



Anakin Manuel #33 on the mound for Hillsborough in the First-Round Sectional game vs. Danville

Baseball

FEATURED

## The Force Awakens: Hillsborough 11's Win Section Opener

July 12, 2018

By Rick Chandler

Yes, his name is Anakin Manuel. And yes, people are always saying that he can move objects by using "The Force."

Because the way this kid hits and pitches, well, can anyone really prove otherwise?

Manuel struck out four over four innings and walked just one to get the win, and had two singles and three RBI to lead Hillsborough to an 11-1 victory over Danville in the first round of the Section 3 11-Year-Old All-Star Tournament on Wednesday in Union City. Bo Schaffer's two-run double was the big hit in Hillsborough's eight-run second inning, as they move to the winner's-bracket final on Friday at 5:30 at Veterans Memorial Park.

Hillsborough will take on Mt. Eden, which won the other opener in the double-elimination event.

## The Force Awakens: Hillsborough 11's Win Section Opener (Continued)

"My mom is a Star Wars fan; a big Star Wars fan you could say," said Manuel, who used a sharp fastball and a nice changeup to keep Danville hitters at bay on Wednesday. Hillsborough won on the 10-run mercy rule after four innings.

"So around in 2007, she named me after Anakin (Skywalker). I like the name a lot."

Is Manuel indeed the chosen one? That's a little strong — he's just a talented kid among a team of talented kids. Hillsborough won the 10-year-old tournament last season, cruising through District and Section play before losing in the championship game of the NorCal (Division) round. NorCals are the final rung on the ladder for 10s and 11s. (The 12s can advance to the Western Regionals and then the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.).

Hillsborough scored eight in the second — seven of those runs before they made the first out. Singles by Manuel, Ryan Drake, Quinn Folk, Will Hirsch and Schaffer's double did most of the damage. Folk also had a double in Hillsborough's three-run third, and Devin Saltzgaber had a single. In all, Hillsborough had nine hits, plus a couple of line-drive outs (Colin Firestone and Luke Levitt).

"We work a lot on hitting in practice," Manuel said. "Some of the older all-stars, like Dylan Kall, Kevin Macy and Kevin's older brother, Patrick, come in to pitch to us. We're like a big family that way. Everyone contributes."

Third baseman Hirsch and shortstop Schaffer were the defensive stars against Danville.

Manuel's teammates all think his first name is pretty cool. It's one of the factors that keeps them loose.

"So one of my friends on the team is named Luke (Levitt), and we always make this joke," Manuel said. "Someone will say, 'Luke, Anakin is your father. Search your feelings.'"

Manuel laughed.

"It's a good bond."

### **Source Link**

<http://peninsulayouthsports.com/2018/07/12/the-force-awakens-hillsborough-11s-win-sectional-all-star-opener/>