

Dragon baseball team improves to 8-0 with 2 wins over Merino

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

Holyoke is proving they are a top team in 2A as they notched two more wins against Merino Saturday, April 6 to improve to 8-0 on the year.

The Rams were the latest victims of the shutdown defense and explosive offense of the Dragons.

HHS put on a hitting clinic in the doubleheader, hitting for extra bases nine times, including three home runs in the day.

Holyoke 10, Merino 4

Logan Tharp started on the mound for the Dragons and had a shutout going through the first four innings.

Holyoke didn't have much of a problem scoring in the game. Jaydin Goldenstein led the Dragons with a pair of home runs, picking up three RBIs in the process. According to maxpreps.com, his three home runs on the year leads the league and is the second most in the entire state across all classes.

Logan Zeiler also sent a shot over the left-field fence in the game, batting in three runs during his two-hit performance.

After the top half of the sixth inning it looked as though the Dragons were going to end another game by the run rule as they were leading the Rams 10-0. Merino fought to score four runs, however, and ensured another inning of play.

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“We have got to learn how to put a team away and not let them back in,” coach John Zilla commented. “We didn’t do that with Burlington or Merino.”

The Dragons finished out the last inning to win by a score of 10-4.

In 5 2/3 innings of work, Tharp allowed four runs on five hits. He managed to strike out seven while walking just two batters.

Deyten Klein closed the game, throwing 1 1/3 innings of scoreless ball. He recorded one strike-out.

Brett Cumming, Klein and Tharp all had a pair of singles in the game.

Holyoke 14, Merino 3

For the fifth time this season, the Holyoke baseball team won with a double-digit lead.

At least one Dragon touched home in each of the six innings as HHS shut down Merino 14-3 for the second win of the day.

As a team the Dragons are hitting .487. They are aggressive but disciplined at the plate and rarely watch a strike go by them.

Of the 12 hits in the game for the Dragons, six were for extra bases. Klein hit his second home run of the season, Logan Zeiler had a triple, Brett Cumming hit a pair of doubles and

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Goldenstein and Ryan Krogmeier each safely reached second for a double apiece.

“I am surprised by how well we are hitting,” admitted coach Zilla.

Zilla noted that the players have done a great job of realizing their roles and doing what is needed of them for the team to win. Even with all of the power at the plate, he mentioned that hitters are not trying to swing for the fence.

Brett Cumming led the Dragons with three hits while Klein and Krogmeier each chipped in two of their own.

Brett Cumming, Jesus Hermosillo and Klein all had three RBIs in the game.

Trevor Dalton threw five innings in the game, allowing just three runs on five hits. He struck out eight batters while walking one and beaming one.

Klein picked up his second save of the day, striking out the side in the sixth inning to give the Dragons a 14-3 win.

Upcoming action

The Dragons will be tested Saturday, April 13 as the top two teams in the league square off when HHS hosts the Yuma Indians.

Yuma, 6-0, and Holyoke, 8-0, are the only undefeated teams left in the league.

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Zilla commented that the Indians play very similar to the Dragons, combining power and speed to top their opponents.

Holyoke's schedule doesn't get much easier as the Dragons will face the third-ranked team in the league Monday, April 15 when they head to Sedgwick County.

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