

'Dads top Intimidators, 2-1, in 10

Written by Staff Reports
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A game-winning RBI single by Christian Villanueva in the bottom of the 10th lifted the Hickory Crawdads to the 2-1 victory in extra innings against the Kannapolis Intimidators, before 3,333 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium on Saturday night.

After both starters -- Nick Tepesch for Hickory (16-7) and Spencer Arroyo for Kannapolis (14-8) -- alternated scoreless frames through the first three innings, Colby Killian took over and kept the Intimidators off the board in the top of the fourth before the 'Dads broke the scoreless tie. With one out in the bottom of the fourth, Josh Richmond belted his first home run of the season, a solo shot, over the left field wall for the 1-0 lead.

Killian dealt three scoreless innings to keep the narrow lead intact, but Kannapolis mustered a comeback in the top of the 8th against Joe Van Meter. With one out, Brady Shoemaker started the rally with a double and quickly moved to third on a passed ball. Mike Blanke then worked a walk to put runners on the corners and bring in Ryan Rodebaugh (who would eventually be the winning pitcher in relief). Rodebaugh retired Dan Black on a pop out for the second out, before issuing a walk to Juan Silverio, loading the bases for Kenny Gilbert. Gilbert dribbled a grounder to second and legged out an RBI infield single to tie the game, 1-1.

Rodebaugh got out of the rest of the eighth with no further runs coming across, and then tossed scoreless stanzas in the ninth and 10th as well. That set the stage for Villanueva's game-winning heroics in the bottom of the tenth.

Richmond led off the inning with a single to left field. He then advanced to second on a passed ball, at which point the Intimidators intentionally walked Andrew Clark. Tomas Telis advanced both runners with a sacrifice bunt, putting runners at second and third with only one out.

Villanueva stepped up next and ripped the first pitch through the middle of the drawn-in infield for the game-winning hit, scoring Richmond from third.

NOTES: The 'Dads are celebrating Mother's Day this Sunday with Craw" MOMS" and Breast Cancer Awareness Day at 5 p.m. All moms will get a FREE ticket to the game, courtesy of A Woman's View Healthcare and Pure Reflection Spa for Wellness. Also, all fans that wear pink to Sunday's game will get a buy one, get one free ticket! Additionally, the first 300 moms through the gates will receive a FREE rose from Whitfield's By Design! Gates open at 4 pm.