

THURSDAY

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Sports

INSIDE: Ronaldo scores in Portugal's World Cup win/B2

Chevalier wins it for Miners

BY JOSE JUAN RUIZ
SPORTS WRITER

JRUIZ@THE-MESSENGER.COM

Nate Chevalier ended the game Friday with a walk off sacrifice fly to lead the Madisonville Miners over the Owensboro RiverDawgs 8-7.

The Miners were down four runs after the first and down three runs going into the final inning before completing the comeback. Madisonville scored three runs in the bottom of seventh to tie the game and then loaded the bases in the eighth for the game winning Chevalier at bat.

"I was just trying to stick to my approach that at bat, get the ball in the air or get a base hit," said Chevalier. "We battled really hard. We were pitch by pitch every at bat and eventually got the game out."

The Miners put themselves in a hole for the rest of the game during the first inning. Hayden Seay walked Danny Torres to start the inning and he stole second and reached third on a bad throw by the catcher. Cam Curry then capitalized on the situation, pushing Torres home to open the scoring.

The RiverDawgs kept the pressure coming. They got back to back singles with two outs before Nick Sanders hit a deep shot to center field to put them up 4-0.

Chevalier started the comeback the next half inning for Madisonville. He got on with a single to left field then advanced to second on a wild pitch, to third on an errant throw and finished at home on a passed ball to put the Miners on the board.

Devin Davenport then contributed the second run with a lead off homer a inning later. Davenport's homer easily cleared the left field wall.

Seay had a smooth seven pitch inning in the second and pitched himself out of trouble in the third, leaving two runners stranded on base. He would escape again in the fourth to maintain the two-run margin.

Seay allowed an infield single and followed it by hitting and walking the next two batters to load the bases with two outs. He got out of it with a big time strikeout.

The Miners carried that momentum to the batting box. Chevalier got another RBI with a standing double that bounced just inches from the wall. The hit chased the RiverDawgs



Above: Madisonville Miners baseball pitcher Hayden Seay gave up four runs in the first inning against the Owensboro RiverDawgs, but settled down in the game Wednesday night.

Right: Devin Davenport of the Madisonville Miners hit a home run in the game Wednesday night against the Owensboro RiverDawgs.

Photos by Jeff Steers/The Messenger



starting pitcher and put the Miners down by one.

Chevalier finished the game going three for four with four RBI.

George De La Fe then continued the scoring, stealing home on a wild pitch and tying the game at 4-4.

The RiverDawgs finally got back to scoring in the sixth putting a run on the board without a hit. Seay's arm got tired and his control dropped. He hit the first two batters with pitches and walked the third with two outs to fill the bases.

He finished the game pitching five innings and two outs, surrendering five runs on four hits with five strikeouts.

"He was able to battle after that first inning and keep us in the game," said Miners head coach Franklin Bush. "That is what we always ask from out starters, fight no matter what's going on out there, fight your butt off to keep us in the game."

Jeff O'Doherty came in to defuse the situation and he struck out the batter to end the inning but not before he threw a wild pitch. The pitch flew over the head of the catcher, giving enough time for the runner to steal home and give the lead

back to the RiverDawgs.

Owensboro closed the game by adding two runs in the seventh and extending their margin to 7-4.

The Miners made their second comeback effort with three straight singles, loading the bases with no out and Chevalier coming up to bat. The starting outfielder hit a ball directly at the the gap between the outfielders to put the Miners just down one for the second time on the night.

Hunter Mercer then came up to bat with bases full again and the chance the win the game but he struck out. Sean Kearney came behind him with the same set up and took advantage. He hit a fielder's choice to second base and beat out the throw to first, avoiding the game ending double play.

The game that supposed to end in seven innings because it was the first of a doubleheader, but went to the eighth tied 7-7.

In extra innings, the RiverDawgs were set up to get back the lead with no outs but a fantastic outfield assist kept the game tied. The Owensboro

base runner had stolen second and went home the next at bat on a single to shallow center field.

Chevalier quickly corralled the ball and sent dart directly to home plate, caching the runner just a few inches from touching home plate.

"In close, one-run games it's going to take pitching, good at bats and defense," said Bush. "That was a great throw. He worked through his cuts, put a good angle on the baseball and put it right there and he is out."

After the defensive play, the Miners manufactured a run. Bernee Sanchez started the inning on a single and got to second base on a wild pitch. Davenport then advanced Sanchez to third, laying down a sacrifice bunt.

Two smart at bats followed the bunt, getting back-to-back walks to load the bases for the Chevalier sacrifice to win the game.

The win opened a double header against RiverDawgs but the second game of the night concluded after deadline. Look for the story in Friday's paper.

UK gets major inside power addition

BY MARK MATHIS
FOR THE MESSENGER

The true aspirations for every University of Kentucky basketball team hinge on competing for a national championship — every year.

That primary goal got a substantial boost when Stanford graduate transfer Reid Travis decided to join the UK program Wednesday.

Kentucky's 2018-19 roster was already loaded with what appears to be a powerful mix of talent and experience, but the Wildcats gained another boost of both with the addition Travis.

The two-time First Team All-Pac-12 selection will pursue a master's degree at UK. Under NCAA graduate transfer rules, Travis will be eligible to play for the Wildcats in the fall after graduating with his undergraduate degree in science, technology and society on Sunday.

"Sunday I had the opportunity to fulfill a childhood dream of graduating from Stanford University," Travis said. "I built relationships and memories at

SEE UK/PAGE B2

MADISONVILLE
MINERS BASEBALL
SCHEDULE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Thursday: Miners at Dubois County League Stadium 6 p.m.

Friday: Paducah at Miners Elmer Kelley Stadium 7:05 p.m.

Saturday: Henderson at Miners Elmer Kelley Stadium 7:05 p.m.

Sunday: Miners at Hoptown Christian County High School 6 p.m.

Monday: Off day or rain date

Tuesday: Miners at Dubois County Bombers League Stadium 6 p.m.