

'Dads Blanked In Rainy New Jersey

Written by Staff Reports
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The normally powerful Hickory Crawdads lineup was held in check Friday night, as a combination of stellar pitching by the Lakewood BlueClaws and rainy/windy weather resulted in a 4-0, shutout loss at FirstEnergy Park. The BlueClaws entered the game riding a season-high 5 game winning streak, a streak that starting pitcher Severino Gonzalez made sure to extend. Making just his fourth start of the year for the BlueClaws, Gonzalez stymied the 'Dads with six shutout innings on three hits, two walks and a career-high 11 strikeouts.

The Crawdads countered with left-hander Luis Parra, who did his part to keep the game close with only a first inning, unearned run allowed over the first four frames. Things took a turn for the worse in the 5th inning, as the 'Dads 1-0 deficit swelled to 3-0 and manager Corey Ragsdale was ejected while arguing with home plate umpire Scott Costello.

Lakewood scored two runs on two hits in the frame, with the big hit coming in the form of a double by Angelo Mora that was ruled just inside the first base bag by Costello. Ragsdale came out to argue the call and was quickly ejected by Costello. The ejection was the second of the year for Ragsdale, with his May 23rd departure coming from Costello as well. The BlueClaws would tack on one more unearned run in the sixth, courtesy of two more Crawdads errors, to end the scoring at 4-0.

Nick Vickerson led the 'Dads offense on the evening, going 2-3 with a walk. Ryan Rua, David Lyon and Luis Marte each picked up a single for the other three Hickory hits. Gonzalez (3-0) earned the win for the BlueClaws, while Parra (5-2) took the loss after allowing four runs, two earned, on eight hits over 5.2 IP. Lakewood reliever Geoff Broussard (1) earned the save with three shutout innings out of the pen.

The loss drops the Crawdads to 13-8 in the second half, while Lakewood's 6th straight win lifts their record to 10-12. The two clubs will face off again Saturday night, with first pitch scheduled for 7:05 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads home run total still sits at 130 for the year. 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 three days in Lakewood, before returning home on Wednesday, July 17th to start a 7-game home stand at Crawdads Stadium....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.