Holyoke Dragon baseball team kept its unblemished season alive Saturday, March 31 with two quick and convincing wins over the Merino Rams, 16-0 and 22-1. Both games ended by run rule which made for a quick day at the diamond.

The 16-0 shutout was Holyoke's third of the season. The Dragons have scored 122 runs this season while holding their opponents to just 14.

The two victories improved Holyoke's record to 8-0 as they prepared for a busy week of baseball this week and head into the tougher portion of their schedule.

The team traveled to Akron Monday, April 2 instead of Tuesday, April 3. In anticipation of bad weather Tuesday, coaches agreed to get the games played and out of the way Monday.

"I was very happy with our performance on Saturday," coach Kyle Bules said. "The pitchers did an excellent job of throwing strikes and establishing their fastball, only giving up one walk in 35 plate appearances. Merino put the ball in play and we did a great job defensively. We are doing a better job of running the bases but still have a ways to go."

Holyoke 16, Merino 0

Holyoke's pitching staff and strong defensive play led to an impressive 16-0 win in game one Saturday afternoon.

On the offensive side of things, the Dragon bats really shined helping them earn the victory.

Deyten Klein took to the mound and faced 14 batters through four innings of work. He earned three strikeouts, allowed no walks and no runs off of three hits.

The Holyoke Dragons were just too strong for the Merino Rams Saturday, March 31 in Holyoke. Jaydin Goldenstein, at left, lays a tag on a Merino base runner who found himself in a pickle during the second inning of game one. Logan Tharp (5) and Brett Cumming (22) were ready just in case. Holyoke pounded Merino 16-0 and 22-1 in the doubleheader.—Enterprise photo

Reid Baumgartner took the hill in the fifth inning to earn the save. He faced three batters, striking out one. He gave up no walks, hits or runs.

While Merino couldn’t manage to score any runs, the same can’t be said for Holyoke.

Six Dragons crossed home plate in the first inning, two in the second and eight in the third to give Holyoke the 16-0 lead.

Jaydin Goldenstein led Holyoke with three hits and four RBI. Trevor Dalton and Brett Cumming each had two hits. Baumgartner led the team with three runs scored.

Holyoke 22, Merino 1

The second game Saturday began with Merino getting on the board first. They crossed one runner past home plate to take the early 1-0 lead. The first Ram run of the day would quickly become the only Ram run of the day.

Holyoke hung nine runs on the scoreboard in the bottom of the first and added 10 more in the second to take a commanding 19-1 lead.

Holyoke's pitchers and strong defense sat the Rams down in order in the second, third and fourth innings. Holoke went on to score one run in the third and two in the fourth to secure the monster victory.

Catcher Jesus Hermosillo puts the squeeze on a ball during baseball action Saturday, March 31 in Holyoke. The Dragons improved to 8-0 on the year with two big wins over Merino.—Enterprise photo

Goldenstein started the game on the mound and faced 11 batters through three innings. He earned four strikeouts, gave up one run and one hit. He also walked one batter—the only walk allowed by Dragon pitchers all day.

Dalton entered the game in the fourth to pitch the final two innings. He faced seven batters, striking out four of them. He gave up no walks, hits or runs.

Dalton, Goldenstein and Cumming each finished the game with three hits. Dalton, Goldenstein and Klein each had four RBI to lead the team.

Junior varsity picks up first wins of year

Holyoke's junior varsity team picked up a sweep of Peetz Thursday, March 29. They won 10-4 and 12-2.

The next day, the Dragons traveled to Sterling to make up games that had been postponed due to weather. Holyoke fell 16-3 in the first game but rebounded nicely to win the second 8-6.

"The JV team is coming along really well," Bules said. "They are starting to pick up on some of the finer points in baseball and gaining a better understanding of the game and have some opportunities to get into some varsity games. We do pitch about six JV pitchers which should help us in the future. They consistently give a great effort."

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