

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

By Ken Kotelly

The winner's bracket final and three loser's bracket elimination games highlighted this past week's action in the Lexington Men's Senior Softball League playoffs, which reduced the field to just three teams, which are the top three seeds. The top seeded Five-O's won the winner's bracket battle over third-seeded MJB Consulting, which dropped to the loser's bracket, while third-seeded Prime Time won twice to advance to the loser's bracket final to meet MJB Consulting.

When this past week's play began the Five-O's and MJB Consulting had already advanced to the winner's bracket final, after the Five-O's beat Metro Contracting and MJB Consulting topped both the Goodtimers and Prime Time in the opening two playoff rounds. MJB Consulting would take an early lead and stayed close until the eighth inning, before the Five-O's broke it open and put the decision safely away.

Mike Perrone, Mike McCullough, Eric Gaalaas, Dmitri Hoffmeyer, and Bobby Waters led their offensive attack with three hits each, while Dave Mack and Allen Feinstein added two hits each, to help the Five-O's overcome an early three-run deficit by score twice in both the third and fourth innings, then exploded for seven runs in the eighth frame to break it open, and go on to the 11-4 victory over MJB Consulting, and advance to the championship finals for the fifth straight year.

Matt Widiger and Dan Capucci both had three hits, while Tim Clark, Greg Carr, and Anthony Bonetti added two hits apiece for MJB Consulting, which dropped to the loser's bracket final.

At the start of this week's action second-seeded Prime Time was in one of two loser's bracket games early this past week against Foul Play, which fell to Metro Contracting in the playoff's opening round. This contest turned out to be the best battle of the playoffs so far and took

three extra innings to settle, before Prime Time, which had never led in the first nine innings, finally prevailed in the end.

John Toomey was their hitting star with five hits, while Bill Crowley, Mike Monteiga, and Carl Fantasia added three hits each, and Paul Sacco, Chris Ellmore, and Paul Brzezinski chipped in two hits apiece, to help Prime Time plate six runs in the first eight innings, then down three runs scored three runs in the ninth frame to tie it, then scored the winning run in the third extra frame, to pull out a 12-inning, 10-9 win over Foul Play, and advance to the loser's bracket semi-final.

Dave Lerner had five hits, Corey Goodman and Bill Winnett had four hits each, Kyle Junik and Joe Curro added three hits each, and Jesse Corburn, Jeremy Tate, Gene Kalb, John Liebeskind, and Harvey Lowell chipped in two hits apiece for Foul Play, which led for almost the entire game but couldn't close it out at the end, and finished its season with a final overall record of 7-9.

The other loser's bracket contest early this past week was between fourth-seeded Metro Contracting, which won its first round game before falling to the Five-O's in the second round, and the Goodtimers, which lost to MJB Consulting in the first round before winning over Midnight Express in the first loser's bracket game of the playoffs. This was only close for two and a half innings, before Metro Contracting had a huge third inning rally which broke the battle open for good.

Mike MacClary, Jon Churchill, and Gary Martin provided most of its offensive firepower with four hits each, while Mike Parenti, Harry Huang, and Tom Libretto added three hits each, and Jim White, Jerry McIntyre, Jim Cuhna, Mark Bellino, and Jeff Heisner chipped in two hits apiece, to help Metro Contracting score nine runs in the third inning, then added four more runs over the following five frames, to cruise to a convincing 15-5 triumph over the Goodtimers, and advance to the loser's bracket semi-final.

Jim Dirico and Brian Soucy both had two hits for the Goodtimers, which couldn't recover after the third inning, and finished its season with a final overall record of 4-12-1.

The wins by Prime Time and Metro Contracting set up a big loser's bracket showdown between those two squads two days later, and while Metro Contracting had its hitting shoes on, it was Prime Time that had close to twice as much hitting in a wild high-scoring affair, and came out on top in the end.

Toomey and Crowley both provided most of its hitting with four hits each, while Fantasia, Moneiga, and Silva added three hits each, and Gregg Armstrong, Sacco, Jim Hart, Ellmore, Brzezinski, and Carmelo Rosado chipped in two hits apiece, to help Prime Time plate seven first-inning runs, six second-inning runs, and seven runs in the seventh frame, to finally prevail 23-11 over Metro Contracting, and advance to the loser's bracket final against MJB Consulting.

Craig Mackanin and Huang both had three hits, and Parenti, MacClary, Churchill, Heisner, and Bellino added two hits apiece for Metro Contracting, which couldn't survive Prime Time's hitting barrage and finished its season with a final overall record of 7-11.

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

Tuesday, September 2: Loser's bracket final, MJB Consulting vs. Prime Time, 7:00.

Thursday, September 4: Championship final, MJB Consulting/Prime Time winner vs. Five-O's, 7:00