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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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State title in sight

August 01, 2007, 12:00 AM By Emanuel Lee, Daily Journal Staff

The Hillsborough 10 and 11-year-old All-Stars are one win away from cementing their place as one of the all-time great teams in their age group in Peninsula Little League history.

Hillsborough, winners of 14 straight, plays either River Park-Fresno or Benicia in the State Division II Tournament today at 5:30 p.m. at Branham Hills Little League Field in San Jose. As the tourney's lone undefeated team, Hillsborough needs one victory to clinch the championship. If it loses today, the teams will play a winner-take-all contest Thursday at the same place and time.

"We're in the position we wanted to be in," Hillsborough coach Jeff Cozad said. "It's nice to be able to sit back and watch the other teams beat each other up a little bit."

Speaking of beat downs, Hillsborough has been mugging the competition since losing its first and only game to Highlanders in the opening round of District 52 action nearly seven weeks ago. To recap: after the loss to Highlanders, the team won eight straight to capture district, three straight to win sectionals and another three in a row to get to the state championship round.

Along the way, Hillsborough has been flat-out dominant. In district and sectional play, the team averaged 12 runs per game. In the state tournament, Hillsborough has been even more unstoppable, if that's possible. It has won its three games by scores of 8-0, 14-3 and 17-4. Heck, when this team doesn't score in double digits, you wonder what's wrong.

"The kids have maintained a high level of focus, and it's been pretty darn impressive to watch," Cozad said. "Looking back at it now that first game in district might have been the best thing that's happened to us. We actually had them 5-3 heading into the bottom of the sixth inning but didn't win, so it was kind of a big wakeup call for everyone."

"I must admit when I looked at the losers' bracket draw and realized we had to win eight straight, including playing six games for six days straight, things didn't look good. But I never lost faith in these kids, because they were very determined to win district, sectionals and state."

Hillsborough has been successful because it has received contributions all across the board. The pitching staff is loaded with Henry Caruso, Grant Goodman, Frankie Ferrari, Brendan Barrows and Brock Cozad, all of whom will be available to pitch today. The fantastic five have also bolstered a potent lineup, which also includes Charlie Boyd, Will Reilly, Andrew Schmitt, Chris Mark, Gordon Barrows, Austin Marcus and Andrew Segre.

The inferno-hot Caruso has been nothing short of extraordinary; he has gone 8-for-11 in three games coming after a two-homer game in the sectional championship contest. Caruso said the team has some unfinished business left from last year, when the team finished fourth in state. Now, Hillsborough is poised to win its first-ever state title.

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