

Dragons finish regular season at Wiggins with 18-1 record

Written by April Peregoy

Securing its spot as the No. 1 seed of the district, Holyoke's boys' basketball team beat the Wiggins Tigers on their own court, 42-30, in the final game of the regular season to finish with an impressive 18-1 record.

"It's great to be 18-1," said coach John Baumgartner, but he quickly added that, at districts, everyone starts back at zero. "Hopefully we can continue to play well in the tournament," he said.

In Tuesday's game against Wiggins, the Tigers' strategy was to play a slow, physical game, allowing the Dragons fewer possessions. "And it worked for a while," admitted Baumgartner. "It wasn't a pretty first quarter."

During that first period, both teams scored only 13 points, but HHS held the 9-4 lead. Colby Wailes put up five points in the quarter with a two-point and then a three-point field goal.

Austin Tharp led the push to further the team's advantage in the second, earning seven of Holyoke's 10 points. At the half, HHS had increased the lead to nine.

In the second half of play, the Dragons continued to add to their lead, pushing it into double digits. Though the Tigers actually outscored them in the final quarter by one point, it was not enough to make up the deficit. With seven of their final 11 points coming from the free-throw line, the Dragons wrapped up the game and the regular season with a 12-point win over Wiggins.

Finishing with double digits in points and rebounds was Kyle Carper, with 13 and 12 respectively. Tharp followed in both stats categories with 11 points and eight rebounds. Evan Swanson also played well, earning eight points, including two threes.

Holyoke's 75 percent average at the free-throw line certainly helped the team out at Wiggins, especially in the final period. The Dragons were 7-9 in the last eight minutes and 9-12 for the game.

However, overall field goal shooting percentages for both teams weren't very impressive. "We struggled at shooting the ball," said coach Baumgartner.

Making only 15 out of 40 attempts, HHS's 38 percent average still beat out Wiggins' 30 percent average, with the team shooting 12-40.

Still, Holyoke dominated in rebounds, 36-23, steals, 10-4 and assists, 12-5. Ryan Baumgartner had the most steals with five and contributed the most assists with seven.

Statistics

Holyoke 42, Wiggins 30

	2	3	FT	F	TP	
						FG
Tharp	4	0	3-4	2	11	
Baumgartner	1	0	1-2	0	3	
Carper	4	0	5-6	1	13	
Wailes	1	1	0-0	0	5	
Swanson	1	2	0-0	1	8	
Brown	1	0	0-0	1	2	
Krueger	0	0	0-0	2	0	
TEAM	12	3	9-12	7	42	

Wiggins

TEAM 10 2 4-6 16 30

Scoring By Quarters

Holyoke 9 10 12 11 --42

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Wiggins 4 6 8 12 --30