

'Dads Fall In 11 innings, 4-3

Written by Staff Reports
Sunday, 03 July 2011 07:50

The Hickory Crawdads, 1st-Half Northern Division Champions, were edged by the Greenville Drive, 4-3, in 11 innings on Saturday, before 4,961 fans at Fluor Field in Greenville.

The game was scoreless through the first four innings. Greenville starter Brandon Workman was practically unhittable through 4 2/3 innings before Yefry Castillo through with a two-out RBI double in the top of the fifth. Andrew Clark, who led off the inning with a walk, came around to score, putting Hickory in front, 1-0.

Roman Mendez kept Greenville (45-35, 7-3) off the board through his first five innings, but the Drive managed to tie it with a tally in the sixth. Heiker Meneses and Sean Coyle led off with consecutive singles. Following a strikeout, both runners advanced to second and third on a balk by Mendez. Michael Almanzar then drove in Meneses with an RBI grounder, evening the score, 1-1.

The Drive moved in front for the first time in the bottom of the seventh. Xander Bogaerts led off with a solo homer that gave Greenville a 2-1 lead. Mendez, who left the game after the seventh, finished with ten strikeouts.

Hickory (45-33, 5-5) wasted no time battling back, scoring twice in the top of the eighth. Jonathan Roof sparked the inning with a double and advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt by Jurickson Profar. Roof then charged home on a wild pitch during Jake Skole's at-bat, tying the game, 2-2. Skole reached as he was hit by a pitch. Christian Villanueva advanced Skole to second with a ground out. Clark came up next and drove a hard-hit fly ball to center field that Henry Ramos misplayed for an error, allowing Skole to race in from second and put Hickory in front, 3-2.

Ben Rowen and Ryan Rodebaugh combined for a scoreless bottom of the eighth inning, but Greenville battled back with an unearned run in the bottom of the ninth. Lucas LeBlanc led off with a single and quickly stole second base. Felix Sanchez walked, and then both runners completed a double steal to reach second and third base with nobody out. Rodebaugh struck out the next two batters before Christian Vazquez ripped a sharp ground ball to third base that Villanueva bobbled for an error, giving LeBlanc the chance to charge home and tie the game, 3-3, forcing extra innings.

Jorge Marban (1-3), who suffered the loss in relief, took over and dealt a scoreless 10th, before the Drive won it in the 11th. With one down and the bases empty, Coyle was hit by a pitch and promptly swiped second base. With Vazquez at the plate, Coyle moved to third on a wild pitch, and then later streaked home on another wild pitch to score the game-winning run in the 11-inning 4-3 victory for the Drive. Charle Rosario (5-0) pitched two scoreless innings to earn the win for Greenville.

NOTES: The Crawdads continue the series in Greenville on Sunday 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!