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- As soon as possible
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- I'll wait until closer to the election
- Election Day

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- Opinion / Letters
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- Arts / Entertainment
- Lifestyle
- Obituaries
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## Hillsborough wins title

July 17, 2006, 12:00 AM By Nathan Mollat

If there was any question about whether the Hillsborough 9- and 10-year-old All-Star team had put Friday's 7-4 loss to Foster City behind it, it was answered on the second pitch of Saturday's game when Hillsborough's leadoff hitter Henry Caruso smashed a 1-0 pitch from Foster City pitcher Conner Stahl right back at him — a scary line drive that would have caused serious damage if Stahl didn't somehow manage to get his glove up and nearly make the catch.

Instead, Caruso's single set the tone for a Hillsborough 10-hit, 13-run attack as it beat Foster City 13-0 to win the District 52 championship at Lakeshore Park in San Mateo.

It is Hillsborough's second-straight age-group championship.

"Our 9 and 10 teams have done well for many years," said Hillsborough coach Jeff Cozad. "They definitely didn't like losing [Friday] night. They were spanking the ball all over the place (Saturday)."

Hillsborough scored four runs in the first before blowing the game open in the second with eight more and the two innings couldn't have been different. Hillsborough tore the cover off the ball in the first inning and used patience to score in the second.

After Caruso's rifle shot in the first, Grant Goodman came to the plate with one out and jumped on a 3-1 pitch that he launched over the fence in left field to give Hillsborough a 2-0 lead. Will Reilly hit a sacrifice fly later in the inning to plate Frankie Ferrari while Austin Marcus scored on an error for Hillsborough's final run of the first.

"It felt really cool (to hit a home run)," Goodman said. "It was my first homer over the fence. It didn't feel like it hit my bat."

In the second, Hillsborough scored eight runs on just five hits. It also took advantage of two walks and two hit batters. The first eight batters of the inning reached base safely as Hillsborough sent 12 batters to the plate. With the bases loaded, Goodman and Ferrari each drew walks to drive in runs, Marcus and Will Reilly each singled home a run, Andrew Segre drove in another with a sacrifice fly and Caruso capped the inning with a two-run double.

That was more than enough offensive support for Hillsborough starting pitcher Marcus, who limited Foster City to just four hits — two in the first and two in the fourth.

"It felt good to get an early lead," Marcus said. "You can never have too many runs."

He did run into some trouble in the first and fourth innings as Foster City loaded the bases in each frame. In the first, Foster City loaded the bases as the first three hitters in the order all reached base. Dominic Filice singled to right, Brendan Toy had an infield hit and Steve Ostrowski walked.

Foster City couldn't capitalize, however, as Marcus induced a rally-killing 1-2-3 double play. Marcus fielded the ball cleanly, threw home to Ferrari for the first out, who then fired a throw to first for the second out. Marcus got out of the inning when he induced a harmless popout to second.

"I kind of thought I could get through it if I threw strikes," Marcus said of the first-inning jam.

Foster City coach Steve Stahl believed the game might have been different if his team could have scored in the first.

"Our bats just weren't on [Saturday]," Stahl said. "You have your 'A' game and your 'B' game. We had our 'B' game."

Foster City had one more chance to extend the game, loading the bases again in the fourth. But Marcus again got out of the jam unscathed.

"I really wanted [the shutout]," Marcus said. "It was my second of the tournament."

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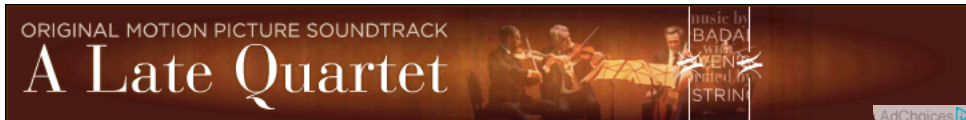


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