The Hickory Crawdads erased a narrow deficit with six runs in the fourth inning and never looked back, cruising to the 6-1 victory against the Savannah Sand Gnats, before 777 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium on Tuesday night.

For just the second time this season, the Crawdads (4-2) enabled their opponent to score first. Savannah (1-4) broke the scoreless tie with an RBI single by 1B Sam Honeck against starter RHP Roman Mendez (W, 1-0).

However, Hickory's offense systematically went to work in the bottom of the fourth, compiling six runs on four hits, five walks and one delayed double steal against the combined efforts of Savannah starter RHP Gonzalez Germen (L, 0-1) and reliever LHP Josh Edgin. With runners at the corners and one away, C Kellin Deglan lined an RBI single to right field to plate RF Jhonny Gomez and tie the game. LF Teodoro Martinez promptly followed with a two-run double to left-center, lifting the Crawdads ahead, 3-1.

Martinez moved to third on a ground out and was then joined on base when CF Jake Skole worked a walk. On the first pitch to DH Tomas Telis, Skole broke for second, attracting all of Savannah's attention away from Martinez, who was able to sneak home on the successful delayed double steal for the fourth run. Telis wasted no time plating Skole with an RBI single to right field. After consecutive walks to load the bases, 3B Christian Villanueva earned an RBI base on balls, forcing Telis in from third and capping the rally with the Crawdads ahead, 6-1.

Sand Gnats LHP Chase Hutchingson got out of the fourth and pitched the remainder of the game in scoreless fashion, while the Crawdads received scoreless work from RHP Braden Tullis (2 innings), RHP Joe Van Meter (1 inning) and RHP Ryan Rodebaugh (1 inning) to close out the victory.
NOTES: The Crawdads go for their third straight win against Savannah on Wednesday morning with a special 11 a.m. start time (gates open at 10 a.m.). It will be Senior Day, with senior adults receiving $5 tickets! Also, don't miss the Businessperson's Special -- bring a business card to the Ticket Office for a $5 box seat!

Every Wednesday home game in 2011 is a Guaranteed WINSday - if the Crawdads don't win, everyone in attendance gets a FREE ticket to a future game. Also, the Unemployment Night Special offers 4 FREE tickets to fans that present an NCESC-issued debit card or printed online statement at the Ticket Office.