

Hedrick's debut with York Revolution a dream come true

The local legend pitched well in front of friends and family in his professional debut.

By [STEVE NAVAROLI Daily Record/Sunday News](#)



Shawn Hedrick of Windsor receives a standing ovation after leaving the mound during the 7th inning of his first game pitching for the York Revolution on Wednesday. (DAILY RECORD / SUNDAY NEWS -- KATE PENN)



Shawn Hedrick's father, Bob Hedrick, cheers for his son as he pitched for the York Revolution on Wednesday. (DAILY RECORD / SUNDAY NEWS -- KATE PENN)

For Bob Hedrick, Wednesday night at Sovereign Bank Stadium was the best birthday present he could have ever dreamed of.

It wasn't just the T-shirt he received from his son Shawn Hedrick in honor of his 65th birthday, which was Tuesday.

True, the shirt was a York Revolution shirt, complete with No. 27 and the name Hedrick on it.

But, it wasn't a just a souvenir. Bob was wearing the shirt while Shawn was making his professional debut as the starting pitcher for the Revs.

"I was elated when I got the news," Bob said before Shawn took the mound. "It was long overdue."

Bob has watched his son's games through an outstanding career at Dover High School to Shawn becoming a townball legend in 16 seasons with Dover of the Central League and Red Lion of the Susquehanna League.

"I have been to almost all of them," Bob said. "This has to be right at the top."

Of course, Bob wasn't the only one getting the ultimate birthday gift as Wednesday marked the 21st birthday for Shawn's step-son Jared Tyson.

"He's been my idol," Tyson said of Shawn. "When he tried out (the first time this season) in April, I said to him, 'You were going to pitch on my birthday.'"

"It was a joke back then. This is a dream come true for me."

It was no longer a joke, as scores of fans purchased and donned the Hedrick T-shirts, which were sold out by the fifth inning of Wednesday's game.

Shawn received a huge hand before the game and finally, it was time for the 34-year-old's first professional pitch.

On that first offering, Charlton Jimerson, one of several former Major Leaguers on the Bears' team, lofted a lazy fly ball caught by Revs' rightfielder Jason Aspito.

Meanwhile Shawn's wife Alicia Hedrick watched from a seat near the York dugout. Just two days after undergoing surgery, she never thought twice about being at the game.

Sitting with daughter Ashley Hedrick, Alicia said she was "nervous and teary eyed."

"I wouldn't have missed it for the world," Alicia said. "He is our life. He's type of guy that would do anything for anybody."

Shawn Hedrick left to a stadium-wide standing ovation with one out in the seventh and the game tied at two, plus a runner on second.

For the night, he threw 83 pitches, gave up eight hits, three runs, all earned. But most impressive he had no walks and struck out one.

He pitched well enough to win -- which the Revs eventually did thanks to a walk-off homer by Keoni DeRenne -- which was no surprise to his older brother, 40-year-old Bob Hedrick, Jr.

"I always thought he could do it out of school," Bob Jr. said. "It's great. He works hard. I couldn't be more proud."

Shawn became an even bigger hero to the crowd of 4,263 when his first strike professional strikeout earned the crowd free breadsticks in the sixth inning.

It was also that same crowd that yelled, "You should have left him in" after reliever Jason Kershner gave up a three-run home run to Willis Otanez that made the score 6-2.

However, the local favorite got off the hook, thanks to a four-run York rally in the bottom of the seventh, forging a 6-6 tie.

"You kind of wonder, who knows where this will lead," Bob Sr. said. "I told him to enjoy the moment. Just throw the way he knows how. He knows he can do it."

On Wednesday night, Shawn Hedrick did it just fine.

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