

Prime Time, Five-O's Continue Battle For Senior Softball League Regular Season Title

By Ken Kotelly

With just one week left in the Lexington Men's Senior Softball League's regular season, the fight for the top spot and a first-round playoff bye is down to just Prime Time and the Five-O's, which both won its lone game this past week. Midnight Express and Foul Play also earned wins in their battle for the playoffs' third seed, and Metro Contracting snapped its long winless streak to secure the playoffs' sixth seed.

When this past week began Prime Time was still in first place but only a game and a half ahead of the Five-O's. Then Prime Time put together an incredible early-game offensive display to take a huge lead before holding on for an important win to remain in the league's top spot.

Rick Silva was their hitting star with seven hits, while Gregg Armstrong, Paul Ryan, Jim Hart, and Carl Fantasia had five hits each, Carmelo Rosado and Paul Brzezinski added four hits each, and Mike Monteiga, Bill Smith, and Bryan Gran chipped in two hits apiece, to help Prime Time score eleven first-inning, ten fourth-inning, and seven fifth-inning runs to take a 23-run lead, then fight off a furious comeback bid to hold on for a 28-26 victory over MJB Consulting, and improve its first-place record to 11-1, and move to within one more win of clinching the regular season championship and a first-round playoff bye.

Bob DiCicco had six hits, Anthony Bonetti, Greg Carr, Tom Ford, and Ed McGrath had four hits each, Mike Moody, Mark Bergeron, Dan Capucci, and Joe Moules added three hits each, and Joel Waithe and Pat Sullivan chipped in two hits apiece for MJB Consulting, which rallied from 23 runs down to put up 24 runs over the final five innings but fell just two runs short at the end.

At the start of this past week's play the Five-O's were in the second spot but still within striking distance of Prime Time for the top spot. Then the Five-O's not only duplicated Prime Time's 28-run outburst in just two innings, but added eleven more runs to score about as many runs as any team has ever scored in one game in league history.

Dave Mack led their offensive attack with seven hits, while Ray Forcina added six hits, John Sym, John O'Brien, Frank Boggan, Mark Roberts, Mike Reamer, Kevin Haz, and Dmitri Hoffmeyer added four hits each, and Eric Gaalaas and Mike Perone chipped in three hits apiece, to help the Five-O's score 16 first-inning runs, 12 second-inning runs, and seven third-inning runs to take a 33-run lead, and cruise from there to a big 39-4 win over Midnight Express, and improve its record to 9-2-1.

Garrett Frampton, Matt Szymaszek, Jim Musmon, and Norm Wellington had two hits each for Midnight Express.

Despite that setback which ended its five-game winning streak, Midnight Express did prevail in its other contest this past week, as Frampton and Chris Guen both carried their hitting assault with four hits each, while Charlie Gauthier, John Dooley, and Mike Puleo added three hits each, and Szymaszek, Wellington, Erik Brehm, Jonathan Hurd, Wally Mei, and Rick Pernak chipped in two hits apiece, to help Midnight Express defeat Metro Contracting 17-12, and end the week with a record of 8-4 to remain just ahead of fourth-place Foul Play.

Mike Parenti, Jon Churchill, Jerry McIntyre, and Harry Huang had three hits each, and Jim White, Mike MacClary, Mark Bellino, Gary Martin, Jim Cunha, and Steve Febonio had two hits each for Metro Contracting.

With Midnight Express splitting its two games this past week, Foul Play had a chance to gain some ground on that squad, and took advantage of its lone stint of action to secure a big win, and remain in contention for the league's third playoff spot.

Harvey Lowell provided most of their offensive firepower with five hits, while Jesse Corburn, Corey Goodman, and Jeremy Tate had four hits each, Bill Winnett and Andy Cutler added three hits each, and Peter Hamilton and Gene Kalb chipped in two hits apiece, to help Foul Play score eleven first-inning runs, and seven runs in the third inning, and coast home to a 23-5 victory over the Goodtimers, and improve its record to 8-5, and move to within a half game of Midnight Express for the league's third playoff spot.

Fernando Raduan, Jim Dirigo, Brian Soucy, Herb Cabral, and Pat Dean had two hits each for the Goodtimers.

Although falling short against Midnight Express, Metro Contracting came through with its own huge offensive display, and some last-inning dramatics, to snap its long winless run and clinch the sixth playoff spot.

MacClary was its offensive hero with five hits, including a game-winning three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning, while Jeff Heisner had four hits, White, Joseph, Huang, Bellino, and Cunha added three hits each, and Parenti, Martin, Febonio, and Devon Turner chipped in two hits apiece, to help Metro Contracting pull out a 22-21 triumph over the Goodtimers, and snap its 12-game winless streak and clinch sixth place with a record of 2-10-1.

Tony Bartolotti, Joel Waithe, and Ray Ciccolo had four hits each, and Dave Johnson, Dirigo, Sal Serio, Lowell, Kalb, and Kevin Donoghue added three hits each for the Goodtimers, which battled right to the end but fell a run short, and finished its regular season in seventh place with a record of 1-13.

STANDINGS as of August 14th

Prime Time 11-1

Five-O's 9-2-1

Midnight Express 8-4

Foul Play 8-5

MJB Consulting 4-8

Metro Contracting 2-10-1

Goodtimers 1-13

The schedule for the final week of the regular season this upcoming week follows:

Tuesday, August 18: MJB Consulting vs. Metro Contracting at Estabrook, 6:00; Foul Play vs. Five-O's at Center 2, 6:30; Midnight Express vs. Prime Time at Center 2, 8:15.

Thursday, August 20: MJB Consulting vs. Midnight Express at Estabrook, 6:00; Prime Time vs. Five-O's at Clarke, 6:00.