

Ghost Peppers Grab Extremely Crucial Victory Over the Blue Crabs



By Tommy Portela

Waldorf, MD - Gastonia is able to grab a high stress slugfest win tonight against Southern Maryland by the score of 11-9. The Peppers are able to stay five games behind Lexington for first place in the South with 15 left to play, as the Legends have won ten in a row.

The runs came early as Gastonia scored two in the first. Grant Lavigne hit an RBI single to right, and was followed up by an RBI double from Aaron McKeithan on the very next pitch. The Blue Crabs responded right back on a three-run blast from Jackson Loftin in the home half.

However, that did not stop the Peppers from scoring five in the top of the second to retake the lead. Wade Kelly hit an infield single to tie it up, and was followed up by Cole Roederer's two-run double to right. McKeithan brought home another run with a single, and Chris Proctor capped off the frame with a sacrifice fly to center.

Southern Maryland clawed back in the home third with a five run inning of their own to grab the lead back, all with two outs. Danny Bautista Jr. drove home two with a base hit, and Jordan

Thompson evened the score with a two-run shot that just stayed fair down the left-field line. Dylan Hoy made it 8-7 with an RBI single to right-field.

The Peppers drew even once again thanks to the speed of Proctor. He singled to start the inning, and was able to steal second and third base, before scoring on a ground ball to second. The Crabs answered right back in the home half on a balk to make it 9-8.

The swing of the night came in the top of the seventh off the bat of the Captain, as Jack Reinheimer grabbed the lead back with a two-run homer to left-field. Jordan Fisher kept the lead intact with his second clean inning, as he earned the victory with a stellar outing out of the bullpen.

Braden Webb stranded a runner at second in the home eighth, and the Peppers grabbed a big insurance run in the top of the ninth on a double play ball. Jake Miednik then came in and slammed the door to earn a save for a second straight day to seal the win.

This was an absolutely must-win game for Gastonia to try and keep pace with the Legends for first. The Peppers draw even in the series now with Southern Maryland, as the series continues tomorrow night at 6:35 with Connor Grey going up against Ian Kahaloa.