After losing a pair of games last week, the Dragons responded with a commanding 74-47 victory over Wray Saturday, Feb. 9.

These two teams met in January with Holyoke escaping with a one-point victory. Coach Scott Dille attributes the drastic change to the Dragons being able to control the pace of the game.

“I thought we kind of forced our tempo on them a little bit more,” Dille explained. “We did a good job of attacking the zone defense and got them pulled out to man-to-man. That kind of stuff sped the game up and gave us more possessions.”

Tanner Smith rises to the rim for an easy bucket during the 74-47 win over Wray.

—Enterprise photo

The first quarter saw the two teams going shot for shot with one another. Both squads were accurate from deep as each hit two threes in the first eight minutes. At the end of the period, Holyoke was down 10-11.

HHS had an offensive explosion in the second quarter, rattling off 27 points to take a 37-27 lead into half. The Dragons hit seven shots from beyond the arc in the half, on their way to a season-high nine in the game.

The Dragons played a clean half of basketball. Dille praised the team for moving the ball and not settling for the outside shot.

In the second half the Dragons' tight defense frustrated the Eagles. The full-court press caused many turnovers as the Dragons picked up 11 steals along the way. Freshman Bradley Cumming, who got the start for the first time this season, led the team with four steals.

Dille also commended the defensive effort in the match, noting that they did a better job of moving and getting to help position.

Again the offense put up big numbers in the fourth quarter. The Dragons poured in 22 points in the final period to secure a 74-47 win.

Holyoke was consistent at the charity stripe, knocking down 13 of their 15 attempts.

Tito Fierro had a game-high 19 points, including three from deep. Deyten Klein also sank three 3-pointers on his way to 18 points while also having three steals. Logan Tharp added 14 points, three assists and eight rebounds.

The win puts HHS at 8-6 on the season, 3-2 in league play. They currently sit in the fifth spot in the league.

Upcoming action

The Dragons will be tested this week as they will travel to Haxtun Thursday, Feb. 14 and to Fleming Saturday, Feb. 16.

In the first match of the year, the Dragons fell to Haxtun by a score of 58-75. The Bulldogs are currently ranked first in the Lower Platte league and 10th in all of 2A basketball.

This will be the only meeting with Fleming this season. The Wildcats are currently ranked at the top of the 1A North Central league and are fourth in all of 1A.

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