

Crawdads clip RiverDogs, 5-4

Written by Staff Reports

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The 1st-Half Northern Division Champion Hickory Crawdads topped the Charleston RiverDogs, 5-4, before 2,372 fans at Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Park on Tuesday night. The Crawdads (68-51, 28-23) cracked the scoreless tie in the top of the fourth against losing pitcher Mike Gipson (0-1).

With one away, Christian Villanueva led off with a double to left field. Alejandro Selen then bounced an infield single to Garrison Lassiter, who misfired an errant throw past first base that allowed Villanueva to score, putting Hickory in front, 1-0.

Hickory tacked on three more runs in the top of the fifth against relief pitcher Yobanny Reyes. With one down and the bases empty, Jhonny Gomez was hit by a pitch. Jurickson Profar reached on a single and Jake Skole loaded the bases with a walk. Tomas Telis bounced a two-run single into right field that also got past right fielder Kelvin De Leon for an error on the play, enabling all three runners to score for the 4-0 advantage.

After winning pitcher Ben Henry (5-2) started his outing with only one hit allowed through four scoreless innings, the RiverDogs (48-73, 22-29) raced back into the game with three runs in the bottom of the fifth. With two on and nobody out, Jose Toussen belted a two-run single to right-center field, slicing the deficit in half. Toussen moved to second on a walk and advanced to third one out later when De Leon was hit by a pitch loading the bases. Kevin Mahoney brought in Toussen with a fielder's choice as the RiverDogs crept a little closer at 4-3.

Hickory stretched the lead right back out, capitalizing on another Charleston miscue in the top of the sixth. After a strikeout to start the inning, Jonathan Roof singled. Roof took second when Kellin Deglan was hit by a pitch. Gomez then bounced into a fielder's choice. Toussen attempting to turn a double play, but threw the ball past first base allowing Roof to score for the 5-3 lead.

The RiverDogs plated one in a bottom of the ninth, but Francisco Mendoza (third save) got out of the inning with no further damage as the Crawdads hung on for a 5-4 win.

NOTES: The 'Dads wrap up a four-game road series against the RiverDogs in Charleston on Wednesday at 7:05 p.m.....Hickory starts a four-game home series against the Lexington Legends this Thursday at L.P. Frans Stadium. It is Thirsty Thursday, presented by Buffalo Wild Wings, featuring \$1 can beers and fountain Pepsis. It will be Biker Night, with all fans riding a motorcycle to the game receiving a Half Off Ticket. Also, Banned on Wednesday will be performing live on the concourse after the game! First Pitch is at 7 p.m., gates open at 6 p.m.