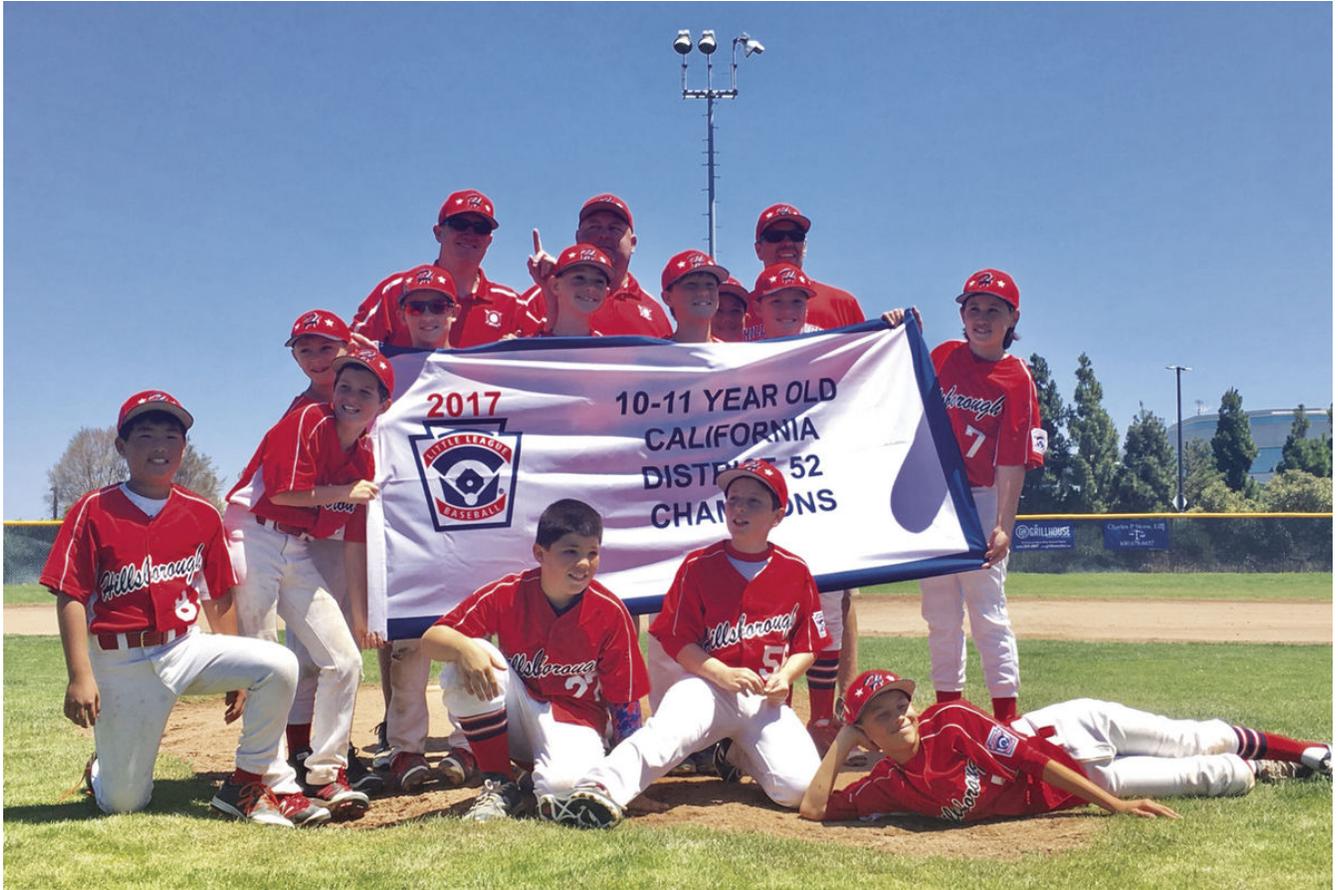


FEATURED

Hillsborough Little League 10-11s to host Section 3 tourney

By Terry Bernal Daily Journal Staff Jul 7, 2017 Updated 9 hrs ago



Hillsborough's sweep through the District 52 Little League 10-11s All-Star Tournament wasn't exactly a cakewalk.

Through five wins, Hillsborough outscored its opponents 42-22, but that includes a 6-5 win over San Mateo National in the second round and a 13-11 comeback over Pacifica American in the semifinals, a game in which Hillsborough was down to its final out in the sixth inning before rallying back to win it in extras.

The 4-1 win over Menlo-Atherton in Tuesday's championship game was a fitting conclusion to a tournament that left manager Doug Robbins' manicure a mess.

“It was a nail-biter,” Robbins said. “We had two great outings by our pitchers.”

Starting left-hander Dylan Kall continued his clutch pitching throughout the tourney, working three innings while stranding seven M-A base runners by totaling nine strikeouts. Then Thomas Egbert stepped up to not only pitch the final three innings to earn the win, he also provided a big two-run single in the fourth inning.

With nine players returning from last year's from last season's District 52 9-10s championship squad, Egbert is one of the new additions. And certainly a welcome one.

“He's a very good pitcher and he's been a very welcome addition to the team,” Robbins said.

Now, it's on to the Section 3 tournament, to which Hillsborough will play host at Hillsborough Majors Field starting Saturday at 10 a.m. Hillsborough opens play in the nightcap of the four-team, double-elimination tourney against District 57 at 1 p.m.

“The mood is great,” Robbins said following Thursday night's practice. “The guys are super excited. We have multiple goals and we set it up one at a time. ... We talked about it today how we've achieved one goal and we're on to the next goal.”

Robbins most certainly owns one of the most impressive trophy cases in the Little League ranks. A former catcher at Stanford University, Robbins helped the Cardinal to back-to-back College World Series championships in 1987 and '88. Later in the summer of 1988, he traveled with Team USA to Seoul, South Korea where the team won the gold medal at the Summer Games.

“I've been super fortunate to play with some great teammates and play for some great coaches,” Robbins said. “Now I'm looking to give something back and manage these kids. ... It's been great.”

Speaking of great, how about Kall's performance in the District 52 tournament? The pitcher-first baseman not only started the opening game and championship game on the mound, he was a force at the plate, batting .780 with five home runs and 11 RBIs.

“He’s kind of the heart and soul of our team,” Robbins said.

Starting catcher Conrad Wilber and outfielder Kevin Macy both hit around the .500 mark, while center fielder Whitaker Tollmann and shortstop Dean Dellosso provided excellent defense over the middle, Robbins said.

“Everybody contributed,” Robbins said. “This was not one or two guys. This was a team effort and everybody contributed in some way or shape.”