

CRAWDADS PINCH RIVERDOGS, 5-4

By Danny Reed

CHARLESTON - Hickory ratcheted up three runs in the fourth inning courtesy of two Charleston errors and held on for a 5-4 win over the RiverDogs in front of 2,377 fans at Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Park Tuesday night.

Hickory (68-52) third baseman Christian Villanueva's harmless fly ball was lost in the lights by Charleston (48-73) right fielder Ramon Flores with one out, putting him at second. Alejandro Selen then reached on an infield single, as the throw from third baseman Garrison Lassiter sailed into the right-field bullpen plating Villanueva for the initial 1-0 lead.

Gipson (0-1) gave up just that unearned run over 4.0 innings of work in his first appearance with Charleston since April 16, as the former Florida Atlantic standout walked a pair and fanned five in the hard-luck loss.

Yobanny Reyes entered for the RiverDogs in the fifth and surrendered three Hickory tallies increasing the deficit to 4-0. After the Crawdads loaded the bases with one out, Tomas Telis chopped a two-run single to right field, but all three runs ended up scoring when the ball rolled through Kelvin De Leon's legs all the way to the warning track.

Charleston found its offensive groove against Hickory starter Ben Henry in the bottom half of the inning, plating three runs to trim the score to 4-3. With one out, Jose Mojica singled, Garrison Lassiter doubled him to third, and Jose Toussen brought in both with a single to right-centerfield. Shane Brown followed with a walk, and Kelvin De Leon was hit by a pitch to load the sacks for Kevin Mahoney, who legged out a RBI fielder's choice to score Toussen.

Henry (5-2) still worked 5.0 innings in his third start of the season to get the victory, giving up three runs on four hits, while walking a season-high five and striking out four.

The Crawdads appeared poised to up the margin putting runners at first and second in the sixth for Jhonny Gomez, who reached on a fielder's choice, but the relay throw from second base ended up in the first-base stands for Charleston's fourth error in three innings scoring Jonathan Roof all the way from second accounting for a 5-3 Hickory lead.

Andrew Doyle pitched a perfect sixth inning for the Crawdads, while Northern Division All-Star Roman Mendez followed with 2.0 scoreless innings notching a pair of strikeouts. Hickory, though, was unable to grow its lead thanks to 3.0 superb relief innings from Charleston southpaw Aaron Dott.

Brown's RBI single off closer Francisco Mendoza in the bottom of the ninth got the RiverDogs to within 5-4, but Flores fanned to end the game and give Mendoza his second save in as many nights and third of the season.

Toussen and Lassiter had two hits for the RiverDogs, which outhit Hickory seven to five.