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- As soon as possible
- I'll wait a week after my ballot arrives
- I'll wait until closer to the election
- Election Day

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Hillsborough cruises to championship win

July 14, 2011, 01:25 AM By Julio Lara, Daily Journal Staff

It was only fitting that Hillsborough's Miles Todzo was on the mound for out No. 18 of last night's District 52 11-12 All-Star tournament — not only was it his birthday, but the right hander wears number seven.



Julio Lara/Daily Journal Staff The Hillsborough 11-12 All-Star team celebrates winning the District 52 title.

And for the seventh time in the last eight years, the Hillsborough All-Stars are the champions of District 52.

On Monday, they blasted past San Carlos American 11-0 to force a winner-take-all game, riding the 3-for-4, five RBI bat of Todzo in the win. On Wednesday, Hillsborough's bat were, for the most part, silenced by Garrett McCarthy, but San Carlos had no answer for Robert DiCioccio, who closed out Monday's contest and took the pearl last night, hurling 4 1/3 innings of one-run baseball to lead his team to a 2-1 victory. Todzo came in to relieve DiCioccio after he hit his pitch limit and struck out four, including the last out in the championship win.

"It feels great," DiCioccio said. "I missed 9-10 year when they won here last time and last year we lost so it feel good to win it."

"It was two big hits and my two pitchers came in and shut them down," said Hillsborough manager Gary Goodman. "Last game when we beat them by that large margin, we didn't think it was that large of a margin — we knew it was a lot closer and today it was more how we thought it was going to be."

The long ball was the story Wednesday night. McCarthy and DiCioccio were dominant and for the most part, matched each other pitch-for-pitch. The difference was a single pitch and a single swing in the top of the fourth inning. It was then that Will Labsen swung at the first pitch of his at-bat and deposited the fastball over the right centerfield fence for a 2-0 Hillsborough lead.

The Labsen home run would prove to be the margin of victory for Hillsborough after Andy Cross connected for a tater of his own in the bottom of the fifth that cut the San Carlos deficit in half.

Garrett followed that smash with a base hit, marking the end of DiCioccio's night. Todzo was summoned from first base and the right hander struck out a pair of San Carlos hitters to thwart any ideas of an equalizing rally.

"It was exciting, but I was also kind of nervous," DiCioccio said of his start. "But I closed out on Monday so I knew I could beat these guys."

DiCioccio said his nerves settled a bit early on after Blake Marcus gave Hillsborough an early lead when he homered on an 0-2 count two batters into the game.

"That was nice to get some run support early," DiCioccio said. "Because a lot of times we don't start scoring until the third or fourth inning."

"We played a really good game," said San Carlos manager Greg Yedinak. "Hats off to Hillsborough, they're a tough team. We gave them what we could and they still came out ahead. I'm really proud of the way our guys played. They played great the entire tournament. We just hit up against a better team, which happens when you play baseball."

Hillsborough's win continues their dynasty-like run through District 52. They've won the 11-12 title in '04, '05, '07, '08, '09 and '10.

"The tradition is we work hard," Goodman said. "It's always been the same program and that program has been instilled in the way we approach the District 52 tournament — as a result, we've had success. We're not the most talented team out there, but I think we work really hard."

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