

Telis and 'Dads walk off against 'Gnats, 7-5

Written by Staff Reports

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With two on and two down in the bottom of the ninth, C Tomas Telis belted a two-strike pitch over the right field wall to lift the Hickory Crawdads to the 7-5 walk-off win against the Savannah Sand Gnats, before 1,771 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium on Wednesday afternoon.

Hickory has won three in a row against Savannah, securing the series victory with the finale on Thursday night.

The Sand Gnats (1-5) dealt the first blow with four runs on four hits and two Crawdads miscues in the second to take the early 4-0 lead. The Savannah charge was led by a two-run home run by C Blake Forsythe against Hickory starter RHP Randol Rojas.

The Crawdads (5-2) started chipping away immediately. In the bottom of the second, 2B Odubel Herrera reached on a fielder's choice and quickly advanced to second on a one-out single by 1B Jhonny Gomez. 3B Jonathan Roof then plated Herrera with a base hit, cutting the deficit to 4-1.

Hickory got right back down the comeback trail in the bottom of the fourth, rallying for three runs to tie the game. A one-out double by RF Josh Richmond started the charge and was followed by a single from Herrera to put runners on the corners. Gomez and Roof then knocked back-to-back RBI singles, making it 4-3 and putting runners back on the corners. LF Teodoro Martinez came through with a sacrificial fly to right field, squaring it at 4-4.

However, the Sand Gnats reclaimed the lead right away in the top of the fifth. A one out triple by RF Javier Rodriguez chased Rojas from the mound, with LHP Kevin Johnson taking over. Johnson navigated out of the frame, but not before an RBI single by 1B Sam Honeck put the Sand Gnats back up, 5-4.

Johnson combined with RHP Colby Killian and RHP Joe Van Meter (W, 1-0) to keep the Hickory deficit at just one run, while the bats struck again in the bottom of the ninth against RHP Gabriel Zavala (L, 0-1).

Zavala started the frame with a strikeout, but then lost his control, hitting Martinez and walking SS Jurickson Profar to put two on. CF Jake Skole then grounded into a fielder's choice, but beat out the attempted double play to keep the game going and put runners on the corners. Zavala got ahead in the count against Telis, but the 'Dads catcher won the battle, launching the walk-off, three-run home run over the right field wall for the 7-5 victory for Hickory.

NOTES: Hickory attempts the series sweep against Savannah in the homestand finale on Thursday night. It is Thirsty Thursday, presented by Buffalo Wild Wings, featuring \$1 Beers and Pepsis, as well as a post-game concert by Banned on Wednesday.

Thursday will also be the Crawdads Salute to Charlie Sheen, with ways for fans to WIN all night long!

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