

Crawdads swat Sand Gnats, 9-1

Written by Staff Reports
Tuesday, 12 April 2011 07:00

The Hickory Crawdads topped the Savannah Sand Gnats, 9-1, before 555 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium on Monday night. 2B Odubel Herrera helped lead the offense with a perfect 4-for-4 performance, including two doubles, three RBIs and one run scored.

For the fourth time in their first five games, the Crawdads (3-2) got out to a first inning lead. CF Jake Skole doubled his way on with one out against RHP Erik Goeddel (L, 0-1), before trotting home on a two-out, two-run homer by DH Andrew Clark to make it 2-0.

Savannah (1-3) got on the board the very next inning when DH Javier Rodriguez smacked a solo shot against Hickory starter RHP Carlos Melo (W, 2-0). However, Melo buckled down and did not surrender another run or hit throughout the rest of his five-inning outing.

Meanwhile, the 'Dads continued to stretch the lead. Herrera led off the third with a double and moved to third base on a one-out single by Skole. C Tomas Telis then bounced an RBI base hit up the middle to plate Herrera and move Skole to third. Clark came through with another RBI, this time on a grounder to second, putting Hickory in front, 4-1.

The Crawdads added another tally in the seventh with a lead off homer by 3B Christian Villanueva, before blowing the game open with a four-run bases loaded rally in the eighth against LHP Angel Cuan. Cuan hit Clark, gave up a single to 1B Jhonny Gomez and then hit RF Josh Richmond to load the bases. Villanueva then hit an RBI single to left, followed later by a bases-clearing, three-run double by Herrera to cap the scoring at 9-1.

Melo earned the win for the Crawdads, with RHP Nick Tepesch (1 inning), RHP Zach Osborne (2 innings) and LHP Kevin Johnson (1 inning) combining for five scoreless relief innings to close the game. Goeddel took the loss for Savannah.

NOTES: The Crawdads try for two in a row against Savannah on Tuesday night with Dollar Day at 7 p.m. (gates open at 6 p.m.)! Ten items at the ballpark are just a buck each, including a ticket special -- buy one regular priced ticket and get a second grand stand ticket for just \$1!

It is also Going Green Night, presented by Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute - bring six aluminum cans and get a FREE ticket to the game. Don't miss out on the KRAFT Singles Tuesday Night Tickets offer.

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