

RiverDogs Top Crawdads, 3-1

Written by Staff Reports

Wednesday, 31 July 2013 07:04

One night after posting two late rallies while sweeping a doubleheader against the Charleston RiverDogs, the Hickory Crawdads came up short in their come-from-behind attempt Tuesday resulting in a 3-1 loss at Riley Park.

The Hickory offense was held in check most of the night by Charleston starting pitcher Evan Rutckyj, who tossed seven shutout innings while allowing only one hit, two walks and eight strikeouts. It wasn't until the RiverDogs went to the bullpen that the 'Dads offense stirred in the 9th.

Trailing 3-0 and down to their final out, catcher Jorge Alfaro walked against lefty reliever Tyler Webb to bring up right fielder Nomar Mazara. Mazara came through with an RBI triple inside the left field foul line to plate Alfaro and make the score 3-1. That brought Jordan Akins to the plate representing the tying run, but the 'Dads left fielder lost his long battle with Webb by striking out to end the game.

Prior to the 9th, the RiverDogs built a 3-0 advantage off Crawdads starter Connor Sadzeck. The 'Dogs jumped out to an early 2-0 lead with two runs, one earned, in the first, before scoring their final run on two walks, two hit batsmen and a wild pitch in the 5th.

Sadzeck (9-4) took the loss despite a strong showing, finishing his outing allowing three runs, two earned, on five hits, four walks and five strikeouts over 6 innings pitched. Rutckyj (9-6) earned the win for his shutout start while Webb (2) picked up the save after surviving the ninth. Mazara (1-4, 3B, RBI) and Akins (1-4, 2B) finished with the only two Hickory hits, while Hirotohi Onaka, Nick Urbanus, Ryan Rua and Alfaro all reached on walks.

With the loss the 'Dads fall to 21-17 while the 'Dogs improve to 21-15. The Crawdads and RiverDogs will square off in the final game of their 4-game series on Wednesday, with the 'Dads going for the series win at 12:05 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads season home run total sits at 140, just 33 away from the South Atlantic League record of 173 home runs in a season.....The Crawdads have one last game against the RiverDogs on Wednesday before returning 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.

Photo Courtesy: Nomar Mazara, Hickory Crawdads