

## 'Dads rally in 9th, beat Legends 8-7

Written by Staff Reports  
Friday, 10 June 2011 06:56

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The Hickory Crawdads came racing back with four runs in the top of the ninth to claim the 8-7 come-from-behind win against the Lexington Legends on Thursday, before 6,480 fans at Whitaker Bank Ballpark in Lexington. Hickory has won four in a row, and trail the 1st-place Hagerstown Suns by only 2.5 games with 10 games remaining in the first half.

After a scoreless first inning, the Crawdads (33-26) took an early lead in the top of the second inning. With two outs, Josh Richmond belted a solo homer to left field, putting Hickory up, 1-0. The Legends (28-32) tied it up with a tally in the bottom of the third inning against Hickory starter Roman Mendez. With one out, Jiovanni Mier and Adam Bailey reached on consecutive singles, putting runners at first and third. Mendez then plunked Chris Wallace to load the bases before Mike Kvasnicka smacked an RBI single up the middle that tied the game, 1-1.

Lexington scored three more in the fifth inning, opening a 4-1 lead. However, the 'Dads kept it close with an RBI single by 1B Andrew Clark in the top of the sixth. The Legends again tried to pull away with a run in the bottom of the sixth and two more in the seventh, making it 7-2. But Hickory started chipping away in the top of the eighth. With one out, Odubel Herrera and Tomas Telis knocked reached on consecutive singles, putting runners on at first and second. Christian Villanueva had RBI single and picked up another run on a throwing error, cutting the deficit at 7-4.

The Crawdads continued their comeback in the ninth inning against losing pitcher Jorge DeLeon (1-3). With the bases empty and one away, Jake Skole reached base on a throwing error charged to Delino DeShields, Jr. Jhonny Gomez walked, and with two outs, Jurickson Profar bounced an RBI single through the right side of the infield, bringing in Skole and moving Gomez to third. Gomez scored on an RBI single by Herrera that also advanced Profar to third. Profar came in on a passed ball that tied the game. Herrera to second base on the play. Telis lifted Hickory drove in th go-ahead run with an RBI single to right-center field, giving the Crawdads an 8-7 lead.

The Legends threatened a comeback in the bottom of the ninth inning, getting runners to the corners with two outs against RHP Ryan Rodebaugh (S, 8). A Lexington rally came up short in the bottom of the ninth. With the tying run in scoring position, Mier ripped a high line drive towards right-center field, but Herrera brought it in with a leaping grab, ending the game.

**NOTES:** The Crawdads continue the series in Lexington on Friday at 7:05 p.m. The 'Dads return home on Thursday, June 16 against the Charleston RiverDogs. It will be Thirsty Thursday, presented by Buffalo Wild Wings with \$1 can beers and Pepsis! Also, don't miss the post-game concert by Norva Jean Dreams! First pitch is at 7 p.m., gates open at 6 p.m.