



## Placings set for elimination day

### Hitmen finish first in round robin, Mastodons claim second seed

St. John's, NL (Sept. 2, 2016) — Thirty competitive games of softball later and Saturday's senior men's elimination round is set at the 2016 Men's and Master Men's Canadian Fast Pitch Championships.

The defending champion Galway Hitmen from Newfoundland (6-0, 1st) finished off a perfect round robin record with two more wins on a cool Friday in St. John's, NL, becoming one of four teams to earn a double life in Saturday's playoff round. While their top-seeding was never in jeopardy as a result of a scoring bonanza that would have assured them top-seed billing regardless, the Hitmen was challenged in its final game.

"They gave us a scare, but we never wavered," head coach Mark Dwyer said after a 6-4 victory over the WMC/The Bigs Bombers, also from Newfoundland, (1-5, 9th), a game which the Hitmen trailed 4-1 before Steve Mullaley's grand slam home run in the bottom of the fifth inning. They would go on to win 6-4.

"We knew we would get going at some point and it couldn't have been a better guy in Mullaley. He hasn't been happy with himself and he puts a lot of pressure on himself. It needs to be a big occasion and that's when he does his best work"

With a 1-4 record coming into the evening match, the Bombers were out of playoff contention heading into the contest so they had nothing to lose. And as coach Mark Dwyer agreed there is a great degree of familiarity between his starting pitcher Robbie Greene and the Bombers.

"As hitters they don't feel overwhelmed or like it's something they haven't seen. Robbie has thrown a ton this year in our own league. They were comfortable with him and it showed. But in his defence he plowed through and got the big outs when he needed them."

The Hitmen will face another squad of provincial counterparts on Saturday morning when they hit the field against the Kelly's Pub Molson Bulldogs (4th). The winner advances to Saturday's first semifinal, while the loser must go through the quarter-final round to keep their title hopes alive.

With the potential for four teams to finish with 4-2 records at day's end, the second seed would have been decided by head-to-head records and possible runs for and against, but the East Hants, N.S. Mastodons (5-1, 2nd) locked up the spot with a crucial 3-2 win over the Alvinston, Ont., Indians (3-3, 6th).

"I was worried heading into that last game because the log jam of the mess that could have taken place, we could have potentially have finished fourth if we had lost that game," said player coach Chris Hopewell.

"Going in initially we thought about going with a different lineup but then we sat back and said 'let's just go with this game, keep the momentum going.'"

That meant riding the pitching tandem of import arm Kyle Crawford and Justin Schofield. The Mastodons used the 1-2 duo in all but one game in the round robin — an opening game loss to Saskatchewan's Chetty's Pretty Boys (2-4, 8th).

"We easily could have been 6-0 going into this tomorrow, but we lost that first game and it was kind of a wakeup call for us and good for us overall and having to win that last game showed we could persevere," Hopewell stated.

The Mastodons are particularly motivated this year after losing last year's gold medal game 4-3 to the Hitmen, a game they led 3-2 heading into the sixth inning.

"Our goal going into this tournament was to play on Sunday and play in that gold medal match. We want to bring it home, especially for our fans."

First, they'll have to go through the Kitchener, Ont., Hallman Cubs (4-2, 3rd) in the elimination round on Saturday.

The single-life elimination games tomorrow feature the Saskatoon Poly Plus Angels (3-3, 5th) meeting the Pretty Boys in a battle of Saskatchewan, while the Indians tangle with the Bulyea Rustlers (2-4, 7th). Winners advance to the quarter-final round on Saturday afternoon.

The Saskatoon Sharks (0-6, 10th) will join the Bombers on the sidelines.

Meanwhile, the Master Men's tournament continued with three games on Friday. Newfoundland's 3Cheers Pub (2-0) remain the only undefeated team, edging the Sydney, N.S., Louann's Cafe Cardinals (1-1) 7-6. Newfoundland1 (0-2) dropped

both games on Friday, losing 2-1 to the Mississauga, Ont. Rusty Jiggers (1-1) and falling 14-10 to the Cardinals.

