Holyoke's junior high football team began its season last week when Yuma came to town Monday, Aug. 27.

Holyoke's seventh-grade team lost a tough 0-40 game. Coach Corey Zeiler said this was the first real game experience many of the players had ever seen. Turnovers and mistakes led to the lopsided loss.

The eighth-grade game proved to be an evenly matched contest. After four quarters of play the teams were tied at zero. Holyoke had scored a touchdown in the second quarter but it was called back due to a penalty.

Holyoke began the overtime period with the ball at the 10 yard line. Brendan Mayden ran the ball nine yards to the 1 yard line and from there, Gunnar Kroeger executed a quarterback sneak and scored the touchdown.

During Yuma's overtime try, they moved to the 2 yard line and on fourth down, Holyoke held them out of the end zone for the win.

Thursday, Aug. 30, the team traveled to St. Francis, Kan. where only one game was played. Holyoke lost 0-30 to the Indians. Zeiler said they were matched up to a team with two outstanding tough running backs.

After two games, Zeiler said the team has a lot to work on still. He said they have been short on practice days with the schedule beginning earlier this year. The coach said many of those younger inexperienced players have shown tremendous improvement through the practice they have seen.

Thursday, Sept. 6, the team will travel to Sterling for a 4 p.m. kickoff.

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