

Alfaro Has Monster Game In Hickory Win

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads hit the road for the first time in the second half Thursday night and continued their hot start, with Jorge Alfaro's 5 RBIs leading the 'Dads to a 7-6 win over the Charleston RiverDogs at Riley Park.

Alfaro wasted no time in kick starting the Hickory offense, as the All-Star catcher lined an RBI double to left in the first to give the 'Dads an early 1-0 lead. After the RiverDogs rallied for three runs, two earned, to take a 3-1 lead in the bottom of the first, Alfaro came through again in the third. This time it was an RBI sacrifice fly to right field, which scored Luis Marte and cut the Crawdads deficit to 3-2.

Charleston once again answered the 'Dads run with one of their own in the fourth to go ahead 4-2, only to have Hickory come back with two runs in the fifth to tie the game at 4-4. This time it was left fielder Nick Williams who answered the call, lining a ground-rule double to left to score Lewis Brinson and Marte and tie the game.

The deadlocked contest lasted until the sixth when the RiverDogs scored a run on an infield single by Cito Culver to re-take the lead at 5-4. The 'Dads would rally one last time in the seventh however, with Alfaro making his biggest contribution of the night.

With two on and one out, Alfaro launched a 3-run blast well past the wall in left-center field, turning a one-run deficit into a 7-5 Crawdads lead. The homer was the 11th of the year for the Columbia native and the 116th of the season for the Crawdads as a team.

Charleston picked up one last run in the ninth on a solo homer by Dante Bichette Jr. and even brought the winning run to the plate when Reymond Nunez singled, but 'Dads reliever Cody Kendall got Kelvin DeLeon to fly out to right to end the game.

Alfaro ended the night 2-3 with a home run, a double and season-high 5 RBIs. Williams went 3-5 with a double and 2 RBIs while Marte finished 2-4 with three runs scored.

Hickory reliever Jose Valdespina (2-1) earned the win after allowing one run on two hits over his two innings of work. Charleston reliever John Brebbia (0-1) took the loss for allowing Alfaro's game-winning homer in the seventh. Kendall (7) earned the save for closing out the ninth.

The Crawdads improve to 6-2 in the second half of the season with the win, while the RiverDogs drop to 3-5 with the loss. The two clubs will matchup again Friday night for game two of their four-game series at 7:05 pm.

NOTES: Alfaro's 3-run home run tonight raises the Crawdads home run total for the season to 116. The single-season Crawdad record is 135 home runs while the SAL record stands at 173....Crawdads on the Road: The Crawdads will stay on the road for another six days, with three games against both the RiverDogs and SandGnats. The 'Dads return home for a 4-game series against Kannapolis starting July 4th! Make sure to pick up your Independence Day tickets now....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: Jorge Alfaro, Hickory Crawdads