

Lady Dragons rout Chase Co. in opener

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

It was a solid start for the HHS girls' softball team when they traveled to Imperial, Neb. last Thursday, Sept. 2 for two wins in the varsity doubleheader.

Not only did the Dragons earn victories in their season openers, they won them in style, taking the games 17-1 and 15-2 from the host Longhorns.

Holyoke 17, Chase Co. 1

"It was good to see that three weeks of hard work by the girls at practice paid off," said HHS coach Ashley Clayton after the 17-1 victory at Imperial.

The Dragons scored 17 runs on 11 hits and had only one defensive error.

"They were able to keep the game at their level and their pace, rather than playing to the level of their opponent," praised coach Clayton. This was something the Lady Dragons struggled with last year.

Holyoke scored one run in the opening inning of last week's ball game, and added three more in the second.

From there, the green and gold took off with a seven-run third inning and six runs in the fourth. The Longhorns scored their lone run in the third inning, and the game was over after four with HHS leading by 16.

Ashley Campbell took the win on the mound, pitching the entire game. She gave up only one hit and one run and also had five strike-outs and walked two batters.

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Makenzie Ault led the hitting stats, with two doubles and five RBIs. Also earning singles in the first outing at Imperial were Laura Gerk, Macey Pierce, Karci Lockwood, Alyssa Killin, Campbell and Chandler Gerk. Marci Vasa had a sacrifice bunt.

Lockwood stole two bases, while Laura Gerk, Pierce, Ault and Campbell each stole one.



Marci Vasa lays down a bunt in the first inning of Holyoke's 17-1 rout of Imperial, Neb. —Enterprise photo

Holyoke 15, Chase Co. 2

The second game at Imperial was an all-around team effort, said coach Clayton.

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HHS was able to score 15 runs on seven hits and again had only one defensive error. The Longhorns had two runs on one hit and committed four errors.

Holyoke opened the scoring again with one run in the first and three in the second inning. Both teams managed two in the third for a 7-2 Dragon lead.

HHS shut out Imperial 5-0 in the fourth and 4-0 in the fifth to claim the 15-2 win.

Zeiler started on the mound, pitching strong for the first three innings. She gave up just two runs on one hit and had five strike-outs. Killin also had a strong showing as pitcher, striking out three in the final two innings of the ball game.

“The Dragons were able to show their ability to manufacture runs and play solid defense,” said Clayton.

She added the game was an excellent opportunity to get everyone time on the field, which is key to building the softball program.

Vasa had a double and a single, with two RBIs; Laura Gerk, a double; Ashley Vance, a double and two RBIs; Brooke Parker, a single and three RBIs; Killin, a single; Zeiler, a single; Marlee Boehm, a single; and Chandler Gerk, one RBI, having been walked three times and hit by pitch once.

Catrina Krueger got on base three times with two walks and one hit by pitch, and she scored three runs.