

Intimidators Edge 'Dads, 5-4 In Extras

Written by Staff Reports

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The Kannapolis Intimidators edged the 1st-Half Northern Division Champion Hickory Crawdads, 5-4, in 10 innings before 3,993 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium on Friday night. The Intimidators (65-49, 28-18) got out to an early lead in the top of the first against Nick Tepesch. With runners at the corners and one away, Dan Black drove a sacrifice fly to center field, scoring Keenyn Walker for the 1-0 lead.

Hickory (66-49, 26-21) responded with two runs in the bottom of the second against Brad Furnish. Andrew Clark led off the inning with a double off the top of the right field wall and Christian Villanueva followed with a two-run bomb over the left field fence that gave the Crawdads a 2-1 lead.

Kannapolis tied it up in the top of the fourth inning. Rangel Ravelo had an RBI single that brought in Ross Wilson from second base. But Tepesch dug in after that, retiring the final 10 batters he faced. Tepesch went 6.2-inning and struck out seven men.

The Crawdads moved back in front, 3-2, in the fifth on Alejandro Selen's lead-off home run. Kevin Johnson of the Crawdads came on in relief with one out in the sixth and retired the four men he faced. Francisco Mendoza took over in the eighth. Following consecutive strikeouts to begin the stanza, Black extended the inning with a base hit and Trayce Thompson followed with a two-run homer that put Kannapolis on top, 4-3.

But the 'Dads rallied in the bottom of the ninth against eventual winning pitcher Chris Bassitt (2-0). Odubel Herrera and Tomas Telis sparked the charge with back-to-back singles to start the inning. One out later, Villanueva grounded an RBI single through the left side of the infield scoring Herrera from second base with the tying run and forcing extra innings.

But Kannapolis moved back in front in the top of the 10th against losing pitcher Jorge Marban (1-5). Walker worked a lead off walk and quickly took second on a sacrifice bunt by Carlos Sanchez. Marban struck out Marcus Semien for the second out, and with first base open, intentionally walked Black. But with Thompson at the plate, Marban unleashed consecutive wild pitches that advanced the runners and eventually allowed Walker to score from third for a 5-4 lead.

The Crawdads threatened in the bottom of the tenth as Kellin Deglan, the potential tying run, go as far as third base. But Wes Whisler (who picked up his third save) shut the door on Hickory.

NOTES: The 'Dads wrap up the series against Kannapolis on Saturday at 7 p.m. It is Conrad Soap Dispenser Giveaway, with the first 1,000 fans with a paid admission receiving a FREE Conrad Soap Dispenser, courtesy of Galaxy, Dial Liquid & Bar Soap.....Saturday is also Tattoo Night, so show off your tattoo at the Ticket Office for a Half Off Ticket to the game.....Enjoy great displays and door prizes with Ladies Night, and all YMCA of Catawba Valley Members receive a Buy One, Get One offer from the YMCA. Gates open at 6 p.m.