

Hillsborough 9-10s fall to elimination bracket at Nor Cals

By Terry Bernal Daily Journal Staff 9 hrs ago

Nobody said it had to be easy, but Hillsborough certainly made it look that way through its first two wins in the Northern California 9-10s All-Star Championship Tournament at Sutter Baseball Field.

The boys from the hills didn't once trail through either of those victories, but found themselves down early in an eventual 7-5 loss to River Park in Wednesday's winners' bracket semifinal.

After jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first — spurred by another perfect night by leadoff batter Nate Coughlin, who went 3 for 3 at the plate — Hillsborough allowed six runs in the bottom of the frame.

River City rode that early lead to victory, and now awaits the winner of Hillsborough's Thursday night elimination bracket semifinal.

Hillsborough did make a run at 'em though.

"I'm proud of the boys," Hillsborough manager Ben Coughlin said. "They really battled back."

The sixth inning turned into a heartbreaker for Hillsborough. With the potential tying run in scoring position — Hillsborough had runners at second and third with two outs — Luke Levitt hit a sinking line drive to center.

Ben Coughlin said that off the crack of the bat, he was certain Hillsborough had tied the game. But Tri-City's center fielder got a great first step and snagged the liner just off the turf with a dive for the game's final out.

"It looked for a second he might have trapped it," Ben Coughlin said. "But you've got to tip your cap. It was a nice catch."

Devin Saltzgaber and Anakin Manuel paced Hillsborough with two RBIs apiece.

Manuel and Nate Coughlin worked 2 1/3 innings apiece on the mound. Hillsborough held Tri-City to just one run over the final five innings.

Thursday night, Hillsborough takes on Maidu Little League of Granite Bay with a 7 p.m. first pitch. Maidu was forced to the elimination bracket after an opening-game loss Sunday, but has since outscored opponents in three wins 28-9.