

Edwards Dominant in 'Dads 2-1 Win

Written by Staff Reports
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On the same day he was named the Texas Rangers Minor League Pitcher of the Month, Hickory Crawdads Ace C.J. Edwards turned in perhaps his best start of the season. The South Carolina native tossed a season-long 7 innings and held his home state team to just one run, leading the 'Dads to a 2-1 win over the Charleston RiverDogs at Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park. Edwards actually started the game searching for his command, but after escaping a 2-on, one-out situation in the first, the lanky right-hander settled in and allowed just three more base runners the rest of the way. Edwards (3-1) finished the night allowing just one run on four hits, one walk and seven strikeouts over his seven strong frames.

The Crawdads offense meanwhile struggled on a windy, South Carolina night. Several times the 'Dads lined balls deep into the outfield, only to watch them die in the wind and turn into harmless outs. When the night was over however, it was the Hickory hitters who came up with the extra run.

The 'Dads struck for the first run of the game in the fourth when Joey Gallo came in to score on an RBI single by Nomar Mazara. The score would stay 1-0 until the sixth, when Charleston finally scored on Edwards, albeit in an unusual way. With 'Dogs second baseman Claudio Custodio standing at third base with one out, Edwards struck out Cito Culver on a ball in the dirt. To complete the strikeout, Crawdads catcher Jorge Alfaro threw the ball to first. Taking advantage of the throw, Custodio took off from first and was able to beat the throw back home to tie the game at 1-1.

The Crawdads would take advantage of a similar situation to re-take the lead in the seventh. With two outs and Jordan Akins at third, Hickory shortstop Luis Marte struck out on a ball in the dirt. The ball actually got away from Charleston catcher Peter O'Brien however, allowing Marte to reach first and Akins to score and put the 'Dads ahead 2-1.

Reliever Alexander Claudio entered the game in the 8th and picked up right where Edwards left off, holding the RiverDogs hitless on three strikeouts to earn his fourth save and close out the 'Dads 2-1 win. Charleston reliever Derek Varnadore (0-2) took the loss after allowing the go-ahead run in the seventh. Mazara led a Crawdads offense that finished the night with only five hits, going 2-4 with an RBI.

With the win the Crawdads (19-13) improve to 5-0 over the RiverDogs (15-15) this year. The 'Dads the 'Dogs will match up again Friday night at 7:05 pm for game two of their four-game series.

NOTES: The 'Dads continue their 4-game series and road trip Friday night at 7:05 against the RiverDogs. The Crawdads will be back home starting Monday, May13th for a 3-game series against West Virginia.....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.

Photo Courtesy: C.J. Edwards, Hickory Crawdads