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- 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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Hillsborough dominates

July 13, 2007, 12:00 AM By Nathan Mollat, Daily Journal Staff

The Hillsborough 10- and 11-year-old All-Star team completed its decimation of the District 52 field Thursday with a 14-4 win over Foster City to claim its second straight District 52 title.

Unlike last season when it went through the winners' bracket to the championship, Hillsborough had to do it the hard way this year. It lost its first game of the tournament, 6-5, before tearing off eight consecutive wins, outscoring its opponents 95-21.

"They're all great," said Hillsborough coach Jeff Cozad when asked which was more special. "The grind they had to go through to get here (was unbelievable). Eight wins in a row over six days?"

"It was the ultimate team effort. Everyone contributed in their own way."

The win sends Hillsborough to the Section 3 tournament hosted by Palo Alto beginning July 21.

For three innings, however, Foster City appeared to be up to the task. It shouldn't be any surprise. Foster City wasn't just lucky to make it to the finals. It earned its way there. As well as Hillsborough hit the ball during the tournament, Foster City was just as impressive. It won its first four games of the tournament by a combined score of 46-5, advancing to the championship series.

Unfortunately for Foster City, it ran into a club that was pounding the ball better than it did.

"We put double digits on every team but these guys," said Foster City coach Mike Botta. "We didn't back down."

In fact, early in the game Foster City did something no other team had done in a while against Hillsborough — take a lead. After giving up a run in the top of the first, Foster City responded by tying the score in the bottom half of the inning on a Brendan Toy RBI double, driving home Stephen Ostrowski.

Hillsborough went ahead 2-1 in the top of the second but Foster City came back with two in the bottom half of the frame for a 3-2 advantage. Drew Camron scored all the way from first when Hillsborough center fielder Grant Goodman misplayed Connor Hulbert's single. Hulbert eventually scored on a delayed steal of home. When Foster City starting pitcher Ostrowski got out of a jam in the third inning unscathed, it appeared the game was destined for an exciting finish.

Instead, Hillsborough took all the drama out of the game with an eight-run fourth. Hillsborough sent 14 batters to the plate, rapping out eight hits. The rally was punctuated by Goodman's three-run bomb over the right-center field fence and a bases-loaded double off the bat of Chris Mark.

"Eventually this offense is going to put itself in position to score runs," Cozad said. "They can all hit."

Leadoff hitter Henry Caruso set the tone offensively. He reached base all five times he came to the plate — two singles, an intentional walk and twice he was hit by a pitch — driving in two runs in the process. Mark also had a big day in the No. 8 hole. He reached base four times — two singles, a double and an error — while driving in four runs. Frankie Ferrari added three hits while Charlie Boyd added two.

Foster City had its chances against Caruso, who pitched 4 2/3 innings in picking up the win, but Foster City couldn't come up with the big hit when it was needed. Connor Hulbert had two hits, as did Ostrowski, who gave the Foster City fans one final thrill with a mammoth home run in the bottom of the fifth.



Nathan Mollat / Daily Journal Hillsborough coach Jeff Cozad, left, congratulates Grant Goodman following his fourth-inning, three-run home run that turned a 3-3 tie into a 6-3 Hillsborough lead on its way to a 14-4 win.

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"[Hillsborough] hits the ball top to bottom in their lineup," Botta said. "They're a very good team."

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