

Roster comprised of 23 underclassmen

Written by Chris Lee



Returning letterwinners for the 2010 Holyoke football team are pictured from left, front row, Alfredo Santos, Brett Cumming, Astolfo Rojo, Jesus Hermosillo, Seth Baker and Chris Yanez; and back row, Ricky Guernsey, Perry Garrett, Jaydin Goldenstein, Austin Killin, Broc Pelle, Parker Redfern and Reid Baumgartner. Not pictured is Oto Martinez. —Enterprise photo

A total of 35 HHS players hit the gridiron in the last two weeks for football practice. Of the 35 players, 23 are freshmen and sophomores.

Head coach Rod Trumper is looking forward to great things from the young team and has seen a strong team morale.

“We have a good freshman class and our sophomore class has stayed strong,” the coach said.

As is the case with most teams, keeping everyone healthy will play a big part in the success of the Dragons this year. Most of the Dragon starters will play both offense and defense. Trumper noted conditioning will play a big part when facing teams such as Wray with over 50 players.

Trumper said the North Central League will again be a tough one. Wray, Yuma and Akron will be tough teams in the conference. He also noted Wiggins and Highland aren’t slouches and continue to improve.

“That’s just really tough and being as young as we are it’s a tough duty,” Trumper said referring to playing in a tough conference. “However, we are expecting better things this year.”

After two weeks of practice, Trumper said the kids are ahead of where they were last year. He also noted the team morale is very good and the kids are determined to get better. Something,

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the coach said, he hasn't seen in the past.

Trumper said many of the players dedicated their summer to hitting the weight room and have matured a year.

Holyoke traveled to Haxtun Friday, Aug. 27 for a scrimmage with the Bulldogs. Trumper said it was a good scrimmage with good experience.

After coming out a little flat, the coach said Holyoke relaxed a little, started playing well and got into the flow of things.

"We're excited about the year and we're excited that we'll be able to stay competitive and hopefully win some games we weren't supposed to," the coach said.

The Dragons finished the 2009 campaign with a 1-8 record. The lone win was a 40-21 triumph over Peyton in front of the homecoming crowd.

Dragons open season Saturday

Holyoke opens the season in Idaho Springs Saturday, Sept. 4 where they will meet Hayden. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

Trumper said the Tigers have one of the top athletes in the state in Treyben Letlow. He won the 215 lb. state championship in wrestling last year and looks to be a threat to the Dragon team.

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“They should be a good match up for us,” the coach said. Trumper also noted playing at a higher elevation will test the conditioning of the Dragons.

“We’re looking forward to a good start to propel us into our conference schedule,” the coach said.

“I hope that our community can follow us and support these kids,” Trumper said. “They work awfully hard. It would be fun to see a lot of people make that trip to Idaho Springs.”

The Dragons will have three other non-conference games when they travel to Grant, Neb. Sept. 10, host St. Francis, Kan. Sept. 17 and Resurrection Christian Sept. 24. The rest of the 2010 schedule is: Oct. 1 here with Wiggins, Oct. 8, at Akron, Oct. 15 here with Yuma, Oct. 22 here with Highland and Oct. 29 at Wray.

Coaches and assistant coaches for both high school and junior high seasons include Trumper, Russ Sprague, Aaron Sprague, Aaron Mosenteen, Luke Thomas, Mike Smith, Dusty McConnell, Corey Zeiler and John Ortner.

Trainers are Kaylee Groshans, Alyssa Cordova, Shaylee Krueger and Tracy Trumper.