

Crawdads Fall To RiverDogs

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads spotted the Charleston RiverDogs an 8-run advantage early in Saturday night's game before rallying in the eighth and ninth, but the hole proved too large for 'Dads to overcome as they fell to the 'Dogs 9-5 in front of 2,422 fans at Crawdads Stadium. The Crawdads entered the bottom of the eighth inning trailing 9-1, having not scored a run since the 1st and with four hits in the game. The 'Dads suddenly woke up in the frame however, doubling their hit total with four base knocks and cutting their deficit to 9-4 with three runs. Luis Marte kick started the frame with a single to right, followed by a single from Nick Williams and a walk to Nick Vickerson to load the bases with nobody out. First baseman Ronald Guzman was the next man up and came through with an RBI single up the middle for the first run of the inning. One out later, catcher David Lyon lined a 2-RBI single to right to plate Williams and Vickerson. The momentum continued when Lewis Brinson walked to re-load the bases, but Jordan Akins ground into a double play to end the inning.

Following a perfect top of the ninth by reliever Jose Leclerc, the 'Dads offense kept cranking in the bottom of the ninth with an RBI double by Williams to plate Marte and cut the Hickory deficit to 9-5. The Crawdads would get one more man aboard, but right fielder Nomar Mazara was called out on strikes to cut short the rally and end the game.

Prior to the late inning heroics, the RiverDogs built their lead with two runs in the first, one in the third, four in the fourth and single tallies in the seventh and eighth. The 'Dads also scored a run in the first on an RBI double by Guzman before cooling down over the middle frames.

Guzman finished the night 3-5 with a double and two RBI, Williams went 2-5 with a double and an RBI, and Marte ended the game 2-4 with two runs scored.

Hickory starting pitcher Frank Lopez (2-4) took the loss for allowing seven runs on six hits over 3.2 innings pitched. Charleston reliever Luis Niebla (4-5) earned the win with three shutout innings after starting pitcher Jose Campos allowed one run over his 4 IP.

The loss marks the first time all season that the Crawdads (16-12) have lost three straight home games, while the win is the third in a row for the RiverDogs (15-11). The two clubs will meet up again Sunday night at 5:00 pm for game two of their four-game series.

NOTES: The Crawdads season home run total currently sits at 134. The single-season Crawdad record is 135 home runs while the SAL record stands at 173.....The Crawdads continue their home stand Sunday with Willy Wonka Night. Social Media Night follows on Monday July 22nd and Christmas in July and Dollar Night on Tuesday July 23rd! 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: Luis Marte, Hickory Crawdads