

Alfaro, Williams Go Deep, Dads Win

Written by Staff Reports

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Back-to-back home runs by Jorge Alfaro and Nick Williams combined with seven strong innings from starting pitcher Andrew Faulkner proved to be a winning formula for the Hickory Crawdads Saturday night, as the 'Dads knocked off the first place West Virginia Power 4-1 in front of 4,237 fans at Appalachian Power Park.

Faulkner was in fine form for the 'Dads, as the lefty tied a season high with seven innings pitched while holding the potent Power lineup to only one run on four hits, one walk and seven strikeouts. The southpaw received some thunderous support from his teammates as well, with the Hickory bats slugging home runs number 154 and 155 on the season.

The 'Dads picked up their first pair of runs on Power starting pitcher Clay Holmes in the second inning to take an early 2-0 lead. Nomar Mazara started the rally with a one-out single and was followed by a Lewis Brinson double off the wall in left to put runners at second and third. Kevin Torres then brought in Mazara on an RBI groundout before Brinson scored on a throwing error by West Virginia catcher Francisco Diaz.

The Crawdads doubled their lead to 4-0 with consecutive solo blasts by Alfaro and Williams in the third. The long balls were the 12th and 17th by the duo respectively, and marked the third time this season that the Hammerin' Hickory Crawdads hit back-to-back blasts.

The Power scored their only run of the game on a solo homer by shortstop Max Moroff in the 4th, but Faulkner and 'Dads reliever Cody Ege would shut West Virginia down over the final six frames to preserve the 4-1 win.

Alfaro ended the night 1-3 with his solo home run and a walk, while Williams went 1-4 with his solo shot. Brinson and Nick Urbanus each finished 1-4 with a double while David Lyon reached base three times with two walks and a hit-by-pitch.

Faulkner (5-3) earned the win for his stellar performance while Homles (5-6) took the loss for the Power after allowing four runs, three earned, on four hits over five innings pitched. Ege (1) picked up the save with two scoreless innings of relief.

The Crawdads (31-24) victory and a corresponding win by the Hagerstown Suns moves the Suns a half game ahead of the Power (34-20) for first place in the Northern Division. It also moves the 'Dads to within 1.5 games of West Virginia for the Wild Card playoff birth. The 'Dads and Power will face off again Sunday afternoon at 2:05 for game three of their 4-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....Alfaro and Williams' back-to-back long balls tonight raised the Crawdads season home run total to 155, just 18 away from the South Atlantic League record of 173 home runs in a season....The Crawdads stay on the road for five more games over the next week, including two contests in West Virginia and three in Asheville. The 'Dads will return home on Friday, August 23 for a 3-game home stand against Augusta....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: Jorge Alfaro, Hickory Crawdads