

Dragons add two more wins

Written by Chris Lee

Holyoke extended their winning streak to 10 games with two road wins over Weldon Valley and Sedgwick County, Thursday and Friday, Jan. 21-22.

The wins came without the Dragon's big man, Kyle Carper, on the inside. He sat out with an ankle injury. Preston King stepped up to lead Holyoke in scoring both nights.



Holyoke 67, Weldon Valley 20

Holyoke jumped out to a quick 19-4 lead after the first stanza. King had a great night off the bench scoring 16 points to lead all scorers.

“Preston is more comfortable coming off the bench,” coach Baumgartner said. “He ran the floor well and shot the ball well.”

Eight other Dragon players put points on the board. Reid Baumgartner and Evan Swanson each scored 10 to round out players in double digits.

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Holyoke took a 33-9 lead into the locker room and came out in the second half with the same intensity, putting away Weldon Valley.

The Dragons shot 50 percent from the field while Weldon Valley finished 28 percent.

The rebound battle was relatively even with Holyoke coming down with 27 compared to the Warriors' 25. Ryan Baumgartner and Logan Krueger each grabbed five boards.

Weldon Valley committed 28 turnovers while Holyoke gave the ball up 12 times. Krueger, Brian DeBoer and Ryan Baumgartner each had five steals. Ryan also led the team with eight assists.

"It was nice seeing the kids work together without Kyle (Carper)," the coach said. "We were finding those other kids who wanted to step up."

Baumgartner said Carper didn't practice any last week after hurting his ankle against Haxtun. The coach said they will see where things stand later this week before a decision is made.

Holyoke 55, Sedgwick County 33

The Dragons' 10th win of the season came on the road against Sedgwick County, a team they beat 71-22 back in December on the home court. This time however, the game counted towards conference.

The 55-33 win didn't come easy as Holyoke got into foul trouble. Coach Baumgartner also said

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rebounding wasn't in their favor. The Cougars outrebounded the Dragons 34-31. Krueger led the team with 10 boards.

Holding a 10-point lead heading into the third quarter, the coach had the kids get into a zone defense which helped Holyoke extend their lead to 47-26 going into the final stanza.

King led all scorers with 15 followed closely by Swanson with 14.

The Dragons shot 46 percent from the field going 22-48 as Sedgwick County finished 11-44 for 25 percent.

Ryan Baumgartner led the team with eight steals and 10 assists. Holyoke stole the ball 13 times and turned it over 11. The Cougars had 22 turnovers.

Coach Baumgartner said he admired how the kids played on the road. He said they are gaining confidence and want to keep things rolling. He also mentioned the veteran leaders are doing a great job of keeping everyone focused and ready.

Upcoming action

HHS will host Akron Friday, Jan. 29 with games beginning at 4 p.m. The team will then travel to Imperial, Neb. Saturday, Jan. 30 with games scheduled to begin at 3 p.m.