

## **Lady Dragons sweep Akron in Saturday action**

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

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Lady Dragon softball had a fine weekend of action, making a clean sweep at Akron with two varsity and one JV victory Saturday, Sept. 18.

Holyoke earned 17-4 and 10-5 wins in the varsity doubleheader, and the junior varsity won a 12-8 ball game.

“As a coach, I am excited and pleased with the intensity and fight the girls are playing with right now,” said coach Ashley Clayton. She noted it was great to get a sweep of Akron and will be nice to get a week of practice to iron out a few little things.

Holyoke will host Wray Saturday, Sept. 25, with action starting at 10 a.m.

### **Holyoke 17, Akron 4**

“Holyoke showed once again they are a team to be reckoned with offensively,” said coach Clayton when the Dragons finished on top 17-4 in six innings.

Holyoke managed 20 hits to Akron’s six in the first game of the doubleheader.

Both teams scored one run in the first inning, with HHS adding one in each of the next two for a 3-1 lead. Another four runners crossed home plate for Holyoke in the fifth inning to widen the margin.

The game broke wide open in the sixth when the Dragons scored 10 runs and held Akron to three to close the game out one inning early.

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“It is nice to see that all the hard work the girls have been putting in is paying off for them,” said Clayton.

She added it was nice to see the defense play solid behind Ashley Campbell on the mound.

Campbell had four strike-outs, walked five batters and allowed six hits in the 13-point win. She had two errors and allowed four runs.

Campbell, Makenzie Ault and Chandler Gerk all had four hits in the first game Saturday. Ault and Gerk each had a triple and a double, while Campbell had a double.

Laura Gerk was three for five in batting, while Marci Vasa was two for three. Jordan Zeiler had a double and Karci Lockwood and Marlee Boehm each had a single.

Laura Gerk, Ault and Campbell led in RBIs with three apiece.

Campbell had three stolen bases, and Vasa, Laura Gerk and Macey Pierce each had one.

## **Holyoke 10, Akron 5**

The Dragons had another strong offensive performance in game two with 13 hits, several walks and very few strike-outs.

“The growth that has occurred on this team is exciting and impressive,” praised coach Clayton.

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“Just a year ago, many batters would get down in the count and end up striking out. But this year, they get down in the count and just keep fighting for a hit,” she added.

Campbell went the distance on the mound again, striking out nine batters and walking only two. She allowed eight hits and five runs, with three errors.

Ault with a double and Lockwood with a triple led the batting stats for the Dragons with three hits apiece.

Vasa had two hits with a triple; Chandler Gerk, two singles; Pierce, a triple; and Laura Gerk and Campbell each hit a single. Pierce led the RBIs with three.

Chandler Gerk stole two bases and Ault stole one.

## **Honors earned at Burlington tournament**

Medals were received by HHS players last week from the Sept. 10-11 tournament in Burlington.

Ault earned MVP honors for the pool which Holyoke played in. Additionally, Zeiler, Lockwood and Vasa all received all-tournament team honors.

**Holyoke JV 12, Akron JV 8**

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The junior varsity game provided another great opportunity to continue to build the softball program and for the girls to go out and compete, noted coach Clayton.

Zeiler began the game pitching and did a great job getting easy ground balls and fly balls for the defense in the first three innings, said Clayton.

Alyssa Killin pitched the final two innings and did a great job, as well, according to coach Clayton.

“Alyssa followed Jordan’s lead and was also able to get easy ground balls and flyballs for the defense,” said Clayton.

“Overall, the JV team had very strong at-bats, drawing several walks and battling when down in the count,” said Clayton.

“Defensively, they communicated well and were able to challenge themselves to get better,” she added.

The Dragons jumped to a 2-1 lead in the first inning, but were down 3-4 after two. The local girls scored two in the top of the third for a one-run lead, but Akron tied it at 5-all in the bottom of the inning.

HHS scored two in the fourth, but the Rams answered with three to lead again by one.

It was all Holyoke in the fifth, with the Dragons adding five, while holding Akron scoreless for a 12-8 HHS win.

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Holyoke had nine hits in the jayvee ball game—all singles. Trixi Presich, Killin and Zeiler each had two, while Catrina Krueger, Gabi Pascua and Ilse Kamstra each had one hit.

Zeiler had three RBIs, while Presich and Briar Bergner each had one. Killin had two stolen bases, Presich had two and Kamstra one.