

## Dragons suffer 1st conference loss; come back to beat Burlington

Written by Chris Lee

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A 12-game winning streak came to an end Friday night as Holyoke came up short against Wray, 46-50. The team didn't let the loss get to them as they played host to Burlington the following night and won 57-32.

The win and loss moves the Dragons' record to 13-2 and marks the first conference loss for the Dragons this year. They sit 4-1 in league play.

The two losses this season have come by a total of seven points. The Dragons fell 43-46 to Idalia in the season opener.

### **Holyoke 46, Wray 50**

"We didn't play well and got into a hole early," coach John Baumgartner said of Friday's game at Wray. "You can't do that against a good team like Wray. They were ready to go and played well."

The game was close early with the Eagles leading by one point heading into the second quarter. Wray opened things up in the second to take a 28-18 lead into the locker room at the half.

Holyoke managed to outscore the Eagles in both the third and fourth quarters but they came up just short. The Dragons hung 15 fourth-quarter points on the board but were forced to foul the Eagles to conserve the clock. Wray went 8-17 from the charity stripe in the final stanza. Coach Baumgartner said those misses from the line gave Holyoke a chance but they were unable to

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capitalize.

“I liked our intensity and fight to come back,” the coach said.

Baumgartner said they were matched up against a good defense in Wray. He also said it wasn't a great effort defensively for Holyoke. The Dragons have held opponents to an average of 36.6 points per game this season. Giving up 50 points is well above that average.

Kyle Carper led the way with 20 points. Ryan Baumgartner was the only other Dragon in double digits with 11.

Holyoke finished 18-50 from the field for 36 percent while Wray shot 19-36 for 53 percent.

The rebound battle was won by the Eagles who outrebounded the Dragons 32-26. Carper pulled down eight while Ryan Baumgartner and Logan Krueger each finished with six.

Holyoke won the turnover battle as they only put the ball on the floor nine times compared to the Eagles' 15. Ryan Baumgartner had three of the Dragons' four steals.

The Dragons went 8-11 for 73 percent from the free throw line. Ryan Baumgartner and Preston King were each perfect going 4-4 and 2-2 respectively.

“Hopefully we get another shot at them,” Baumgartner said.

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### Holyoke 57, Burlington 32

“I thought the kids responded really well,” coach Baumgartner said in response to the 57-32 victory over Burlington following the loss to Wray. “We played up tempo and attacked the basket.”

Reid Baumgartner hit two three-pointers, Ryan Baumgartner scored six of his nine points and Carper went four of five from the line all in the first quarter to give Holyoke a commanding 20-8 lead heading into the second stanza.

The scoring continued in the second quarter as the Dragons put up 14 more while holding the Cougars to six.

Holyoke continued to play well until the final buzzer to secure the win. Baumgartner said they shot the ball much better than the night before in Wray.

Carper led with 20 points to finish as the only scorer in double digits.

Holyoke shot 54 percent from the field while Burlington finished 32 percent. The Dragons finished 13-15 from the charity stripe for 87 percent.

The Cougars were much taller than the Dragons with two players listed over 6’5.” Regardless, Holyoke managed to outrebound Burlington 30-20. Carper finished with eight.

Turnovers occurred often throughout the game as the Cougars gave it up 25 times compared to 14 by Holyoke. Carper led the team with six steals, and Ryan Baumgartner finished with seven assists.

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### **Upcoming action**

HHS has a busy week scheduled as Dundy County came to town Tuesday, Feb. 9. Fleming will visit Holyoke Thursday, Feb. 11. There will be an intersquad boys C game beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the old gym, with JV and varsity action to follow.

Teams will travel to Caliche Saturday, Feb. 13 with games to begin at 3 p.m. The regular season will come to an end Tuesday, Feb. 16 when the Dragons travel to Wiggins for 4 p.m. games.