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Hillsborough rides dramatic home run in District 52 Majors action

June 30, 2015, 05:00 AM By [Terry Bernal](#) Daily Journal

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Hillsborough looked to reclaim its destiny with one swing of the bat in the second round of the District 52 Majors All-Star Tournament.

Going up against a San Mateo National team that, two years ago, swept through the District 52 Minors tourney en route to winning the Section 3 title, Hillsborough was powered to a 4-3 victory Sunday at Middlefield Park on a sixth-inning home run by Peter Desler.

The win avenged a loss two years ago in the Minors tournament, when National eliminated Hillsborough in the semifinals with an 8-7 win on a bases-loaded, walk-off walk. So when Desler belted his soaring go-ahead homer Sunday, the Hillsborough dugout went crazy.

"It was chaos in the dugout," Hillsborough manager John Donnelly said. "Everybody was super pumped about it. But we also knew we had to finish out the game. And facing a team like San Mateo National, they can hit well 1 through 9 ... and they're a fundamentally sound team. They do everything well."

Indeed, Hillsborough stayed composed to close it out in the bottom of the sixth. Right-hander Patrick Walsh fired his second scoreless inning to earn the win, though he relied on some help from his middle infield. Second baseman Sean "Go-Go" Richardson and shortstop Jackson Shesky each made good spears on solid line drives to keep National off the bases.

"We do pride ourselves on defense," Donnelly said. "We only made one error and I think that was the difference in the game."

Richardson and Shesky are two of three starting 11-year-olds for Hillsborough. The other is power hitting Will Uhrich, who had a two-homer game Saturday's 12-1 win over Redwood City East in the tourney opener.

But National went large in the opening round as well with a 10-0 win over Palo Alto American, and looked as though it would pick up where it left off in the first inning against Hillsborough when cleanup hitter Jacob Kalaveras drilled a two-run bomb to put his team up 2-0.

Hillsborough starting pitcher Edward Huang settled it to work four innings, though, while allowing three runs. The right-hander didn't play in the tourney opener as he was on a family vacation in Hawaii. According to Donnelly, Huang flew back Saturday and was on the mound less than 24 hours later.

Huang's fantastic story doesn't stop there, however. The right-hander features a nasty curveball. According to Donnelly, the 12-year-old hurler taught himself the curve the old-fashioned way — by looking it up on wikiHow.

"It's awesome," Donnelly said of the big bender. "Two foot break."

Walsh replaced Huang to start the fifth with the game tied 3-3. Walsh had himself to thank for the clean slate after Hillsborough drew even in the top of the frame on his RBI double. Hillsborough managed just five hits in the game, but made the last one count with Desler's go-ahead blast in the sixth.

"It was a pressure packed game," Donnelly said. "It was a lot of emotion and a lot of stress. The kids did a great job."

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