

Five-O's, Prime Time, MJB, Metro Win First Round Senior Softball League Playoff Games

By Ken Kotelly

The first round of the Lexington Men's Senior Softball League double-elimination playoffs went pretty much to form and as expected this past week, as the top three seeds, the defending champion Five-O's, Prime Time, and MJB Consulting all won its first playoff game, while the only lower seed to prevail in the first round was in the 4-5 match-up, where fifth-seeded Metro Contracting won a close battle over fourth-seeded Foul Play. After winning the league championship the last two years and finishing in first place in the regular season for the third straight season, the top-seeded Five-O's wasted little time starting its playoff quest for a third straight title in its first round playoff match-up, overcoming a slow start with an overwhelming sixth-inning offensive display.

Dave Mack and John O'Brien were their hitting stars with five hits each, while Frank Boggan had four hits, Kevin Hazzard added three hits, and Ray Forcina and Dmitri Hoffmeyer chipped in two hits apiece, to help the Five-O's score five runs in the first five innings, then broke it open by adding 12 more runs in the sixth frame, to cruise to a 19-2 victory over eighth-seeded Battle Green.

Philippe de Rouffignae, Mike Moschella, and Jeff Palter all had two hits for Battle Green, which dropped to the losers bracket for an elimination game against Foul Play.

After an up-and-down regular season which included a stunning loss to Battle Green, second-seeded Prime Time came on strong in the final weeks of the regular season to finish in second place.

Then this past week Prime Time lived up to its second seed in similar fashion to the Five-O's, by overcoming a slow start to pour

it on in the third and sixth innings to win its first round playoff game in convincing fashion going away.

Jon Toomey, Bill Crowley, and Jim Hart led their offensive attack with four hits each, while Rob Walsh and Eric Winter both added three hits, and Bill Smith, Jim Peck, and Brian Sullivan chipped in two hits apiece, to help Prime Time erase an early deficit by scoring six third-inning runs, and 10 more runs in the sixth frame, and coast to a 20-4 win over the seventh-seeded Goodtimers.

Dave Johnson had three hits and Matt Kristin added two hits for the Goodtimers, which dropped to the losers bracket for an elimination game against Midnight Express.

After a slow start this past regular season, MJB Consulting overcame some injuries to still finish tied for second place with Prime Time and earn the third playoff seed. Then in its first round playoff battle MJB Consulting wasted little time getting off to a fast start with a torrid hitting display, which proved to be enough to withstand a comeback bid and still come away with a victory.

John Devlin was its top hitter with four hits, while Tom Ford, Garrett Frampton, Bob DiCicco, Matt Widiger, Tim Clark, Joe Moules, and Ed McGrath all added two hits, to help MJB Consulting score 12 first-inning runs and three more runs in the second frame to take a 12-run lead, then fight back a furious comeback attempt and still hold on at the end to emerge with a 15-11 triumph over sixth-seeded Midnight Express.

Dave Bradford and Charlie Gauthier both had four hits, Ray Rosado and Dave Ossam both added three hits, and Steve Priaino and Wally Mei both chipped in two hits for Midnight Express, which admirably came back to outscore MJB Consulting 8-0 over the final seven innings but still fell four runs short at the end, and dropped to the losers bracket for an elimination game against the Goodtimers.

After a roller coaster regular season which included a tie against Battle Green, Metro Contracting played progressively better over

the second half of the regular season to still finish in fifth place and earn the fifth playoff seed. Then in its first round playoff game Metro Contracting used mostly solid pitching and fielding to overcome its limited hitting, and shut down a good hitting team to become the only lower seed to win its first round playoff duel. Mike MacClary was their offensive hero with four hits, while Jim White, Tom Labretto, and Jason Joseph added two hits each, to help Metro Contracting score single runs in the first and sixth inning, then up just a single run add two big ninth-inning insurance runs, and hold on to defeat fourth-seeded Foul Play 4-1. Eric Pearlman and Paul Brzezinski both had two hits for Foul Play, which couldn't get its usually relentless offense going throughout the contest, and dropped to the losers bracket for an elimination game against Battle Green.

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

Tuesday, September 5 (winners bracket games): Metro Contracting vs. Five-O's, 6:30; MJB Consulting vs. Prime Time, 8:15.

Thursday, September 7 (losers bracket elimination games): Battle Green vs. Foul Play, 6:30; Goodtimers vs. Midnight Express, 8:15.