

Five-O's Win Second Straight Senior Softball League Championship

By Ken Kotelly

Despite having a target on its back as the defending champions all season and getting each of its opponents' best shot, the Five-O's still went undefeated through 14 regular season and four playoff games this season. This past week the Five-O's capped its near-perfect season-long run by pulling out a second straight extra-inning victory over Foul Play, 2-1 in 11 innings, in the championship finals to capture its second straight Lexington Men's Senior Softball League championship.

The Five-O's, which only had one blemish on its overall 17-0-1 record this season when Prime Time played it to a tie early in the regular season, won its first three playoff games over the Goodtimers, Metro Contracting, and Foul Play in 13 innings, to only need to defeat Foul Play once in two games to win the title, while Foul Play needed to beat the Five-O's twice to take the crown away.

The Five-O's were the home team, and scored the first run of the game in the bottom of the first inning when Dave Mack singled, advanced to third on a base hit by Bob Waters, and scored on a fielder's choice by Mike McCullough to grab an early 1-0 lead.

Foul Play had two chances to at least tie the game when it loaded the bases with one out in the second inning and with two outs in the fifth frame, but couldn't capitalize on those chances either time.

Foul Play finally got on the board in the top of the sixth inning when J.D. Chesloff singled, went to second on a base hit by Gene Kalb, moved to third when James Jandl reached on an error, and scored on a sacrifice fly by John Liebeskind to tie the game at 1-1.

The game then settled into a battle of attrition for five innings, as both pitchers, Jandl for Foul Play and Kevin Hazzard for the Five-O's pitched scoreless ball through the top of the 11th inning to keep the battle deadlocked.

Then with one out in the bottom of the 11th inning the Five-O's finally put together its game-winning rally when McCullough doubled, and John O'Brien followed with a single to left-center to bring McCullough around to score the game and championship winning run to give the Five-O's the title.

Bob Waters was the hitting star for the Five-O's with three hits to earn the game's MVP award, while Mack, O'Brien, and Mark Roberts added two hits each, and Hazzard allowed just one run in 11 innings pitching for the winners.

Andy Cutler had three hits, and Peter Hamilton, Chesloff, Kalb, and Eric Pearlman all added two hits, and Jandl pitched nine straight scoreless innings for Foul Play to help keep the game tight throughout. But despite a great effort Foul Play fell short in extra innings to the Five-O's for the second time in a week, and came up short in the championship finals to the Five-O's for the second straight year to finish its season with a final overall record of 12-7.

With the softball season now complete, the league would like to thank all of the players, managers, and umpires who helped to make this past season a success.