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Hillsborough sweeps way to D52 50/70 title

June 20, 2017, 05:00 AM By [Terry Bernal](#) Daily Journal

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The Hillsborough All-Star team hit a snag in the opening game of the District 52 50/70 Intermediate tournament. But after a dramatic seventh-inning comeback in said opener, the 12-13-year-old team never looked back.

Hillsborough went on to sweep through the winners' bracket to capture the District 52 50/70 championship, capped with a 10-3 win over Foster City Saturday at Sea Cloud Park.

It was Hillsborough's second win over Foster City in the tourney. The two teams also locked up in the opener, with Foster City taking a one-run lead into the seventh. But Hillsborough, down to its final strike, rallied for a three-spot, highlighted by Ryan Kall's two-run double that proved to be the game-winner.

"The kids, they never were down," Hillsborough manager Sherrick Murdoff said. "We've had several come-from-behind victories this season. They just had the attitude — let's just keep going and see what happens. Nothing seems to phase them."

Saturday's championship victory marked the team's 15th straight win, going back to a regular season in which it posted a 15-4 record en route to the league championship with a 13-4 win over the Belmont Redwood Shores Devils June 4.

What makes Hillsborough's run through District 52 play special is it is one of the only teams that plays with the same roster as it does in the regular season, Murdoff said. Most of the other teams in the bracket are merged from two area teams. In just its second year in the Intermediate bracket, Hillsborough touts just one team all year long.

"We only had one team so our same team was the All-Star team," Murdoff said. "So there was a little trepidation about how far we could go in the tournament."

Hillsborough responded to the trepidation both sides of the ball. Kall and Patrick Macy starred in the power department, each totaling two home runs through the tournament. But the lineup proved deep 1 through 9.

John Adrian Dioli showed the lineup's depth in the opener's seventh-inning comeback. With Hillsborough trailing 3-2 with two outs, Dioli fell behind 1-2 before coaxing a walk to spark a rally. Arav Bhagwati followed with a double before Macy was intentionally walked to load the bases. Kellen Bauer followed with an RBI single to tie it, setting the stage for Kall's two-run double.

Hillsborough used four different pitchers in the tourney: Macy, Kall, Bhagwati and Connor Bottoms. Macy earned the win in the championship game with 3 1/3 innings. Bottoms notched the save with 3 2/3 innings, including the game's final out on a fly ball to center fielder Seamus Macaluso.

"They were pretty excited," Murdoff said. "It wasn't like huge, everything up in the air, but they were excited. It was a great run."

Hillsborough now advances to the Section 3 Intermediate tournament. Play opens Saturday at Gomes Elementary School in Fremont with Hillsborough taking on District 57 champion Danville at 2 p.m.

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