

PALO ALTO DAILY NEWS

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Wednesday Jul 25



Victor Maccharoli / Daily News

Hillsborough celebrates its win over Pleasanton in the Section 3 title game at Palo Alto's Middlefield Park.

3 Tournament title with an 11-4 victory over Pleasanton American at Palo Alto's Middlefield Park.

The game was a rematch from Sunday's winner's-bracket final, won 14-3 by Hillsborough.

A seesaw game through five innings was blown open by Hillsborough with an eight-run sixth inning.

Caruso, who went 2-for-2 at the plate, led off the game with a solo homer to right-center field as Hillsborough earned a trip to the state tournament, which begins Thursday afternoon at Branham Hills Little League in San Jose.

Pleasanton American scored three runs in the first inning to take a 3-1 lead. Pleasanton pitcher Brian Hsu helped his own cause, doubling to the gap in right field to score two runs in the first inning.

After a bumpy first inning, Caruso settled down on the hill and kept Pleasanton off the scoreboard for the next four innings.

Caruso went the distance, his 84-pitch effort falling one short of the pitch limit.

"Henry pitched a gem for us today," Hillsborough coach Jeff Cozad said. "He showed great leadership on the hill for us today and had two big home runs to get our offense going out of the gates today."

Two Caruso home runs and a Andrew Segre RBI single were the only blemishes on a solid four innings of work for Hsu.

The baseball gods work in mysterious ways and they didn't help out a scrappy Pleasanton team in the sixth inning.

After pitching a perfect fifth inning of relief, Pleasanton's Jake Dronkers, his team's cleanup hitter, left the 3-3 game in the sixth inning with a back injury. The departure left Pleasanton's heart of the order and pitching situation with a big void.

Hillsborough's offense exploded after the pitching swap, quickly loading the bases with no outs in the final inning. A walk, hit batter and wild pitch brought home three runs before Brock Cozad's double to the gap in left field brought home two more runs. Three more hits followed, with a Charlie Boyd RBI single up the gut capping the big sixth inning.

"I'm tickled to death that Brock could come up with the huge knock up the middle for us," said coach Jeff Cozad, Brock's father. "He was slumping, so I'm proud of all my hitters for pulling out a big inning in a tough game for us."

Hillsborough claims Section 3 crown

Caruso homers twice to lift his team into the state tournament

By Greg Lydon / Daily News Correspondent

By Greg Lydon

Daily News Correspondent

Same teams, same result. But this one was sweeter for the Hillsborough 10- and 11-year-old all-stars.

Henry Caruso blasted two home runs and stood tall on the mound Tuesday, lifting Hillsborough to the Section

3 Tournament title with an 11-4 victory over Pleasanton American at Palo Alto's Middlefield Park.

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