

Power escape sweep, edge 'Dads 6-5

Written by Staff Reports
Saturday, 16 July 2011 09:24

The West Virginia Power squeezed by the 1st-Half Division Champion Hickory Crawdads, 6-5, avoiding the series sweep before 3,574 fans at Appalachian Power Park on Friday night.

The Crawdads (54-36, 14-8) took an early lead with three runs in the top of the first inning. Jurickson Profar hit a double down the left field line, which was misplayed by Rogelio Noris, enabling Profar to get all the way to third on the play. Teodoro Martinez followed with a walk, putting runners at the corners. On a pitch to Andrew Clark, Martinez broke for second base, starting a delayed double steal as Profar scored on the play for the 1-0 lead. One out later, Martinez moved to third on a single by Josh Richmond. Christian Villanueva lined an RBI double to left field, scoring Martinez and moving Richmond all the way to third. Richmond raced home on an RBI grounder by Jake Skole, capping the rally and an early 3-0 lead.

The Power (42-48, 7-15) loaded the bases with nobody out to begin the bottom of the first against Nick Tepesch. But the righthander worked out of the jam with only one run scoring on a sacrifice fly by Cole White, making it 3-1.

Hickory made it 4-1 in the top of the second. Yefry Castillo led off with a single and moved to second on a bunt single by Odubel Herrera. Both runners moved up ninety feet on a sacrifice bunt by Profar before Martinez brought Castillo in from third on an RBI fielder's choice.

But West Virginia rallied and tied the game with three runs in the bottom of the second. With one on and nobody out, Noris belted a two run homer over the left field wall making it 4-3. Two outs later, Andy Vasquez extended the inning as he tripled; he eventually scored the tying run on an error. Clark misplayed a sharply hit ground ball hit right at him at first base.

The Crawdads regained the lead in the top of the fourth. Kellin Deglan led off with an infield single. And with two outs, Deglan raced all the way in on an RBI double to center field by Profar that gave the Crawdads a one-run lead at 5-4.

But the Power rallied to tie by plating a run in the bottom of the sixth. Justin Howard led off with a double and moved to third on a ground out. After Tepesch induced a foul out for the second out in the inning, Chase Lyles drove in Howard with an RBI single to center field.

West Virginia finally took the lead by scoring against losing pitcher Colby Killian (6-4) in the seventh. After Killian struck out the first two men he faced, Vasquez kept the frame alive with a single. He scored the eventual winning run on a bloop single by Rojas Jr. to short left field. Vasquez broke from first on the hit-and-run play and never broke stride giving the Power a 6-5 lead.

Rinku Singh (1-0) got the win with three scoreless innings of work; Jason Townsend picked up his eighth save in the ninth, despite some anxious moments. Hickory threatened with one on and two down, when Profar belted a fly ball to the right field wall. But Howard saved the day as he made a leaping catch at the wall to end the game.

NOTES: The 'Dads start a three-game series in Delmarva on Saturday at 6:35 pm.....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 pm.....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

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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.