

## **Five-O's, Prime Time Advance To Senior Softball Finals**

### **By Ken Kotelly**

The winner's bracket final and the loser's bracket semi final and final highlighted the action in the Lexington Men's Senior Softball League playoffs this past week, and true to form the higher seed won each battle. The defending champion and top seed Five-O's won the winner's bracket final to advance to the championship finals in pursuit of its third straight league title, while second-seeded Prime Time took both the loser's bracket semi final and final to eliminate the third and fifth seeds, and advance to the championship finals for the first time in five years.

When this past week's play began the top-seeded Five-O's had already won two straight playoff games to move on to the winner's bracket final against third-seeded MJB Consulting, which had also won two straight playoff battles including an impressive triumph over Prime Time. While this showdown wasn't as high scoring as previous playoff match-ups, it was the Five-O's that produced just enough offense to come out on top.

Frank Boggan was its hitting star with three hits, while P.J. Pascalini, Dave Mack, John Sym, and Mike Reamer added two hits apiece, to help the Five-O's score twice in the third inning, and add three more runs in the sixth frame, to come away with a 5-2 victory over MJB Consulting, and advance to the championship finals for the third straight year.

Mark Bergeron had three hits and John Devlin added two hits for MJB Consulting, which dropped to the loser's bracket final against the winner of the loser's bracket semi final with the setback.

At the start of this past week's action second-seeded Prime Time and fifth-seeded Metro Contracting had already advanced to the loser's bracket semi final after both won loser's bracket games the previous week. While both teams had to win again to keep its title

hopes alive, it was Prime Time that took an early lead and kept building it throughout to turn the close battle into a runaway. Gregg Armstrong and Chris Ellmore both led its offensive attack with three hits each, while John Toomey, Jim Hart, Carl Fantasia, and Eric Winter added two hits apiece, to help Prime Time score four runs in the first three innings, and six more runs in the following five frames, to pull away to a convincing 10-1 win over Metro Contracting, and advance to the loser's bracket final. Mark Bellino had three hits for Metro Contracting, but it was not enough to prevent being eliminated, and finish its season with a final overall record of 9-8-1.

With the decision Prime Time advanced to the loser's bracket final against MJB Consulting, which had beaten Prime Time in the second round of the playoffs. But this time it was Prime Time that came through with more timely hitting with a pair of three-run outbursts that produced just enough offense to fight back a late comeback bid and hold on for the win.

Fantasia was the leader of its hit parade with three hits, while Jim Peck and Winter added two hits apiece, to help Prime Time score three runs in the second inning, and add three more runs in the seventh frame to take a five-run lead, then hold off a late rally and emerge with a 7-5 triumph over MJB Consulting, and advance to the championship finals.

Bob DiCicco, Steve Giardina, Tom Ford, and Bergeron all had two hits for MJB Consulting, but it was not enough to avoid being eliminated, and finish its season with a final overall record of 12-6. The championship finals are now set with Prime Time and the Five-O's set to play each other on Tuesday, September 26 at the Center 2 field at 6:30. If the Five-O's win this game it wins the championship, but if Prime Time wins this game the teams will play one more winner-take-all showdown starting at 8:15 to decide this year's league champion.