Full results and a schedule for Friday's action are as follows:

### **Day 3 Results**

#### **Senior Men's**

##### **Game 21**

• Bulyea Rustlers 3, Saskatoon Bridge City Sharks 0

WP: Scott Lieph (7IP, 5H, 2BB, 17K)

LP: Jeff Farion (6IP, 3R, 6H, 1BB, 5K)

TB: Rustlers — Josh Jordan (2-3, 2R, HR), Cory Krahenbil (2-3, R, RBI), Dean Holoien (2-2, RBI, BB); Sharks — Lucas Owchar (0-1, 2BB)

##### **Game 22**

• Kitchener Hallman Cubs 8, Chetty's Pretty Boys 2

WP/RP: Don Scott (3.2IP, 3H, 8K)

SP: Andy Skelton (3.1IP, 2R, 4H, 3BB, 7K)

LP: Tony Sparvier (7IP, 7R, 7H, 7BB, 9K)

TB: Cubs — Nic Moore (2-4, HR), Bob Gillow (1-3, 3RBI, SAC), Dan Mitchell (1-2, 3R, 2BB), Andy Skelton; Pretty Boys — Dustin Keshane (2-3, R)

##### **Game 23**

• Galway Hitmen 7, Saskatoon Poly Plus Angels 0 (5 innings)

WP: Sean Cleary (5IP, 3H, 8K)

LP: Ryan Casey (4IP, 7R, 8H, 3BB, 4K)

TB: Hitmen — Blair Ezekiel (2-3, 2R, 3RBI, 2R-HR), Brad Ezekiel (1-2, 2R, 2RBI), Shane Boland (2-3, R); Angels — Darren McCullough (1-2), Kaylan Robinson (1-2), Brian Evanochko (1-2)

##### **Game 24**

• WMC/The Bigs Bombers 3, Sharks 2

WP: Mark Power (7IP, 2R, 2H, 1BB, 13K)

LP: Zack Pierce (7IP, 3R, 5H, 1BB, 10L)

TB: Bombers — Peter Kavanagh (2-3), Joran Graham (1-2, R, BB), Mark Power (1-3, R); Sharks — Perry Holder (1-3, 2RBI)

##### **Game 25**

• East Hants Mastodons 9, Kelly's Pub Molson Bulldogs 1 (5 innings)

WP: Kyle Crawford (5IP, 1R, 6H, 4K)

LP: Kyle Linton (1.1IP, 7R, 5H, 1BB)

RP: Don King (3.2IP, 2R, 4H, 2BB, 1K)

TB: Mastodons — Nick Shailes (2-3, R, 2RBI, 3SB), Jonah Wright (1-2, R, RBI), Jason Sanford (2-3, 3RBI); Bulldogs — Mathieu Roy (2-3, R), Stephen Jesso (2—2)

### **Game 26**

• Alvinston Indians 4, Rustlers 3

WP: Caleb Keeshig (7IP, 2R, 3H, 1BB, 12)

LP: Bryan Newton (3IP, 4R, 3H, 1BB, 1K)

TB: Indians — Tyler Pauli, (3-4, R, RBI, SB), Craig Lyons (2-4, R, RBI); Rustlers — Mike Lawton (1-3, 2RBI), George Flotre (1-3, R)

### **Game 27**

• Hitmen 6, Bombers 4

WP: Robbie Greene (7IP, 4R, 7H, 4BB, 8K)

LP: Joran Graham (4.2IP, 5R, 9H, 1BB, 3K)

RP: Mark Power (1.1IP, 1R, 2H)

TB: Hitmen — Steve Mullaley (1-3, Grand Slam), Danny Mullins (2-3, R), Kyle Ezekiel (2-3, R), Justin Gill (1-4, R, RBI); Bombers — Bryan Abrey (3-4, RBI), Joran Graham (1-3, HR), Chris Murphy (1-3, HR)

### **Game 28**

• Angels 5, Pretty Boys 1

WP: Devon McCullough (7IP, 1R, 3H, 4BB, 10K)

LP: Dustin Keshane (5IP, 3R, 2H, 2BB, 6K)

RP: Travis Nevin (2IP, 2R, 5H, 4K)

TB: Angels — Trevor Eithier (1-2, 2R, BB), Kaylan Robinson (2-3, R), Jesse Osika (1-1, R); Pretty Boys — Dustin Keshane (1-2, R, BB), Jayden Isaac (1-3, RBI)

### **Game 29**

• Cubs 6, Bulldogs 2

WP: Ryan French (5IP, 5H, 2BB, 5K)

RP/Save: Don Scott (2IP, 2R, 2H, 1BB, 3K)

LP: Colin Walsh (6IP, 4R, 6H, 8K)

RP: Kyle Linton (1IP, 2R, 2BB, 2K)

