

Johnson steals show at All-Star Game

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In a game billed as power bats against power arms, speed ruled the night. And when Micah Johnson of the Kannapolis Intimidators is in the game -- any game -- that's usually the case. The White Sox prospect stole bases on consecutive pitches and scored a run Tuesday night as the North Division overcame an early deficit to beat the South, 2-1, at the South Atlantic League All-Star Game at FirstEnergy Park.

Rome Braves second baseman Levi Hyams had given the South the lead with a one-out solo homer in the top of the first inning, but Johnson turned out to be the difference-maker. Dilson Herrera of the West Virginia Power singled to center field with one out in the third and Johnson -- the Kannapolis Intimidators second baseman -- followed with a base hit to right that put runners at the corners.

Johnson took off on the next pitch and, when Savannah Sand Gnats catcher Kevin Plawecki threw down to second, Herrera scampered home with the tying run. Johnson wasted no time swiping third, then scored the decisive run on a groundout by Lewis Brinson of the Hickory Crawdads.

It probably should come as no surprise that Johnson stole the show. He leads all Minor Leaguers with 54 thefts and already has 16 multi-steal efforts in 66 games. He's swiped at least one bag in 32 contests.

In a game decided by speed, things started slowly. Heavy rain throughout the day delayed the start by nearly three hours and league officials also shortened the contest from nine innings to seven.

Hagerstown Suns right-hander Dixon Anderson pitched around a pair of hits in one inning to get the win. Augusta GreenJackets right-hander Chris Stratton took the loss after allowing two runs on four hits in the third, his lone inning.

NOTES: The Hickory Crawdads had six players selected for the SAL All-Star Game. Ryan Rua was 0-1 in a pinch-hitting role; Joey Gallo was 1-3; Lewis Brinson was 0-2 with an RBI; Jorge Alfaro was 0-1. Alex Claudio pitched the ninth, gave up two hits with a strikeout and picked up the save. C.J. Edwards of the Crawdads did not play.....The Crawdads start second-half play in the SAL Thursday night at home against Greensboro.