

Asheville Rolls Past Hickory 10-2

Written by Staff Reports

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Coming off back-to-back off days thanks to a rainout in Hagerstown and a scheduled day off on Tuesday, the Hickory Crawdads were supposed to look reenergized and ready to play Wednesday night. Instead, it was the red-hot Asheville Tourists who appeared motivated as they cruised past the 'Dads 10-2 to win their 10th straight game.

Playing at home for the first time in 10 days, the Crawdads offense looked no better than they had Sunday in their 3-0 shutout loss in Hagerstown. The suddenly struggling Hickory hitters could only muster two runs on four hits while the 'Dads bullpen imploded in allowing the second most runs and hits (15) on the season.

The game appeared to be a tight pitcher's duel early on, as Tyler Smith of the 'Dads and Shane Broyles of the Tourists battled to a 2-2 tie through five innings. The only smudge on Smith's resume was a two-run home run by Asheville shortstop Rosell Herrera in the first. The Hickory hurler settled down after that with four shutout frames to end his night with only the two runs allowed on five hits in five innings pitched.

Broyles, meanwhile, was able to skirt danger despite lackluster control. The Asheville right-hander walked four batters, including a bases loaded RBI walk to Ryan Rua to tie the game in the fifth, but was able to minimize the damage with just three hits allowed and seven strikeouts over his 4.2 innings on the mound.

Everything changed following the bottom of the fifth. The Crawdads had a chance to break open the tie with the bases loaded, but catcher Jorge Alfaro grounded out on the first pitch of hit at-bat to end the threat. From there, the Tourists would rough up 'Dads reliever Ryne Slack in the top of the sixth to the tune of five runs on six hits to take a commanding 7-2 advantage. Asheville would tack on three more tallies in the top of the ninth to end the scoring at 10-2. Slack (0-1) took the loss for the Crawdads after allowing five runs on five hits while recording just two outs in the sixth. Asheville reliever Ryan Arrowood (3-0) earned the win for his 2.1 hitless innings of relief. The normally potent Crawdads offense has now scored just 6 combined runs over the last four games, with the club going 1-3 over that time.

With the defeat the Crawdads (14-11) have now lost three straight while Asheville (16-9) continues their surge towards the top of the SAL South Division with their 10th straight win. The 'Dads will try to bounce back in game two of the series Thursday night at 7:00 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads are back home for the next week at L.P. Frans with a full slate of promotions scheduled! Thursday night is THIRSTY THURSDAY & COLLEGE NIGHT, Friday includes BARK AT THE PARK & MOST-IMPROVED STUDENT, and Saturday features a great giveaway with 1,000 FREE Replica Jerseys going out courtesy of Pepsi. Check out the 'Dads promo schedule here for all the details....Individual Tickets for all Crawdads home games are available right now at Hickorycrawdads.com or by calling (828) 322-3000! Group outings, corporate partnerships, Buffalo Wild Wings Claw Club memberships and Ticket Books are also available right now by calling the Front Office at (828) 322-3000.