Written by Staff Reports Friday, 15 July 2011 07:24

The Hickory Crawdads, 1st-Half Northern Division Champions, two-hit the West Virginia Power for the 6-2 victory, before 2,991 fans at Appalachian Power Park on Thursday. The Crawdads have won each of the first three games in West Virginia and go for the sweep Friday.

The Power (41-48, 6-15) took advantage of two Crawdads errors in the bottom of the first, plating a pair of unearned runs for the early 2-0 lead. After that winning pitcher Cody Buckel (4-3) settled down and kept the Power scoreless through the remainder of his one-hit outing. He had four strikeouts during his five-inning stint.

The Crawdads (54-35, 14-7) wasted no time erasing the deficit, scoring four runs against losing pitcher Zack Von Rosenberg (3-7) in the top of the second inning. Andrew Clark walked and Josh Richmond singled to start the inning, putting runners at first and second with nobody out. Following a strikeout, Jake Skole drove an RBI ground-rule double to center field, scoring Clark and moving Richmond to third. Yefry Castillo brought in Richmond with a sacrifice fly to center before Odubel Herrera plated Skole from third with a squeeze bunt single. Herrera not only scored Skole and reached first on his bunt, but also took second base as the throw from 3B Chase Lyles sailed past first on the play. Herrera scored on the next play, when Jurickson Profar bounced a grounder down the first base line that was misplayed by first baseman Cole White and trickled out to right field, giving Hickory a 4-2 lead.

The Crawdads tacked on two more runs in the top of the fourth. Christian Villanueva crushed the inning's first pitch over the left field wall for a solo home run followed immediately by a solo blast by Skole giving Hickory a 6-2 advantage.

Jimmy Reyes took over for Buckel in the bottom of the sixth and continued to subdue the Power bats with three scoreless frames. Jorge Marban put the finishing touches on the two-hit victory with a perfect ninth inning.

NOTES: The Crawdads go for the sweep against the Power on Friday at 7:05 p.m. The Crawdads will return home on Wed., July 20 to kick off a seven-game homestand with Redneck Night against the Greensboro Grasshoppers. First Pitch is at 7 p.m., gates open at 6 p.m. It will also be Guaranteed WINsday, with all fans in attendance receiving a FREE ticket to a future game this season if the 'Dads don't win. Also, July 20 will be another Conrad's Self-Esteem Wednesday. Say the words "Conrad's Self-Esteem" at the Ticket Office and get a Half Off Ticket to the game, with \$2 going to Catawba Valley Behavioral Healthcare. Also, Wednesday is Unemployment Night - show your NCESC-issued debit card or online statement for four free tickets to the game.

The Hickory Crawdads annual Christian Concert Game, featuring Sidewalk Prophets this year, is coming up quick, scheduled for Sat., July 23 against the Delmarva Shorebirds at 6 p.m. at L.P. Frans Stadium.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTIAN CONCERT GAME JULY 23

'Dads two-hit Power for 6-2 win

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Tickets are only \$12 and going fast, so click here to get yours TODAY! Sidewalk Prophets is one of the top up-and-coming Christian Contemporary bands in the country. The group won the 2010 Gospel Music Association Dove Award for Best New Artist of the Year. The band has also had one of its hit singles, "The Words I Would Say," featured on WOW Hits 2010 and WOW Hits 2011, which highlight the top 30 best Christian songs from each year. For all of the information on Sidewalk Prophets, visit their website at SidewalkProphets.com The Sidewalks Prophets concert will begin shortly after the conclusion of the game between the Crawdads and Shorebirds. First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m., gates open at 5 p.m. For more information and tickets, visit Hickorycrawdads.com or call the Front Office at (828) 322-3000. Discounted tickets are also available for groups of 20 or more by calling (828) 322-3000.