyoke will face the Bulldogs again Friday, Jan. 15. Games are scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. in Haxtun.

Dragon fans are encouraged to support the girls' C team Saturday, Jan. 16 in their sub-varsity tournament at NJC in Sterling. Games start at 9 a.m., 12 noon and 2 p.m.