

Edwards, Crawdads Blank Suns

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads returned to Crawdads Stadium Wednesday night and picked up right where they left off on the road trip, as the 'Dads threw their second straight shutout in a 6-0 win over the Hagerstown Suns. The Crawdads concluded their 7-game road trip Monday with a 3-0 victory over the Lakewood BlueClaws, before picking up the shutout win in their first game back on Wednesday. The 6-0 win marked the second time this year the 'Dads pitched consecutive shutouts, joining Hickory's 7-0 and 5-0 wins over Greensboro on June 20th and 21st.

'Dads starting pitcher C.J. Edwards led the pitching assault, with 5.2 scoreless frames before giving way to Jose Monegro and Jose Valdespina who tossed 2.1 and 1 shutout innings respectively.

Edwards was literally unhittable over the first five innings, before finally surrendering a one-out single in the sixth. The Crawdads ace ended the night with only the one hit allowed, three walks and nine strikeouts.

At the plate, the Hickory offense provided some early support for their hurlers with single runs in the first and second innings and three more tallies in the third. Reigning South Atlantic League Player of the Week Ryan Rua got things started in the 1st with a two-out RBI single to center to give the 'Dads a 1-0 lead. The advantage jumped to 2-0 in the second when Jordan Akins also lined an RBI single up the middle.

The Crawdads were able to put some breathing room between themselves and the Suns in the third, when center fielder Lewis Brinson launched a 3-run home run to left to give the 'Dads a 5-0 lead. The long ball was the 16th of the year for the All-Star and also moved the Crawdads season homer total to 133.

Hickory tacked on one last tally in the seventh when Nick Williams drove in Luis Marte with an RBI groundout to end the scoring at 6-0.

Brinson finished the night 1-3 with his 3-run homer, a walk and two runs scored. Marte also had a good game going 1-3 with a double and a run scored while Rua went 1-3 with his SAL leading 76th RBI of the year. Edwards (8-2) earned the win for his dominant performance while Suns starting pitcher Brett Mooneyham (4-3) took the loss for allowing five runs on five hits over five innings pitched.

With the win the Crawdads (16-9) move 1.5 games ahead of the Suns (15-11) for first place in the SAL Northern Division. The two teams will meet up again Thursday at 7:00 pm for game two of their three game series.

NOTES: Lewis Brinson's 3-run homer raises the Crawdads season long ball total to 133. The single-season Crawdad record is 135 home runs while the SAL record stands at 173....The Crawdads continue their home stand through the week, starting with 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.

Photo Courtesy: C.J. Edwards, Hickory Crawdads