

SAN MATEO DAILY NEWS

Jul 22, 2007

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Sunday Jul 22



Tony Avelar / Daily News

Hillsborough shortstop Brock Cozad eyes a throw before he tags out a San Lorenzo National player at second base during the Section 3 10-11s All-Star Tournament.

National 13-1 on Friday night.

San Lorenzo National manager Armando Soto could only pay homage to a Hillsborough team that was near perfect in victory. Hillsborough collected 16 hits, while four Hillsborough pitchers combined for a one-hitter with seven strikeouts. The one hit for San Lorenzo was a line drive single by Julian Soto off the glove of first baseman Austin Marcus in the second inning.

"We thought we could come in and maybe shock Hillsborough," Armando Soto said. "But they're a very polished team. They're strong, disciplined at the plate and well coached. They tee off on fastballs. I'd have to consider them the front-runner of this tournament. And they're a good group of kids, too, very well-mannered."

Hillsborough manager Jeff Cozad couldn't have scripted a better story. None of the four pitchers he used went over their 20-pitch limit, meaning they are all available today versus Pleasanton American.

"I don't think we can play any better," Cozad said. "We played fantastic. The kids were chomping at the bit because we hadn't played a game in nine days. And part of it is playing at this beautiful field. You can't help to have the juices flowing when you play here."

Cozad was quick to add that San Lorenzo National had his club's respect from the first pitch.

"San Lorenzo had to go through we had to go through to get here," Cozad said. "Anyone in this tournament has our respect."

Leadoff batter Henry Caruso hit the first pitch he saw from San Lorenzo's Jordan Latimer over the right-center field fence. Caruso went 3-for-3 with two RBIs, scoring twice. He also struck out the side in the second inning, while yielding the hit to Soto and walking Nathan Reimer. The walk was one of two free passes given up by Hillsborough pitching.

"We swung the bat, pitched well and played good defense," Caruso said. "We were firing on all cylinders and were on top of our game."

With one out in the first, Grant Goodman took a low fastball and drove it well over the center field fence for a solo homer. Goodman also had three hits in the game, with two RBIs, scoring three times. Goodman pitched a 1-2-3 first inning, striking out two, while being credited with the win.

After Charlie Boyd drew a two-out walk, Cozad inserted pinch-runner Andrew Segre for Boyd and sent Marcus up to bat. Marcus worked the count to 2-0 before depositing one over the left-center field fence, the ball just barely clearing the barrier. Marcus added an RBI triple to right field in the third inning, giving him three RBIs and two runs scored for the game.

Still in the first, Andrew Schmitt and Chris Mark cracked back-to-back doubles. Gordon Barrows and Caruso followed with RBI singles. An error was committed on Caruso's single, allowing him to get to second. However, he was thrown out at third on a nice relay from San Lorenzo.

Hillsborough did not commit an error, even turning a 5-4-3 double play in the third inning, getting the benefit of a bang-bang call at first base.

As for Pleasanton American, Hillsborough knows the team well. In last year's Section 3 9-10-year-old All-Star

Hillsborough makes statement

By John Reid / Daily News Staff Writer

Hillsborough didn't waste much time in establishing its presence at the Section 3 Little League 10-11-year-old All-Star Tournament at Palo Alto Little League Ball Park. The District 52 champion clouted three home runs in the first inning on its way to a 15-0 rout of San Lorenzo National Saturday morning.

Hillsborough advanced to a crucial matchup vs. Pleasanton American today at noon, with the winner holding the hammer in Tuesday night's championship game. San Lorenzo National tries to stay alive vs. Saturday's Newark National-Tracy National winner today at 3 p.m. Pleasanton American handled Tracy

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Tournament at San Mateo National Little League, Hillsborough had to defeat Pleasanton American in back-to-back pressure games to win the title.

"Pleasanton American is a good squad," Cozad said. "When we played them last year, the games were all close. It should be a low-scoring, good defensive game."

The winner of Section 3 advances to the Division II Tournament at Branham Hills Little League in San Jose.

- In the Section 3 Majors Tournament in San Ramon, Hillsborough eliminated Niles-Centerville with an 8-3 win on Friday night. Hillsborough fell to Tracy National 4-3 in Thursday's tourney opener. Two Tracy National pitchers combined to strike out 17 Hillsborough batters. Michael Strem belted a three-run homer in the first inning to put Hillsborough up 3-0. Hillsborough played Danville Saturday in an elimination game.

- In the Section 3 9-10-year-old All-Star Tournament at Pleasanton Sports Park in Pleasanton, Half Moon Bay lost to Northgate 6-4 in the opener, but bounced back to defeat San Leandro 8-3 on Friday.

- The Half Moon Bay Juniors Little League all-stars won the Section 3 crown and open up play in the D-II Tournament today at 1 p.m. at Klein Family Field on the campus of the University of Pacific in Stockton.

E-mail John Reid at jreid@dailynewsgroup.com.

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