

'Dads win fourth straight

Written by Staff Reports

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In a battle of South Atlantic League All-Star starting pitchers, Roman Mendez of the Crawdads out-dueled Edwar Cabrera of the Tourists.

The end result, Hickory Crawdads defeated Asheville 2-1 before 2,204 fans at Historic McCormick Field in Asheville on Tuesday night. The win leaves Hickory just one-half game behind Hagerstown and Greensboro for first place in the SAL's Northern Division.

The Crawdads (37-27) scored all the runs they need by plating a pair in the second inning. Christian Villanueva led things off with a solo home run---his team-leading seventh of the season---and Andrew Clark followed with a double and came around to score on an RBI single by Alejandro Selen, staking Hickory to a 2-0 lead.

Asheville (30-35) scored its only run in the bottom of the second. Corey Dickerson reached on a one-out double, and scored on an RBI double by Helder Velazquez, making it a 2-1 game. But that was it offensively for both teams the rest of the night. Mendez, who picked up his sixth win of the year, tossed seven scoreless innings before he gave way to Joe Van Meter. Mendez gave up one run on seven hits, struck out six and walked one during his seven-inning stint. Cabrera coughed up eight hits and struck out seven before he departed after eight innings. Van Meter closed things out with a pair of scoreless innings for his third save of the year.

NOTES: The Crawdads go for the sweep in Asheville on Wednesday at 7:05 p.m. The 'Dads return home on Thursday, June 16 against the Charleston RiverDogs. It will be Thirsty Thursday, presented by Buffalo Wild Wings with \$1 can beers and Pepsis! Also, don't miss the post-game concert by Norva Jean Dreams! First pitch is at 7 p.m., gates open at 6 p.m.