New Holyoke Dragon football coach John Zilla is very pleased with where the team stands heading into this Friday's season opener against St. Francis, Kan.

"I'm excited. I can't wait," Zilla said.

Twenty-eight players make up this year's Dragon roster. They will see what they're made of Friday night, Aug. 31 when they host St. Francis, Kan. at 7 p.m. on Max Bernard Field.

Zilla said the guys have accepted his offense and defense and have been working extra hard to prepare. Zilla has introduced a Wing T offense. The new look will be used to cause misdirection for opposing teams and is very different from the offensive packages the Dragons have run the past few years.

On the other side of the ball, Holyoke plans to incorporate a 4-4 defense.

Zilla is the third head coach for the Dragons in three years. He understands the upperclassmen have gone through a great deal of change but he noted they have been well prepared by their past coaching staffs.

"I have not had a complaint," Zilla said of the players learning under yet another new coach.

The coach said the recent changes have slowed progress a bit but he is happy with where things stand.

[redacted]