

## **Dragons thump Bulldogs on opening day**

Written by Chris Lee

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It was a great March day for the first pitch—even if it was a bit breezy. It didn't slow the boys in green and gold down however, as they flew by Haxtun in dominating fashion Saturday, March 10.

The Holyoke Dragon baseball team won both games of the doubleheader on the Bulldogs' home field, 19-0 and 9-4.

"We played very well," coach Kyle Bules said. "We made routine plays which is what we have to do."

The coach also pointed out the Dragon hitters were very disciplined at the plate and worked the Bulldog pitchers into some deep counts.

With the entire team only having about a week of practice under their belts as a group, the coach was pleased to see them play so well.

"There were a few expected mental lapses," Bules said.

### **Holyoke 19, Haxtun 0**

The game was well in hand after Holyoke managed to get nine players across home plate in the first inning of play Saturday.

Holyoke got a lot of help from the pitching of Haxtun. Twelve Dragons were walked and three

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were hit by pitches giving Holyoke 15 free bases. Holyoke only walked one Haxtun slugger the entire game.

The Dragons added two runs in the third and eight more in the fourth to close out the game early by run rule.

Four of the runs in the fourth inning came off the bat of Trevor Dalton who belted his first homer of the season with the bases chalk full of Dragons. The bomb increased the Dragons' lead to 17-0.



**Pitcher Deyten Klein looks to fire a pitch towards home during Holyoke's 19-0 rout of the Haxtun Bulldogs Saturday, March 10. —Enterprise photo**

Deyten Klein took the win on the mound after four innings of work. He faced 14 batters, striking out seven and walking one. He gave up two hits and zero runs.

Logan Tharp earned the save after facing four batters, striking out two and giving up one hit.

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Dalton finished the day with two hits, three runs and four RBI.

Eight players finished the game with at least one hit. The sizeable lead allowed coach Bules to utilize numerous players as they are still trying to find out what order and layout works the best.

### **Holyoke 9, Haxtun 4**

After blowing out the Bulldogs in the first game of the doubleheader, it was Haxtun who jumped out to an early lead in game two.

Holyoke was unable to score any runs in the first and second while Haxtun put up three in the first.

The Dragons got on the board in the top of the third to close the gap.

Bules made a pitching change in the bottom of the third inning. Jaydin Goldenstein took the mound in relief of Alfredo Santos. Bules said they weren't planning on using Goldenstein due to a sore elbow but he was cleared and hit the mound as if nothing was wrong. Goldenstein threw strike after strike to cool the Bulldog bats.

Neither team produced a run in the fourth.

The bats began to connect for Holyoke in the top of the fifth as they drove five runs across

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home to take a 6-3 lead. Haxtun again was unable to score any runs in the bottom of the fifth.



**Holyoke's Alfredo Santos slides in under a tag at second base Saturday during Holyoke's season opener against Haxtun. —Enterprise photo**

Holyoke added two more in the top of the sixth and gave up one to Haxtun in the bottom of the inning.

Holyoke scored the last run of the game in the top of the final inning to secure the victory.

Santos began the game on the mound and pitched two innings. He faced 15 batters and struck out three of them. He walked two, gave up five hits and three earned runs.

Goldenstein pitched four innings and faced 16 batters. He struck out eight, walked two, allowed two hits and one earned run.

Reid Baumgartner got the save after one inning of work. He faced five batters and struck out three of them.

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Chris Bieber finished the game with two hits, two runs and one RBI. Dalton had two hits, one run and two RBI.

## **Upcoming Dragon baseball action**

The Dragons will host Sedgwick County Saturday, March 17 for a doubleheader that is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Bules said they will be up against a strong left-handed pitcher in sophomore Chase Dunker. "He can beat anybody on any day," Bules said.

The junior varsity team is scheduled to travel to Haxtun for a doubleheader Tuesday, March 20. Games are set to begin at 4 p.m.

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