

Crawdads Crush Tourists, 7-1

Written by Staff Reports

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The Hickory Crawdads looked refreshed Tuesday night following their day off, as the 'Dads received great pitching and timely hitting to kick off their 3-game home stand with a 7-1 win over the Asheville Tourists at Crawdads Stadium.

'Dads starting pitcher Jose Monegro was in fine form while making only his second career start, as the 23-year-old held the potent Tourists lineup to only one run on three hits over his six innings on the mound. The Hickory offense, meanwhile, came through with nine hits and seven runs in support.

The Crawdads jumped out to an early 2-0 lead with a pair of unearned runs in the first. Two Asheville errors helped to put runners at second and third with two away for 'Dads right fielder Nomar Mazra, who then came through with a 2-RBI single to right.

The Tourists picked up their only run of the game in the top of the second, when DH Francisco Sosa lined a solo home run to left to cut the Hickory lead to 2-1. It would be all Crawdads from then on.

The 'Dads picked up four more runs in the third to give themselves a comfortable 6-1 advantage. Nick Williams drove in the first tally with an RBI double to center field before a single from Jorge Alfaro and an RBI groundout by Joey Gallo plated Williams for the second run. Alfaro would eventually score on a wild pitch, while Lewis Brinson reached on a hit-by-pitch and was driven in on an RBI double by Kevin Torres.

Hickory scored their last run in the fifth, this time with an RBI single to left by Brinson to bring in Gallo and finish the scoring at 7-1.

That would be plenty of support for reliever Jose Valdespina, who held the Tourists in check over the final three innings to secure the Hickory win.

Williams (2-3, 2B, 2 runs, RBI), Mazara (2-4, 2B, 2 RBI), Gallo (1-4, RBI, 2 runs), Brinson (1-3, RBI, run) and Torres (1-4, 2B, RBI) all had solid nights at the plate, while Monegro (1-2) earned his first win of the season for his performance. Asheville starter T.J. Oakes (8-8) took the loss after allowing seven runs, five earned, on nine hits over six innings pitched. Valdespina (1) earned the save for shutting out the Tourists over the final three frames.

With the win the Crawdads (29-22) improve to 9-2 on the season over the Tourists (19-31). The two clubs will meet up again Wednesday night at 7:00 for game two of their three game series.

NOTES: The 2013 Crawdads Jersey Auction is up and running! Bid on the actual game worn road uniforms of your favorite players from the last 3 years, including Joey Gallo, Jurickson Profar, Ryan Rua, Nick Tepesch, Lewis Brinson, Justin Grimm and Jorge Alfaro! Check out the auction page here.....The Crawdads season home run total currently sits at 150, just 23 away from the South Atlantic League record of 173 home runs in a season....The Crawdads stay at home for two more games against the Tourists, with Wednesday featuring Unemployment Night and Thursday finishing the home stand with Thirsty Thursday and Battle of the Bags! 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: Nomar Mazara, Hickory Crawdads