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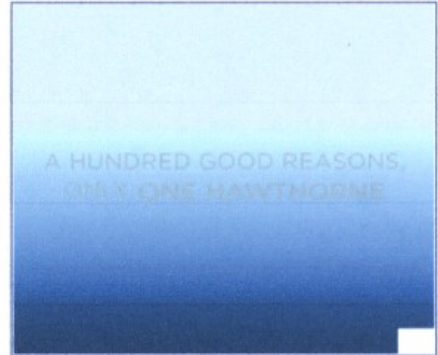
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What do you think of the Board of Supervisors' decision to not place a measure on the ballot allowing voters to decide between district and county-wide elections for supervisors?

- 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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A bitter defeat

August 03, 2007, 12:00 AM By Nathan Mollat, Daily Journal Staff

SAN JOSE — All summer long, the Hillsborough 10-11 All Stars used superior hitting, pitching and defense to run roughshod over the competition. It won the District 57 and Section 3 titles and earned a spot in the California Division 2 championship series against River Park of Fresno.

Unfortunately for Hillsborough, it ran into a team that played just a tad bit better in all three aspects of the game. River Park scored four in the bottom of the first and four more in the bottom of the fifth to post an 8-4 win over Hillsborough.

"River Park is a very solid club. Very balanced," said Hillsborough coach Jeff Cozad. "You know that's a team you're not going to 10-run. You want to keep [the game] tight and hope to come up with something."

Hillsborough, for its part, showed the heart of a champion. It quickly took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Henry Caruso led off the game with a smash off the second baseman that rolled into center for a single. He went to second on a passed ball, took third on a wild pitch and scored on Grant Goodman's sacrifice fly to right.

River Park responded right away. It tied the game at 1 when leadoff hitter Drew Walters drilled a 1-1 pitch over the fence in center for a home run. Three of the next four batters all reached base and the first four batters in the River Park batting order scored for a 4-1 lead.

"I told [pitcher Goodman] after the first inning he was babying the ball," Cozad said. "He was aiming it. I told him he has to throw the ball the way he can."

After that shaky first, Goodman settled down and limited River Park to just one hit over the next three innings. He worked out of jams in the second and third innings but struck out the side in the fourth.

The Hillsborough offense, meanwhile, methodically went about scratching out runs. It closed the gap to 4-2 in the second inning. With two outs, Brendan Barrows singled and went around to third on Chris Mark's single. Barrows ended up scoring on a wild pitch.

Hillsborough inched closer in the third with another run when Goodman led off the inning with a solo home run. Hillsborough tied the score in the top of the fifth. With one out, Goodman doubled to the gap in left-center field and took third when the throw from the outfield went all the way to the backstop. Following a popup for the second out, Charlie Boyd came to the plate. On an 0-2 pitch, he hit a chopper up the middle to plate Goodman with the tying run.

It was a short-lived celebration for Hillsborough as River Park scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth. It started out well with Goodman retiring the first two batters of the inning. After giving up a two-out double, he reached his pitch count and he was lifted for reliever Frankie Ferrari.

Before Goodman left the mound, however, he shared a long hug with Cozad.

The double appeared to jump start River Park as the next six batters all reached base. In all, River Park sent 10 batters to the plate and scored four times. Hillsborough was retired in order for the first time in the game in the top of the



Nathan Mollat / Daily Journal
Hillsborough coach Jeff Cozad, left, consoles Gordon Barrows, who made the final out in Hillsborough's 8-4 loss to River Park in the championship game of the California Division 2 tournament.



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sixth.

Hillsborough can only think about what could have been. It had chances to score throughout the game but just could not get that clutch hit to start a big inning. Goodman, Brendan Barrows and Mark each had two hits for Hillsborough.

"In the two games (against River Park), we didn't get the big hit at the right time," Cozad said. "We hit the ball well, we just didn't string [hits] together.

"These guys (River Park), defensively, don't make a lot of mistakes."

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