

District title well worth the wait

A day after losing to Foster City, Hillsborough responds in a big way

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The District 52 Hillsborough 9-10-year-old All-Stars thought they were going to win the tournament title on Friday. But after losing to Foster City, the championship had to wait another day.

**HILLSBOROUGH 13;
FOSTER CITY 0**

Hillsborough was determined not to let their second chance slip away, and so it jumped all over Foster City and won 13-0 in a mercy-rule shortened four-inning game, scoring 12 of those runs in the first two innings.

"My hat's off to that team," said Foster City manager Steve Stahl. "I hope they go far in the section. Outplayed us today, out-hit us today. It's a good team."

Never before had Grant Goodman hit a ball over the fence — that is, until Saturday's championship game.

In the top of the first, after a leadoff single from Henry Caruso and subsequent fly ball

out, Goodman hit a shot to left field that left the field just as quickly as it reached home plate.

"It didn't feel like hitting my bat," Goodman said. "My bat just took it out and felt really nice. I've done those a lot in Little League and they haven't gone over. That's the first one. I was like, 'Oh no, it's going over for once. Please go over.' And then it went out."

The aggressiveness missing from the Hillsborough bats on Friday was back on Saturday. Frank Ferrari singled right after Goodman's home run and scored on a sacrifice fly from Will Reilly. An error accounted for another run and Hillsborough was up 4-0 after the top of the first.

Foster City loaded the bases in the top of the first, but Hillsborough starter Austin Marcus — coming off a no-hitter pitched on Monday — induced a 1-2-3 double play and a pop-up to quench the threat.

"I kind of thought that I could get through it if I threw strikes," Marcus said.

"Our bats just didn't wake up this morning," Stahl said. "They're still in bed."

The second inning was twice as much fun as the first for Hillsborough, scoring eight more runs to put the mercy rule in play. Chris Mark was hit by a pitch to start things off and Caruso picked up his second single of the game before a Brock Cozad sacrifice bunt turned into a hit and loaded the bases.

Back-to-back walks made it 5-0 and 6-0, effectively ending the Foster City starter's day. The bullpen didn't slow things down, though, as Marcus helped his own cause with a two-run single and Reilly picked up his second RBI with a single of his own. Charlie Boyd was then hit by a pitch and the bases were loaded again with no outs.

Andrew Segre's sacrifice fly gave Hillsborough the 10-run lead it needed and Caruso's two-run double down the left field line made it 12-0 going into the bottom of the second.

Gordon Barrows scored the last run of the game on a grounder in the top of the fourth, as

Marcus was just cruising until the bottom of the fourth.

A couple of controversial calls helped Foster City load the bases, this time with one out. But after having found magic to keep playing through the loser's bracket every day since Tuesday, there was no pixie dust left.

"I think it took a lot out of everybody," Stahl said. "A lot of effort and a lot of energy went into this team to get through the loser's bracket. But for these kids, I'd do it all over again."

Marcus struck out his fifth batter of the day to put Hillsborough one out away from the D-52 title and a pop-up to second base sealed the deal.

"I really wanted it," Marcus said of the shutout; he must now ready himself for even tougher competition in the section tournament.

"We're really excited. We just have to play hard, play like we did today, and we'll do well."

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