Crawdads Crush Kannapolis

Written by Staff Reports Monday, 29 July 2013 07:38

The Hammerin' Hickory Crawdads hit three home runs and starting pitcher Ryan Bores threw six shutout innings as the 'Dads cruised to a 6-1 win over the Kannapolis Intimidators Sunday night at CMC-Northeast Stadium.

One night after Hirotoshi Onaka set a new Crawdads single-season record with the team's 136th long ball of the year, the 'Dads combined to hit three more homers to push their new record to 139. The homer trifecta was more than enough support for Bores, who tossed a season-high six shutout innings in his first start since replacing C.J. Edwards in the Hickory rotation.

The 'Dads got the scoring started in the 4th when Lyon tripled to right with two outs and came in one batter later on an RBI double by Lewis Brinson to make the score 1-0. The 'Dads doubled their lead to 2-0 the next inning, with Nick Vickerson lining an RBI single to center to plate Nick Urbanus.

The Crawdads broke the game open in the sixth however, scoring three more runs to take a 6-0 advantage. Lyon started the inning when he lined a solo homer to left for his 4th long ball of the year. Not to be outdone, Onaka came up later in the frame and proceeded to line a two-run, inside-the-park blast off the right field wall. Kannapolis right fielder Jason Coats slammed into the fence attempting to make the catch, allowing the ball to careen towards the infield and Onaka to round the bases and narrowly score at home.

The 'Dads ended the home run binge in the 7th, when first baseman Ronald Guzman crushed the first pitch of the inning from Intimidators reliever Ryan Bollinger over the right field wall for a solo shot to give Hickory a 6-0 lead.

Kannapolis plated their only run of the game in the bottom of the seventh, when Eric Grabe hit a 2-out, ground ball single to center to score Michael Marjama and finish the scoring at 6-1. Lyon finished the night 2-4 with a home run, a triple, an RBI and two runs scored, Guzman went 2-4 with a solo blast and Onaka ended the game 1-3 with his inside-the-park dinger and a sacrifice bunt. Onaka's homer is the third inside-the-park blast by the 'Dads this season, joining Nick Vickerson's 2-run moon shot to left in Lakewood on July 13th, and Ryan Rua's 3-run round tripper off the center field wall in Kannapolis on April 11th.

Bores (3-2) earned the win with a season high six shutout innings, allowing only two hits, one walk and a season-high 6 Ks. Kannapolis starter Adam Lopez (1-3) took the loss in his first start of the season after allowing two runs on five hits over 4.1 IP. Stafford (1) earned the save for the 'Dads for pitching the final three frames with one run allowed.

With the victory the Crawdads (19-16) win their series against the Intimidators (13-23) three games to one. The 'Dads will now head to Charleston for a 4-game series with the RiverDogs, starting with a doubleheader at 6:05 on Monday.

NOTES: The three Hickory homers tonight pushed their season total to 139 and also moved them 34 away from the South Atlantic League record of 173 home runs in a season....The Crawdads will now leave North Carolina for their Southern neighbor as the 'Dads start a 4-game series with the Charleston RiverDogs. The 'Dads will return home on Thursday, August 1st to begin a week-long 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.

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Photo Courtesy: Hirotoshi Onaka, Hickory Crawdads