

## Gallo Drives In Seven, 'Dads Win Big

Written by Staff Reports

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Going up against the best pitching staff in the South Atlantic League, the Hammerin' Hickory Crawdads broke out their big bats Tuesday night with a nine run, 12 hit, three homer effort in a 9-2 win over the Savannah Sand Gnats at Grayson Stadium. Joey Gallo led the charge going 2-5 with two home runs and seven RBI,

while Lewis Brinson also went yard as part of a 2-5 night. Gallo's seven RBI were the most by any Crawdad this season and his two homers moved his season total to a Minor League leading 25 dingers on the year.

The three Hickory homers also raised the team total to 120 long balls through 82 games this year. The contest started off as a well-pitched matchup between Connor Sadzeck of the 'Dads and Gabriel Ynoa of the Sand Gnats. Hickory scored first in the third when Nick Williams and Nick Vickerson singled before Ronald Guzman hit an RBI sacrifice fly to left to plate Williams and give the 'Dads a 1-0 lead.

Savannah answered in the bottom of the inning when Brandon Nimmo hit a two out RBI single to left to score Albert Cordero and tie the game at 1-1. The 'Gnats nearly took the lead on the play as Phillip Evans tried to score from second as well, but Williams gunned him down at the plate from left field to keep the game tied.

The Crawdads would immediately re-take the lead in the top of the fourth, when Brinson lined a solo home run to left to put Hickory up 2-1. The long ball was Brinson's 15th of the year.

The score would remain the same until the seventh, when Ynoa finally ran out of gas after allowing a triple to Williams and a walk to Vickerson with two outs. The Sand Gnats brought in reliever Julian Hilario who promptly walked Guzman as well to bring up Gallo with the bases loaded and two away.

Hilario quickly got ahead of Gallo 0-2, but the righty hung the third pitch of the at-bat allowing Gallo to crush the ball over the right field wall for a grand slam. The granny was the second of the year for Gallo and put the 'Dads ahead 6-1.

The All-Star third basemen wasn't done however, as he came back up with two on and nobody out in the ninth. This time Gallo launched the pitch from Wanel Mesa over the wall in right-center for a 3-run homer to push the Crawdads advantage to 9-1.

Savannah would score one last run in the bottom of the ninth to finish the game with the 9-2 Crawdads win. Joining Gallo and Brinson with a good night at the plate was Williams, who narrowly missed out on hitting for the cycle by going 3-5 with a double, triple and two runs scored. Vickerson also had a good game, finishing 1-2 with three walks and two runs scored. Sadzeck (8-2) earned the win after allowing only one run on three hits, three walks and five strikeouts over seven innings pitched. Ynoa (9-3) got the loss for allowing four runs on seven hits with two walks and 6 Ks in 6.2 IP. The Crawdads (8-4) have now taken the first two games in their 3-game series with the Sand Gnats (5-7). The 'Dads will go for the sweep on Wednesday, with first pitch scheduled for 6:05 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads three home run outburst tonight raised their season long ball total to 120 through just 82 games. The single-season Crawdad record is 135 home runs while the SAL record stands at 173.....The 'Dads return home for a 4-game series against Kannapolis starting July 4th! There will be extended office hours all week long, so make sure to pick up your

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Independence Day tickets now by calling (828) 322-3000 or by visiting the 'Dads website at [www.hickorycrawdads.com](http://www.hickorycrawdads.com).....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.

**Photo Courtesy: Joey Gallo, Hickory Crawdads**