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Hillsborough stays alive in 10-11 tourney

July 02, 2014, 05:00 AM By [Nathan Mollat](#) Daily Journal

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Two Little League programs not used to losing early in tournaments — Hillsborough and Pacifica American — found themselves in an elimination game in the District 52 10-11 All-Star Tournament at the Belmont Sports Complex Tuesday evening.

Both teams lost their first games in the tournament that began over the weekend and it will be Hillsborough that advances with a 16-7 win.

Hillsborough will face Belmont-Redwood Shores in an elimination game at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Belmont Sports Complex.

Hillsborough pounded out 16 runs on 18 hits in its win over Pacifica American, a far cry from its 7-1 loss to Half Moon Bay in its tournament opener Sunday.

"Last game we got only two hits," said Hillsborough manager Brian Desler. "I was pleased we came out aggressively (on offense)."

Hillsborough scored runs in five of the six innings and got off to a quick start with a four-run first. It added five more in the second and added a five-run fourth. It added single runs in the third and fifth innings.

Pacifica American swung the bats well, but just could not keep up. After giving up four in the top of the first inning, Pacifica American came back with a run in the bottom of the frame. It scored two more in the third, three in the fourth and another run in the fifth. Its final four runs of the game kept Hillsborough from ending the game early due to the 10-run mercy rule.

"The positive thing is we didn't give up. ... We kept scoring," said Pacifica American manager Jason Hawkins. "In the beginning of the game there were some costly errors. ... We just couldn't make those outs."

Ten of the 12 players on the Hillsborough roster recorded a hit and the same number scored at least one run. All 12 players reached base.

The Hillsborough offense was led by cleanup hitter Connor Kall, who was 3 for 5 with five RBIs and two runs scored. He drove in a pair with a double in the second inning, one more in the third with a single and singled home two more runs in the fourth.

"He was raking today," Desler said. "It helped that our guys at the top of the order were getting on for him."

Leadoff hitter Joey Lee was 3 for 4 with two runs scored and a pair of RBIs, while No. 2 hitter Connor Robertson was 2 for 5 with three runs scored and two RBIs as well. Alex Tonas went 3 for 4 with three RBIs. Scott Beames, in the No. 9 hole, acted as a second leadoff batter as he was 3 for 3 with two runs scored and an RBI.

Pacifica American was led by No. 3 hitter Jacob Marinelli, who was 3 for 4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Leadoff hitter Bryan Ferretti was 2 for 4 with two runs scored and an RBI.

Hillsborough starting pitcher Peter Desler worked three innings to pick up the win, allowing three runs on five hits while striking out five. He allowed a pair of doubles in the bottom of the first, with Daniel Maunas driving in Ferretti, who had led off the bottom of the inning with a double of his own.

Pacifica American touched Desler for two more runs in the third, but Hillsborough was comfortably ahead by that point, 10-3.

"We hadn't pitched him yet (in the tournament). He came out firing," Brian Desler said. "It was a nice benefit to have Peter go (Tuesday) and be well rested."

Hillsborough scored four runs on three hits in the top of the first inning, aided by a pair of Pacifica American errors. Conner Lyons drove in a run on a fielder's choice and Alec Tonas drove in a pair of runs with a single to left.

Hillsborough added five more in the second inning on RBIs from Robertson, two from Kall, a sacrifice fly from Lyons and Tonas' third RBI of the game.

Kall drove in Beames for Hillsborough's 10th run in the third inning and Lee, Robertson, Kall and Beames all drove in runs during a five-run fifth.

Pacifica American was staring at the possibility of seeing its season end in the bottom of the fourth inning as it trailed 15-3, but it



Nathan Mollat/Daily Journal
Hillsborough's Connor Kall went 3 for 5 with five RBIs in his team's 16-7 win over Pacifica American.



Pacifica American shortstop Bryan Ferretti fields a throw and tags out Hillsborough's Scott Beames, who tried to stretch a single into a double during Hillsborough's 16-7 win.

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extended the game by scoring three times. The big hit was a Marinelli two-run double that cut Hillsborough's lead to 15-6, sending it into the fifth.

Hillsborough scored once in the fifth to get its 10-run lead back, but Pacifica American sent the game into the sixth on a Miles Padilla-Graflio single to right.

"They kept fighting," Hawkins said. "They didn't give up."

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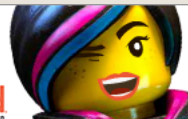


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