

'Dads Outshine Suns, 14-13, In 10

Written by Staff Reports

Tuesday, 02 August 2011 08:48

Christian Villanueva drove the game-winning sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 10th, lifting the 1st-Half Northern Division Champion Hickory Crawdads to the 14-13 victory in extra innings against the Hagerstown Suns, before 1,001 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium.

Hagerstown (58-48, 18-18) took the lead right away with two runs in the top of the first against Nick Tepesch. Blake Kelso led off with a single and quickly stole second base. Chris Curran knocked in Kelso with an RBI single, and then stole second himself. After Curran moved to third on a fly out to center, Kevin Keyes drove an RBI base hit to plate Curran and make it 2-0. The Crawdads (63-42, 23-14) quickly cut the deficit in half in the bottom of the first, facing Matt Grace. With two down and the bases empty, Christian Villanueva kept the inning going with a single. He then raced all the way in on an RBI single by Andrew Clark, cutting the Suns lead to 2-1.

Hagerstown stretched the lead back out by scoring three times in the next two innings. Jason Martinson plated the run in the third with a sacrifice fly; Michael Taylor belted a two-run bomb in the fourth giving the Suns the 5-1 advantage.

Hickory came racing back with four runs in the bottom of the fifth. Braxton Lane got things started by reaching on an error; the Crawdads then produced four consecutive singles. Jurickson Profar moved Lane to third with a base hit, Odubel Herrera belted an RBI single to plate Lane, Villanueva and Clark had back-to-back RBI singles, Josh Richmond capped off the rally with the game-tying run on a sacrifice fly to tie up the game, 5-5.

The Suns answered with four runs of their own in the top of the sixth. Following a pair of walks to start the stanza, Taylor cracked hit his second home run of the game, this one a three-run shot over the left-field wall. Kelso and Curran botyh walked, a fielder's choice and another walk loaded the bases with one away. Martinson bounced into another RBI fielder's choice, driving Kelso in from third and putting the Suns ahead, 9-5.

But the Crawdads came right back with a five-run explosion in the bottom of the sixth to take the lead. Alejandro Selen led off with a double and moved to third on a ground out. After Lane was hit by a pitch, pitcher Greg Holt attempted a pick off throw to first, but threw the ball away, enabling Selen to score. Profar walked and Herrera singled to load the bases. Villanueva walked to force in a run that made it 9-7. One out later, Richmond had a two-run single, scoring Profar and Herrera, while advancing Villanueva to second that tied the game at 9-9. A double steal, which drew an errant throw from catcher Adrian Nieto past third base, allowed Villanueva to score the go-ahead run for a 10-9 Hickory lead.

But Hagerstown put together a three-run rally in the top of the seventh to regain the lead, 12-10.

After Hagerstown plated an additional insurance run in the top of the ninth, Selen came through with a game-tying, three-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth that tied the game at 13-13, forcing extra innings.

Jimmy Reyes (6-0), who got the win in relief, faced the minimum three batters in the top of the

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10th before Hickory scored the winning run in the bottom of the inning against losing pitcher Sam Brown (2-5). Profar started the inning with a base hit and quickly moved to second when Herrera was hit by a pitch. After a wild pitch advanced both runners to second and third. Villanueva plated the winning run with a sacrifice fly to right field.

NOTES: The Crawdads host the Suns for Dollar Day on Tuesday! Buy one ticket and get a second grandstand ticket for just a buck! Plus, nine other items at the ballpark will be only \$1 each.....Tuesday also features the KRAFT Singles Tuesday Night Tickets deal. Just bring a KRAFT Singles wrapper to the Ticket Office for a Buy One, Get One offer from KRAFT. First Pitch on Tuesday is 7 p.m., with gates opening at 6 p.m.