

## Dragons fall to Cougars, end season at 15-5

Written by Chris Lee

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The stage was set. Holyoke was on its home diamond, they earned a first-round bye and were facing a team they had beaten twice earlier in the season. The team's main focus was to win the first game which would advance them to the District final and secure a spot in this weekend's regional tournament.

The Dragon baseball team faced off against Sedgwick County Saturday, May 5 in Holyoke in the semifinal round of the District 7 baseball tournament. When all was said and done, Holyoke left the field with heavy hearts as they watched Sedgwick County celebrate a 5-2 victory.

For the second year in a row, Holyoke received a first-round bye as the No. 1 seed and fell to the No. 4 seed in the semifinal round, ending their spectacular year.

The Dragons finish with a 15-5 season record.

Saturday's game didn't get off to the kind of start Dragon head coach Kyle Bules wanted it to. Sedgwick County managed to get two base runners across home plate to take the early 2-0 advantage.



**HHS catcher Jesus Hermosillo appears to tag out a runner at home plate Saturday, May 5, however the runner was called safe much to the dismay of the Holyoke crowd. The Dragons ended up losing to Sedgwick County 2-5. —Enterprise photo**

Holyoke's Deyten Klein got the start on the mound where the Cougar batters got his feathers ruffled a bit with the first two runs. After a quick talk with coach Bules, he settled down and with the bases loaded, got himself out of the jam.

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Holyoke batters went up against Sedgwick County's left-handed ace, Chase Dunker, who they had faced earlier in the season. This time, they struggled. Dunker recorded 18 strikeouts on the mound.

Coach Bules said it's pretty tough to win any ball game when a team strikes out 18 times and commits five errors.

Holyoke went three up, three down in the bottom of the first inning.

Klein had a nice second inning, sitting the Cougars down in order. The Dragons managed to get two runners aboard in the bottom of the inning but ended up stranding both runners.

Sedgwick County managed to load the bases again in the top of the third, and scored one run with one out to go up 3-0. Bules decided to give the ball to Reid Baumgartner who ended the inning with a strike out and ground out.

The bottom of the third was Holyoke's best of the game. Things got started with a single by Austin Killin. He was moved to second after a sac bunt by Brett Cumming.

Baumgartner came to the plate and singled, moving Killin to third. He eventually scored on a passed ball at home plate, injecting life into the green and gold dugout.

Jaydin Goldenstein was next to bat and was awarded a base after being hit by the pitch. It was a call Sedgwick County didn't like as they thought Goldenstein had swung the bat as he tried to get out of the way.

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