

Top Three Seeds Win First Round Senior Softball Playoff Games

By Ken Kotelly

For the most part form held during the four games of the first round of the Lexington Men's Senior Softball League playoffs this past week. Not surprisingly the top three seeds, the Five-O's, MJB Consulting, and Foul Play all won with relative ease, while fifth-seeded Metro Contracting was the only lower-seeded squad to emerge victorious in its win over fourth-seeded Prime Time.

Entering the playoffs coming off a near-perfect 13-0-1 regular season, the defending champion Five-O's are clearly the team to beat in this year's playoffs. This past week the top-seeded Five-O's began its quest for a second straight title with another very impressive winning performance.

Dave Mack, Mike McCullough, and Frank Boggan were their hitting stars with three hits each, while Roy Forcina, Bob Waters, John O'Brien, and Kevin Hazzard added two hits apiece, to help the Five-O's score six first-inning runs, and eight more runs over the following four frames, to cruise to a convincing 16-2 victory over the eighth-seeded Goodtimers, and advance to the second round of the winners bracket against Meto Contracting.

Dan Apstein, Sal Serio, Paul George, and Dave Johnson had two hits each for the Goodtimers, which dropped to the losers bracket for a match-up with Prime Time.

After finishing with a 9-3-2 record during the regular season, second-seeded MJB Consulting entered the playoffs as a serious challenger to the Five-O's in search of its first league championship. This past week MJB Consulting began their challenge to the defending champions with a relentless offensive display.

John Lentz and Greg Carr led their offensive attack with four hits each, while Matt Widiger added three hits, and Mark and Jason Bergeron, Bob DiCicco, and Steve Giardina chipped in two hits apiece, to help MJB Consulting score eight second-inning runs, then break open a close battle by adding five runs in both the fourth and fifth frames, to pull away to a 24-8 win over seventh-seeded Battle Green, and advance to the second round of the winners bracket against Foul Play.

Mike Moneiga, Vin Dembro, Andrew Dixon, and John Mullen all had three hits, and Allen Feinstein, Harvey Lowell, and Jeff Palter added two hits apiece for Battle Green, which fell to the losers bracket for a showdown with Midnight Express.

While falling just short of second place during the regular season with a 9-5 record, third-seeded Foul Play still entered the playoffs as another serious threat to the defending champion Five-O's. This past week Foul Play started their bid for its first overall league title with a strong overall team effort.

Paul Brzezinski, Mark Weiss, and Andy Cutler wielded their hot bats with three hits each, while Jesse Corburn, Kevin Moschella, Peter Hamilton, Drew Swinger, Gene Kalb, John Liebeskind, and Joe Curro added two hits apiece, to help Foul Play break a tie with six third-inning runs, then add seven more runs

over the next four frames, to come away with a 15-9 triumph over sixth-seeded Midnight Express, and advance to the second round of the winners bracket against MJB Consulting.

David Ossam had three hits, and Bob Vincent, Rey Rosado, Jack Boyle, Chris Guen, and Jeff Palter added two hits apiece for Midnight Express, which dropped to the losers bracket for a duel with Battle Green.

After finishing the regular season with an even 7-7 record, fifth-seeded Metro Contracting came into the playoffs as a darkhorse challenger to the Five-O's to take back the title it last won three years ago. This past week Metro Contracting showed it should be taken seriously with a solid offensive performance.

Tom Labretto, Mike MacClary, John Church, and Harry Huang provided most of their offensive firepower with four hits each, while Jim White and Jerry McIntyre added three hits apiece, and Gary Martin chipped in two hits, to help Metro Contracting break a tie by scoring four sixth-inning runs, then add five more runs in the eighth and ninth frames, to pull away and defeat fourth-seeded Prime Time 15-7, and advance to the second round of the winners bracket for a showdown with the Five-O's.

Bill Crowley had three hits, and Jon Toomey, Carl Fantasia, Jim Hart, Chris Ellmore, and Carmelo Rosado added two hits apiece for Prime Time, which fell to the losers bracket for a duel with the Goodtimers.

The playoff schedule for the upcoming week follows. All playoff games are played at the Center 2 field.

Tuesday, August 30 (winners bracket games): Metro Contracting vs. Five-O's, 6:30; Foul Play vs. MJB Consulting, 8:15.

Thursday, September 1 (losers bracket games): Goodtimers vs. Prime Time, 6:30; Battle Green vs. Midnight Express, 8:15.