

Akins Homers Twice, Crawdads Fall

Written by Staff Reports

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Jordan Akins belted a pair of solo home runs, but the Hickory Crawdads fell to the Delmarva Shorebirds 7-3 at L.P. Frans Stadium on Tuesday night. That loss coupled with Hagerstown's 6-2 win over Lakewood knocks Hickory one game behind the Suns for first place in the North Division of the South Atlantic League. Three solo home runs accounted for all

the Crawdads (18-14, 54-47) runs Tuesday night. Akins gave Hickory an early 1-0 lead as he led off the third inning by rocketing a solo home run to straight-away center field. A solo shot by Zach Cone leading off the fourth inning, gave Hickory a 2-0 lead. But it was all downhill from there. The Shorebirds (13-18, 41-59) finally broke through in the fifth inning. Delmarva rallied with three runs in the fifth. Back-to-back singles by Wynston Sawyer and Sammie Starr got things started, Mikey Planeta singled up the middle, scoring Sawyer. A walk and a pop out had the bases loaded with one away, when Michael Ohlman walked to force in a run. Then with two outs, Brenden Webb walked with the bases loaded forcing in another run and giving the Shorebirds a 3-2 lead.

The Shorebirds stretched the lead with a pair of runs in the top of seventh inning. Jerome Pena led off with a walk and came home on a two-run homer by Nicky Delmonico. Akins second home run leading off the seventh inning made it 5-3, but Delmarva, extended its advantage with a pair of insurance runs in the top of the ninth inning. Pena started the inning with a single and Delmonico was hit by a pitch putting two runners at first and second with nobody out. Another walk loaded the bases for Connor Narron, who drove in a run with a sacrifice fly to right field; Webb knocked in another run with a fielder's choice.

Nick Martinez (5-5) suffered the loss; and the Crawdads pitching staff coughed up five walks and hit two batters. The Crawdads are 3-3 on this eight-game homestand.

Crawdads Clippings

The 'Dads host the Shorebirds at 12 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon for Summer Camp Day and the Businessperson's Special - bring a business card to the Ticket Office for a discounted \$5 Box Seat Ticket.....Wednesday is also Unemployment Day, presented by Manpower! All fans that present an NCEC-issued debit card at the Ticket Office get four FREE tickets to the game! Gates open at 11 a.m.....Individual Tickets for all Crawdads home games are available right now at Hickorycrawdads.com or by calling (828) 322-3000! Group outings, corporate partnerships, Levine Children's Hospital Claw Club memberships and Ticket Books for the 20th Anniversary Season are also available right now by calling the Front Office at (828) 322-3000.

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Photo Courtesy: Jordan Akins, Hicikory Crawdads