

Dragons suffer two-game slide

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

The Dragons had their five-game winning streak snapped this weekend with a pair of losses to Akron Friday, Feb. 1 and to Caliche Saturday, Feb. 2.

In both games, Holyoke stuck around until late in the match before eventually being overcome by their opposition.

“There is definitely some good things that we did this weekend,” coach Scott Dille explained. “Overall I thought the kids played hard, but didn’t always make great decisions. They didn’t play that smart all of the time. They made some bad decisions in both second halves.”

The losses drop the Dragons to 7-6 overall with a conference record of 2-2.



Wyatt Powell goes up for two during Saturday’s game against Caliche. The Dragons lost the game 61-73.

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—Enterprise photo

Holyoke 55, Akron 68

Akron came out in a zone defense against the Dragons to start the game. HHS has had some difficulty attacking the basket against zones this season, but seemed to handle it better Friday.

From the get go, the two teams were engulfed in a physical matchup, with both teams being called for a number of fouls.

Turnovers and bad passes in the first quarter hurt the Dragons, but they ended the period down only 12-17.

The Dragons did a better job of getting to the paint and drawing fouls in the second quarter. Nearly a third of the Holyoke points came from the charity stripe as the boys knocked down nine of their 17 attempts in the first half.

On the heels of a 13-3 run to end the quarter, HHS entered the locker rooms up 30-29 at half.

Despite entering the intermission with the momentum in their favor, the Dragons came out flat in the second half.

Akron rattled off a 17-4 run to begin the half, and finished the third quarter up 50-39 on the Dragons.

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Dille noted that the team was not playing defense as a team. They were slow to rotate to spots which drew a number of whistles for blocking and reaching as they were out of position.

Holyoke made a run in the fourth quarter, but was unable to stop the bleeding as Akron converted on free throws. The final score had the Dragons losing, 55-68.

Logan Tharp had an impressive night, scoring 25 points to lead the Dragons. Deyten Klein chipped in with 13 points, including three three-pointers.

Holyoke 61, Caliche 73

Despite starting the game hot, the Dragons were unable to keep up with the fast-paced play of Caliche, falling to the Buffaloes 61-73.

“I was really pleased with how the team came out Saturday,” Dille said. “I was wondering how they would respond after Friday night, but they came out and played hard.”

Zach Roll helped propel the Dragons to a strong first quarter, knocking down a pair of threes. HHS put up 18 points in the opening quarter to take a five-point lead.

Caliche gained ground in the second quarter however, securing a two-point lead by half.

The constant pressure and speed of the visiting squad took the Dragons out of their game. Dille noted that in trying to keep up with Caliche, HHS became less disciplined.

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Klein proved to be a scoring threat in the second half, scoring 14 of his team-high 17 points in the second and third quarters.

Caliche pulled away in the final quarter to win 73-61.

With fouls being a problem throughout the weekend, many players stepped into bigger roles. Wyatt Powell was a workhorse for the Dragons on Saturday. He made his mark in the game by fighting for rebounds and loose balls.

Dille also commended Tito Fierro, commenting that Saturday was the best Fierro has played all year. Fierro finished the night with 13 points.

Upcoming Action

HHS returns to competition Saturday, Feb. 2 in Wray at 2 p.m. On Jan. 19, the boys beat Wray, 40-39 in a game that came down to the last shot.

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