

Hillsborough 9-10s shut down Turlock, advance to Nor Cal semis

By Terry Bernal Daily Journal Staff 3 hrs ago

Two down, two to go for the Hillsborough 9-10s All-Star squad.

With Hillsborough's 10-11s firing a one-hit shutout in Fremont, the 9-10s team was doing the same in Union City.

Three Hillsborough 9-10s pitchers — Devin Saltzgaber, Luke Levitt and Beau Schaffer — combined on a one-hit shutout in a 9-0 win over Turlock American to propel Hillsborough through the winners' bracket and into the semifinals of the Northern California 9-10s All-Star Championship Tournament at Sutter Baseball Field.

"We're in the best position we can be in," Hillsborough manager Ben Coughlin said. "We have a chance to win a game and get to the championship game. That was obviously the goal for us."

Turlock tabbed its only hit of the game in the fifth inning on a solid single to center.

After the starting pitcher Saltzgaber worked three no-hit innings, Levitt entered for his first pitching appearance of the All-Star season. He faced some peril in the fourth, walking the bases loaded with two outs. But he rebounded nicely by notching a strikeout to retire the side unscathed.

"He came in and did a great job," Ben Coughlin said.

Levitt worked 1 2/3 innings before Schaffer entered to close it out in dominant fashion, striking out the final four batters he faced.

On the offensive side of the ball, leadoff hitter Nate Coughlin had a perfect night, going 4 for 4 including a rally-starting single in the first. Hillsborough went on to score two runs in the frame with Ryan Drake doubling, then Anakin Manuel producing a two-run single to give Hillsborough a 2-0 lead.

In the fifth, Quinn Folk stepped to the plate with the bases loaded and broke the game open, tabbing a bases-clearing triple.

Drake and Saltzgaber added two hits apiece. Schaffer picked up two RBIs.

“We’re getting contributions up and down from all the batters,” Ben Coughlin said.

Hillsborough advances to take on River Park Wednesday at 6 p.m. The winner will advance to the championship round, beginning Friday at 7 p.m.