

Dragons #2 seed in Dist. softball

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Two wins at Burlington Saturday, Oct. 9 clenched second place for the Holyoke Lady Dragons in District 4 3A softball standings.

The local girls head into the six-team district tournament as the #2 seed Saturday, Oct. 16 at #1 seeded Limon.

In addition to Holyoke and Limon, District 4 includes Akron, Burlington, Wray and Yuma.

Burlington (seeded #4) and #5 Wray will play at 10 a.m. Saturday, at the same time that #3 Yuma meets #6 Akron.

At 12 noon, Holyoke will play the winner of the Yuma vs. Akron game on the south field and Limon will meet the winner of the Wray-Burlington game on the north field. Winners of the noon games will advance to regionals Friday, Oct. 22 in Aurora.

Sixteen 3A teams will make up the regional bracket Oct. 22. Four games will be played at 10 a.m. and four at 12:15 p.m., with winners of those games advancing to 2:30 p.m. games in the state quarterfinals.

Saturday, Oct. 23, winners of the Friday afternoon games will meet at 10 a.m. for semifinal action, and winners of those games will play in the championship at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

"All the hard work the girls have put in paid off today," said coach Ashley Clayton when Holyoke defeated Burlington 10-5 and 12-4 Saturday.

"The girls played 14 great innings of softball and were able to rise to the occasion and beat Burlington," said Clayton.

"These were must-win games, and the girls really went out and attacked the ball on offense and played a solid game on defense," added the coach. "It was nice to see the girls play the game

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the way they know how.”

Holyoke 10, Burlington 5

Holyoke hit the ball well in the first game at Burlington Saturday. “The girls were a force to be reckoned with on defense,” added coach Clayton.

But the Cougars jumped in the game early, posting one run in the first and one in the third inning for a 2-0 lead.

Focusing on their victory goal, three HHS runners crossed the plate in the fourth inning and three more in the fifth to gain a lead that they never relinquished.

Burlington scored one run in each of the fifth, sixth and seventh innings and Holyoke added four more in the seventh for the 10-5 win.

Ashley Campbell took the win on the mound, allowing seven hits for five runs, three strike-outs, four walks and four errors.

At the plate, Campbell hit a triple, while doubles were earned by Marci Vasa, Macey Pierce and Makenzie Ault. Others recording hits in the 10-5 win were Laura Gerk, Karci Lockwood, Jordan Zeiler and Marlee Boehm.

Ault led in RBIs with two. Lockwood stole three bases, while Vasa, Laura Gerk and Ault each stole one.

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Holyoke 12, Burlington 4

“Holyoke continued the second game where they left off in the first,” said coach Clayton. She noted the defense really stepped up and played great behind Campbell on the mound.

“Their ability to produce offensively makes the Dragons difficult to shut down,” added the coach.

A strong second inning found the Dragons putting six runs on the board for a lead they maintained through the game.

Holyoke added three more in the third and Burlington posted two for a 9-2 Dragon advantage.

The Cougars added another run in the fourth and one in the seventh, while Holyoke scored one in the fifth and two in the final inning for the 12-4 win.

On the mound, Campbell pitched for five hits, four runs, two errors, three strike-outs and three walks.

She also led the batting stats with three hits, including two triples. Pierce hit a double and had four RBIs. Vasa had two singles, while Ault, Zeiler and Chandler Gerck each hit a single, as well. Zeiler also had one stolen base.