

Five-O's, MJB Advance To Winners' Bracket Senior Softball League Playoff Finals

By Ken Kotelly

The second round of the Lexington Men's Senior Softball League playoffs featured two winners' bracket games that determined the winners' bracket finalists, and two losers' bracket contests that eliminated two teams and advanced two other squads within the losers' bracket this past week. In the winners' bracket the top seeded Five-O's and third-seeded MJB Consulting both won its second round games to advance to the winners' bracket final, while in the losers' bracket fourth-seeded Foul Play and sixth-seeded Midnight Express both won its second round games to advance within the losers' bracket to play the losers of this past week's winners' bracket games this upcoming week. When this past week's action started the top seeded and two-time defending champion Five-O's were matched against fifth-seeded Metro Contracting after each squad won its first round games, and true to form the top seeded Five-O's played up to its higher seed and took a big early lead it would never relinquish.

Dave Mack and Ray Forcina were their hitting stars with four hits each, while P.J. Franchella, John O'Brien, and Frank Boggan added three hits each, and Kevin Hazzard, Dmitri Hoffmeyer, Mike Reamer, and Mark Robards chipped in two hits apiece, to help the Five-O's plate six runs in both the first and third innings to take a 14-6 lead, then add three more runs in the late going, to pull away to a 17-10 victory over Metro Contracting, and advance to the winners' bracket final.

Jon Churchill had five hits, Mike MacClary had four hits, Mark Bellino and Gary Martin added three hits each, and Jerry McIntyre and Jason Joseph chipped in two hits each for Metro Contracting, which dropped to the losers' bracket to play an elimination game against Midnight Express this upcoming week.

At the start of this past week's play the second-seeded Prime Time was paired against third-seeded MJB Consulting after each squad was victorious in its first round games, and while the battle was close most of the way, it was MJB Consulting that took an early lead and fought back two comeback bids to stay ahead the rest of the way and come out on top.

Mark Bergeron and Joe Moules led their offensive attack with four hits each, while John Devlin, Bob DiCicco, Bill Carr, and Ed McGrath added three hits each, and Garrett Frampton, Steve Giardina, Tom Ford, Matt Widiger, and Greg Carr chipped in two hits apiece, to help MJB Consulting plate seven run in the first three innings and add six more runs in the fourth frame to take a 13-5 lead, then after its advantage was cut to just three runs scored twice more in the seventh inning, to hold on at the end and emerge with a 15-11 win over Prime Time, and advance to the winners' bracket final against the Five-O's.

Joe Walsh had four hits, Bill Crowley, Chris Ellmore, and Jim Peck added three hits each, and Gregg Armstrong, Carl Fantasia, Eric Winter, and Carmelo Rosado chipped in two hits apiece for Prime Time, which dropped to the losers' bracket to play an elimination game against Foul Play this upcoming week.

When this past week's action began Foul Play had dropped to the losers' bracket after its setback to Metro Contracting in the first round, and were paired against eighth-seeded Battle Green which had lost to the Five-O's in the first round. While this match-up proved to be close, Foul Play had just enough offense to squeak by and still come out on top.

Paul Brzezinski swung the hot bat with three hits, while Mark Weiss, Peter Hamilton, and Joe Curro added two hits each, to help Foul Play score single runs in the second, fifth, and sixth innings to take a 3-0 lead, then withstood a late comeback bid to hold on for a 3-2 triumph over Battle Green, and advance within the losers' bracket to play Prime Time this upcoming week.

Philippe de Rouffignac, Harvey Lowell, Brian Mason, and Don Koundakjian all had two hits for Battle Green, which finished its season with a final overall record of 1-14-1.

At the start of this week's play Midnight Express had dropped to the losers' bracket after its first round setback to MJB Consulting, and it was paired against the Goodtimers, which had likewise fallen into the losers' bracket after a similar first round loss to Prime Time. This match-up proved more decisive, however, as Midnight Express took a big early lead it would never relinquish and cruise from there.

Dave Bradford and Rey Rosado both were the offensive heroes with four hits each, while Jack Boyle added three hits, and John Lanza, Charlie Gauthier, and Van Morrill chipped in two hits apiece, to help Midnight Express score six unanswered runs in the first three innings, and add three more runs in the later frames, to coast to a convincing 9-2 victory over the Goodtimers, and advance within the losers' bracket to play Metro Contracting this upcoming week.

Brian Soucy had three hits and Dan Hess had two hits for the Goodtimers, which finished its season with a final overall record of 2-13.

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

Tuesday, September 12 (losers' bracket games): Foul Play vs. Prime Time, 6:30; Midnight Express vs. Metro Contracting, 8:15.

Thursday, September 14: Winners' bracket final, MJB Consulting vs. Five-O's, 6:30; losers' bracket game, Foul Play/Prime Time winner vs. Midnight Express/Metro Contracting winner, 8:15.