



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Nichols' homer ends crazy slugfest** Captains come back from 11 down but lose in bottom of ninth

EL PASO, Texas – If the Independence Day crowd of 11,566 at Cohen Stadium wanted to see offense, they could not have picked a better ballgame to see. Their hometown El Paso Diablos scored in each of the first five innings, built an 11-run lead, but saw it slip away. But first baseman Kyle Nichols rescued things, hitting a game-winning three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning against Shreveport-Bossier Captains closer Hector Carrasco, capping a four-run inning and giving the Diablos an almost absurd 24-21 win Sunday night to end the first half of the 2010 season.

Mike Provencher led off the bottom of the ninth with El Paso (19-27) trailing 21-20 (behind for the first time all game), and whacked a single to left on the first pitch against Carrasco (1-1). A passed ball and a wild pitch moved him to third after the first two pitches were strikes, and Hector Bernal grounded a 3-2 pitch off of Carrasco's leg into left field to tie the game. A sacrifice bunt and a flyout gave the Captains a hope of reaching extra innings, but Carrasco hit Bryon Smith with the first pitch to him, and Nichols launched the first pitch he saw over the wall just to the left of dead center field to send the crowd into a frenzy.

Captains starter Cody Kelley struggled right out of the gate, giving up five runs on four hits and three walks in the first inning. But Shreveport-Bossier showed signs of what was to come in the top of the second, scoring twice off Shaun Ellis to get on the board.

Right back came the Diablos, getting two more off Kelley in the second and five in the third to knock the rookie starter out after two plus innings. Chad Linder could only get three outs while giving up six more runs, while the Captains got three in the fourth, but trailed 16-5 after four innings.

Shreveport-Bossier (29-18) got three more in the fifth, but El Paso answered with two. Then the Captains scored four in the sixth, three in the seventh and three in the eighth to come all the way back and tie the game, with Palmer Karr's fourth hit of the night tying the score at 18.

But after Jakob Cunningham and Marcus Salmon stymied the Diablos with scoreless innings in the sixth and seventh, respectively, El Paso reawoke in the eighth against Jameson Maj. After the righty got the first two men out on strikeouts, Smith singled and Nichols hit a ground-rule double. The Captains intentionally walked Rico Santana, but it did not pay off, as Adam Deleo singled up the middle to make it 20-18.

Ultimately, it was fitting that both closers got ran through the Cohen Stadium gauntlet as well, though. Glenn Wilson singled to start the ninth against Nick Renault (1-1), and after a groundout, Bryan Sabatella singled as well. After a slow grounder from Bryan Frichter plated Wilson but went for the second out at second base, Christopher Garcia launched a homer to almost the same spot where Nichols's ended up a few minutes later, giving the Captains their first lead of the game.

But it was not to last as Carrasco also found major trouble, blowing his first save as a Captain.

**Notes:** The Captains' 28 hits tied a league record...The two teams combined for 53 hits, scored in 14 of the 18 half-innings, and did not have one run-scoring inning of only one run...The Captains' 29-18 half is the best in franchise history, a half-game better than their first ever half, a 29-19 mark to start 2003...The Captains officially won the first half by five games over Grand Prairie (24-23).

The Shreveport-Bossier Captains have Monday to travel the nearly 1,300 miles between El Paso and Pensacola, Fla., where they will start a three-game series to begin the second half of the season against the Pelicans. First pitch of the series is scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, at 6:45 p.m. The Captains return home on Friday, July 9, at 7:05 p.m. against the Fort Worth Cats, for KSLA-12 Faith and Family Night, featuring a postgame Christian concert by In Plain Sight. All games are broadcast on ESPN Radio, KRMD-1340 AM as well as streaming live on [supertalk1340.com](http://supertalk1340.com). For information on tickets, promotions, advertising, and other opportunities with the Captains, check out the team's Web site at [www.sbcaptains.com](http://www.sbcaptains.com), or call the Fair Grounds Field office at (318) 636-5555.

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