

## Delmarva tops 'Dads, 12-10

Written by Staff Reports  
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A standing-room-only crowd of 4,444 fans packed L.P. Frans Stadium, as the Hickory Crawdads, 1st-Half Northern Division Champions, fell in a back-and-forth battle, 12-10, against the Delmarva Shorebirds on Saturday evening.

The Crawdads (58-39, 18-11) jumped out to an early 4-0 lead. Jake Skole walked and raced all the way in on an RBI double by Andrew Clark. Tomas Telis reached on a single, and Josh Richmond smacked a three-run homer to cap off the inning.

Delmarva (46-53, 11-18) erupted for six runs in the top of the second, but the Crawdads rallied to tie the game in bottom half of the inning. Three walks loaded the bases before Clark drove in a run with a sacrifice fly. Telis followed with an RBI single that tied it at 6-6.

The Shorebirds moved back in front, 7-6, with an RBI single by Jeremy Nowak in the top of the third. It was the only run Ben Henry gave up in his 4 2/3 innings of relief. But the Crawdads answered right back as Christian Villanueva launched a two-run bomb in the bottom of the fourth, leap-frogging Hickory into the 8-7 lead.

Henry protected the lead through the sixth, but the Shorebirds finally broke through with three unearned runs in the top of the seventh against losing pitcher Jorge Marban (1-4).

Riley Hornback started the inning with a walk. Mikey Planeta bounced a ball back to the mound that Marban fielded but misfired past second base, enabling Hornback to get to third and Planeta to reach first on the play. Mike Mooney laid down a sacrifice bunt that scored Hornback from third that tied the game; Mooney reached on a fielder's choice putting runners at first and second. A walk loaded the bases and Ty Kelly's grounder got by Villanueva at third to bring in two unearned runs giving Delmarva a 10-8 advantage.

Hickory pulled in the bottom of the seventh. Odubel Herrera reached on an error to start the inning. Jhonny Gomez advanced Herrera to second on a single, and both men advanced ninety feet on a sacrifice bunt by Braxton Lane. Jurickson Profar came through with a game-tying, two-run single just inside the right field line that scored Gomez and Herrera.

But the Shorebirds went on top to stay in the top of the ninth. A single by Mooney started the inning. He moved to second on a sacrifice bunt. Kelly put Delmarva in the lead with an RBI single that made it 11-10. Kelly made it to second on the throw home after his base hit and moved to third on a wild pitch. Following a walk and a stolen base by Nowak, Michael Ohlman produced an RBI single that gave the Shorebirds a two-run lead.

Randy Henry (3-0) got the with with three scoreless innings of relief; David Walters closed things out with a perfect ninth inning.

NOTES: Don't miss the pre-game Car Show / Cruise-In at 3:45 p.m. on Sunday, before the Crawdads take on the Shorebirds at 5 p.m. for game two of the series at L.P. Frans Stadium.

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