

'Jackets Outslug 'Dads, 10-9

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 24 August 2013 12:29

In a game that featured 27 combined hits, 19 total runs, five lead changes and three separate ties, the Hickory Crawdads came up just shy in their final comeback attempt, as the 'Dads lost to the Augusta GreenJackets 10-9 in front of 4,554 fans at Crawdads Stadium.

The runs came early and often for both teams, with the 'Jackets scoring in five different innings while the 'Dads put up runs in four different frames. Augusta took a 1-0 advantage with a run in the top of the second inning, while also leading 4-1, 8-6, and 10-8. Hickory, meanwhile, held leads of 6-4 and 8-6, before coming up one run shy in the 9th.

Following the GreenJackets run in the top of the second, the 'Dads answered with a single tally of their own on an RBI single by Nomar Mazara to tie the game at 1-1. Augusta came back with three more runs the next half inning, clubbing four hits including two doubles to re-take the lead at 4-1.

Hickory would retaliate in the 4th, exploding for five runs on four hits to go ahead for the first time at 6-4. Joey Gallo drove in the first run of the inning with an RBI double, while Jorge Alfaro also doubled in a run and Kevin Torres plated a runner with a groundout.

Augusta tied the score at 6-6 with a pair of runs in the top of the 5th, but the Crawdads quickly responded with a pair of tallies in the bottom of the inning to re-take the lead at 8-6. Once again it was Alfaro who came through for the 'Dads in the frame, as the catcher lined his second double inside the third base bag to score both runs.

That would be the last time the Crawdads would lead as the GreenJackets kept their foot on the gas, scoring twice in the 6th to tie the game at 8-8 before scoring two more runs in the 7th to go ahead 10-8.

Hickory mounted one last rally in the 9th with Gallo driving in Chris Garia with an RBI single to cut the deficit to 10-9. Augusta closer Stephen Johnson was able to wiggle out of the inning however, striking out Alfaro with the tying run on first to end the game.

Alfaro led the Hickory offensive attack on the night, going 2-5 with two doubles and three RBI. Gallo finished the game 2-4 with a double, two RBI and a walk, Nick Williams went 2-5 with two runs scored, and Mazara finished 2-3 with a double, an RBI and a run scored.

Hickory reliever Joe Burns (4-4) ended up with the loss after giving up two runs on four hits over 1.2 innings pitched. Augusta bullpen arm Ian Gardeck (4-3) took home the win with 2.2 scoreless innings of relief. Johnson (8) picked up his 8th save with his strikeout to finish the night.

With the loss to the GreenJackets (37-23), the Crawdads (34-27) drop 1.5 games behind the West Virginia Power in the Northern Division wild card race. The 'Dads will look to get back in the win column on Saturday, with a 7:00 pm first pitch.

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 163, just 10 away from the South Atlantic League record of 173 home runs in a season....The Crawdads stay at home over the weekend, with Saturday featuring 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

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and Ticket Books are also available right now by calling the Front Office at (828) 322-3000.

Photo Courtesy: Jorge Alfaro, Hickory Crawdads