

SUNDAY

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## Sports

INSIDE: Mickelson headlines madness at U.S. Open/B3

## SUNDAY SPOTLIGHT

## Chevalier shining with Miners

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In the opening 14 games of the Madisonville Miners season, one name has been standing out above the rest.

Nate Chevalier.

"He is the mold of what we want our team to look like,"

said coach Franklin Bush. "We are getting more than what expected out of him. He is something special."

The Nova Southeastern University outfielder has become the main offensive weapon this summer for the Miners. He currently leads the team in every offensive category except RBI, in which he is third.

His batting average sits at .444 with an on base percentage of .565. The next closest batter in the team is Corey Kelley at .294.

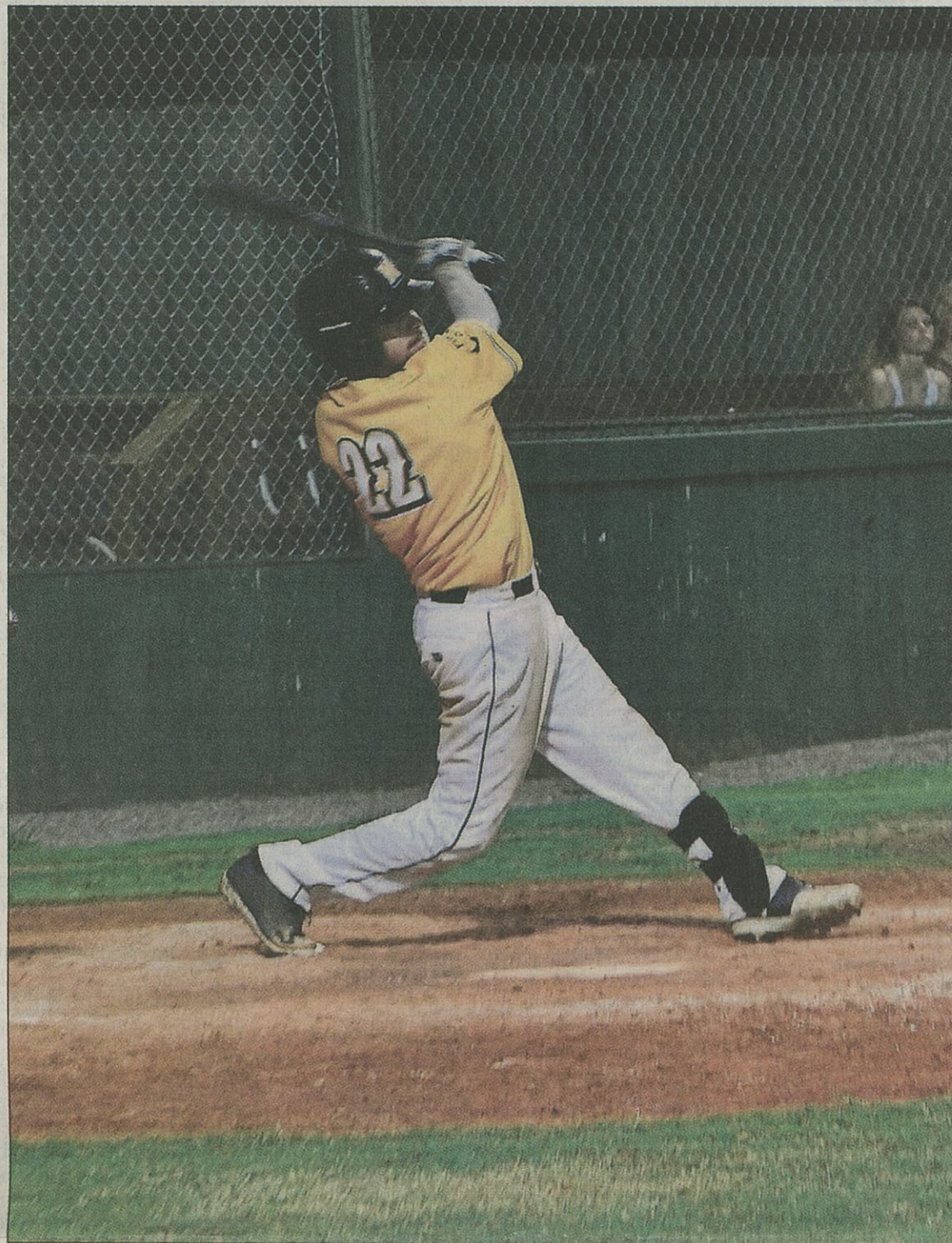
What makes his hitting and on base percentage mean even more is his staggering .694 slugging percentage, which pushes his OPS to 1.206.

Chevalier is finding offensive power despite his 5'9," 165-pound frame.

"He has high intent for every pitch. That's what we are trying to preach to our whole team. His pitch to pitch mentality keeps him focused on every at bat and that's why he succeeds," said Bush. "No matter the situation, he is grinding it out trying to think what the best thing to get out of this at bat."

His numbers aren't just high from the Miner point a view. Chevalier is currently third in the Ohio Valley League in OPS, batting average and slugging percentage.

His plate discipline is what makes him dangerous. Currently fourth in the OVL with 30 quality at bats, Chevalier has the ability to get ahead of the pitchers and wait for the



Nate Chevalier hits a homer during the Miners game at the Fulton Railroaders on Friday.

right situation to pop up. He has struck out only five times but drawn 11 walks so far.

Yet, it is not all about the offense with him. Chevalier has also proven himself to be a defensive force as well. So far this season he has a fielding percentage of .983 with three outfield assists and just one error.

"His effort always shows up on the field and you can definitely tell that on the defensive side of the ball," said Bush. "He is locked in on every play and that's why he is constantly doing good plays in the outfield."

Chevalier will look to continue his playing form throughout the remaining

OVL season and transition it for his sophomore season next year.

"He is very eager to learn and very hard working, I think those two things go to show his effort on the field. He will continue to be successful because he lives pitch to pitch and never gets ahead of himself," said Bush.

## Hill: Sports icon, American hero

In writing this sports column I have been fortunate over the years to get to talk to some local sports icons. Recently I got to visit with not only a local sports icon but also a true American hero — Ryan Hill.

Hill grew up in Providence and graduated from Webster County High School in 1995.

He is the son of Ronnie and Pam (Townsend) Hill and grandson of Darrell and Dorothy Hill and Garland and Lee Townsend.

Many people today may remember Ryan Hill as the Webster County football athlete but you may not know the whole story of what he has done since his glory days as a Trojan athlete.

In high school Hill became the most prolific rusher in Webster County football history during the time period of 1991 to 1994. Hill rushed for more than 4,000 yards but what is unique about it is that he did it in basically two seasons.

Hill lettered in varsity football but saw very little offensive action his freshman and sophomore years as he was primarily used on defense. He ran for more than 1,700 yards his junior year and more than 2,000 yards his senior year on his way to becoming Webster County's all-time leading rusher and receiver and was the Evansville Courier and Press's western Kentucky player of the year.

Like many great athletes, Hill was not just a one sport athlete. He was the two-time national powerlifting champion, setting two national records in his age category in the squat.

Hill was also the three-time Kentucky high school state discus champion and was sixth in the state in the shot put while becoming a multi-sport athlete on the Webster County track and field team.

Hill recently noted his college football recruiting story and it is a lesson for many youngsters and their parents today. Hill said, "I had a lot of talk but no offers from some of the Division I schools I wanted to



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