A new basketball season began Friday, Dec. 3 as the Holyoke Dragons fought hard late to beat county rival Haxtun 55-50. The following night, Idalia entered the Dragons' home gym and handed Holyoke a 51-60 loss.

Holyoke 55, Haxtun 50

After leading by one point at the end of the opening quarter, Holyoke fell behind and trailed by two heading into the final period.

The game came down to the final minute when Holyoke's Julian Titze put the home team up 49-48. Haxtun's Trenton Ham tied the game with a free throw a few seconds later.

Holyoke jumped ahead 53-49 after buckets by Preston King and Brian DeBoer.



Dragon Brian DeBoo	er dodges H	laxtun's Kyle	Pierce in	Holyoke's	55-50
win in the season of	pener Friday	y night.0000	0000 —E	nterprise	photo

Haxtun's Jon Vance was fouled beyond the arc with 40 seconds left and made one out of three from the charity stripe to pull the Bulldogs within three. Titze was fouled and sent to the line with 33 seconds left, but was unable to make either drop.

Reid Baumgartner was then fouled under the Haxtun basket with nine seconds left. He managed to drop both shots to give the Dragons the 55-50 win in the season opener.

DeBoer led scoring with 16 points followed by Titze 13 and King 12.

"The boys fought hard and showed character," coach Scott Dille said. Even though the team didn't play as sharp as they wanted to, the coach said their desire countered that lack of sharpness at times.

Looking at the stats, the game came down to the Dragons' performance at the free-throw line. They managed to make five more than the Bulldogs which was the difference in the game. DeBoer went 5-5 while Baumgartner went 2-2.

