

HHS takes care of business in first 2 games of district tournament

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

As they did for most of the season, the HHS baseball team dominated in the first two rounds of the 2A District 7 Baseball Tournament in Akron, knocking off Merino 16-2 and Wray 10-0.

“We didn’t make mistakes,” said coach John Zilla. “We put the ball in play and we were aggressive on the base path. We just got things rolling.”

Holyoke 10, Wray 0

In the semifinal round of the district tournament, Holyoke, who entered the tournament with the No. 1 seed, handed fourth-seeded Wray a 10-0 loss as they qualified for the championship game with ease.

With the team’s capability to score runs on any one swing of the bat, and the near-perfect defense led by pitcher Deyten Klein, the Dragons were a force to be reckoned with.

Brett Cumming began the bottom of the first inning with a stand-up double to get things started for the Dragons. He would score two batters later as Jaydin Goldenstein hit a sacrifice fly to right field, giving the Dragons a 1-0 advantage.

HHS went off for five runs on three hits in the second inning, highlighted by a grand slam by Brett Cumming.

Holyoke scored two more runs in the fifth as Trevor Dalton, Goldenstein and Jesus Hermosillo all singled in the inning.

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Bradley Cumming and Dalton each crossed home in the sixth inning to secure the 10-0 victory for the Dragons.

Klein was untouchable on the mound for Holyoke. In six innings of work, he only gave up two hits while striking out four Wray batters.

Coach Zilla commented that Klein did a great job of getting opposing hitters to ground out. Dalton was solid at shortstop, quickly throwing out any batter who hit his way.

Brett Cumming and Dalton each posted two-hit performances in the game to lead the Dragons. Brett Cumming was also responsible for four runs batted in.

Holyoke 16, Merino 2

To kick off the district tournament, Holyoke put a 16-2 whooping to the eighth-seeded Merino Rams.

Merino actually lit up the scoreboard first with a run in the first inning.

The lead would not stick as the Dragons picked up two runs in the bottom half of the first inning on a two-run round-tripper for Dalton.

With the two teams knotted at two apiece after Merino scored again, Brett Cumming gave the

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Dragons some breathing room. He lifted a pitch over the outfield fence for a grand slam in the third inning, giving Holyoke plenty of momentum to put the Rams away.

The Dragons rattled off seven runs in the third, then turned around and scored another seven in the fourth for the 16-2 lopsided victory.

As to not overexert the pitching staff in the first game of the tournament, Alfredo Santos, Logan Tharp and Goldenstein all split pitching duties.

Santos started the game for the Dragons. In two innings, he allowed two runs on three hits and two walks.

Tharp allowed just one hit and one walk in two innings while striking out one.

Goldenstein picked up the save, retiring three of the five batters he faced in the fifth inning. He gave up just one hit while hitting and walking one batter as well.

Hermosillo and Tharp each had three hits in the game while Brett Cumming and Dalton had two hits a piece. Dalton had a huge day at the plate as he knocked in five runs. Brett Cumming accounted for four runs batted in and Hermosillo added another three RBIs.

For more information on the district and upcoming regional tournaments, [click here](#) .

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