

Kannapolis Avoids Sweep, Wins 6-5

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads, 1st-Half Northern Division Champions, scored a run in the ninth in a comeback attempt, but the Kannapolis Intimidators held on for the 6-5 win to avoid the series sweep, before 1,875 fans at Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium on Thursday.

After both starters -- RHP Matt Thompson for the Crawdads and RHP Matt Heidenreich for the Intimidators -- kept both offenses in check through the first four innings, Kannapolis (41-35, 4-4) finally broke through with a run in the bottom of the fifth. Miguel Gonzalez led off with a double, advanced to third and scored on a couple of wild pitches by Thompson for a 1-0 lead. Hickory (45-31, 5-3) came back and scored four runs in the top of the sixth. Jhonny Gomez led off with a single to center field, that led to a two-base throwing error on the play. Kannapolis center fielder Trayce Thompson bobbled the ball in center, at which point Gomez thought about going to second base. As he tried to accelerate, Gomez hurt his lower leg and was forced to try to hobble back to first base. Heidenreich received the throw on the infield from Thompson, and threw the ball to first to try to retire Gomez limping back to the bag. However, the throw sailed out of play and Gomez remained safe while also being awarded second and third on the error. Andrew Clark took over at third as a pinch runner and scored on Jurickson Profar's two-run homer down the right field line for a 2-1 lead. Odubel Herrera reignited the offense with a double and raced home on an RBI double by Tomas Telis. Josh Richmond followed with a run-scoring triple that gave the Crawdads a 4-1 lead.

Ben Rowen came on in relief and threw two scoreless innings in the sixth and seventh; he was replaced by Jorge Marban (1-2), who came on in the eighth inning and suffered the loss. Kannapolis scored five times in the inning; only two of the runs were earned, as the Intimidators recaptured the lead, 6-4.

Jake Wilson (6), despite some shakey moments, picked up his sixth save. Clark belted an RBI double to make it 6-5. Following a walk to Richmond that put runners on first and second with two outs, Wilson got out of the jam as he retired Profar on a fly ball to right field. Nick McCully (2-1) got the win for Kannapolis in relief.

NOTES: The Crawdads head to Greenville to take on the Drive on Friday at 7 p.m. Be sure to order your tickets early for the Crawdads next home game - the 4th of July Fireworks Extravaganza on Monday, July 4 at 7 p.m. Don't miss out on the best 4th of July celebration in the area, presented by KICKS 103.3FM! All tickets are just \$10 and going quickly!