

Shorebirds top 'Dads, 5-4

Written by Staff Reports
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The Delmarva Shorebirds edged the 1st-Half Northern Division Champion Hickory Crawdads, 5-4, in a rain-shortened, seven-inning game before 888 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium. The game entered a rain delay after the seventh inning and was called 30 minutes later by the umpires due to inclement weather.

The Shorebirds (40-43, 6-8) did all their damage by scoring five times in the second inning against losing pitcher Matt Thompson (3-5), who struck out the side in the first inning. Thompson walked three consecutive men to start the inning. A wild pitch plating the first run, and one out later, Mikey Planeta walked to reload the bases. Mike Mooney struck out for the second out of the inning, but Joe Oliveira and Ty Kelly produced back-to-back two-run singles that gave the Shorebirds a 5-0 lead.

The Crawdads (48-33, 8-6) began chipping away in the bottom of the second against winning pitcher Tim Berry (2-5). Alejandro Selen reached with a one-out single and moved to second when Jake Skole was hit by a pitch. During Yefry Castillo's at-bat, Selen broke from second base too early on a steal attempt, and got caught in a rundown. Selen escaped and made it to third, but Skole, the trailing runner, got caught in a rundown between first and second. That allowed Selen to race home from third for the first Crawdads' run.

Hickory continued its comeback with two more runs in the bottom of the fifth. Skole got things started with a lead-off walk; and he moved to second base on a bunt single by Jonathan Roof. A double steal moved them to second and third before Odubel Herrera brought belted a two-run single to right-center field making it 5-3.

The 'Dads pulled within a run in the bottom of the seventh inning. Roof led off with a walk and stole second base. Christan Villanueva's RBI double one-out later made it a 5-4 game.

Unfortunately, the rains came before the eighth inning got started. Following a 30-minute delay, the umpires called the game. DJ Ferguson, who got the final out in the seventh inning, picked up his second save.

NOTES: The Crawdads start their series against the Lexington Legends on Thursday at 7 p.m. It is Thirsty Thursday, presented by Buffalo Wild Wings, with \$1 can beers and Pepsis! Don't miss the post-game concert by RunWithFear. Thursday is also Classic Rock Night and 70s Night - all fans born in the 1970s get a Half Off Ticket! Gates open at 6 p.m.