

Sadzeck Solid, Hickory Wins Third Straight

Written by Staff Reports
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Pitching on the heels of a one-hitter and no-hitter thrown by his teammates the day before, Hickory Crawdads starter Connor Sadzeck continued the string of great pitching by the 'Dads Monday night. The right-hander went six innings and held the visiting Greenville Drive to just two runs, one earned, while leading Hickory to a 5-2 win at L.P. Frans Stadium.

Sadzeck did allow nine Greenville hits over his six innings pitched, but eight of the nine knocks were singles, including five ground balls that found their way through the infield. The Crawdads bullpen was also rock solid in the win, with Cody Kendall and Alexander Claudio combining for four shutout frames.

Offensively the 'Dads were once again led by the long ball, with Jordan Akins and Ryan Rua each going deep. Akins' 3-run blast in the second turned a 1-0 deficit into a 3-1 advantage, while Rua's solo shot in the sixth pushed Hickory's lead to 4-2. The Crawdads would pick up a final insurance tally in the 8th, when Jorge Alfaro and Rua hit back-to-back triples to finish the scoring at 5-2. The two triples actually doubled the 'Dads season total up to that point.

The Crawdads were actually out hit in the win, but where nine of the 10 Drive hits were singles, four of Hickory's 8 hits went for extra bases. Rua continued his red hot hitting of late with a 2-4 night including his home run, triple and two RBI, while Akins finished 1-4 with his homer and 3 RBI and Nomar Mazara went 1-2 with a pair of walks.

Sadzeck (3-2) earned the win for his performance while Claudio picked up his team leading seventh save of the season for closing out the ninth. Kendall earned a hold for his two perfect innings of work. Drive starter Brian Johnson (1-3) took the loss after allowing three runs on four hits, one walk and eight strikeouts during his five innings on the mound.

The win is the Crawdads (24-19) third straight and keeps them in the middle of the hunt in the SAL North Division. The Drive (13-31) add to their SAL worst record in the defeat. The 'Dads and Drive will match up again Tuesday night at 6:00 pm in game two of their 3-game series.

NOTES: Tuesday is Halloween Night at L.P. Frans Stadium with discounted tickets for all fans dressed in their favorite spooky attire! It's also a Dollar Day where fans can by any ticket and get a second of equal or lesser value for just \$1. Hot dogs, popcorn, Pepsi products and other concession items are also just one buck! Thursday is another Thirsty Thursday with all Pepsi Products and 12 oz beers just \$1! Friday is the first Fireworks Friday of the season and NASCAR Night while Saturday and Sunday will feature the zany antics of the Zooperstars! Check out the Crawdads promotions page for full details of every home game this season....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.