

Holyoke upsets Indians to advance to district finals

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

Holyoke boys had their work cut out for them in the 2A District 2 basketball tournament. In order to advance to the championship game, the third-ranked Dragons first had to knock off No. 6 Burlington Tuesday, Feb. 25, then turn around and upset No. 2 Yuma Friday, Feb. 28.

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Holyoke 53, Yuma 52

Holyoke entered Friday's district semifinal game with an 0-2 record in the regular season against the Yuma Indians. Both losses were close at the end, with Holyoke losing by seven and six points. But during Friday's match when a win mattered the most, the Dragons came through in the clutch and earned a 53-52 victory to move onto the District 2 championship.

"In all of our close games this year, we have improved as far as making plays that needed to be made," coach Scott Dille said. "We made about five plays at the end of the game with Yuma that were just huge."



Tito Fierro puts up a tough shot with a Yuma defender's hand in his face Friday night during the

—Enterprise photo

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The game kicked off as expected with the two teams trading baskets throughout the first quarter. Holyoke closed out the period on a 7-2 run to match the Indians at 15 points. Logan Tharp led the Dragon offense through the first eight minutes by scoring seven points.

With Yuma scoring in the first 15 seconds of the second quarter, Holyoke spent the majority of the period chasing the Indians. At just under the 3-minute mark, Yuma pushed their lead to six, the biggest point-differential of the match. At the break, Holyoke trailed 27-31.

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