Written by Staff Reports
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Justin Grimm struck out a season-high 11 batters to help guide the Hickory Crawdads to the 4-3 win against the Kannapolis Intimidators, before 1,221 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium on Sunday evening.

The first-place 'Dads continue to lead the South Atlantic League with 17 wins. The Intimidators (14-9) got on the board first with a pair of runs in the top of the second against Grimm, who improved his record to 2-0 on the young season. Mike Blanke singled to start the inning and moved to second on a wild pitch. He scored on Dan Black's RBI double moments later. Black took third on a ground-ball out before he scored on Drew Lee's sacrifice fly.

The Crawdads (17-7) responded with three runs of their own in the bottom of the second. A one-out walk to Josh Richmond, and four consecutive singles by Andrew Clark, Christian Villanueva, Jhonny Gomez and Kellin Deglan put the 'Dads ahead, 3-2. Deglan highlighted the hit parade with a two-run single that gave Hickory the lead.

Hickory added an insurance run in the fourth on a sacrifice fly by Jurickson Profar, making it 4-2. Grimm, meanwhile, retired 15 straight batters from the second through the sixth, and struck out the final two batters that he faced to end the seventh. Jorge Marban, who picked up his first save of the year. made his second appearance of the season, tossing the final two frames. Kannapolis scored a run in the ninth. Ross Wilson doubled and eventually came in on a pair of wild pitches, but Marban settled down and closed things down.

NOTES; The 'Dads go for their fourth straight win as they host the Kannapolis Intimidators on Monday at 7 p.m., gates open at 6 p.m. It will be 2-for-1 Senior Night, featuring bingo throughout the game! Also, all kids eat for FREE with the purchase of a ticket.