

Crawdads Split DH With Lakewood

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The 1st-Half Northern Division Champion Hickory Crawdads split a doubleheader against the Lakewood BlueClaws on Tuesday, winning Game 1, 4-3, in 8 innings but falling in Game 2, 3-2, before 9,044 fans at FirstEnergy Park in Lakewood.

In game one, the Crawdads (78-53, 38-25) grabbed the early lead thanks to an RBI single by Josh Richmond in the first inning, but Lakewood came back with three runs (two earned) against winning pitcher Nick Tepesch (7-4) in the bottom of the second. An RBI single by Carlos Perdomo and two Hickory errors accounted for the 3-1 Lakewood lead. Tepesch, however, kept Lakewood at bay for the remainder of his seven-inning start.

Hickory tallied twice in the top of the fifth inning to tie the score. Kellin Deglan and Braxton Lane both walked putting two runners on with only one out. Jurickson Profar followed with a two-run double to left-center field that tied up the game.

The Crawdads took advantage of an error by the BlueClaws (66-65, 33-30) in the eighth inning to retake the lead. Christian Villanueva led off with a bunt single. Villanueva stole second base and then raced home when on Jonathan Roof's infield single. Roof bounced his infield hit right behind the mound and shortstop Carlos Perdomo kicked the ball away enabling Villanueva to score for the 4-3 lead.

Francisco Mendoza slammed the door with a perfect eighth inning and picked up his eighth save of the year.

In game two, Lakewood (67-65, 34-30) jumped on top with a run in the third inning. Bill Rice led off with a single, moved to second, and scored on Carlos Alonso's base hit one out later. The BlueClaws added an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth inning. Anthony Hewitt started the stanza with a double. He moved to third on a sacrifice bunt. Hewitt eventually scored on a fielder's choice that gave Lakewood a 2-0 lead.

The Crawdads (78-54, 38-26) came racing back in the top of the seventh. With one down, Alejandro Selen singled, and Josh Richmond walked. Jonathan Roof belted a two-run double to left field that tied the game, 2-2.

But Lakewood took advantage of a Crawdads' miscue in the bottom of the seventh to walk off with the win. Bill Rice led off with a single, Zach Collier advanced Rice to second with a sacrifice bunt, and Carlos Alonso was intentionally walked, putting runners at first and second with one out. Jim Murphy injured his hand and was replaced by pinch hitter Cameron Rupp. But Selen made a bad throw on Rupp's potential double-play grounder allowing the winning run to score.

NOTES: 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!