Two years ago, The Holyoke Enterprise began recognizing athletes of the week during sports seasons. Most weeks, two Holyoke High School athletes are chosen by Enterprise staff members to be recognized for their outstanding efforts while competing with Holyoke's sports teams.

Area businesses have been gracious enough to help keep the recognition alive. Weekly sponsors have no say in selecting the weekly athletes but are proud to support HHS athletes by sponsoring the promotion.

Each week, Enterprise staff members collaborate and look over statistics and performance to come up with the selections. Staff members sometimes listen to comments from each coach to help decide, however coaches have no voice in picking the weekly athlete.

It's tough to recognize the efforts of all HHS athletes when they all work so hard to make the school and the community proud to wear green and gold.

The hope is to try to not always recognize the star or top performer. Players that don't always lead in the stats column, but turn in a great performance is what athlete of the week selections are about. They are working just as hard as those who are scoring the most points, running the fastest or hitting the furthest.

Yes, star performers are chosen some weeks. They are proud to be the leaders and role models for future Dragons and should be recognized.

The Enterprise would like to thank those who have sponsored and continue to sponsor the promotion. Those wishing to become a sponsor may contact the Enterprise at 854-2811.

Go Dragons!

Holyoke Enterprise December 8, 2011