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Hillsborough primed from District 52 Intermediate All-Star tourney

Jun 9, 2016 | Sports | 0 | ★★★★★

Daily Journal Staff Report

The first preview of the District 52 Little League All-Star baseball season was glimpsed Saturday as the Hillsborough Hurricanes captured the Intermediate Division championship with a 10-0 win over the San Mateo Rays.

The Intermediate Division – colloquially known as the 50-70 league – is comprised of 13-and-under players, with games played on a field of specialized dimensions – a 50-foot distance from the pitcher's mound to home plate and a distance of 70 feet between bases.

With 11 teams in the league, Hillsborough is one of just two cities, along with Half Moon Bay, to be represented by one team in the regular season. Other cities have multiple teams, such as Redwood City's six teams; this distinction means Hillsborough's 13-player, regular-season squad will also comprise the All-Star team, with the District 52 Intermediate bracket opening Saturday at McGarvey Field in Redwood City.

Hillsborough manager Richard Beames led his team to a 17-5 record, including three playoff wins – a 7-3 victory over the Palo Alto Titans in the playoff opener; a 17-7 win over the Belmont-Redwood Shores Titans in the semifinals; and the 10-0 mercy-rule shutout of the Rays in the title game.

Ronan Donnelly and Edward Huang combined on the shutout to pitch the Hurricanes to the championship. With Hillsborough leading 2-0 through the middle innings, Donnelly – who earned the win with

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four innings of work – pitched through jams in the third and fourth, stranding two runners in each. Huang worked a perfect fifth to end it.

Huang and Eliot Peck had two hits apiece, while Kevin Lynch provided a two-run double in the fifth. Outfielders Connor Kall and Trey Alhorn had highlight-reel defensive plays to help preserve the shutout, Beames said.

Kall was a force both sides of the ball for Hillsborough this season. He led the squad with five home runs through the regular season and playoffs combined. Shortstop Joey Lee was second on the team with four homers. Kall also served as the left-handed ace of the pitching staff, and earned the win in the playoff opener over Palo Alto.

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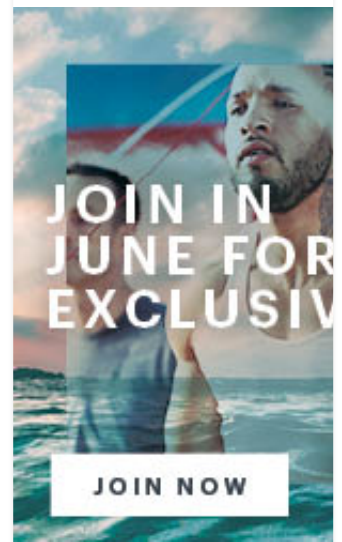
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