

## Bats Absent In Hickory's Shutout Loss

Written by Staff Reports  
Sunday, 12 May 2013 07:56

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The Hickory Crawdads struggled to score runs over the first two games against the Charleston RiverDogs at Riley Park, but the club had still managed to split the pair of contests. Saturday night saw the 'Dads offensive output dip to zero however, as Hickory was shutout 8-0 in front of 4,772 fans at "The Joe". The Crawdads managed exactly five hits for the third straight game, but saw their runs scored dip for the third straight night going from two on Thursday, to one on Friday and ending with zero on Saturday. The 'Dads have now scored a combined three runs on 15 hits the series, after coming to Charleston averaging more than five runs per game. The contest actually started off as a well-pitched shutout for both teams, with Sam Stafford of the 'Dads and Gabriel Encinas of the 'Dogs both tossing scoreless frames in the first and second. Encinas was forced to leave the game in the top of the third with an apparent injury. Unfortunately for Stafford and the Crawdads, the southpaw's control problems returned in the bottom of the third resulting in a 5-run inning and a 5-0 lead for the RiverDogs. Stafford unraveled in the third allowing all five runs on two hits and three walks, all after not walking a batter over the first two innings. Following the breakout third frame, the Crawdads bullpen was able to hold the RiverDogs scoreless over the next four innings. The 'Dads offense was never able to come up with the big hit against the Charleston bullpen however, as the club stranded runners in each of the first six innings while leaving eight total men on base for the game.

The 'Dogs would finish the scoring in the eighth when first baseman Reymond Nunez hit a 3-run homer over the left field foul pole to give Charleston their 8-0 lead. Stafford (0-3) took the loss for the 'Dads with a final line of 2.1 innings pitched with five runs allowed on three hits, three walks and two strikeouts. 'Dogs reliever Brett Gerritse (3-2) earned the win for hits 4.1 shutout innings of relief, allowing just two hits and a walk while striking out seven.

Ryan Bores and Jose Leclerc provided a silver lining for the 'Dads, as the bullpen duo combined to toss 4.2 shutout innings of relief. Right fielder Nomar Mazara was the only Crawdad to finish with a multi-hit game going 2-4 with a double. DH David Lyon also had a double going 1-3 with a walk.

The Crawdads (19-15) will look for the series split against the RiverDogs (17-15) Sunday night, with first pitch scheduled for 5:05 pm. The 'Dads still sit just 1.5 games out of first place in the North Division.

NOTES: The Crawdads will wrap up their 4-game series and road trip against the RiverDogs on Sunday and 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](http://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.