

'Dads derail Drive with 7-4 win

Written by Staff Reports
Monday, 04 July 2011 07:29

The Hickory Crawdads, 1st-Half Northern Division Champions, scored five combined runs in the seventh and eighth innings to claim the 7-4 victory against the Greenville Drive, before 5,720 fans at Fluor Field in Greenville on Sunday night.

The Drive (45-36, 7-4) took an early lead by scoring twice in the bottom of the first. With two on and two out, Christian Vazquez plated Sean Coyle with an RBI single; Drew Hedman went to third. Michael Almanzar chopped a double inside the right field line, scoring Hedman and giving the Drive in the early 2-0 lead.

After Greenville scored again the bottom of the second for a 3-0 lead, the Crawdads (46-33, 6-5) started chipping away. With one out, Jonathan Roof sparked the offense with a base hit; he advanced to second base on a ground out. Odubel Herrera ripped a grounder inside the first base line for an RBI single scoring Roof from second to make it 3-1.

Nick McBride retired the side in order in the third, and the Crawdads crept a little closer in the top of the fourth. Andrew Clark led off with a double to right field, and moved to third on Josh Richmond's single one out later. Jake Skole's sacrifice fly to deep center field scored Clark, making it 3-2.

Greenville picked up an insurance run on Xander Bogaerts' solo home run in the bottom of the fourth, stretching the lead back to a two-run advantage.

However, the Crawdads rallied in the seventh against losing pitcher Tyler Lockwood (4-5) to take the lead. Roof got things started with a double. He moved to third on a single by Jurickson Profar. Unfortunately, Roof was picked off, but Herrera doubled to left field scoring Profar all the way from first base to make it 4-3. Tomas Telis followed with an RBI double, scoring Herrera and tying the game.

After Clark was hit by a pitch, Telis stole third putting runners at the corners with one out. Christian Villanueva's sacrifice fly to right field drove in Telis giving Hickory a 5-4 lead. Hickory picked up two more runs in the eighth.

Richmond walked to start the inning and moved to second on a Skole base hit. Yefry Castillo laid down a sacrifice bunt that pitcher Garrett Rau fielded but misfired to first base allowing Castillo to reach; Richmond scored on the play and Skole took third. Skole eventually scored on a wild pitch that gave the Crawdads a 7-4 advantage.

Jimmy Reyes tossed a second scoreless eighth inning, Joe Van Meter picked up his fourth save in the bottom of the ninth, despite some anxious moments. Van Meter retired the first two batters he faced, but two walks and a single loaded the bases. Van Meter put out the fire as he retired Hedman on a pop up to end the game. Colby Killian (6-2), who logged two scoreless innings in the fifth and sixth got the win

NOTES: The Crawdads return home for the 4th of July Fireworks Extravaganza this Monday against the Delmarva Shorebirds at 7 p.m. Don't miss out on the best 4th of July fireworks celebration in the area, presented by KICKS 103.3FM! All tickets are just \$10 and going quickly! Gates open at 6 p.m.