

MJB Consulting Makes Bid For Second Senior Softball League Playoff Spot

By Ken Kotelly

With just one week and five games left in the Lexington Men's Senior Softball League's regular season, the battles for first, second, fourth, and seventh places remain close battles involving two or three teams. This past week MJB Consulting won its last regular season contest to move into second place, while the Five-O's and Metro Contracting earned important wins as well. When this past week's action began MJB Consulting was tied for second place with Prime Time with identical 9-4 records, but Prime Time held the second playoff spot due to its two wins over MJB Consulting this season. This past week MJB Consulting won its final regular season game to at least for now take over second place, and stay alive for the top spot now held by the Five-O's. Bob DiCicco and Steve Giardina were their hitting stars with three hits each, while Mark Bergeron, Bill Carr, and Matt Widiger added two hits apiece, to lead MJB Consulting to a 7-4 victory over Midnight Express, and move into second place while finishing its regular season with a final record of 10-4.

MJB Consulting will finish in second place if Prime Time loses to the Five-O's this upcoming week, but will finish tied for second place and drop to the third playoff spot if Prime Time prevails over the Five-O's, which would earn Prime Time the second spot.

Neil Feinberg had three hits, and Ray Rosado, Jack Boyle, Shawn Connor, and Van Morrill all had two hits for Midnight Express, which remained in sixth place but could move up to the fifth spot. At the start of this week's play the Five-O's were still in first place with two fewer losses than both Prime Time and MJB Consulting but with still four regular season games left. This past week the

Five-O's moved closer to securing the top playoff spot with a very convincing victorious team effort.

Scott Robinson led their offensive and defensive attacks with four hits and four strike-outs pitching, while John O'Brien and Dmitri Hoffmeyer both added three hits, and John Sym, Mark Roberts, Frank Boggan, and Mike McCullough chipped in two hits apiece, to carry the Five-O's to a 12-1 win over the Goodtimers, and improve their first-place record to 9-2 with three games left.

Mike Franchella had three hits and Herb Cabral added two hits for the Goodtimers, which is still in eighth place but would finish in seventh place with a win over Battle Green this upcoming week. When this past week's action began Metro Contracting was in fifth place but still had a chance to move up to the fourth spot. This past week Metro Contracting made a bid to move up to the fourth spot with a close, hard-fought win.

Mike MacClary led their hit parade with six hits, while Mark Bellino added four hits, Steve Febonio, Jerry McIntyre, and Harry Huang added three hits each, and Jim White, Mike Parenti, and Jason Joseph chipped in two hits apiece, to help Metro Contracting defeat Battle Green 18-14, and improve its record to 7-5-1 and stay right behind fourth-place Foul Play with still one regular season game remaining.

Mike Monteiga, Brian Mason, Vin Dembro, Allen Feinstein, and Jeff Palter all had three hits for Battle Green, which despite their setback is still in seventh place but needs to beat the Goodtimers this upcoming week to secure the seventh playoff spot.

Several key match-ups fill the upcoming final week of the regular season that will determine the eight playoff seeds. The Five-O's can clinch the top spot by winning at least two of its remaining three games, Prime Time can clinch second place by beating the Five-O's, Foul Place can clinch fourth place by winning its last two games, and Metro Contracting can clinch at least fifth place and could move up to the fourth spot by beating the Five-O's.

STANDINGS

Five-O's 9-2

MJB Consulting 10-4

Prime Time 9-4

Foul Play 7-5

Metro Contracting 7-5-1

Midnight Express 6-7

Battle Green 1-11-1

Goodtimers 1-12

The schedule of games for this upcoming week follows. Note that the two games at Center 2 field on Tuesday night, which both involve the Five-O's, will be seven-inning games.

Tuesday, August 22: Goodtimers vs. Battle Green at Estabrook, 5:45; Foul Play vs. Five-O's at Center 2, 6:30; Metro Contracting vs. Five-O's at Center 2, 8:00.

Thursday, August 24: Midnight Express vs. Foul Play at Center 2, 6:30; Five-O's vs. Prime Time at Center 2, 8:15.