

'Dads sting GreenJackets, 5-3

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads, 1st-Half Northern Division Champions, topped the Augusta GreenJackets, 5-3, before 3,553 fans at Lake Olmstead Stadium on Thursday night.

The Crawdads (61-40, 21-12) didn't waste any time taking the early lead. Jurickson Profar sparked the offense with a lead-off triple, and Jake Skole brought him with a sacrifice fly for an early 1-0 lead.

The GreenJackets (48-54, 17-15) evened things up with a run in the bottom of the first against winning pitcher Luke Jackson (4-2). Carlos Willoughby led off with a walk, stole second and took third on a wild pitch. Willoughby raced home on an RBI single by Chris Lofton tying the game at 1-1.

The 'Dads recaptured the lead in the top of the second. Tomas Telis hammered over the left field wall to make it 2-1. The Crawdads added two more against losing pitcher Gaspar Santiago (3-5) in the top of the fifth. Kellin Deglan reached on a double to start the frame. One out later, Profar walked. Santiago then unleashed consecutive wild pitches, that advanced both runners and eventually scored Deglan with Profar getting to third. Skole walked on four pitches and catcher Joel Weeks attempted to pick off Profar at third. But his snap throw was wide of the bag enabling Profar to score on the error giving Hickory a 4-1 lead.

Augusta scored a pair of unearned runs in the bottom of the fifth to make it 4-3. An error on a fielder's choice put runners at first and second with nobody out to begin the rally. One out later, Ydwin Villegas singled his way on to load the bases. Jackson threw a wild pitch that scored a run and with runners at second and third Willoughby plated the stanza's second run with a sacrifice fly.

Ben Henry took over in the sixth and kept the 'Dads in the lead with two scoreless frames. Hickory added an insurance run in the top of the eighth on a two-out RBI triple by Josh Richmond that made it 5-3. Jimmy Reyes closed things out with two scoreless innings for his second save of the year.

NOTES: The Crawdads take on the GreenJackets in Augusta on Friday at 7:05 pm.....The 'Dads will return home for a four-game set against the Hagerstown Suns at L.P. Frans Stadium from Mon., Aug. 1 - Thurs., Aug. 4. The series gets going with 2-for-1 Senior Night and Bingo on Mon., Aug. 1. First Pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m., gates will open at 6 pm.....That night will also be Kids Eat FREE Night, with all kids getting to chow down for free with the purchase of a ticket. The Crawdads Interns will also be competing throughout the game in Intern Olympics to win fans great prizes!

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