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Sports - Professional

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Death Notices

Letters & Opinion

Society

Sports - Local

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Friday Jul 13



Victor Maccharoli / Daily News

Hillsborough 10-11s All-Stars starter Henry Caruso was touched up early, but the ace came through to help his team win the District 52 title for the second consecutive year.

the first inning, this after Frank Ferrari had doubled in Caruso in the top of the first to take a 1-0 lead.

Hillsborough came right back in the top of the second, this time taking advantage of a two-base error to plate Austin Marcus after he had doubled to lead off the inning.

The double was one of 15 hits for Hillsborough, which has been swinging white-hot bats for the past eight games.

Foster City's best shot

With the lead in hand, Caruso came out in the bottom of the second, and Foster City hit him with their best shot, scoring twice in the inning, aided partially by an error in center field to take a 3-2 lead.

Foster City added to the momentum in the top of the third, when it was able to gun down the potential tying run at the plate after Brendan Barrows had made them pay for intentionally walking Marcus in front of him.

Things were looking good for Foster City - that is, until a little self-motivation hit the Hillsborough dugout between the third and fourth innings.

"At some part of the game we were due to explode," Caruso said, adding that the youngsters in red pumped themselves up as they headed to the plate in the fourth. "We were just trying to get the enthusiasm up."

Well, whatever they said in the dugout worked.

Fourteen hitters came to the plate for Hillsborough in the inning, as it went from being down 3-2 to leading 10-3.

Hillsborough champs again

By Julio Lara / Daily News Correspondent

It seems as though everyone in Hillsborough will be throwing up a "2" tonight.

The journey was a little different this time around, but the result was just the same, as the Hillsborough 10-11s All-Stars are once again District 52 champs after defeating Foster City 14-4 in a game that lasted only five innings because of the 10-run mercy rule.

The win capped a remarkable run for Hillsborough, which after dropping the first game of the tournament reeled off eight straight games - including a span where the All-Stars played six days in a row - to once again capture the district title.

"To keep that focus along the way, it was just the ultimate team effort," said head coach Jeff Cozad. "Everyone contributed and showed incredible courage and heart. They played their hearts out every day."

"We played well," said Foster City head coach Mike Botta. "But they hit the ball, top to bottom in that lineup. The reality was that the better team won."

Foster City certainly came out as if it wasn't just going to roll over and give the championship to Hillsborough after they had lost the day before 9-2. Foster City had gone undefeated through the tournament prior to that game, and came in with an offense that was used to putting up double digits on the scoreboard.

But Hillsborough's ace Henry Caruso was on the mound. Foster City scored the tying run in their half of the first inning, this after Frank Ferrari had doubled in Caruso in the top of the first to take a 1-0 lead.

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Chris Mark singled, Gordon Barrows singled, Caruso did as well, driving in Mark. After a sacrifice bunt Grant Goodman, the hero from Wednesday's game, went yard on a 1-0 pitch.

Hillsborough wasn't done - Ferrari singled, Charlie Boyd did too and Will Reilley got one as well.

Catcher comes through again

After a pitching change and a fielder's choice, Mark was back up and once again the catcher came through, this time clearing the bases on a double to left center field.

Mark had himself quite the day at the plate - going 3-for-4 while driving in four runs.

"It's awesome," Goodman said. "Hillsborough had never won a 10-11s District championship, so to get one, with these guys, it's awesome."

Hillsborough added four more runs in the fifth - this time the big hit belonged to Brock Cozad, whose single drove in two.

Foster City did score once in the bottom half of the fifth, but it was way too little too late as the Hillsborough bunch mobbed each other on the mound after the final out was recorded.

In celebration, the Hillsborough All-Stars brought out both championship banners and posed for a flurry of photographs.

Then, very touchingly, while coach Cozad was being interviewed after the game, son Brock came over and draped father Jeff over the shoulders with the championship banner - then ran back to celebrate with teammates.

A fitting end to quite the journey for Hillsborough.

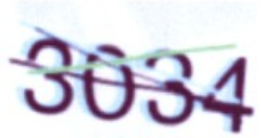
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