

Braves edge Crawdads, 6-5

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads fell in a back-and-forth battle against the Rome Braves, 6-5, before 2,492 fans at State Mutual Stadium in Rome on Friday night.

The Crawdads got off to a quick start striking for a run in the top of the first. Back-to-back doubles by Jurickson Profar and Odubel Herrera to start the game gave Hickory a 1-0 lead. Crawdads right-hander Luke Jackson, who was making his professional debut, retired the first five men he faced before the Braves put together a two-out rally that tied the game in the second. Christian Bethancourt kept the inning alive with a two-out single, stole third base, and he scored Chris Garcia's RBI single, tying the game. Hickory came right back scoring a run in the fourth and two more in the fifth, opening a 4-1 lead. Josh Richmond drove in Andrew Clark with a two-out RBI double in the fourth before a bases-loaded rally in the fifth. Jonathan Roof plated a run with a sacrifice fly, and Profar lined an run-scoring single to right during that outburst. Rome, however, responded with a four-run rally of its own in the bottom of the fifth. That comeback also chased Jackson from the mound. David Rohm smacked a two-run homer, and Elmer Reyes produced a two-run single that gave the Braves a 5-4 lead, and their first lead of the game. The Braves added an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth. Jake Dalfonso doubled and he scored one out later on Garcia RBI double making it 6-4. The Crawdads rallied with a run in the top of the ninth. Profar knocked in his second run of the game with his fourth hit of the night, but Tyler Hess put out the fire and earned his third save of the year.

NOTES: The Crawdads continue the road series against the Rome Braves on Saturday night at 7 p.m. The 'Dads return to L.P. Frans to kick off a four-game home series against the Charleston River Dogs on Wed., May 25 at 7 p.m.! It will be Bald is Beautiful Night, with all bald fans getting a Half Off ticket! Also, as part of Guaranteed WINSdays, if the 'Dads don't win, all fans in attendance will get a FREE ticket to a future game. Wednesday will also be Unemployment Night - bring an NCESC-issued debit card or printed online statement to the Ticket Office for four FREE tickets to the game! Gates open at 6 p.m.