

'Dads Avert Disaster, Win In 10

Written by Staff Reports

Wednesday, 15 May 2013 16:39

What looked to be an easy win for the Hickory Crawdads turned out to be nothing of the sort Wednesday afternoon. A 6-3 'Dads lead in the top of the ninth disappeared and was replaced by a 7-6 deficit in the bottom of the 10th, but catcher David Lyon was able to save the day for the 'Dads with a walk-off RBI single to give Hickory the dramatic 8-7 win over the West Virginia Power.

The Crawdads fell behind early in the game when the Power got to starter Connor Sadzeck for three runs in the top of the second for a 3-0 lead. The 'Dads would quickly respond with an RBI double from Luis Marte and an RBI single by Lewis Brinson in the bottom of the frame to cut the score to 3-2.

The 'Dads would go on a home run binge from there with Ryan Rua, Nick Vickerson, Lyon and Joey Gallo all slamming solo homers in the third, fifth sixth and seventh innings respectively to give Hickory their seemingly comfortable 6-3 advantage.

The ninth inning started off innocently enough for the Crawdads with reliever Cody Kendall inducing a ground out to start the frame. Things quickly unraveled from there however, as D.J. Crumlich singled and came in one batter later on an RBI double by Walker Gourley to cut the score to 6-4. Jonathan Schwind followed with what should have been a routine ground out to short, but 'Dads shortstop Luis Marte threw wide of first base, putting runners at the corners with just one out.

Power center fielder Raul Fortunado then singled to center to score the second run of the inning before Ashley Ponce beat out an infield single that allowed Schwind to score and tie the game at 6-6. Things proceeded to get worse for Hickory, as they went down in order in the bottom of the 9th and watched West Virginia score an unearned run in the top of the 10th to put the Crawdads three outs away from a difficult loss.

Undaunted, Gallo led off the bottom of the 10th with a double to right and was followed by a walk from Rua to put the tying and winning runners on base with nobody out. After first baseman Joe Maloney popped out to short, the Power brought in right-handed reliever Kyle Haynes to try to finish the game. Facing his first batter, Haynes got 'Dads right fielder Jordan Akins to tap back to the mound for what could have been a game ending double play. Instead Haynes threw the ball in to center field, an error that allowed Gallo to tie the game and Rua to move to third base.

Lyon came up next, and with the infield drawn in for a potential play at the plate, the backup catcher lined a single up the middle to give Hickory the 8-7 win. Lyon finished the game 2-5 with a home run and two RBI. Gallo also had a good game going 2-5 with a double, home run, and two runs scored.

Hickory reliever Joe Burns (1-0) picked up the win despite allowing an unearned run in the 10th. Power reliever Thomas Harlan (2-1) took the loss after allowing the winning base runners to reach in the 10th. Crawdads starting pitcher Connor Sadzeck was denied a win after the blown lead in the ninth. The righty allowed three runs on five hits, one walk and four strikeouts over his five innings pitched.

The win gives the Crawdads (21-17) the series win against the Power (19-20) and keeps them two games back of first place Hagerstown in the North Division. The 'Dads will hit the road for a 4-game series against the Delmarva Shorebirds starting Thursday night at 7:05 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads take to the road once more with a 4-game series in Salisbury, MD against the Delmarva ShoreBirds. The 'Dads will return home for a week long home stand

'Dads Avert Disaster, Win In 10

Written by Staff Reports

Wednesday, 15 May 2013 16:39

starting Monday May 20th....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: David Lyon, Hickory Crawdads