

Tourists Outlast Crawdads, 10-9

Written by Staff Reports

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The Asheville Tourists edged the 1st-Half Northern Division Champion Hickory Crawdads, 10-9, before 2,157 fans at Historic McCormick Field on Monday night.

The Crawdads (65-47, 25-19) struck first with an RBI grounder by Andrew Clark in the top of the first, but the Tourists came right back with two runs in the bottom of the inning. Hickory pulled even in the second, when Josh Richmond reached on a single and raced all the way home on an RBI triple by Kellin Deglan that tied the game at 2-2.

Asheville (56-57, 25-19) opened up a four-run lead, thanks to three home runs in the bottom of the second. Joey Wong hit a solo shot to lead off the inning, followed later in the frame by a two-run homer by Brett Tanos and a solo home run by Helder Velazquez that gave the Tourists a 6-2 lead.

Jake Skole homered in the top of the third, but Asheville scored three unearned runs in the bottom of the fourth to open a 9-3 advantage.

Hickory tied things up with six-runs in the top of the seventh. Skole sparked the rally with a single followed by a walk to pinch-hitter Braxton Lane. Andrew Clark then emptied the bases with a towering three-run home run over the right field wall, cutting the deficit at 9-6. Christian Villanueva walked, Alejandro Selen singled, Richmond hit into a fielder's choice, and Deglan drove in a run with a ground ball out to second base. Jhonny Gomez tied it up with a two-run bomb over the center field wall.

Jimmy Reyes (6-1), who suffered the loss, came on in relief for the Crawdads in the bottom of the seventh. After Reyes retired the first batter he faced, Tanos struck again with the go-ahead solo home run, which would be the final blow of the game, lifting the Tourists to the eventual 10-9 victory.

NOTES: Hickory returns home on Wednesday, August 10 to start a four-game series against the Hagerstown Suns at L.P. Frans Stadium at 7 p.m.....Wednesday night is Social Media Night!

All fans the "Like" the official Hickory Crawdads Baseball Facebook Fan Page can get a FREE ticket to the August 10 game! Also, if the Crawdads Fan Page hits 6,200 "Likes" by August 10, everyone in attendance that night will receive a FREE small Pepsi.....The Crawdads are also donating 10 cents per every new like to the cancer programs at Levine Children's Hospital.