

HJHS claims LPAA title

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Holyoke junior high boys' basketball A team captured the LPAA league title with a 22-20 victory over Akron Tuesday, Dec. 14 in Holyoke.

Coach Jim Yakel said it wasn't pretty but they got the job done.

The Dragons built a 10-4 lead after the opening quarter and never relinquished it. They led 13-8 at the half and 17-11 heading into the final period. Akron mounted a small comeback down the stretch but the Dragons held on to win by two to capture the title.

Tito Fierro led the team with 10 points followed by TJ Gertner five, Javy Rojo three and Luke Stewart and Dylan Kotch two.

"I'm proud of the boys and what they've done all year," Yakel said. "They've progressed all season and are a great bunch of kids to work with."

The coach also said he was proud with how the team hustled and played throughout the year.

Yakel praised coach Kyle Bules for his support, timely remarks and suggestions throughout the season as well.

The last time a Holyoke junior high team captured the league title was five years ago when HJHS beat Wiggins.