

## 'Dads Whip Suns, 5-3

Written by Staff Reports  
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The 1st-Half Northern Division Champion Hickory Crawdads completed their third consecutive series win with the 5-3 victory against the Hagerstown Suns before 1,087 fans at Municipal Stadium on Thursday night.

The Crawdads (74-53, 34-25) scored first against losing pitcher Matt Swynenberg (6-3) with a run in the first inning. With two outs, Jurickson Profar kept things alive with a double; he scored on a double by Christian Villanueva for the 1-0 lead. But the Suns (72-57, 32-27) tied things up in the bottom of the first.

Chris Curran and Blake Kelso got things started with back-to-back singles. Curran scored on Adrian Sanchez's double-play ball that tied the game at 1-1.

But Hickory grabbed the lead for good with three runs in the top of second. Josh Richmond and Jonathan Roof had consecutive singles, and Jhonny Gomez followed one out later with a base hit to load the bases. A throwing error on a pick-off attempt by catcher Adrian Nieto to third enabling all three runners to move up and Richmond scored for a 2-1 lead. Roof scored on a wild pitch and Jake Skole bounced an RBI infield single up the middle to plate Gomez for the 4-1 advantage.

Hagerstown got two runs back in the bottom of the second. Nieto walked with one out and moved to third on a Mills Rogers double. Justino Cuevas scored both runners with a two-run single that cut the Crawdads lead down to 4-3.

The 'Dads put the finishing touch on things with a solo home run by Kellin Deglan in the top of the seventh, stretching the lead back to two runs at 5-3.

Winning pitcher Cody Buckel(8-3) went five innings and finished with eight strikeouts. Joe Van Meter logged two scoreless innings in relief, Ben Rowen came on in the eighth and didn't give up a run, and RHP Francisco Mendoza closed things out for his sixth save with a scoreless ninth.

**NOTES:** The Crawdads kick off a five-game road series in Lakewood on Friday at 7:05 p.m.....The 'Dads return to L.P. Frans Stadium for their final regular season home series from Thurs., Sept. 1 - Mon., Sept. 5, before the playoffs come to town! The series against Greenville gets going with Thirsty Thursday, presented by Buffalo Wild Wings, on Thurs., Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. Enjoy \$1 can beers and fountain Pepsis, as well as a post-game concert by Norva Jean Dreams!