

Five-O's, MJB Advance To Senior Softball Playoff Semi Finals

By Ken Kotelly

The three first round games and two winner's bracket semi-final games highlighted the first week of action in the Lexington Men's Senior Softball League playoffs this past week. In the first round battles Prime Time, MJB Consulting, and Metro Contracting advanced within the winner's bracket, then the top-seeded Five-O's and MJB Consulting both won second round games to advance to the winner's bracket final.

As the third seed MJB Consulting drew the sixth-seeded Goodtimers as its first-round playoff opponent, a team that only lost to MJB Consulting by three runs earlier this season. But this time it was a different story, as MJB Consulting took a big early lead and built on it from there.

Matt Widiger, Greg Carr, Tom Ford, and Joe Moules were their hitting stars with three hits each, while Tim Clark, Bob DiCicco, Joel Waithe, and Anthony Bonetti added two hits apiece, to help MJB Consulting score eight runs in the first two innings, and add nine more runs in the fifth through seventh frames, and cruise to a 17-3 victory over the Goodtimers, to advance to the winner's bracket semi-finals.

Dave Johnson had three hits, and Mike Massimilla, Jim Dirico, and Dan Hess added two hits each for the Goodtimers.

The second-seeded Prime Time squad were matched up against the same seventh-seeded Midnight Express club that beat Prime Time 12-8 in a late regular season game. But this time Prime Time made sure lightning would not strike twice with a huge offensive display in the first four innings, that essentially put the game away by the fifth frame.

Paul Sacco and Eric Winter led their offensive attack with four hits each, while Jim Hart added three hits, and Gregg Armstrong, Rob Walsh, Bill Crowley, Carl Fantasia, Chris Ellmore, Paul Brzezinski, Mike Monteiga,

and Carmelo Rosado chipped in two hits apiece, to help Prime Time score seven runs in the first three innings, then explode for 11 fourth-inning runs, and coast to a 19-1 win over Midnight Express, and advance to the winner's bracket semi-finals.

Norm Wellington and Mike Puleo had two hits each for Midnight Express.

The only first round contest that was close was not surprisingly between fourth seeded Foul Play and fifth seeded Metro Contracting. While Foul Play fell behind early and rallied to make it close in the late going, it was Metro Contracting that score just enough runs early to hold on an escape with a razor-thin one-run win.

Jon Churchill led their hitting display with four hits, while Jim White and Mike MacClary added three hits each, and Mike Parenti and Jason Joseph chipped in two hits apiece, to help Metro Contracting build a sixth-run lead by the middle of the eighth inning, and fight off a late comeback bid to hold on for a clutch 11-10 triumph over Foul Play, and advance to the winner's bracket semi-final against the Five-O's.

Andy Cutler and Gene Kalb both had three hits, and Kyle Junik, Corey Goodman, Peter Hamilton, and John Liebeskind added two hits each for Foul Play, which rallied from six runs down late but fell one run short.

The wins by Prime Time and MJB Consulting matched those two squads up for one of the winner's bracket semi-finals, and while Prime Time won three more regular season games than its opponent, it was MJB Consulting that came through with a relentless offensive attack, while Prime Time just couldn't get its hitting going throughout the game.

Widiger and Waithe provided most of their offensive firepower with three hits each, while Greg Carr, Clark, Ford, Moules, John Devlin, and Dan Capucci added two hits apiece, to help MJB Consulting score five runs in the first three innings, then add eight runs in the fourth through

the eighth frames, and coast to a convincing 13-1 victory over Prime Time, and advance to the winner's bracket final.

Crowley had three hits and Armstrong added two hits for Prime Time, which scored once in the first inning but despite several more scoring threats couldn't plate another run the rest of the way.

The reward for Metro Contracting's first-round win was a match-up against the top-seeded Five-O's which drew a first-round bye. But while scoring runs in bunches in its first-round contest, Metro Contracting couldn't get its offensive going this time after falling behind early, and then never could score enough runs to get back in the game thereafter.

P.J. Passerini led their hit parade with five hits, while Eric Gaalaas and Shawn Strout added three hits each, and John O'Brien, Frank Boggan, John Sym, Allen Feinstein, Dmitri Hoffmeyer, and Bobby Waters chipped in two hits apiece, to help the Five-O's score six runs in the first two innings, add four runs in the fourth and fifth innings, and plate five more runs in the sixth and seventh frames, to cruise to an easy 15-3 win over Metro Contracting, and advance to the winner's bracket final against MJB Consulting.

Mark Bellino and Jim Cuhna both had two hits for Metro Contracting.

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

Tuesday, August 26: Loser's bracket games, Foul Play vs. Prime Time, 6:30; Goodtimers vs. Metro Contracting, 8:15.

Thursday, August 28: Winner's bracket final, MJB Consulting vs. Five-O's, 6:30; Loser's bracket game, Goodtimers/Metro Contracting winner vs. Foul Play/Prime Time winner, 8:15.