

Crawdads Ground Shorebirds, 9-6

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads, 1st-Half Northern Division Champions, took their second straight win against the Delmarva Shorebirds, 9-6, before 2,361 fans at Arthur W. Perdue Stadium on Sunday evening.

The Shorebirds (45-49, 10-14) took the early lead scoring twice in the bottom of the first. Three consecutive walks got things started for the Shorebirds. And with one out, Michael Ohlman was hit by a pitch to force in the first run; Joe Oliveira followed with a sacrifice fly that made it 2-0. Hickory (56-36, 16-8) responded right away in the top of the second against losing pitcher Tim Berry (3-6). Christian Villanueva led off with a solo home run. One out later, Jhonny Gomez walked and Kellin Deglan was hit by a pitch putting runners at first and second. Yefry Castillo singled loading the bases for SS Jurickson Profar, who unloaded with his first career grand slam giving Hickory a 5-2 lead. It was the Crawdads fifth grand slam of the season tying a team record.

Kellin Deglan had an RBI single in the top of the third that gave the Crawdads a 6-2 lead, but Delmarva countered with a two-run single from Michael Ohlman in the bottom of the frame to keep it close at 6-4. Both team scored in the fourth, and the Crawdads led 7-5.

After the Shorebirds scored an unearned run against winning pitcher Ben Rowen (2-2) in the sixth, the Crawdads plated a pair of insurance runs in the top of the eighth.

Yefry Castillo led off with a triple and Teodoro Martinez drove him in with a sacrifice fly one out later. Andrew Clark followed with a solo home run for a 9-6 lead. Jimmy Reyes took over in the eighth and picked up his first save of the year.

NOTES: The 'Dads go for the series sweep in Delmarva on Monday at 7:05 p.m. The Crawdads will return home on Wed., July 20 to kick off a seven-game homestand with Redneck Night against the Greensboro Grasshoppers. First Pitch is at 7 p.m., gates open at 6 p.m.

It will also be Guaranteed WINSday, with all fans in attendance receiving a FREE ticket to a future game this season if the 'Dads don't win. Also, July 20 will be another Conrad's Self-Esteem Wednesday. Say the words "Conrad's Self-Esteem" at the Ticket Office and get a Half Off Ticket to the game, with \$2 going to Catawba Valley Behavioral Healthcare. Also, Wednesday is Unemployment Night - show your NCESC-issued debit card or online statement for four free tickets to the game.