

Crawdads take opener in West Virginia, 4-3

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads beat the West Virginia Power, 4-3, before 2,176 fans at Appalachian Power Park on Sunday evening.

Alejandro Selen belted a solo home run over the left field wall to put Hickory in front, 1-0 in the top of the third. And Hickory added to its lead with two runs in the top of the seventh against losing pitcher Casey Sadler (1-3).

With Josh Richmond on at first and two outs, Jake Skole kept the inning going with a single, before Selen was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Kellin Deglan quickly unloaded the bases, ripping a two-run ground-rule double down the right field line to make it a 3-0 lead.

But West Virginia (23-25) tied the game with three runs in the bottom of the seventh. Justin Howard led off with a single and Kawika Emsley-Pai walked putting runners at first and second. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch and they scored on a two-run single by Elias Diaz, making it a 3-2 game. Diaz moved to second on a basehit by Eric Avila, both advanced on a sacrifice bunt, and Drew Maggi drove in Diaz with an RBI single tying the game.

But Hickory jumped back in front in the top of the eighth. With two down, Andrew Clark walked and Christian Villanueva drove him in all the way from first with an RBI double putting the 'Dads back in front, 4-3.

Jimmy Reyes (1-0), who took over in the seventh, dealt a scoreless eighth and got the win; Ryan Rodebaugh slammed the door in the ninth and picked up his fifth save.

NOTES: The Crawdads continue their series against the Power in West Virginia on Monday at 1:05 p.m. The 'Dads will be back home to face the Lakewood BlueClaws on Sunday, June 5 at 5 p.m. It will be Carnival Day at the ballpark, preceded by a Faith and Family Day service by Lower Creek Baptist Church from 3:15 - 4 p.m., open to all fans with a ticket to this game.