

'Dads Rally Late, Win 5-4

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads struck for two unearned runs in the eighth inning to come back for the 5-4 win against the Rome Braves before 4,762 fans at State Mutual Stadium in Rome on Saturday night.

The Crawdads jump out to an early 3-0 lead by plating three runs in the top of the second inning. With one out, Josh Richmond reached on an error, Christian Villanueva and Jhonny Gomez both singled loading the bases. Alejandro Selen then lined a two-run single to left field putting the 'Dads on the board. After Gomez took third on a fly ball out, Teodoro Martinez brought him in on a run-scoring bunt single.

Hickory starter Roman Mendez retired the first nine men he faced before the Braves finally scored in the fourth. David Rohm led off the inning with a bloop double that fell right behind first base, and he scored one out later on an RBI double by Robby Hefflinger.

Rome eventually took a 4-3 lead by the sixth inning. Rohm's belted two-run triple tied the game at 3-3, and Matt Lipka's run-scoring fielder's choice gave the Braves a one-run lead.

But the Crawdads came back in the eighth to regain the lead. Richmond reached on a fielder's choice and moved to second after Villanueva walked. Gomez then grounded a fielder's choice to shortstop Edward Salcedo, who fired wide of second base and sailed the ball down the right field line. The misfire enabled Richmond and Villanueva to score, putting the Crawdads back on top 5-4.

After Joe Van Meter dealt a scoreless eighth, Ryan Rodebaugh (his second save of the year) applied the finishing touch.

NOTES: The Crawdads continue the road series against the Rome Braves on Sunday at 2 p.m.

The 'Dads return to L.P. Frans to kick off a four-game home series against the Charleston River Dogs on Wed., May 25 at 7 p.m.! It will be Bald is Beautiful Night, with all bald fans getting a Half Off ticket!

Also, as part of Guaranteed WINSdays, if the 'Dads don't win, all fans in attendance will get a FREE ticket to a future game. Wednesday will also be Unemployment Night - bring an NCEC-issued debit card or printed online statement to the Ticket Office for four FREE tickets to the game! Gates open at 6 p.m.