

Dragons finish second at districts, qualify for regionals

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

Every time it appeared as though the Holyoke baseball team was preparing to make a comeback in the 2A District 7 championship game, Yuma extended their lead just far enough to keep the Dragons at bay, as the top seeded Holyoke team fell 13-8 Saturday, May 11 in Akron.

Holyoke and Yuma had squared off twice during the regular season with Holyoke walking away from both games with a two-run victory, but Yuma was able to stifle the Holyoke offense just long enough to hold on for the win Saturday.

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Holyoke 8, Yuma 13

The Dragons, who finished the regular season with a collective batting average of .422, recorded just two hits in the first four innings of play in the district championship. They had no issues making contact, but would often hit directly to the defense.

“We just didn’t have things going for us,” said coach John Zilla. “We were hitting the ball hard, but right at their kids. We just couldn’t put anything together.”

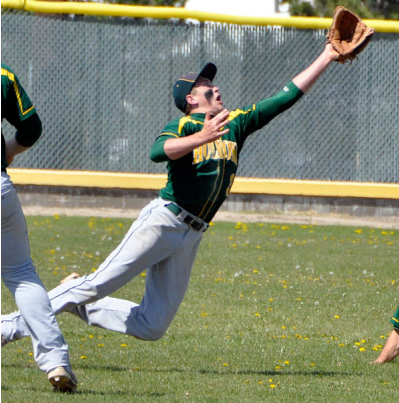
Meanwhile Yuma continued to hit the ball just out of reach of Holyoke infielders. Zilla commented on how frustrating it is for the team to work to eliminate errors, but have a series of softly hit balls fall in for singles.

Logan Zeiler crossed home on an Indian error in the fourth inning to put the Dragons on the board. After four innings, Yuma was clinging to a 3-1 lead.

The Indians capitalized on three walks to begin the fifth inning, scoring two on a single to cushion their lead.

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