

## Akins' Double Gives 'Dads Walk Off Win

Written by Staff Reports

Wednesday, 26 June 2013 07:37

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Through the first eight innings of Tuesday night's game the Hickory Crawdads were on the wrong end of a 1-0 pitcher's duel between Luis Parra of the 'Dads and Miguel Almonte of the Lexington Legends. Down to their final three outs the 'Dads rallied in the bottom of the ninth, as Jordan Akins lined a 2-RBI double to left to give Hickory a 2-1 walk off win at L.P. Frans Stadium.

The 'Dads entered the final frame facing their fifth shutout of the season with Lexington reliever Chas Byrne on the mound. Undaunted, Joey Gallo and Nomar Mazara both worked walks to start the inning and bring up Akins with two on and nobody out.

Akins quickly fell behind 0-2, but on the very next pitch the big outfielder lined a ball inside the third base bag for a double. Gallo easily came home to tie the game, and when the ball went all the way into the corner Crawdads Manager Corey Ragsdale waved Mazara around as well. The Legends made the relay throw home in time for a play at the plate, but Mazara dislodged the ball from catcher Cam Gallagher's glove to score the second run and give the Crawdads their 2-1 win.

Prior to the 9th, the only run came in the top of the first when Lexington leadoff hitter Terrance Gore tripled to left and came in one batter later on a Raul Mondesi RBI groundout. That would be it for the next 8 innings as Parra and Almonte were locked in one of the best-pitched games of the season.

Parra settled in following the first inning run, allowing just four singles the rest of the way. The southpaw finished the night with seven innings pitched and only the one run allowed on five hits, two walks and seven strikeouts.

Almonte, meanwhile, kept the 'Dads bats at bay through 7.2 shutout frames with a career high 12 strikeouts and seven hits allowed. The 'Dads had opportunities in the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth innings when they got leadoff hits, but each time Almonte was able to work his way out of the frame unscathed.

It was Hickory reliever Joe Burns (2-1) who walked away with the win after throwing two scoreless innings of his own, allowing only a walk. Byrne (3-1) took the loss for giving up the game-winning runs in the ninth.

The walk off win is the 8th of the season for Hickory, who improves to 4-2 in the 2nd half with the win. Lexington falls to 4-2 with the loss. The two clubs will face off in the rubber match of their 3-game series Wednesday afternoon, with a 12:00 pm first pitch scheduled for L.P. Frans Stadium.

**NOTES:** The Crawdads did not hit a home run tonight, so their season homer total still sits at 115. The single-season Crawdad record is 135 home runs while the SAL record stands at 173....The Crawdads will wrap up the home stand on Wednesday with a special 12:00 pm game for Summer Camp Day and Unemployment Day. The 'Dads will then hit the road for a week, traveling to Charleston, SC and Savannah before returning home on the 4th of July! Tickets for the Independence Day game are going fast so make sure to reserve yours soon....Individual Tickets for all Crawdads home games are available right now at [Hickorycrawdads.com](http://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: Jordan Akins, Hickory Crawdads**