

## Maloney Mashers 'Dads To 4th Straight Win

Written by Staff Reports  
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The Hickory Crawdads continued their hot hitting ways with another come from behind win Thursday night, as the 'Dads road two home runs by Joe Maloney

to overcome an early 6-2 deficit for an 8-6 win over the Charleston RiverDogs at L.P. Frans Stadium.

The 'Dads fell behind early when starting pitcher Eric Brooks was touched up for six runs, four earned, over just 3.1 innings pitched. The early pitching troubles put Hickory in a 6-2 hole against one of the best pitching teams in the South Atlantic League, but the suddenly hot hitting Crawdads were undeterred.

Maloney started the rally in the fourth when he launched a 2-run homer over the center field wall to cut the score to 6-4. Fast forward to the sixth and Maloney came through again, lining another 2-run bomb well past the left field fence to put Hickory ahead for the first time at 7-6. Maloney's two HR night is the second straight game a Crawdad has hit multiple homers, with Joey Gallo going yard twice in Wednesday's extra inning victory. The 'Dads first baseman finished the night 2-4 with 2 HRs and four RBI.

Nick Williams also joined in on the long ball fun, smashing a solo shot to right in the seventh to cap the scoring at 8-6. The homer was Williams' 5th of the year, and pushed Hickory's league leading total to 22 home runs in just 15 games. The 'Dads 8 run, 10 hit outburst was also spurred by another solid night from Ryan Rua, who had his third straight multi-hit game going 2-4 with a double and two runs scored.

On the mound the Crawdads bullpen came to Brooks' rescue, with John Kukuruda and Cody Kendall combining to toss 5.2 scoreless innings with just one hit and six strikeouts. Kukuruda (1-0) earned the win for his 3.2-shutout frames while Kendall (2) earned his second save in just his second appearance for the 'Dads.

With their fourth straight win the Crawdads (8-7) move over .500 for the first time this year. The 'Dads and RiverDogs (8-6) will play again Friday in game two of their four-game series at 7:00 pm.

**NOTES:** The 'Dads continue their weekend series against the RiverDogs Friday, with all actual Dogs welcome at L.P. Frans! It's "Bark at the Park" day where all dogs get in free with their owners to watch Hickory take on Charleston at 7:00 p.m....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.

**Photo Courtesy: Joe Maloney, Hickory Crawdads**