TB: Andy Skelton (2-4, 2R, RBI), Matt Lyon (2-3, 3RBI); Bulldogs — Walsh (2-3, BB), Mathieu Roy (2-3, R, BB), Stephen Jesso (1-3, RBI)

### **Game 30**

• Mastodons 3, Indians 2

WP/RP: Justin Schofield (2IP, 1H, 1BB, 4K)

SP: Kyle Crawford (5IP, 2R, 2H, 3BB, 7K)

LP/RP: Michael Lagace Roote (1IP, 1R, 1H, 2K)

SP: Travis Jones (6IP, 2R, 4H, 4BB, 5K)

TB: Mastodons — Nick Shailes (2-4, HR, SB), Donnelly Archibald (2-3), Jay Duffy (1-3, R, BB); Indians — Michael Lagace Roote (1-3, R, RBI), Brad Cooper (1-3, RBI), Jeff Lyons (1-1, R, 2BB)

### **Elimination round schedule**

10 a.m., Diamond 1, Hitmen (1) vs. Bulldogs (4)

10:30 a.m., Diamond 2, Angels (5) vs. Pretty Boys (8)  
12 p.m., Diamond 1, Mastodons (2) vs. Cubs (3)  
12:30 p.m., Diamond 2, Indians (3) vs. Rustlers (7)

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## **MASTER MEN'S**

### **Game 2**

Mississauga Rusty Jiggers 2, Newfoundland-1 1

WP: Tracy Woolridge (7IP, R, 6H, 8K)

LP: Chris Hussey (7IP, 2R, 5H, BB, 9K)

TB: Rusty Jiggers — Kent Campbell (2-3, R), Fintan Farrell (1-3, R);

NL1 — John Farrell (2-3, RBI)

### **Game 3**

• 3Cheers Pub 7, Sydney Louann's Cafe Cardinals 6

WP/RP: Rod Cantwell (4IP, 2R, 6H, 1BB, 4K)

SP: Ward Gosse (3IP, 4R, 5H, 1BB, 3K)

LP/RP: Steve Simmons (3.1IP, 2R, 9H, 1BB, 4K)

SP: Robert Bernard (3.1IP, 5R, 6H, 3BB)

TB: 3Cheers — Paul King (3-4, 2R, RBI), Jamie Peddle (3-3, RBI), Kevin Fitzpatrick (4-4, 3R), Rod Cantwell (1-2, R); Cardinals — Arnold Murphy (3-4, R, RBI), Dennis Munroe (3-4, 2R, RBI), Kevin McDonald (1-4, R, 3RBI)

**Note:** Scored tied 6-6 to start bottom of the seventh. Kevin Fitzpatrick singled, advanced to third on a Paul King single and scored on a Craig Power single.

### **Game 4 (Lions Park)**

• Cardinals 14, NL1 10

WP/RP: Robert Bernard (4.1IP, 9R, 8H, 8BB, 2K)

SP: Anthony Phillips (2.2IP, 1R, 3H, 1BB, 1K)

LP: Dave Kennedy (4IP, 9R, 11H)

RP: Eddy McDonald (2IP, 5R, 6H, 2BB, 3K)

RP: Chris Hussey (1IP, 1H, 1K)

TB: Cardinals — Derrick Rudderham (3-5, 2R, 2R-HR), Ernie Pyke (3-5, 3R, 2R-HR, 4RBI), Jeff Clements (2-5, 2R, 2RBI), Steven Rice (1-2, R, 3R-HR, FC); NL1

— Dave Kennedy (2-4, 2R, 2R-HR), John Farrell (2-4, R, 2R-HR, SAC), Steven Rice (1-2, R, 3R-HR, FC), Brice Roche (2-2, R, BB)

### **Saturday's schedule**

2 p.m., Diamond 1, 3Cheers vs. NL1

3 p.m., Diamond 2, Rusty Jiggers vs. Cardinals

7 p.m., Diamond 2, 3rd vs. 2nd

8 p.m., Diamond 1, 1st vs. 4th

For those not in St. John's, NL this week, live tournament scoring and statistics are available through the official website [championship.softball.ca/mens/](http://championship.softball.ca/mens/) and games on Diamond No. 1 will be streamed live at [softballcanada.tv](http://softballcanada.tv) with play-by-

play and commentary courtesy Ballpark Broadcasting's Lance Winn and Blair Setford, along with special guest Kris Abbott.

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