

Rua Demolishes Drive

Written by Staff Reports

Wednesday, 22 May 2013 08:24

The Hickory Crawdads pitching staff had another solid outing Tuesday night, but this time it was 'Dads second baseman Ryan Rua who stole the spotlight. In one of the most dominating offensive performances of the season, Rua led the 'Dads with a 3-4 night including two home runs, a double and six RBI in Hickory's 7-2 win over Greenville at L.P. Frans Stadium. Rua entered the night already on a hot streak at the plate, batting .313 with five homers and 11 RBI in his last 10 games. Tuesday night's outburst took everything to a new level though. In one monster game the 2011, 17th Round pick out of Lake Erie College set a new Crawdads season high with his 6 RBI while also using his second multi-homer game of the season to overtake teammate Joey Gallo for the SAL home run lead with 13 long balls. Rua's RBI binge also moved him into second place in the SAL with 36 RBI on the year. Rua wasted little time in announcing his presence, as the infielder broke open a scoreless game with a solo homer in the bottom of the second to give Hickory a 1-0 lead.

The one run advantage would last until the sixth thanks to a solid outing by 'Dads pitcher Andrew Faulkner, who shutout the Drive over five innings on four hits and one walk while making his debut in the rotation. The lead would disappear in the sixth, however, when reliever Sam Stafford allowed two runs on three hits to give Greenville a 2-1 lead.

Once again Rua quickly gave his team the lead though, this time in the form of a 2-RBI double to center field to score Nick Vickerson and Jorge Alfaro. Gallo would follow with an RBI single to plate Rua and give the 'Dads a 4-2 advantage.

Fast forward to the eighth and Rua capped off his night with a mammoth 3-run bomb to left field to give the Crawdads their 7-2 advantage they would go on to win by. Alfaro quietly had a good game as well, going 2-4 with two runs scored, while Gallo finished 1-4 with his RBI single.

Stafford (1-4) earned his first win of the season thanks to Rua's heroics, while Drive reliever Francisco Tavares (0-2) took the loss after allowing six runs on six hits over his three innings pitched. The 'Dads pitching staff has now allowed just five combined runs over the teams last four games, helping lead Hickory to their current four-game win streak.

With the win the Crawdads (25-19) have now won the first two games in their 3-game series against the Drive (13-31). The 'Dads will go for the series sweep Wednesday night at 6:00 pm.

NOTES: Wednesday is Unemployment Night where fans can show their NCESC issued debit card or printed online statement and receive up to four complimentary tickets! 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 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.

Photo Courtesy: Ryan Rua, Hickory Crawdads