

'Dads Fall 1-0 in 2nd-Half Opener

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads, 1st-Half Northern Division Champions, were edged by the West Virginia Power 1-0, before 2,222 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium to start the second half of the season on Thursday night.

Nick Tepesch of the Crawdads and Colton Cain of West Virginia hooked up in a nifty pitching dual.. The game remained scoreless through the first six innings. Tepesch struck out nine and scattered six hits

through his outing for the 'Dads (0-1, 40-29), while Cain, who didn't strike anyone out, only gave up two hits through his start. Both men wound up with a no-decision for their efforts.

The Power (1-0, 36-33) finally broke through by pushing a run across in the top of the eighth against losing pitcher Joe Van Meter. Drew Maggi led off with an infield single that deflected off Van Meter. A poor throw by Van Meter allowed Maggi to reach second base. Andy Vasquez sacrificed Maggi to third. Dan Grovatt struck out, but Justin Howard came through with an RBI double to right-center field that plated Maggi with the game's only run.

Zach Fuesser (2-2), who threw two scoreless innings, got the win; Victor Black closed things out for his first save.

NOTES: The Crawdads host the Power on Friday night at 7 p.m., with Friday Night Fireworks, presented by Galaxy, Texas Pete and Highway 106.1FM after the game! It will also be New Year's Eve Night, as the Crawdads celebrate their 1st-Half Northern Division Title and the beginning of the 2nd Half. Gates open at 6 p.m.