

Costly Mistakes Doom 'Dads

Written by Staff Reports

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The Hickory Crawdads weren't able to overcome their own mistakes Wednesday night, as the 'Dads committed three errors resulting in four unearned runs and a 4-3 loss to the Asheville Tourists at Crawdads Stadium.

The three Hickory miscues came from three separate infielders, as Joey Gallo, Luis Marte and Nick Vickerson all misplayed a ball and allowed Asheville extra opportunities. Two of the errors and three of the unearned runs came in the top of the first, when Gallo and Marte misplayed a pair of grounders and the Tourists plated three unearned runs for a 3-0 lead.

The 'Dads responded in the bottom of the frame when Gallo came through with a two-out, 2-run blast over the right field wall to make the score 3-2. The long ball was the 28th of the year for Gallo and the 151st of the season for the Crawdads.

Hickory was able to complete the comeback and tie up the score at 3-3 with another run in the second. Lewis Brinson led off the frame with a double to left and came in one out later on an RBI groundout by Vickerson.

That would be the last run scored by either team until the 7th, when the 'Dads hurt themselves again with their third error. This time it was a throwing mistake by Vickerson that allowed the go-ahead run to score for the 4-3 lead Asheville would go on to win by.

Gallo finished the game 2-3 with a homer, two RBI and a walk. Brinson (1-4, 2B, R), Marte (1-3, BB) and Chris Garia (1-5) picked up the other Hickory hits in the game.

Crawdads starting pitcher Paul Schwendel overcame the early runs to go six strong innings with only three unearned runs allowed on seven hits and four strikeouts. Reliever Sam Stafford (3-5) was the hard luck loser with just one unearned run given up on two hits and six Ks over three innings pitched. Asheville reliever Jacob Newberry (1-0) earned the win with two scoreless frames while Raul Fernandez (12) picked up the save for holding down the 'Dads in the 9th.

The Crawdads (29-23) and Tourists (20-31) have now split the first two games of their 3-game series. The rubber match between the two clubs is scheduled for Thursday night at 7:00 pm.

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....Joey Gallo's 2-run bomb pushes the Crawdads season home run total to 151, just 22 away from the South Atlantic League record of 173 home runs in a season.....The Crawdads wrap up their home stand Thursday 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: Nick Vickerson, Hickory Crawdads