

# Hillsborough focused on winning division tourney

BY JOHN REID  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Hillsborough 9-10-year-old All-Stars manager Jeff Cozad sees no reason why his club can't make a big splash at the Northern California Division Tournament, which begins Saturday in Rocklin. Hillsborough, Section 3 winner, takes on Section 1 winner Alameda at 10 a.m.

"My players aren't fully satisfied," Cozad said. "They're a focused group. Almost all of them have traveled to different tournaments, played a lot of baseball and are well-seasoned. They can handle the pressure. I think we can make a good run at it."

Other teams entered include Hollister American (Section 5), Woodcreek-Roseville (Section 4), River Park-Fresno (Section 6) and Peach Bowl-Yuba City (Section 2). Hollister American outscored its opponents 92-9 in winning the District 9 Tournament. Top two pitchers for Hollister American are Robert Soto and Austin Wahl. "We have five or six pitchers who can throw,"

Hollister American manager Robert Fabing said. "We swing the bat from 1-through-13."

Hillsborough hit .400 overall in winning the district and section tournaments. Here is a breakdown of the Hillsborough 9-10s with comments on each player from Cozad (in probable batting order):

• Henry Caruso — OF/P/1B: "Henry's a great center fielder. He gets a great jump on the ball and has a strong arm. A good hitter."

• Brock Cozad — SS/P: "Played tremendous shortstop during section and district. Had about 40 chances and only made one error in a pressure position. Understands the game."

• Grant Goodman — 3B/P: "Has great bat speed. Hits the ball to all fields. Good pop. Didn't pitch during the regular season, but has really progressed as a pitcher. He throws hard and has a good off-speed pitch."

• Austin Marcus — P/SS/3B: "He's as good a 10-year-old pitcher as I have ever seen. Total

See HILLSBOROUGH, page 73



**HIGH HOPES** — Hillsborough second baseman Gordon Barrows made this tough play in the section title game and now hopes to help his team win the Northern California Division Tournament, which begins Saturday in Rocklin.

Richard Batman / Daily News

## HILLSBOROUGH

From page 71

command with his pitches. He can hit a target within an eighth of an inch. His offense has really picked up. We have restructured his swing the past six weeks and he's seeing the benefits."

• Frankie Ferrari — C: "The kids call him 'The Italian Stallion.' He's as tough as nails and the other kids feed off it. He brings phenomenal catching skills. The ball never gets by him. He's strong and can flat-out hit the ball. The ball explodes off his bat."

• Andrew Schmitt — RF: "He's a fast, big, athletic kid with a lot of power. He plays a terrific right field and threw out two runners in a section game against Northgate."

• Gordon Barrows — 2B: "A tough out. Didn't strike out at all in the postseason. Gets on base any way he can. Tough to pitch to. Smart second baseman."

• Will Reilly — 1B: "Super first baseman. Good at the stretch. He can do the splits. Gets the job done. He can hit."

• Andrew Segre — LF: "One of the fastest

kids I have ever seen, extremely athletic. Catches everything in left. Has really improved on hitting."

• Charlie Boyd — LF/C: "He loves the game of baseball, one of our chanters. He's a pleasure to coach. Made every chance he had in the outfield. He's a strong kid who can hit."

• Chris Mark — RF/C: "A good arm, accurate. Fast, strong kid, who is hitting a lot better. Came up with a big hit against Pleasanton American in the title game."

• Garrett Schubiner — 2B: "Sad he missed some district time because of a family commitment. He's smart. He understands the game. He's our utility player."

• Brenden Barrows — P/OF/C: "Broke his pinky finger during district and didn't play much, but he's back playing for us now. Pitched three innings in the title game and did a great job. Has a good off-speed pitch. Scrappy little hitter."

Assistant coaches for Hillsborough are Gary Goodman, Dave Barrows and Jeff Schubiner.

Reach John Reid at  
jreid@dailynewsgroup.com