

Drive Belts Hickory, 8-3

Written by Staff Reports

Friday, 02 September 2011 07:48

The Hickory Crawdads, 1st-Half Northern Division Champions, were topped by the Greenville Drive, 8-3, before 1,881 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium on Thursday night. Starting pitcher Cody Buckel held the Drive to just one run in his five-inning start, winding up with the no decision. The only blemish, a solo homer by Drew Hedman in the third, but the 'Dads starter responded with two scoreless innings and he struck out the side in the fifth to close out his outing.

The Crawdads (78-55, 38-27) tied things up in the bottom of the fourth against winning pitcher Brandon Workman (6-7). Tomas Telis started thing started when he reached on a dropped third strike wild pitch.

Christian Villanueva then advanced Telis to second base with a single. Telis moved to third on a double steal, but Villanueva was thrown out at second base. Josh Richmond brought Telis in with an RBI singl that tied the game at 1-1.

Greenville (75-61, 37-29) moved back in front in the top of the sixth. With one out, Vasquez lifted the Drive in front with a solo home run, making it 2-1. One out later, Henry Ramos and Michael Almanzar reached on consecutive singles; a wild pitch scored Ramos for a 3-1 lead.

Hickory made it 3-2 with a run in the bottom of the sixth. Jurickson Profar led off with a double, stole third, and he scored on an RBI fielder's choice by Telis.

But Brandon Jacobs hit a three-run home run in the top of the seventh that gave Greenville a 6-2 lead. Telis drove in his second run of the game with an RBI grounder in the bottom of the eighth, but Xander Bogaerts' two-run single gave Greenville an 8-3 final lead and put the contest out of reach.

NOTES: The 'Dads host Greenville on Friday at 7 p.m. with Friday Night Fireworks after the game....Friday is also 90s Night, with all fans born in the 1990s receiving a Half Off Ticket! Gates open at 6 p.m.