

Homers Doom 'Dads In 5-3 Loss

Written by Staff Reports

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The normally light hitting Greenville Drive brought their big sticks to the ballpark Tuesday night, as the club belted a season high two home runs off the

Hickory Crawdads bullpen resulting in a 5-3 'Dads loss at LP Frans Stadium.

The Drive entered the game with only one home run on the young season, but the shaky Hickory bullpen served up two long balls in consecutive frames to turn a 2-0 advantage into a 5-3 deficit.

Crawdads reliever Jose Leclerc entered the game in the fifth with his team on top 2-0 thanks to the wild but effective start by Kelvin Vasquez. The lead wouldn't last long however, as Jose Vinicio hit a 2-run shot in the fifth and Nick Moor launched a 3-run bomb in the sixth to put Greenville ahead.

Hickory tried to rally with a solo homer of their own by Joey Gallo in the sixth, but that would be the last time either team would score.

The 'Dads finished the game with a season low five hits. In fact, the first two Hickory runs of the game in the third came without the benefit of a hit. Both Jordan Akins and David Lyon worked walks to start the inning before being sacrificed into scoring position on a bunt by Luis Marte. Lewis Brinson would follow with an RBI fielder's choice before Luis Mendez drove in the second run on a ground out.

Lyon finished the game 1-1 with two walks and a run scored while Brinson went 1-3 with an RBI and a walk. Gallo had his second straight game with multiple hits and a homer, going 2-4 with his solo shot.

Vasquez finished the night with a no decision despite leaving the game with a 2-0 lead. The 6-4" righty tossed four shaky, but shutout innings allowing three hits and two walks while fanning five. Leclerc (0-1) took the loss for the 'Dads after allowing all five Greenville runs on five hits over his two frames. Drive starter Cody Kukuk (1-0) earned the win for his five innings pitched allowing two runs on three hits. Reliever Kyle Kraus (1) earned the two-inning save with two scoreless frames.

With the 5-3 decision, the Crawdads (2-4) and Drive (3-3) have split the first two games of their 3-game series. The two clubs will play the rubber match Wednesday morning, with first pitch scheduled for 11:00 am.

NOTES: Morning Baseball....The Crawdads will wrap up their seven-game home stand with a special 11:00 start time against the Greenville Drive Wednesday afternoon! Gates will open at 10:00 am.....Individual Tickets for all Crawdads home games are available right now at 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.