

Five-O's Roll Over Prime Time To Capture Fourth Senior Softball Championship In Five Years

By Ken Kotelly

After scoring just two meaningless ninth-inning runs and falling to Prime Time by seven runs in the first game of this year's Lexington Men's Senior Softball League championship finals, the big question heading into the winner-take-all second game was whether the regular season champion Five-O's would respond with a stronger offensive attack, or would Prime Time continue its hitting display once again.

It didn't take long for the Five-O's to respond in the affirmative in a very big way. The Five-O's rallied for four runs, twice as many as they scored in the entire previous game, just in the second inning, and added three more runs in the following frame to take a 7-1 lead.

The Five-O's then added three more runs in the sixth inning, and after scoring twice in the following frame, plated five more runs in the eighth inning, to break the game totally open, and cruise to a convincing 19-3 victory over defending champion Prime Time, and win back the league championship it lost to the same squad a year ago. The Five-O's have now won four league championships over the last five years.

The Five-O's were led by 12 of the 14 players in its line-up with at least two hits, as John Sym, P.J. Passerini, and Mike McCullough had four hits each, while Dave Mack, Dmitri Hoffmeyer, and Mark Robards added three hits each, and John O'Brien, Mike Perrone, Ray Forcina, Eric Gaalaas, Shawn Strout, and Allen Feinstein chipped in two hits apiece to fuel the 19-run attack.

Gregg Armstrong, John Toomey, Carl Fantasia, and Mike Monteiga had two hits each for Prime Time, but after scoring single runs in the second and third innings were held scoreless over the next four frames, and

could only muster a third run in the eighth inning after falling behind by 16 runs and the outcome a virtual certainty.

The Five-O's started to crank up its attack in the top of the second inning when McCullough and Perrone both singled, then Hoffmeyer and Gaalaas had consecutive run-scoring hits before Mike Reimer singled home two more runs, and give the Five-O's an early 4-0 lead.

After Prime Time responded with a run in the bottom of the same frame on a run-scoring double by Rick Silva to cut its deficit to 4-1, the Five-O's got its hitting attack going again in the top of the third inning when Robards and Sym both singled, Passerini and O'Brien had consecutive run-scoring singles, and McCullough added a run-scoring triple to extend the Five-O's lead to 7-1.

After Prime Time responded with another run in the bottom of the same frame on a run-scoring single by Bill Crowley to slice its deficit to 7-2, the Five-O's matched that run in the top of the fifth inning on a run-scoring hit by Sym, then started to break it open in the sixth frame when run-scoring base hits by Forcina, Gaalaas, and Strout extended the Five-O's lead to 11-2.

Any threat of a late Prime Time comeback was quickly dashed when the Five-O's scored twice in the seventh inning on a two-run base hit by Passerini, then added five more runs in the eighth frame on a two-run double by Hoffmeyer, and run-scoring singles by Strout, Feinstein, and Bobby Waters, to extend the Five-O's lead to 18-2, before the teams traded runs in the final inning and a half to cap the game's scoring.

The Five-O's also won league championships in 2021, 2022, and 2023, and came within an out of also winning it last year before Prime Time rallied to win back the title it last won before in 2018. But while Prime Time did make it back to the finals this year, it was the Five-O's that had the most offense when it really mattered to capture the title this time.

With the Lexington Men's Senior Softball League season now complete, the league would like to thank all of the players, managers, and umpires who helped to make this past season a big success, and hopefully all of these individuals will be back to start a new season again next year.