

## Rally Falls Short In 'Dads 8-7 Loss

Written by Staff Reports  
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Sunday night was a night of missed opportunities for the Hickory Crawdads, as the 'Dads left a total of eight men on base, including the tying run in the 9th, in an 8-7 loss to the Greensboro Grasshoppers at

LP Frans Stadium.

Hickory had plenty of opportunities in the one-run loss, most notably a bases loaded, one out situation in the first that resulted in just a single run. For the night, the Crawdads left a total of eight men on, four of them in scoring position.

For the fourth straight game the Crawdads jumped out to an early lead thanks to a first inning, bases loaded single by catcher Jorge Alfaro to make the score 1-0. The golden opportunity would dissipate there however, as first baseman Preston Beck grounded into an inning ending double play.

After the Grasshoppers tied the game at 1-1 in the top of the second, the 'Dads retook the lead on a two-out RBI single from center fielder Lewis Brinson. The 2-1 lead wouldn't last long though.

Greensboro exploded for three runs in both the third and fifth innings to take a comfortable lead at 7-2. Hickory would rally with three runs of their own in the sixth to pull within 7-5 and would answer a Grasshopper run in the eighth to head to the 9th down 8-6.

The final inning started with a bang when Brinson launched a solo homer over the right field wall to pull the Crawdads within one. Left fielder Nick Williams followed with a single up the middle to bring the winning run to the plate, but both Nomar Mazara and Joey Gallo would strike out before Alfaro flied out to end the game and leave the tying run on base.

Brinson finished the game 2-5 with his second homer of the season to extend his season opening hitting streak to four games. Second baseman Ryan Rua picked up his first two hits of the season going 2-3 with two doubles and three RBI.

Hickory starting pitcher Sam Stafford (0-1) took the loss after lasting just 2.2 innings and allowing four runs, three earned, in his 2013 debut. Greensboro reliever Brian Ellington (1-0) earned the win out of the bullpen with Frank Reed (1) picking up the save.

With the loss the Crawdads (1-3) drop their season opening series against the Grasshoppers (3-1). The 'Dads will look to turn things around starting Monday when they host the Greenville Drive for the start of a three-game series. Game one is scheduled to start at 6:00 pm.

### **Get Tickets:**

Individual Tickets for all Crawdads home games are available right now at [Hickorycrawdads.com](http://Hickorycrawdads.com) or by calling (828) 322-3000! Group outings, corporate partnerships, Buffalo Wild Wings Claw Club memberships and Ticket Books are also available right now by calling the Front Office at (828) 322-3000.