

## Defense Dooms 'Dads In 8-2 Loss

Written by Staff Reports

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The red hot Hickory Crawdads were their own worst enemy Saturday night, as the 'Dads repeatedly hurt themselves with a season high four errors resulting in four unearned runs in an 8-2 loss to the Hagerstown Suns at Municipal Stadium. The game started off with a bang for the 'Dads as center fielder Lewis Brinson lined a solo homer to left to put Hickory ahead 1-0. The advantage would be short lived though, as the defensive miscues began in the bottom of the inning.

Third baseman Joey Gallo allowed a ground ball from leadoff hitter Tony Renda to go between his legs to start the frame. Following a wild pitch, Suns third baseman Mike McQuillan drove in Renda with an RBI sacrifice fly to tie the game at 1-1.

The errors continued in the fourth when normally sure-handed shortstop Luis Marte booted a ball allowing Suns center fielder Will Piwnica-Worms to reach base. One out later left fielder Wes Schill smacked an RBI double to left to give Hagerstown a 2-1 lead they would never relinquish.

The fifth frame was the worst defensively for the 'Dads, with Marte committing two more errors resulting in two more unearned runs and pushing the Suns advantage to 4-1. Hickory threatened to get back in the game in the seventh when Jorge Alfaro launched a solo homer of his own to left to cut the deficit to 4-2. Right fielder Nomar Mazara followed with a single, but Jordan Akins ended the inning with a 5-4-3 double play to squash the rally.

Hagerstown would tack on two more tallies in both the seventh and eighth innings off the Crawdads bullpen to pull away and finish the scoring at 8-2. All the errors ruined a nice start from Hickory hurler Connor Sadzeck (2-1). The right-hander went five innings and allowed just five hits, but was victimized by four unearned runs resulting in the loss. Hagerstown starter Kylin Turnbull (1-0) was in complete control during his first start for the Suns. In his first game since being sent down from the Carolina League, Turnbull held the 'Dads to just one run on three hits and seven strikeouts in six innings of work. Both Brinson and Alfaro finished the game 1-4 with a HR.

With the loss the Crawdads (14-9) and Suns (12-11) have split the first two games of their 4-game series. The clubs will match up again Sunday afternoon at 1:05 pm.

**NOTES:** The Crawdads will try to bounce back Sunday afternoon against the Suns at 1:05 pm. With a win, the 'Dads can clinch at least a tie in their fifth straight series! You can follow the 'Dads through the entire trip online at [Hickorycrawdads.com](http://Hickorycrawdads.com). 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.