

Hickory Slump Continues, 'Dads Drop 6th Straight

Written by Staff Reports

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In one of the most dominating opposing pitching performances of the season, the Hickory Crawdads were held to only two total base runners Wednesday night while being shutout in a 3-0 loss to the Greensboro Grasshoppers.

The story of the evening was Greensboro starting pitcher Chipper Smith, who went a season-high seven innings and struck out a season-high 11 batters while shutting out the 'Dads on only one hit. Smith took a perfect game in the 5th inning, before Nomar Mazara lined a double inside the left field line for the lone Hickory hit of the ballgame.

Mazara ended the night as the only 'Dad to reach base, going 1-2 with a double and a walk. The rest of the Hickory lineup was held in check by Smith and Greensboro relievers Dane Stone and Ronald Barnes, who combined to strikeout 15 and walk just one.

Greensboro picked up their runs with single tallies in the third, fourth and fifth innings off of Crawdads starting pitcher Andrew Faulkner. Hickory relievers Cody Ege and Jose Leclerc kept the 'Dads in the game with 3.2 combined perfect innings complete with five strikeouts.

Faulker (5-5) took the loss for the 'Dads, with three runs allowed on seven hits, two walks and three strikeouts over 4.1 innings pitched. Smith (8-3) earned the win for the 'Hoppers, while Barnes (5) picked up the save for striking out the side in the 9th.

The loss is the 6th straight for the Crawdads (34-31), who have now lost the first two games of their series against the Grasshoppers (30-34). The 'Dads will look to salvage the final game of the road trip Thursday night, with first pitch 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 Crawdads season home run total currently stands at 167, just 6 away from the South Atlantic League record of 173 home runs in a season....The Crawdads conclude their 3-game road trip with their final game against the Grasshoppers on Thursday. The 'Dads will return home on Friday, August 30 for a 4-game, Labor Day weekend series against the Delmarva Shorebirds. 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.