

## Holyoke tops Cougars in varsity baseball openers

Written by April Peregoy

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Opening up the season with back-to-back wins, the HHS varsity baseball team defeated the visiting Sedgwick County Cougars, 7-5 and 10-0, on Saturday, March 21.

Though some players have been practicing for over month, those also on the basketball team had only four practices under their belts for Saturday's games. That didn't appear to be a handicap for the Dragons, who stayed on top of the Cougars through all the innings of both games.

"The boys played great baseball," said coach Kyle Bules. "Everyone did their jobs in order to come away with two victories. We executed very well on the bases and took advantage of SC errors. I was very excited to see the outfielders making big plays. Some younger kids stepped up and played very well and with confidence, and that was very good to see."

He noted the pitchers did a good job of throwing, with a 59 percent strike ratio. "We expect that to rise as the season progresses," he said. "It takes a great burden off the pitching staff when everyone is doing their jobs."

Two errors were committed by the team on the day, which Bules said is going to happen. "We just want to minimize them," he added. In addition, he said, the team "will continue to work on situational hitting in order not to leave men on base, and score when in scoring position."

### **Holyoke 7, Sedgwick Co. 5**

Four innings passed before the Cougars got on the scoreboard. In the meantime, Holyoke racked up five runs: one in the first, and two in each the second and third innings. The fourth remained scoreless.

With a score of 5-0, Sedgwick County made its first run of the day, but the Dragons answered with one of their own. The Cougars made a valiant effort in the top of the sixth, earning three runs to bring the score to 6-4. In the bottom, HHS added one last run.

Sedgwick County had one more chance to tie the game in the seventh, but could only manage one more run, handing the win over to the Holyoke team.

Logan Krueger and Brett Gerk each hit a double in the first game. Krueger had two RBIs while Brian DeBoer, Austin Tharp and Gerk had one apiece. Gerk also had three hits and Brandon Price made three runs.

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