

## Rua Continues Torrid Pace, Hickory Wins Again

Written by Staff Reports

Thursday, 11 July 2013 06:40

---

The Hickory Crawdads rode their slugging second baseman for the second straight night Wednesday, as Ryan Rua hit two home runs and drove in six as part of a four homer night for the 'Dads in their 11-7 win over the Hagerstown Suns.

One night after lifting the Crawdads to a win with a 6th inning, 3-run homer, Rua led a home run barrage by the 'Dads with a 3-4 night including two more dingers and 6 total RBI. Rua now sits alone atop the Minor League Baseball home run charts with 28 on the year, while also leading the South Atlantic League with 75 RBI.

The launch party kicked off in the second inning, when right fielder Nomar Mazara plated the first run of the game with a solo shot to right field. After Jordan Akins was able to reach on an error, catcher David Lyon contributed with a 2-run dinger just inside the right field foul pole to put Hickory in front 3-0.

The Suns responded with a run in the bottom of the inning, before Rua came up with his first long ball of the night in the top of the third. The two-out, two-run blast over the 25-foot wall in center plated teammate Ronald Guzman and also boosted the Crawdads advantage to 5-1. The 'Dads lead would swell even further in the top of the fifth, when Rua came through again with a 3-run blast to left-center to make the score 8-1. Hagerstown rallied in the bottom of the inning, scoring five runs, three earned, on five hits and a Hickory error to tighten the score to 8-6. Brandon Miller came up with the big Suns hit in the frame, as he plated two on a double to left.

The Crawdads were able to pick up some insurance runs without the benefit of the long ball in the sixth and seventh. Nick Williams drove in Lyon with an RBI ground out in the 6th to make the score 9-6, before Guzman picked up an RBI groundout and Rua singled in a run in the 8th to put Hickory ahead 11-6.

The Suns would rally for one final run in the ninth, before Crawdads reliever Ryan Bores recorded the final out for the 11-7 win.

Rua finished with his sixth multi-home run game and his third 6-RBI game of the season. Also having a good night was Lyon (1-4, HR, 2 RBI, 2 R), Mazara (1-4, HR, RBI) and Guzman (2-5, 2B, RBI, 2 R). Hickory reliever Sam Stafford (2-4) picked up the win with 2.1 no-hit innings of relief with two walks and one strikeout. Hagerstown starter Ian Dickson (0-1) took the loss after allowing 8 runs, seven earned, on eight hits in 4.2 innings on the mound.

The win is the fifth straight for the Crawdads (13-6), who also push their season record against the Suns (12-8) to 5-4 on the year. The 'Dads will go for the 3-game sweep against the Suns Thursday night at 7:05 pm.

**NOTES:** The Crawdads four homers tonight push their season home run total to 130. The single-season Crawdad record is 135 home runs while the SAL record stands at 173....The Crawdads will be on the road for the next five days against Hagerstown and Lakewood. The 'Dads will return home for a week long home stand starting Wednesday, July 17th....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.

R