

Crawdads Club 3 More HRs, Hammer Delmarva

Written by Staff Reports

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The Hickory Crawdads followed up Friday night's five-home run barrage with another aerial assault on Saturday. The 'Dads clubbed three more long balls in the game, two of them from the red-hot Joey Gallo, en route to an 8-2 win over the Delmarva Shorebirds in front of 2,882 fans at Crawdads Stadium.

One night after slugging three homers for the second time this season, Gallo connected on two more big flies Saturday. The All-Star third baseman now has 38 dingers with the Crawdads, only two away from the South Atlantic League record set by Russell Branyan in 1996.

Gallo's pair of blasts also pushed his overall season total to a Minor League Baseball-best 40 between the Arizona League and Hickory. Gallo is now the first teenager to boast a 40-home run season since Dick Simpson hit 42 for the Class-C San Jose Bees in 1962.

The early portions of the game appeared mundane, with Chris Garia scoring on a groundout by Nick Williams in the first to give the 'Dads an early 1-0 lead. Delmarva came back with a run in the top of the third to tie the score at 1-1, before an RBI double from Alejandro Selen in the bottom of the frame pushed Hickory back on top 2-1.

The 4th inning saw Gallo come through with his first long ball, a solo shot to right-center to put the 'Dads ahead 3-1. The score would remain the same until the 7th, when the Shorebirds picked up a single tally to tighten the game up at 3-2.

Everything changed in the bottom of the eighth however, as Gallo smashed a solo shot to center for his second homer of the night, only to be outdone later in the frame when Lyon lined a grand slam to left to give the Crawdads their 8-2 advantage.

Gallo finished the game 2-4 with his two big flies, while Lyon went 1-4 with his first granny of the season. Alejandro Selen was nearly overshadowed by the long balls, going 4-4 with an RBI double.

On the mound, Crawdads starter John Niggli (1-1) earned the win after allowing two runs on seven hits, one walk and four strikeouts over 6.1 innings pitched. Shorebirds starting pitcher Matt Taylor (4-13) took the loss despite a quality start, allowing three runs on eight hits during his six innings pitched.

The Crawdads (36-32) have now won back-to-back games over the Shorebirds (24-44) while raising their new SAL home run record to 177 blasts on the season. The 'Dads will look to keep the momentum going in game three of the 4-game series Sunday evening, with first pitch scheduled for 5:00 pm.

NOTES: The Crawdads have two more games against Delmarva to finish the 2013 season. Sunday is Splash Day and 1400 AM WSIC Night, while Monday finishes the schedule with a 1:00 pm first pitch for Galaxy Food Centers Customer Appreciation Day! Check out the 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.

Photo Courtesy: David Lyon, Hickory Crawdads