

Prime Time Wins Twice, Forces Winner-Take-All Senior Softball Championship Game

By Ken Kotelly

The loser's bracket final and the first game of the championship final highlighted this past week's Lexington Men's Senior Softball League playoff action, and although the Five-O's were in the driver's seat when the week started to win the league title, it received a very strong challenge from Prime Time, which refused to go down without a fight.

When this past week's action started the top-seeded Five-O's were already in the championship finals, while second-seeded and defending champion Prime Time still had to go up against third-seeded MJB Consulting in the loser's bracket final, to determine which of those squads would advance to the championship finals against the Five-O's. While it appeared to be an even match-up, Prime Time made sure it would not fall short of a third straight trip to the finals with two big hitting displays in consecutive innings to secure the decision.

Paul Sacco and Jim Hart were their hitting stars with three hits each, while John Toomey, Bill Crowley, Chris Ellmore, Mike Monteiga, and Carmelo Rosado added two hits apiece, to help Prime Time score four runs in the fourth inning, and plate three more runs in the following frame, to break the game open and go on to earn a big 11-2 victory over MJB Consulting, and advance to the championship finals.

Tim Clark, Bob DiCicco, Greg Carr, Joe Moules, and Amit Dang all had two hits for MJB Consulting, but after scoring twice in the fourth inning couldn't add to its run total the rest of the way, and finished its season with a final overall record of 9-9.

With this win Prime Time moved on to the championship finals knowing it had to defeat the Five-O's twice to capture a second straight

championship, while the Five-O's, which entered the finals without a playoff loss, only needed to defeat Prime Time once in a maximum of two games to win back the title it last won two years ago.

But with a chance to do just that in the first game of the finals, the Five-O's couldn't get its offense going and failed to score a run over the first eight innings. This gave Prime Time a chance to take a big lead by the sixth inning, and put together one big rally to break the battle open from which the Five-O's couldn't respond to.

Toomey and Ellmore led its offensive attack this time with three hits each, while Sacco, Rosado, Rick Silva, and Paul Brzezinski added two hits apiece, to help Prime Time score seven runs in the fifth inning to take an eight-run lead, and cruise from there to a big 9-2 win over the Five-O's, and force a one-game, winner-take-all second championship final game this upcoming week to determine this year's champion.

Silva, Brzezinski, and Rosado had base hits to produce a run for Prime Time in the third inning, while Ellmore, Monteiga, Silva, Brzezinski, Rosado, Sacco, Toomey, and Carl Fantasia all had base hits in Prime Time's big seven-run rally in the fifth frame.

Dave Mack had four hits, Phil Edelen added three hits, and John Sym, P.J. Passerini, and Dmitri Hoffmeyer chipped in two hits apiece for the Five-O's, which were held scoreless until base hits by Hoffmeyer, Edelen, Bobby Waters, Mike Reimer, and Mack produced its two runs in the ninth inning.

The win by Prime Time forced a one-game, winner-take-all second game of the championship finals, which will be played this Tuesday, September 9 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Center 2 field.