

Dragon baseball improves to 10-0 with wins over Yuma

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

The Dragon baseball squad became the top-ranked team in the Lower Platte League with a pair of victories over the Yuma Indians Saturday, April 13.

The two teams entered the doubleheader as the only undefeated teams in the league. After winning 7-5 and 4-3, HHS extended their winning streak to 10 games, giving them a perfect 10-0 record on the season.



Logan Zeiler takes a hack at a pitch during Saturday's first game with the Yuma Indians. Zeiler safely reached base twice on hits in the doubleheader.□□

—Enterprise photo

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Holyoke 7, Yuma 5

Holyoke batters turned Yuma outfielders into long-distance runners as the defenders frequently had to chase down balls that were hit over their heads and into gaps in the first few innings. The Dragons put up three runs in the first inning on the strength of a two-run double by Logan Tharp and a double by Trevor Dalton that scored one. Both hits were to the center-field fence.

Two more Dragons crossed home in the second inning as a Brett Cumming double to deep center scored Logan Zeiler. Brett Cumming scored two batters later on a single by Jaydin Goldenstein.

Yuma rallied in the third inning, scoring their first two runs of the day.

Holyoke matched them, scoring two runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning. Deyten Klein hit his third home run of the season in the inning with a solo blast over the left-field fence.

“We have to be able to make routine plays,” coach John Zilla said. “Our bats came through for us with Yuma, but we still have to make routine plays to get better.”

HHS stayed quiet the remainder of the game, but piled up enough offense in the first three innings to outlast the Yuma Indians for a 7-5 win.

Alfredo Santos gave up seven hits, walked two batters and hit one batter for five runs, three earned, while striking out eight in 4 ²/₃ innings of work for the Dragons. Dalton picked up the save, throwing the final 1 ¹/₃ innings of play. He struck out four of the five batters he faced, allowing just one hit in the process.

Brett Cumming and Dalton led the Dragons with two hits apiece while six other Dragons

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reached base on one hit in the contest.



Dragon shortstop Trevor Dalton fires a throw across the diamond to beat a Yuma baserunner for the out in the first game of the Saturday, April 13 doubleheader.

—Enterprise photo

Holyoke 4, Yuma 3

Despite falling behind early in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader, the Dragons were able to rally from a 3-0 deficit to win by a score of 4-3.

The Indians scored two runs in the opening inning and added another run in the third to jump out to a 3-0 lead.

Momentum shifted in Holyoke's favor in the bottom of the fourth inning when Goldenstein launched his fourth home run of the season past the left-field fence to light up the scoreboard for the first time in the game for the Dragons.

After Brett Cumming doubled off the left-field fence in the fifth inning, scoring Dylan Kotch, Goldenstein once again provided a clutch hit for the home team. He sent a hit past the Yuma

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shortstop for a two-run single to give HHS a 4-3 lead.

With Klein on the mound and the defense making no errors in the final innings, the Dragons held on to the lead to win 4-3.

Coach Zilla believes part of the team's success stems from how the Dragon hitters can mentally and physically wear down opposing pitchers.

"We are solid 1-9," Zilla said. "That really helps us offensively because we can score at any given time."

Klein pitched a complete game, allowing three runs, just one earned, on six hits and one walked batter. Klein got the best of a number of Indian batters, striking out 11 of the 27 batters in the game.

Goldenstein and Jesus Hermosillo each had a two-hit performance in the game. Goldenstein knocked in three runs in the match as well.

Upcoming action

The Dragons were scheduled to face Sedgwick County Monday, April 15 but due to the weather, it has been postponed until Tuesday, April 30.

HHS will travel to Limon Saturday, April 20.

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