

Edwards, Rua Can't Save Crawdads In 7-4 Loss

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 15 June 2013 08:32

The Hickory Crawdads received a stellar performance from starting pitcher C.J. Edwards and watched second baseman Ryan Rua hit his 20th home run of the year, but neither exploit was enough as the 'Dads fell to the Delmarva Shorebirds 7-4 in front of 3,613 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium. A match up of two All-Star pitchers lived up to the billing, as Josh Hader of the Shorebirds and Edwards pitched to a 2-2 tie through the first five innings. Edwards, who will start the All-Star Game for the Northern Division next week, had the Delmarva hitters guessing all night, as the lean righty struck out a career high 12 batters while allowing two runs, one earned, on two hits in five innings pitched. Hader meanwhile tossed 6.1 innings while giving up two runs, one earned, on one hit and 6 Ks.

Delmarva scored first picking up two runs, one earned, in the first to go ahead 2-0. The 'Dads answered in the fourth, plating two runs, one earned, to tie the game at 2-2. The Crawdads' runs came in when Jorge Alfaro singled to right to plate Joey Gallo, before Nick Williams eventually came home on an error.

Crawdads manager Corey Ragsdale went to the bullpen starting in the sixth, but reliever Jose Valdespina was unable to match Edwards' success as the Shorebirds reached him for four runs on three hits to take a 6-2 advantage.

The 'Dads cut their deficit in half in the eighth, when Rua launched a moon shot, 2-run homer to left to make the score 6-4. Nomar Mazara and Ronald Guzman would follow with singles and move into scoring position on a wild pitch, but Lewis Brinson struck out to end the inning and leave the tying runs on base.

Delmarva tacked on one last unearned run in the top of the ninth, to finish the scoring at 7-4. Rua finished the night 1-3 with a home run, two RBI and a run scored. Alfaro also went 1-3 with an RBI single while Gallo ended the evening 1-4 with a run scored.

Hader (3-2) earned the win for the Shorebirds after his stellar start, while Valdespina (1-1) was saddled with the loss for the 'Dads. Delmarva reliever Sander Beck earned his first save of the year for pitching a scoreless ninth. The Crawdads (38-30) remain a game ahead of Hagerstown in the Northern Division with the Suns loss to Lakewood. Delmarva improves to 29-36 with the win.

Hickory will once again take the field in defense of first place Saturday night, as the 'Dads host the Shorebirds in game three of their four-game series. First pitch from L.P. Frans Stadium is scheduled for 7:00 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads stay at home for two more games against the Shorebirds over the weekend. Saturday is a special T-Shirt Giveaway with the first 1,000 fans with paid admission taking home a FREE Crawdads shirt courtesy of Duck Graphics and Big Dog 92.1. It's also Barkley Baseball Clinic, North Carolina Education Lottery and Catawba Science Center Night and a Community Blood Center of the Carolinas Blood Drive. Finally on Sunday, it's the Car Show Cruise-In, Craw"DADS" Night, Prostate Cancer Awareness Night and Splash Day at the ballpark....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: C.J. Edwards, Hickory Crawdads