

Five-O's Secures Top Senior Softball Playoff Seed For Third Straight Year

By Ken Kotelly

The final four games of the Lexington Men's Senior Softball League were played this past week which settled all eight seeds for the upcoming double-elimination playoffs. The Five-O's won twice to clinch its third straight regular season title and the playoff's top seed, while Foul Play won a tight battle to secure the fourth spot, and the Goodtimers likewise emerged with a hard-fought win to nab the all-important seventh seed.

When this past week started the Five-O's were in first place but still had Prime Time and MJB Consulting trailing them, both still alive for the top spot. But this past week the Five-O's secured its hold on first place by winning twice on the same night to clinch the number one seed for the upcoming playoffs.

Ray Forcina was the hitting star of their first game with four hits, while Dave Mack and P.J. Pascalini both added three hits, and John O'Brien, John Sym, Kevin Hazzard, Dmitri Hoffmeyer, Phil Edelen, and John Diradorian all chipped in two hits, to lead the Five-O's to a 10-5 victory over Foul Play.

Corey Goodman, Paul Brzezinski, and John Liebeskind all had three hits, and Kevin Moschella, Eric Pearlman, and Joe Curro added two hits apiece for Foul Play.

Then in their second contest that evening Mack led their offensive attack with five hits, while Hazzard added four hits, Mark Robards, Forcina, and O'Brien all had three hits, and Mike McCullough, Sym, Pascalini, and Edelen chipped in two hits apiece, to carry the Five-O's to a 17-5 win over Metro Contracting, and clinch its third straight regular season championship with a final record of 11-3.

Jim White, Mike MacClary, Jerry McIntyre, and Harry Huang all had three hits, and Mark Bellino added two hits and a sacrifice fly for Metro Contracting, which finished its regular season with a final record of 7-6-1.

The Five-O's first win that night dropped Foul Play's record to 7-6, which meant that Foul Play needed to beat Midnight Express in its final regular season game to clinch the fourth playoff seed, otherwise it would drop to the sixth spot, and Metro Contracting would move up to the fourth spot. Foul Play then made sure it would not have to play an MJB Consulting squad that finished with a 10-4 record in its first playoff game by rallying from behind in the late going to come out on top.

Jeremy Tate and Goodman led their hit parade with three hits each, while Andy Cutler, Drew Swinger, and Pearlman added two hits each, to help Foul Play come back from a 2-1 deficit by scoring twice in the eighth inning, then holding on at the end to emerge with a 3-2 triumph over Midnight Express, and finish its regular season in fourth place with a final record of 8-6.

Dave Bradford, Tom Regan, and James Hulbert had three hits each for Midnight Express, which finished its regular season in sixth place with a final record of 6-8.

When this past week started the Goodtimers were in eighth place a half game behind seventh-place Battle Green, and needed to beat that team in its regular season finale in order to finish in the seventh spot and avoid playing the Five-O's in its first playoff game. In what was a classic battle for the all-important seventh seed, the Goodtimers had just enough hitting and fielding to emerge with a very close win.

Dan Hess, Herb Cabral, Dave Manuel, and Ray Ciccolo all carried their offense with two hits, while Dave Johnson preserved his squad's lead with two outs in the ninth inning with the tying run on third base with a great defensive play and then get the force out at second base, to help the Goodtimers defeat Battle Green 5-4, and finish its regular season in seventh place with a final record of 2-12.

Mike Monteiga and Jeff Palter both had three hits, and Dave Gross, Ray Lernaer, Harvey Lowell, and John Mullen all had two hits for Battle Green, which despite beating Prime Time earlier this season left the tying run on third base in the ninth inning against the Goodtimers, and finished its regular season in the eight spot with a final record of 1-12-1.

FINAL REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS

Five-O's 11-3

Prime Time 10-4

MJB Consulting 10-4

Foul Play 8-6

Metro Contracting 7-6-1

Midnight Express 6-8

Goodtimers 2-12

Battle Green 1-12-1

The schedule of first round playoffs games this upcoming week is as follows. All games will be played at the Center 2 field.

Tuesday, August 29: Battle Green vs. Five-O's, 6:30; Metro Contracting vs. Foul Play, 8:15.

Thursday, August 31: Goodtimers vs. Prime Time, 6:30; Midnight Express vs. MJB Consulting, 8:15.