

Intimidators edge 'Dads, 5-3

Written by Staff Reports

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The Kannapolis Intimidators extended their winning streak to seven straight, taking the opener against the Hickory Crawdads, 5-3, before 2,142 fans at Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium in Kannapolis on Friday night.

The Intimidators (7-1) struck first with a three-run rally in the second, though only two runs were earned to RHP Matt Thompson (L, 0-2) as a result of a miscue that kept the frame alive. Kannapolis mustered only two hits in the inning, but took the 3-0 lead early on.

Thompson got on track with a 1-2-3 third inning, however, Kannapolis plated a fourth run on a fielder's choice hit by 3B Jake Oester in the fourth inning, moving ahead, 4-0.

After RHP Jake Petricka (W, 1-0) dealt five scoreless innings, the Crawdads (5-4) raced right back in the game with three runs in the sixth against reliever LHP Spencer Arroyo, pulling within just one run of tying the game. The charge was sparked by a leadoff double by DH Tomas Telis who moved to third on a single by 1B Andrew Clark. RF Josh Richmond then brought Telis in with a grounder to first, followed by a single by CF Jake Skole to put runners at the corners with only one away. After a strikeout, LF Jhonny Gomez placed a two-run single to left field, bringing in Clark and Skole, and making it just a 4-3 Kannapolis lead.

Kannapolis responded to the Crawdads threat with an insurance run in the bottom of the eighth. C Mike Blanke led off the inning with a triple to left-center and came in on an RBI single by 1B Dan Black. Black was thrown out at second by Richmond on the play, but it put Kannapolis ahead by two heading into the ninth.

The Crawdads threatened with two men on in the ninth, but RHP Jimmy Ballinger escaped and closed out the 5-3 win for Kannapolis, picking up his first save of the season.

NOTES: The 'Dads continue their trip to Kannapolis on Saturday night at 7:05 p.m. Catch all the action live on The Big Dawg 92.1FM and Hickorycrawdads.com, and tune in 15 minutes before First Pitch for Crawdads Countdown. The 'Dads return home for a nine-game homestand on Monday, April 25 against the Augusta GreenJackets! It will be 2-for-1 Senior Night, presented by 63 Big Ways 630AM, with bingo! Also, all kids get to eat for free with a ticket purchase. First Pitch is 7 p.m., gates open at 6 p.m.