

Three Crawdads selected to 2011 SAL All-Star Team

Written by Staff Reports

Tuesday, 07 June 2011 16:59

The South Atlantic League released its rosters for the 52nd Annual SAL All-Star Game on Tuesday.

The Hickory Crawdads will have three players participating in the game and playing for the Northern Division team -- RHP Roman Mendez, 3B Christian Villanueva and C Tomas Telis. The All-Star Game will be played on June 21, 2011 at Arthur W. Perdue Stadium in Salisbury, Maryland, the home of the Delmarva Shorebirds.

Mendez, who is 20-years-old, has made 11 starts for the Crawdads this season. He's 5-1 with a 3.59 ERA. The San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic native has tossed a team-high 57.1 innings, allowing 23 earned runs on 57 hits with 24 walks and 58 strikeouts. Mendez is tied for ninth in the SAL in strikeout totals and leads the team in innings pitched. He was acquired by the Rangers in a 4-player trade with the Boston Red Sox that involved C Jarrod Saltalamacchia on July 31, 2010.

Villanueva, who is 19, has played in 54 of the Crawdads 58 games this season. He has the highest fielding percentage among third basemen at .950. He leads the Crawdad with 33 RBI. The Guadalajara, Mexico, native is also tied for second on the team in runs scored (32) and doubles (15), and tied for third in home runs (5). Villanueva signed with Texas in 2008 and spent the 2010 season with the AZL Rangers (Rookie League).

Telis, who is also 19-years-old, joins the Northern Division team as a replacement for Kannapolis C Michael Blanke, who was promoted and will not play in the SAL All-Star Game. Telis has played in 54 games, leading the team with a .310 batting average. The Tigre Estado Anzoategui, Venezuela native is tied for the team lead with six home runs and second with 32 RBIs. Telis signed with the Rangers in 2007 and also spent the 2010 campaign with the AZL Rangers (Rookie League).

The All-Star Game will feature a Home Run Derby at 5:30 p.m. before the game, which begins at 7:30 p.m.