

The Hickory Crawdads received some great pitching and some timely hitting against the Lakewood BlueClaws Monday night, with LHP Andrew Faulkner tossing six shutout innings to lead the 'Dads to a 3-0 shutout win at FirstEnergy Park.

The BlueClaws picked up a two-out single from Jonathan Roof and a walk by Willie Carmona in the first, but Faulkner got Art Charles to fly out to center to escape the frame and begin a string of 16 straight retired batters.

Faulkner breezed through the next five innings, retiring every batter he faced while striking out two. The 16 consecutive outs is the longest streak by any Crawdad pitcher this year.

The Hickory offense, meanwhile, took advantage of four BlueClaws errors to score three unearned runs. David Lyon got things started with a one out single in the second, and was followed by Lewis Brinson who reached on an error to put two aboard. Following a strikeout by Brett Teschner, 8th place hitter Nick Urbanus brought in Lyon with an RBI single to left before ninth place man Luis Marte singled to right to plate Brinson and give the 'Dads a 2-0 lead.

The Crawdads scored their last run in the fourth, once again taking advantage of a Lakewood error for their third unearned run. Teschner started the frame with a ground-rule double to left for his first hit as a Crawdad. Following a sacrifice bunt by Urbanus, BlueClaws shortstop Angelo Mora allowed Marte's ground ball to sneak under his glove for an error. Teschner trotted home on the miscue, giving Hickory the 3-0 lead they would win by.

Hickory relievers Cody Kendall and Jose Leclerc would hold on to the lead after Faulkner's departure, with Kendall throwing two shutout innings and Leclerc a scoreless ninth.

Faulkner (3-2) earned the win for his stellar outing while Leclerc (2) picked up the save for his perfect 9th inning. Lakewood starter Nic Hanson (2-2) was the hard luck loser with three unearned runs allowed on eight hits over six innings pitched.

With the win the Crawdads (15-9) split their 4-game series with the BlueClaws (11-14) and finish their 7-game road trip with a 4-3 record. The 'Dads are off Tuesday before returning home for a 7-game home stand starting Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads home run total for the year currently sits at 132. The single-season Crawdad record is 135 home runs while the SAL record stands at 173....The Crawdads will return to Crawdads stadium for a 7-game home stand beginning Wednesday, July 17th.

Promotional highlights for the week include Toga! Toga! Toga! Thirsty Thursday on July 18th, Disney Night and Fireworks Friday on July 19th, Thundersticks Giveaway and RED OUT Night on July 20th, and Christmas in July and Dollar Night on August 1st! Check out the entire Crawdads promotional schedule here....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.