

'Dads Flat Offensively In 5-1 Loss

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads struggled at the plate with a large portion of their everyday lineup missing in action Sunday evening, as the 'Dads fell to the Lakewood BlueClaws 5-1 at FirstEnergy Park. Missing Joey Gallo (DL), Jorge Alfaro (DL), Nick Williams (off-day) and Nick Vickerson (off-day), the Crawdads were limited to eight hits, six singles, and weren't able to score until a 2-out, RBI double by Lewis Brinson in the 9th.

The BlueClaws came out swinging against Hickory, scoring all five of their runs and picking up 11 of their 12 hits over the first four innings. Crawdads starting pitcher Frank Lopez took the brunt of the damage, allowing one run in the second and three more in the third before being chased from the game with Lakewood up 4-0.

The BlueClaws picked up their final run in the fourth off of 'Dads reliever Ryan Bores, giving them a 5-0 advantage. The lone Hickory hurler without a run allowed was lefty reliever Sam Stafford, who tossed three scoreless innings with one hit, one walk and six strikeouts.

The Crawdads had several scoring opportunities throughout the game with two runners on and only one out three separate times, but all three times the 'Claws pitching staff was able to escape the jam. The 9th inning 'Dads run came with two away, when Brinson doubled in Ryan Rua to finish the scoring at 5-1.

Brinson finished the game 1-4 with a double and an RBI, while Rua went 1-3 with a double and a run scored.

Lopez (2-3) was the loser for Hickory with four runs allowed on eight hits, three walks and a strikeout over 2.1 innings pitched. Lakewood starter Miguel Nunez (7-7) earned the win with six shutout innings on three hits, no walks and three Ks.

The Crawdads (14-9) are still in position to earn a 4-game split against the BlueClaws (11-13), with first pitch of game four scheduled for 7:05 pm on Monday.

NOTES: The Crawdads home run total for the year still sits at 132. The single-season Crawdad record is 135 home runs while the SAL record stands at 173.....The Crawdads wrap up their 7-game road trip Monday with their final game against the BlueClaws. The 'Dads will return home on Wednesday, July 17th to start a 7-game home stand against the Hagerstown Suns and Charleston RiverDogs....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: Lewis Brinson, Hickory Crawdads