

'Dads Blank Greensboro Again

Written by Staff Reports
Friday, 21 June 2013 22:09

For the second straight night the Hickory Crawdads pitching staff held the Greensboro Grasshoppers bats completely in check, as the 'Dads threw their second consecutive shutout en route to a 5-0 win.

In front of another 2,622 fans at L.P. Frans Stadium, the Hickory hurlers continued their dominance of the Greensboro lineup with only four hits allowed for the second straight evening. The 'Dads have now held the Grasshoppers scoreless for 18 straight innings, with only 8 combined hits allowed over the two games.

Crawdads starting pitcher Connor Sadzeck set the tone with six scoreless frames. The 6'5" right-hander allowed only three hits and one walk while striking out one. Sadzeck also received some help from his infield defense, with the 'Dads turning four double plays to back their pitching staff.

In a mirror image of Thursday night's game the 'Dads and Grasshoppers played to a scoreless tie through the first four innings, before left fielder Jordan Akins crushed a solo home run to left-center to give Hickory a 1-0 lead in the fifth.

The advantage grew to 3-0 in the sixth when second baseman Ryan Rua launched a 2-run homer to left. The long ball also increased Rua's Minor League leading home run total to 23 on the year.

The home run binge continued in the seventh with DH Nick Williams lining a solo blast over the wall in right to make the score 4-0. The 'Dads picked up one final insurance run in the eighth when Nomar Mazara drove in Rua with an RBI sacrifice fly to finish the scoring at 5-0.

Rua finished the night 2-4 with a home run, a double, two RBI and two runs scored, while Akins and Williams each went 2-4 with a solo homer.

Sadzeck (6-2) earned the win for his shutout performance, while Greensboro starting pitcher Ramon Del Orbe (4-4) took the loss after allowing three runs on seven hits, no walks and 8 Ks in his six innings pitched. Hickory relievers Joe Burns and Cody Kendall combined for three scoreless innings to preserve the shutout.

The win moves the 'Dads to 2-0 to start the 2nd half of the SAL season while the loss drops the Grasshoppers to 0-2. The Crawdads will go for three straight shutouts on Saturday, with first pitch against Greensboro scheduled for 7:00 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads are home for five more games against both the Grasshoppers and Lexington Legends. Saturday features the Chipper Jones Bobblehead Giveaway to the first 1,000 fans with paid admission courtesy of Galaxy Foot, Nissin and Kicks 103.3. Sunday, meanwhile, is Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet Night with FREE parking to all Chevys and a FREE ticket for every set of Chevy keys shown at the ticket office....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.

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Photo Courtesy: Conner Sadzeck, Hickory Crawdads