

JH boys fall to Sterling on gridiron

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Holyoke junior high football players traveled to Sterling Thursday, Sept. 6 for their third game of the season.

Coach Corey Zeiler said he was very pleased with the effort shown by both the seventh- and eighth-grade teams. Unfortunately, both teams left Sterling after suffering losses.

The seventh-graders fell 0-22. Zeiler said they played very well and showed tremendous improvement over the last week.

Holyoke trailed 0-8 at the half. The coach said the team tackled better and began to move the ball some on offense.

Moving forward, Zeiler said they need to cut down on mental mistakes and penalties.

The eighth-grade team lost 14-24 to Sterling. At the half, Holyoke held a 6-0 lead. Gunnar Kroeger connected with Hunter Razo for a touchdown right before halftime to give the Dragons the lead.

To open the second half, Sterling returned the Holyoke kickoff for a touchdown. They went on to build a 24-6 lead over Holyoke at the end of three.

In the fourth quarter, Holyoke got creative and tried to pull their guards around for a handoff. On third down, Wyatt McCallum came around, took the handoff and barreled eight yards to set Holyoke up first and goal. Kroeger kept the ball on a quarterback sneak on the next play for a touchdown.

The two-point play was successful when Tristan Sullivan pulled off the line, took the handoff and ran it in.

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Zeiler said the crafty plays were praised by the crowd.

“The defense looked good and the kids were happy,” Zeiler said. “We played about as well as we could have.”

Holyoke will host Burlington Thursday, Sept. 13 for a 3:30 p.m. kickoff.

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