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Hillsborough's bats make noise

BY JOHN REID
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Hillsborough leadoff hitter Henry Caruso spoke volumes at the plate during Thursday's first round game of the Section 3 Little League 9-10-year-old All-Stars Tournament at Martens Field in San Mateo.

**HILLSBOROUGH 11,
MT. EDEN 0**

tion 3 Little League 9-10-year-old All-Stars Tournament at Martens Field in San Mateo.

After Caruso's two-hit, four-RBI night helped Hillsborough spank Mt. Eden (Hayward) 11-0, he did some more talking.

"We are going to win this tournament," said Caruso, who was part of a Hillsborough 9-10 team that lost in the Section 3 title game last year. "We have a good, solid team. I think we're going to do well. And we haven't even pitched our ace, yet."

Hillsborough's ace, Austin Marcus, goes tonight vs. District 67 champ Northgate at 5:30 p.m. A victory by Hillsborough pits it against an athletic Pleasanton American team Saturday at noon. Pleasanton American team Saturday at noon. Pleasanton American team Saturday at noon.

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Richard Batman / Daily News

A GEM — Hillsborough starter Brock Cozad pitched a three-hit gem as the local 9-10-year-olds cruised to an 11-0 win in the Section 3 All-Stars Tourney opener.

9-10'S TOURNEY

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ton American, District 57 champion, looked impressive in beating District 14 rep Newark American 7-1 Thursday.

Hillsborough manager Jeff Cozad, whose club had eight hits, including six doubles, was satisfied with the way his club played.

"We hadn't played a game for five or six days," Cozad said. "You can have all the batting practice you want, but until you get in a game situation, you don't know what's going to happen. We started slowly, but hit the ball pretty well."

Mt. Eden, winner of District 45, sent Raul Lugo out to the mound. Lugo struck out the side in the first inning, but was touched for two runs along the way. Frankie Ferrari ripped a double to the base of the left-center field wall to advance Brock Cozad to third with two out. Marcus doubled over the right fielder's head for two Hillsborough runs.

Hillsborough sent 10 batters to the plate in a six-run second inning. Four of the runs were unearned as Mt. Eden committed two errors.

Caruso singled in two runs for a 4-0 lead. Lugo lost his control for a spate as three runs scored, two on wild pitches and another on a passed ball. Brenden Barrows came off the bench to double in Marcus, who had doubled into the gap in right-center field.

Chris Mark hit the first pitch he saw into the

gap in left-center to lead off the third inning with a double.

"That was great to see Chris get that double," Jeff Cozad said. "He has been working so hard the past month and has really improved."

After Gordon Barrows beat out an infield single, Caruso added a two-run double to get the 10-run lead and ensure the mercy rule.

Meanwhile, Brock Cozad pitched the first three innings and yielded just one hit, a sharp single off the third baseman's glove by Lugo. Brenden Barrows struck out two batters in the top of the fourth in mop-up duty, completing a combined 1-hitter.

"I threw my 2-seam fastball and got first-pitch strikes," Brock Cozad said. "I wanted to say in rhythm out there."

"Brock kept the ball down and threw strikes," said Jeff Cozad, Brock's father. "He's not the kind of pitcher who will strike out a lot of hitters. He lets his defense make the plays and it did."

Hillsborough has a new fan in Mt. Eden manager Louis Laventure.

"Hillsborough is a good team," Laventure said. "We went 5-0 in our tournament and came in a little cocky. We came here and got smashed."

"We knew we were the better team," Marcus said. "We're ready for Northgate."

Is Northgate ready for Hillsborough? That question will be answered tonight.

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