

WKU BASEBALL

Tops claim series win against SEMO

The Daily News

Western Kentucky's baseball team secured a series victory over Southeast Missouri with a doubleheader split on Saturday at Nick Denes Field.

The Hilltoppers fell to the Redhawks, 8-7, in Game 1 before securing an 11-8 victory in Game 2 to clinch the four-game weekend series and move to 5-3 overall.

SEMO struck early with a two-run homer in the first inning of the opener, adding another pair of runs in the second to build a 4-0 lead in the top of the frame; the Redhawks extended the margin to 7-0 in the top of the third.

WKU answered in the bottom half, plating a run on a Lane Arroyos double.

After three quick outs in the top of the fourth, WKU erupted for five runs in the bottom of the frame; Reid Howard came home on an Austin Haller single to left before a sacrifice fly by Logan Luckett plated Ian Nguyen and narrowed the Tops' deficit to four. Arroyos singled to left center to drive in runs by Haller and Hayden Robbins, and JP Acosta singled to right center to plate Hayden Nazarenus and bring the Tops to within one, 7-6, entering the fifth.

SEMO responded with



WKU ATHLETICS

Western Kentucky fifth-year senior Kyle Hayes rounds the bases after hitting a three-run home run against Southeast Missouri during the Tops' 11-8 win Saturday at Nick Denes Field.

a homer in the top fifth to push its lead back out to 8-6.

The Tops once again narrowed the deficit to one, 8-7, off an Acosta double down the right-field line to drive in Nazarenus.

Gage Olsen tossed 4 2/3 scoreless innings in relief for the Tops, allowing just two hits with eight strikeouts.

Arroyos finished 2-for-5 with three RBIs, Acosta totaled two RBIs, Haller recorded two hits with one RBI and Nazarenus scored three runs.

In the nightcap, SEMO jumped in front early off a sac-bunt in the first before the Hilltoppers responded with three runs in the bottom half of the frame; Camden Ross doubled to right center to drive in two runs and give the Tops a 3-2 lead entering the second.

In the bottom of the second, Kyle Hayes blasted a three-run homer to left center to give WKU

an early 6-1 lead entering the third.

The Redhawks responded with a pair of runs in the next two innings before a Ross single plated Hayes and gave the Tops a 7-3 lead at the end of four.

An Arroyos single to right drove in two runs and gave WKU a 9-3 advantage after five.

SEMO managed a five-run sixth inning to narrow the WKU lead to 9-8, but a groundout by Luckett to plate Ross and an RBI single by Haller gave WKU a three-run cushion, 11-8, entering the seventh inning.

Zach Lyles closed the final two innings without allowing a run to secure the victory.

WKU travels for its first road contest of the season and opens midweek play at Kentucky on Tuesday. First pitch from Kentucky Proud Park in Lexington is set for 3 p.m. CT with the game streaming live on SEC Network+.

PREP SWIMMING

Bosse leads Spartans to sixth-place finish

The Daily News

South Warren's Brian Bosse made the podium four times at Friday's KHSAA State Swimming and Diving Championships at the University of Kentucky's Lancaster Aquatic Center in Lexington.

The senior finished

fourth in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 20.82 seconds and added an eighth-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 50.79.

Bosse joined Logan Roner, Kenan Aganovic and Lari Skeric to finish third in the 400-yard freestyle relay and added a sixth-place finish in the

200-yard freestyle relay.

South Warren finished tied sixth in the boys' team standings, totaling 104 points.

The only other area swimmer to earn a top-eight finish was Bowling Green's Jeremiah Lewis, who finished eighth in 1-meter diving.

OLYMPICS

No miracle needed

U.S. beats Canada for first hockey gold since 'Miracle on Ice' in 1980

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

MILAN — The United States is on top of the hockey world for the first time in nearly a half-century. No miracle needed.

Jack Hughes scored less than 2 minutes into overtime and the U.S. beat Canada 2-1 in the gold medal final at the Milan Cortina Olympics on Sunday, earning the nation's third men's title since the "Miracle on Ice" in 1980 — 46 years to the day of the upset over the mighty Soviet Union, too.

Unlike that ragtag group of college kids that pulled off one of the biggest shockers in sports history in Lake Placid, the

Americans in Milan were a machine that rode goaltender Connor Hellebuyck and a roster full of NHL players through the tournament unbeaten.

Still, they were underdogs again against the stacked Canadians and came out on top — again.

"This is all about our country right now," said Hughes, who lost at least one and maybe two of his front teeth taking a high stick during the game. "I love the U.S.A. I love my teammates. It's unbelievable. The USA Hockey brotherhood is so strong."

Early in the three-on-three overtime, Zach Werenski took the puck away from Nathan MacKinnon and passed it to Hughes, who was wide

open streaking to the net. Hughes fired a shot past Jordan Binnington 1:41 in to send players into a wild celebration as the rival Canadians looked on.

Asked his favorite moment during his Olympic debut, captain Auston Matthews quipped, "I think when Jack scored. ... I'll definitely remember Jack's goal."

There was a note of sadness amid all the joy as Werenski and Matthew Tkachuk carried a Johnny Gaudreau No. 13 jersey around the ice in tribute to the beloved player who was killed along with his brother in 2024.

His parents, Guy and Jay, his widow, Meredith, and their oldest children were in attendance.

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King Classic Sudoku

4	8	1	7	3	9		2	
9		6					7	
	2		6		5			
6	4	8		7		5		
5	1				6	4		
			4	5			6	2
2	6		9				8	3
8	3		2			1	5	
	9				3	2		

INSTRUCTIONS: Sudoku is a number placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the King Classic Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

7	5	6	4	8	3	1	9	2
3	4	1	9	7	2	5	6	8
8	2	9	5	1	6	4	7	3
1	8	7	2	4	9	3	5	6
9	3	2	7	6	5	8	4	1
4	6	5	1	3	8	7	2	9
5	9	3	8	2	4	6	1	7
2	1	8	6	5	7	9	3	4
6	7	4	3	9	1	2	8	5

Difficulty: ★

2/23

Difficulty: ★★★★★

2/22

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