

HHS baseball tops Wiggins, improves to 4-0

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

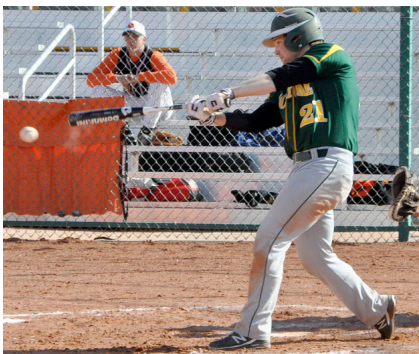
After nearly a two-week break between games, the Holyoke Dragon baseball team came out strong, taking down Wiggins in both games of the Thursday, March 28 doubleheader.

In the first game, HHS handed the Tigers a 10-0 loss with the game being called in the fifth inning due to the run rule. The Dragons were able to get several kids in during the second game as Holyoke put Wiggins down 14-4. In fact in the four games thus far, the Dragons have only made it to the seventh inning once.

“The kids played well,” coach John Zilla said. “We had a few mistakes on the infield because we haven’t had much practice outside, but we also had a lot more hits than I expected so that makes a coach very happy.”

They proved to be a powerful and speedy team, collecting three extra-base hits and stealing 13 bases between the two games.

Through four games, the Dragons are hitting .435 collectively and average 12 runs scored each outing.



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Jaydin Goldenstein makes good contact with a pitch during the first game of Thursday's doubleheader with Wiggins. Goldenstein had two hits between the two games.

—Enterprise photo

Holyoke 10, Wiggins 0

Alfredo Santos started the game on the mound for the Dragons and gave the Wiggins batters fits for four innings, a trend that stayed true throughout the day.

Zilla said he was very pleased with how his pitchers controlled the game, hitting spots and allowing very few base runners. It was rare for a Wiggins player to make it as far as second base in the 10-0 shutout.

Offensively the Holyoke squad scored often and scored early. In the first inning two Dragons made it home safely on the strength of two hits. HHS was unable to capitalize on a one-out deep triple to center in the second inning by Logan Zeiler, but they did pick up another run in the third inning.

The boys had a huge fourth inning, scoring six runs on four hits. Jaydin Goldenstein and Jesus Hermosillo had back-to-back shots to left field to bring in two runs each.

In the fifth inning the Dragons closed out the match by scoring two runs to win 10-0.

Santos finished the game with zero runs allowed on three hits. He walked just one batter, hit two and struck out seven. Trevor Dalton came in to close, allowing zero runs on one hit. He struck out three while walking two.

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Four Dragons had multi-hit days as Zeiler, Brett Cumming, Hermosillo and Logan Tharp each picked up two hits in the game.



Coach John Zilla discusses strategy with Logan Tharp before Tharp heads to the batter's box against Wiggins on Thursday, March 28.

—Enterprise photo

Holyoke 14, Wiggins 4

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Similar to the first game, Holyoke pitchers made it very hard for Wiggins to get anything going.

Meanwhile Holyoke's bats continued to stay hot as they racked up 15 hits in the game. The majority of the offense came in the third inning. With the two teams knotted up at one apiece, HHS exploded for 12 runs on 10 hits.

Brett Cumming, Goldenstein and Hermosillo each scored two runs in the inning. Brett Cumming, Hermosillo, Deyten Klein and Tanner Smith each were responsible for two RBIs in the inning as well.

Wiggins responded with three runs in the fifth but the Tigers were unable to make a comeback as the Dragons won 14-4.

Klein threw four innings of solid ball, allowing just one run on three hits to go along with striking out eight batters and walking just one. Tharp tossed the last two innings, allowing three runs on two hits. He struck out four while walking three and hitting one.

Smith, Klein and Bradley Cumming each had two hits in the game to lead the Dragons.

Upcoming action

The Dragons were scheduled for a doubleheader with Burlington Tuesday, April 2 at home. Results will be featured in next week's Enterprise.

Holyoke will head to Merino for a doubleheader Saturday, April 6 with action slated to begin at

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