

Shorebirds top 'Dads, 5-3

Written by Staff Reports

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The Hickory Crawdads dropped a back-and-forth battle against the Delmarva Shorebirds, 5-3, before 1,731 fans at Arthur W. Perdue Stadium on Wednesday night.

The Shorebirds (29-24) grabbed a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first. Mychal Givens singled and moved to second on a misfired pickoff attempt by pitcher Cody Buckel. And with a runner in scoring position, Ty Kelly then drove an RBI single up the middle to bring in Givens with the first run of the game.

Buckel settled down and retired eight men in a row. The 'Dads (27-25) eventually tied the game with a run in the top of the fourth. Tomas Telis led off the inning with a single and Christian Villanueva walked. Both men advanced on a double steal and Jake Skole drove in the tying run with an RBI grounder to short. scoring Villanueva quickly came in on an RBI grounder by Jhonny Gomez, giving Hickory a 2-1 lead.

Buckel kept the Shorebirds in check as he retired 11 straight retired before he surrendered a lead-off double in the bottom of the fifth. Buckel, though, left the tying run on base and got out of the inning. But the Shorebirds mounted a comeback of their own in the bottom of the sixth against losing pitcher Colby Killian (4-2).

Mikey Planeta and Givens hit back-to-back singles with one out, putting runners at first and third. Kelly struck out and Givens attempted to steal second base, but a bad throw by catcher Kellin Deglan bounced into center field, scoring Planeta from third and moving Givens to third. An RBI double by Mike Flacco scored Givens, giving Delmarva a 3-2 lead.

The Shorebirds added two more runs in the seventh. Michael Ohlman and Adam Gaylord got things started with consecutive singles, putting runners at first and second with nobody out. A sacrifice bunt advanced the runners to second and third. Brenden Webb's RBI single scored Ohlman with an RBI single; Planeta's sacrifice fly plated Gaylord for a 5-2 lead.

Hickory chipped away with a run in the top of the eighth. Villanueva ripped a double down the left field line with one out in the frame. He stole third and he scored on a two-out RBI single by Gomez.

But that was it for the Crawdads as David Walters, who picked up his 14th save, closed things out with a perfect ninth inning.

NOTES: The Crawdads continue their series against the Shorebirds in Delmarva on Thursday at 7:05 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 3:30 - 4:15 p.m., open to all fans with a ticket to this game.