

'Dads Fall Short With 7-4 Loss

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads had held the potent Asheville Tourists lineup in check while winning the first two games of their three game series, but the Tourists finally woke up in the finale Thursday night with seven runs on 14 hits in the 'Dads 7-4 loss at McCormick Field.

The 'Dads pitching staff held Asheville to only three total runs over the first two contests, while the Hickory bats had put together 15 tallies over the same span. Thursday's game looked to be following the same script, as Crawdads starting pitcher Andrew Faulkner held the Tourists scoreless over the first four innings while a Kevin Torres' 2-run homer in the 5th put the 'Dads ahead 2-0.

The lead wouldn't last long however, as the Tourists got to Faulkner for five runs on five hits in the bottom of the 5th before putting up two more runs on four hits in the sixth to put the 'Dads behind 7-2.

The Crawdads narrowed the deficit to 7-4 with a pair of runs in the 6th, with Jorge Alfaro and Joey Gallo hitting back-to-back solo home runs. The pair of long balls were the 4th and 5th for the 'Dads in the series, while also raising their season home run total to 163.

The Tourists bullpen would settle down after that though, with closer Raul Fernandez working around a passed ball to strike out four batters in the 9th to finish the game at 7-4.

Faulkner (5-4) took the loss for the 'Dads after allowing seven runs, five earned, on 13 hits over his 5.2 innings pitched. Asheville starter Matt Flemer (3-4) earned the win after giving up two runs, one earned, on four hits, one walk and 11 strikeouts over 6.2 IP. Fernandez (14) picked up the save for closing out the game.

Torres finished the game 2-4 with a 2-run homer, while Gallo went 1-3 with a long ball and a walk and Alfaro ended the night 1-4 with a solo shot.

Despite the loss, the Crawdads (34-26) still leave town with a series win over the Tourists (22-37) and finish their road trip with a 4-3 record. The 'Dads will now return home for a 3-game series against the Augusta GreenJackets. First pitch on Friday is scheduled for 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....The three Hickory homers tonight raised their season long ball total to 163, just 10 away from the South Atlantic League record of 173 home runs in a season....The Crawdads return home Friday to start a 3-game weekend series against the Augusta GreenJackets. Friday night is Duck Dynasty Night at Crawdads Stadium, with \$25 "Meet and Greet" tickets still available with Mountain Man of Duck Dynasty! Friday is also another Fireworks Friday at the ballpark! Saturday features the return of the Zopperstars! while Sunday wraps up the home stand with Where's Waldo Night, the Cutest Craw"Dog" competition and Splash Day! 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.