

Stratton Stymies 'Dads

Written by Staff Reports
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A potent Hickory Crawdads lineup matched up against one of the best pitchers in the South Atlantic League Monday night, and at least for one evening the

pitching came out on top. Augusta GreenJackets hurler Chris Stratton tossed seven innings of one-hit baseball, leading the way to the Crawdads 4-0 shutout loss at Lake Olmstead Stadium. The 'Dads were held hitless over the first four innings of the game, before right-fielder Nomar Mazara doubled to lead off the fifth. The only other hit for the 'Dads was also a double, this time by DH Nick Vickerson with one away in the eighth. Aside from that, Hickory managed three walks and a hit-batter for a total of six base runners.

Augusta, meanwhile, pieced together a single run in the second to give them a lead they would never relinquish. Rafael Rodriguez singled to right field to score Mitch Delfino and put the GreenJackets on top early. In the fourth it was Rodriguez again, as the left-fielder lined a solo home run over the left field wall to double the 'Jackets advantage at 2-0. Augusta would tack on one more run in the fourth and one in the seventh to cap the scoring at 4-0.

Vickerson (1-4, 2B) and Mazara (1-4, 2B) ended the night as the only 'Dads with hits, while Jorge Alfaro reached base twice thanks to a hit-by-pitch and a walk.

Stratton (6-2) earned the win for his outing as he held Hickory to just the one hit and three walks while striking out eight. Crawdads starter Tyler Smith (4-2) took the loss after allowing three runs on six hits, two walks and four strikeouts in his four innings on the mound. Augusta reliever Steven Okert picked up his first save of the season with his two shutout frames with 5 Ks.

The loss is just the second in the last nine games for Hickory (28-21), who remain just two games back of first place Hagerstown in the SAL North Division. Augusta (28-22) remains three games back of Charleston in the South Division despite the win.

The Crawdads look to bounce back in the win column Tuesday with a rematch against the GreenJackets scheduled for 7:05 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads will continue their 7-game road trip with two more games in Augusta before starting a 4-game set in Rome on Thursday. The 'Dads will return home on Tuesday, June 4th for a 3-game series against the Lakewood Blue Claws.... 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.