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- State / National / World
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- Opinion / Letters
- Business
- Arts / Entertainment
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- Obituaries
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- Special
- Submit Event
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- Advertise With Us
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Hillsborough pounds Mt. Eden

July 21, 2006, 12:00 AM By Nathan Mollat, Daily Journal Staff

Thursday made it five days since the Hillsborough 9- and 10-year-old All-Star team captured the District 52 crown.

So when Hillsborough took the field against Mt. Eden of Hayward in the first round of the sectional tournament at Lakeshore Park in San Mateo, it was understandable the kids would be a little nervous.

It took Hillsborough a few batters to get their bats going and once they did, Hillsborough didn't stop pounding the ball until it recorded an 11-0 win that was called after 3 1/2 innings because of the 10-run mercy rule.

"We haven't played since last Saturday," said Hillsborough coach Jeff Cozad. "The kids were a little anxious to get out there again. I think they were a little tentative in that first inning."

Hillsborough will face Northgate at 5:30 p.m. today at Lakeshore Park in a second-round game.

Hillsborough scored two runs in the first before blowing the game open with a six-run second, sending 10 batters to the plate in the process. It got its 10-run lead in the third when it scored three more times.

Hillsborough leadoff hitter Henry Caruso was a prime example of a tentative start. He struck out in his first at-bat but atoned for that with a two-run, bases-loaded single in the second and two-run double in the third. He also scored twice.

"I wasn't upset (with the strikeout). I was a little nervous," Caruso said. When he came to the plate later in the game, he had a different mindset.

"Relax. Forget about the strikeout. Life will go on no matter what happens," Caruso said.

Caruso wasn't the only Hillsborough batter with a big game. Austin Marcus was 2 for 2 with two doubles, two runs driven in and a run scored. Gordon Barrows was 2 for 2 and Brendan Barrows was 1 for 1 with a double and an RBI. Chris Mark added a double for Hillsborough.

All that offense was more than enough for starting pitcher Brock Cozad. He pitched three innings, allowing only one hit. Brendan Barrows came in to pitch the final inning, striking out two of the four batters he faced.

"Our hope was to pitch a little bit by committee," coach Cozad said. "Brock did a great job. He handles pressure pretty well. He throws strikes."

Brock Cozad started Hillsborough's two-run first by drawing a one-out walk. Following the second strikeout of the inning, Frankie Ferrari stroked a double to put runners on second and third for Marcus. On a 1-1 pitch, Marcus roped a two-run double to deep right field to plate both runners.

In the second, Hillsborough scored six runs on just four hits. Caruso drove in a pair and Brendan Barrows drove in a third but the three other runs scored on wild pitches.

The third inning saw Caruso drive in two more runs with a double to left-center field gap. He later scored when the Mt. Eden shortstop, trying to get Caruso at third, threw the ball away, allowing Caruso to come around to score.

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What do you think of the Board of Supervisors' decision to not place a measure on the ballot allowing voters to decide between district and county-wide elections for supervisors?

- The current county-wide system is working fine
- There should be district elections to allow for more competitive races
- Either way, it should be up to the voters

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