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## Title up for grabs

July 12, 2007, 12:00 AM By Nathan Mollat, Daily Journal Staff

The Hillsborough 10-11 all stars rolled to its seventh straight win in the District 52 tournament with a 9-2 win over Foster City in the first game of the championship series.

Since Foster City came through the winners' bracket, it has to be beaten twice by Hillsborough to be denied the title.

The bad news is, Foster City has to do it against a Hillsborough team that has outscored opponents 81-17 over its last seven games.

"They won it last year. They're a great team," said Foster City coach Mike Botta. "We have to play our best to stay with them. We can play with them."

Hillsborough put the game away early. Henry Caruso led off the game with a solo homer over the right field fence for a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first as Hillsborough went on to put up five runs in the first and tacked on two more in the second for a 7-0 lead.

Lost in all the offensive fireworks, however, is the fact that Hillsborough has one of the best defenses and pitching staffs in the tournament. Both facets of the game were on display Wednesday at Highland Park in San Carlos. Hillsborough committed only one error but otherwise played strong defensively.

Third baseman Frankie Ferrari looked like Matt Williams on defense. He sucked up almost every ball that was sent his way and easily threw out runners at first. Will Reilly was a wall at first base, not allowing any throws past him. The defense needed to be strong because starting pitcher Grant Goodman got a lot of ground ball outs.

"If you look at Ferrari at third, Brock Cozad at shortstop, Gordon Barrows at second and Will Reilly at first, those four guys are just rocks of Gibraltar," Hillsborough coach Jeff Cozad said.

Goodman completely shut down the Foster City offense, limiting it to just two runs on two hits in 5 1/3 innings of work. He was forced out of the game in the bottom of the sixth when he reached the Little League maximum of 86 pitches in an outing.

Before he left, however, he put on quite a display. Of his 86 pitches, 56 were strikes. He faced 23 batters, throwing first-pitch strikes to 13 of them. He was a little shaky in the first, giving up an infield hit to Dom Filice leading off and a walk to Stephen Ostrowski. However, he retired nine of the next 10 batters he faced. In the sixth, he left with runners on first and second with one out.

Andrew Kelly greeted reliever Ferrari with a double to right-center field on a 3-2 pitch which drove in Brendan Toy and Christian Santos.

Ferrari finished the game in style, however, striking out the final two batters to force Thursday's winner-take-all finale at 5:30 p.m.

"He's just matured tremendously in the last month as a pitcher. ... He's learning how to pitch," said Cozad. "Goodman pitched a gem."

Botta was more succinct in his assessment of Goodman.

"He dominated the game," Botta said.



Nathan Mollat / Daily Journal  
Hillsborough starting pitcher Grant Goodman limited Foster City to two runs on two hits in 5 1/3 innings of work in the championship series of the District 52 10-11 All-Star tournament.

What do you think of the Board of Supervisors' decision to not place a measure on the ballot allowing voters to decide between district and county-wide elections for supervisors?

- The current county-wide system is working fine
- There should be district elections to allow for more competitive races
- Either way, it should be up to the voters

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The Hillsborough offense, meanwhile, just keeps humming along. It pounded out 14 hits led by Goodman's three base hits. Caruso and Ferrari each had a pair of hits with Caruso adding another RBI with a fifth-inning double. Charlie Boyd, Austin Marcus and Brendan Barrows each drove in a run apiece.

"They have totally looked at it like one day at a time," Cozad said. "I'm real proud of the way they come out [Wednesday]."

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