

RiverDogs Strike Early in 'Dads 8-1 Loss

Written by Staff Reports
Saturday, 11 May 2013 08:58

One night after co-ace C.J. Edwards had his best outing of the season, Hickory Crawdads starting pitcher Connor Sadzeck was knocked around early in his worst outing of the year. The Charleston RiverDogs pounced on Sadzeck for six runs in the first inning en route to an 8-1 'Dads loss in front of 5,476 fans at Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park. A game that was originally scheduled to start at 7:05 instead didn't get underway until 7:27 due to a collegiate baseball game being played at the ballpark. The delay looked like it affected Sadzeck, as the normally dominant hurler surrendered six runs, five earned, on five hits to put the 'Dads down 6-0 after the first. To Sadzeck's credit he would settle in after the rough first inning to hold the 'Dogs scoreless over the next four frames, but the Hickory offense was never able to come around against Charleston starter Rafael De Paula.

De Paula, who tossed five no-hit innings with 10 strikeouts in Hickory on April 21st, was overbearing from the beginning. The South Atlantic League strikeout leader certainly added to his total with 12 Ks over six innings pitched with just one run allowed on three hits over that span. De Paula now leads the SAL with 58 Ks over just 33.1 innings.

The lone 'Dads run came in the second inning when Ryan Rua hit a ground rule double to left and came in three batters later on an RBI single from Jordan Akins. That would be the last real offensive threat for the Crawdads, as the offense was only able to total five hits and 7 total base runners in the loss.

Rua did finish with a good game at the plate, breaking out of a 3-31 slump with a 2-4 night including his double. Akins (1-3), Joe Maloney (1-2) and Luis Marte (1-3) picked up the other Hickory hits.

De Paula (3-2) earned the win for his dominant outing while Sadzeck (2-2) finished his night with five innings pitched and only the six, first innings runs allowed while taking the loss. The Crawdads (19-14) and RiverDogs (16-15) have now split the first two games of the 4-game series. Game three is scheduled for Saturday night at 6:05 pm.

NOTES: The look to bounce back in game three of the four-game series Saturday night. The Crawdads will be back home starting Monday, May 13th 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.