

## Volleyball makes history on road to regionals

Written by Darci Tomky

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Holyoke Lady Dragon volleyball girls are on their way to the regional tournament this Friday—something that’s only happened two other times in HHS volleyball history.

Two wins over Wiggins and Merino Tuesday, Oct. 23 in the first round of districts secured them their coveted spot at regionals.

Holyoke’s first year for an official volleyball league was 1973, and the first team to make it to sub-districts (the equivalent to today’s regionals) was in 1979.

2000 was a big year for the Lady Dragons, when they not only went to regionals but also went on to the state tournament, finishing with a 13-13 record that year. 1986 was their best win-loss record, at 12 wins and only four losses.

“It says a lot about this team” to make it to regionals this year, said coach Michelle Vieselmeier.



**At the conclusion of the first round of district volleyball and two wins over Wiggins and Merino Tuesday, Oct. 23 in Holyoke, Lady Dragon varsity team players are pictured from**

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**left, front row, Lindsay Helgoth, Jacinda Krueger, Tia Huffman and Molly Brandt; and back row, Maddie King, Megan Vieselmeyer, Kaylee Ham, Rosa Ochoa, Audi Peña, Jentry Andersen, Ashley Humphreys, Erin Vieselmeyer, coach Theresa Tharp and coach Michelle Vieselmeyer.□□**

### **—Enterprise photo**

Finishing in the third seed after district pool play, Holyoke heads into 2A regional action with a 13-10 record.

They travel to Akron Friday, Nov. 2 for pool play with Akron and Lyons.

Akron plays Holyoke at 4 p.m. followed by Holyoke vs. Lyons and Akron vs. Lyons.

Akron has an overall record of 22-1 and was No. 1 in Holyoke's district. Lyons has a 13-9 record, coming out of District 7 in the No. 2 seed.

Coach Vieselmeyer said the eight winners from the eight regional locations will advance to state along with four wildcard spots.

### **Holyoke defeats Wiggins, Merino on home court**

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Dragon fans could certainly be heard last Tuesday night when Holyoke hosted the first round of district volleyball pool play, defeating both Wiggins and Merino.

First facing off against Wiggins, HHS defeated them in five sets. The Dragons lost the first game a close 23-25, but came back strong to win the next two 25-18 and 25-12.

Wiggins wasn't ready to give up yet. Holyoke lost the fourth game again 23-25. They rallied in the last set to win 15-10.

Coach Vieselmeyer said they lost focus for a few minutes at the end of the first and fourth sets, allowing Wiggins to gain the lead. "The momentum shifts, and we couldn't recover," she said.



**Senior Lindsay Helgoth is at the net with the block in district tournament round-one action with Wiggins in the Dragon gym last Tuesday. ☐☐**

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For team stats, Maddie King led attacks with 39 including 22 kills. At the net, Molly Brandt and Megan Vieselmeyer had two blocks apiece.

The Dragons definitely made a statement with their serves, landing 19 total aces. Erin Vieselmeyer had the most serves with 35, and she and Ashley Humphreys each landed five aces.

Humphreys grabbed 44 sets including 15 assists for kills. Erin Vieselmeyer and King both had 13 digs, and King landed 18 serve receives.

In district action with Merino, Holyoke defeated the Rams in three sets, 25-22, 25-13 and 25-22.

Coach Vieselmeyer said she could tell they were getting tired in the third set—their eighth game of the evening—but the team was moving, playing as a team and attacking better than they were against Wiggins.

King led attacks with 25 including 10 kills, and Jacinda Krueger had four blocks for the Dragons.

Humphreys served 17 times including five aces. Erin Vieselmeyer landed 32 sets including nine assists for kills.

Erin Vieselmeyer and Humphreys each had 11 digs, and Erin Vieselmeyer had 12 serve receives.

