

## **Houghton, Sayre Homers Not Enough in 12-8 Loss to Bradenton**

**FORT MYERS, Fla. (August 10, 2023)** – **Alec Sayre** delivered a grand slam, and **Maddux Houghton** launched his second homer in as many nights Thursday, but the Mussels surrendered seven runs in the top of the eighth in a 12-8 loss to the Bradenton Marauders at Hammond Stadium.

Leading 3-2 in the bottom of the fourth, Houghton cranked a solo homer to left center that extended the lead to 4-2. The ball left Houghton's bat at 102.1 miles per hour and traveled 405 feet for his second-round tripper of the last two nights.

Moreover, in the bottom of the fifth, the Mussels (50-55, 16-23) loaded the bases for **Alec Sayre**, who cranked a grand slam to deep left center that gave Fort Myers a convincing 8-3 lead. The homer marked the Mussels' third grand slam of the year, and Sayre's first homer since mid-May.

In the bottom of the first, **Ricardo Olivar** singled and **Nate Baez** walked to place runners at two runners on for **Danny De Andrade**, who lined a two-run double to left to give Fort Myers a 2-0 lead. The next hitter was **Rafael Cruz** who looped a double down the right-field line to bring home De Andrade and push the lead to three runs.

In the top of the second, Rodolfo Nolasco, Omar Alfonzo, and Sergio Campana drew walks to load the bases for the Marauders (60-44, 25-14). With one out, Geovanny Planchart rolled an infield single to short that scored Nolasco to make it 3-1. The next hitter was Mitch Jebb, who grounded into a 6-4 fielder's choice play that brought home Bradenton's second run to cut the deficit to 3-2.

After Planchart blasted a three-run homer to make it 8-5 in the top of the sixth, the Marauders completed their comeback in the top of the eighth. Against the first four hitters he faced, Mussels' reliever **Jonathan Lavallee** walked three and hit one to force in a run and cut the score to 8-6. With the bases still loaded and nobody out, Lonnie White Jr. lifted a two-run double off the wall in left center to tie the game at 8-8. Later in the inning Bradenton tacked on four more on three wild pitches, and a sacrifice fly that capped the scoring at 12-8.

Mussels pitching finished the night walking 14 batters, they have walked 34 hitters over the first three games of the series.

The Mussels will return the diamond tomorrow when they start **Jack Noble** (0-2, 2.70) against Wilber Dotel (3-2, 2.80) of the Marauders. First pitch is slated for 7:00 p.m. with coverage beginning at 6:45 p.m. on the Mighty Mussels Baseball Network.