

## Alfaro Homers, Crawdads Fall Short

Written by Staff Reports

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The Hickory Crawdads rallied from one early deficit but came up just short in their second attempt Sunday afternoon, as the 'Dads overcame a 3-0 hole only to lose 5-4 to the West Virginia Power at Appalachian Park.

The 'Dads entered the fifth inning trailing the Power 3-0 after West Virginia picked up two runs in the third and another in the fourth off of Hickory starting pitcher Jose Monegro. That deficit was wiped out on one swing of the bat by catcher Jorge Alfaro, who crushed a 3-run home run to left to tie the game at 3-3.

The homer was the 13th of the year for Alfaro and marked his second straight game with a long ball after not hitting one since late June.

The tie game lasted until the bottom of the 6th, when the Power took advantage of a throwing error by reliever Sam Stafford to plate two unearned runs and re-take the lead at 5-3. The Crawdads tried for one more rally in the 8th when Nick Williams was hit by a pitch and eventually came in on a pair of errors to make the score 5-4. West Virginia's pen shut it down from there however, holding on for the win.

Alfaro finished the game 1-4 with the 3-run homer, while Williams went 1-3 with a double, a hit-by-pitch and a run scored. Joey Gallo also doubled as part of a 1-4 game while David Lyon reached base three times and scored a run thanks to a single and two walks.

Stafford (3-6) took the loss for the Crawdads after allowing two unearned runs on two hits in his lone inning pitched. West Virginia reliever Thomas Harlan (5-3) earned the win with a dominating performance out of the bullpen, allowing only one unearned run on two hits and 9 strikeouts over three innings pitched. Jhondaniel Medina (9) picked up his second save of the series with a perfect ninth inning.

The loss drops the Crawdads (31-25) 4.5 games behind both the Power (35-20) and the Hagerstown Suns in the Northern Division. The 'Dads will go for the series split Monday night, with first pitch scheduled for 7:05 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....Alfaro's 2nd straight game with a homer raised the Crawdads season long ball total to 156, just 17 away from the South Atlantic League record of 173 home runs in a season....The Crawdads stay on the road for four more games, including one more matchup 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](http://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**