



# Crawdads Beat

Coverage of the Hickory Crawdads baseball team

## Walter Young Dies: Former SAL MVP had brief MLB career

Walter Young, a first baseman for the Hickory Crawdads during their first South Atlantic League (SAL) championship in 2002, passed away on Saturday, September 19 in his hometown of Purvis, MS, where he served as a deputy sheriff. He was 35.

The first baseman came to Hickory three seasons after the Pittsburgh Pirates took him in the 31st round of the 1999 draft out of Purvis High.

Young was named the SAL Most Valuable Player for his dominant work in the Crawdads lineup. In 132 games that season, Young posted a .333/.390/.563 slash with 34 doubles, 25 homers and 103 RBI. His doubles mark at the time set the club's single-season mark. He led the SAL in hits (164), homers and total bases (277).

Other top-10 Crawdads marks still held by Young: second in total bases, third in hits and RBI, sixth in batting avg. and slugging, seventh in HBP (15) and eighth in games played.

Along with his MVP honors in 2002, Young was named to Baseball America's Low-A all-star team. He went on to all-star honors in the Carolina League at High-A Lynchburg in 2003 and in the Eastern League at AA Bowie of the Baltimore Orioles chain in 2004.

Young played much of 2005 with the Orioles' AAA farm team at Ottawa before he got his lone big league callup to Baltimore on September 6. He went 10-for-33 in 14 games with a double, a homer and three RBI.

His lone homer in the majors came on 9/13/05 for the Orioles at Texas – a solo shot in the seventh inning against R.A. Dickey.

Young's affiliated career lasted one more season in 2006 with the Astros and Padres. From there, he played for various independent league teams, the last coming in 2009 at Edmonton of the Golden League.

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