

Crawdads Fall In Exta Innings

Written by Staff Reports

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The Hickory Crawdads were in position for their 3rd straight walk-off win over the Greensboro Grasshoppers Wednesday night, but for the first time in the series the 'Dads fell short in a 5-4, 11-inning loss at Crawdads stadium. Fresh off walk-off homers on Monday and Tuesday, the 'Dads entered the 9th inning tied at 4-4 and looking to repeat the thrilling feat. The Grasshoppers bullpen was steadfast however, setting the Crawdads down in order in the 9th, 10th, and 11th innings.

Greensboro, meanwhile, was able to break the tie in the top of the 11th with a walk, three singles and a hit batter to take a 5-4 lead and the win.

Hickory twice held a lead over Greensboro in their attempt to sweep the series. The first advantage happened in the 2nd when Lewis Brinson walked and Kevin Torres doubled before both 'Dads scored on Grasshoppers errors to make the score 2-0.

Greensboro pecked away at the lead with a run in the third and another in the 4th to tie the score at 2-2. The Grasshoppers then took their first lead in the 5th, when right fielder Cameron Flynn lined a solo homer to right to put his team ahead 3-2.

The 'Dads rallied in the 7th, with Nick Vickerson driving in a run with a double and Brinson bringing in another on a bases loaded walk to give Hickory the lead back at 4-3. The advantage would only last a half inning though, as the Grasshoppers picked up a run in the top of the 8th to re-tie the score at 4-4 and set up the extra inning affair.

Vickerson finished the night 2-5 with a double and an RBI, while Kevin Torres went 2-5 with a double and a run scored.

Greensboro reliever Sean Donatello (2-1) picked up the win for the Grasshoppers with 3.1 hitless innings of relief. Hickory reliever Santo Perez (0-1) took the loss making his Crawdads debut, with one run allowed on four hits over two innings pitched. Ronald Barnes (2) earned the save with a perfect ninth.

The Crawdads (26-20) still win their series against the Grasshoppers (20-25) two games to one. The 'Dads will now head to Savannah for a 4-game series starting Thursday at 7:05 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads season home run total sits at 149, just 24 away from the South Atlantic League record of 173 home runs in a season.....The Crawdads will now hit the road for a 4-game series in Savannah against the Sand Gnats before returning home for a 3-game series starting on Tuesday, August 13th.....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.