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Hillsborough Majors complete tournament tear

June 26, 2013, 05:00 AM By [Terry Bernal](#) Daily Journal

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Hillsborough captured its second ever District 52 Majors Superbowl Tournament title with an 11-0 win over San Carlos last night at Sea Cloud Park.

Proving to be an unstoppable force, Hillsborough's 11-12 year olds swept through the tourney, winning three games by a total score of 45-5. They scored mercy-rule wins in each game, downing Palo Alto American in Saturday's opener 20-5, before triumphing Monday over Pacifica American, 14-0.

Nate Fleischli emerged as Hillsborough's star, being greeted in the postgame trophy presentation by his teammates chanting: "MVP! MVP!"

Fleischli was the hero on both sides of the ball, tabbing three starts to earn a win in each of Hillsborough's three games. The big right-hander hurled 4 1/3 innings Tuesday night, allowing just four hits while striking out five. He also got it done at the plate, going 3-for-3 in the game, including a big double in the first inning to fuel a two-run rally. He totaled five hits throughout the series.

"It's so much fun," Fleischli said. "We've been pounding every single game we've been playing. That's our objective. Hit them when they don't know it's coming."

At 5-foot-8, Fleischli towers above most of his all-star teammates, and over the competition as well. He is one of three players — along with Nick Pina and Jack Connolly — to earn an all-star nod from his regular-season team, the Giants. However, the Giants didn't fair particularly well this season, finishing the season with a 5-9 record.

Manager Larrin Andrews was rebounding from a tough regular season as well. So, the wild two-week ride of practicing and playing all-star caliber baseball was vindicating for Hillsborough's skipper.

"We struggled (in the regular season), so this is very rewarding," Andrews said.

Hillsborough got on the board in the first inning against San Carlos starter Deick Knecht. With one on, Fleischli doubled to the right-center wall. With runners on second and third, Hillsborough scored on back-to-back wild pitches to plate Blake Todzo and Fleischli, respectively.

In the second, Hillsborough executed a wheel steal of home, as J.R. Andrews drew a rundown between first and second base to allow Aidan Macalusco to score.

In the third, Scotty Petrushka and Tucker Tollmann led off with back-to-back singles. With one out, Fleischli singled home Petrushka, before a Gilmartin single plated Todzo, giving Hillsborough a 5-0 lead.

In the fourth, Warren Long led off with a line-drive home run to right-center. Long tabbed two home runs in the tourney, while his six total hits were second only to Tollmann, who totaled seven.

In the fifth, Tollman led off with a double, and after advancing to third on a wild pitch, scored on an RBI groundout by Todzo. Then after a Fleischli single, Gilmartin blasted a two-run home run to center, his second of the tourney. Hillsborough capped its scoring later in the innings with a double from Pina and a single by Ricky Dupont. Pina scored on an RBI single by Long, before Dupont scored on a wild pitch.

On the mound, Fleischli gave way to reliever Gilmartin in the bottom of the fifth frame. The Mohawk-quauffed right-hander tabbed a strikeout before inducing a groundout to third baseman Todzo to end it in a fitting celebration in the middle of the infield. "Once I made the throw, I felt it was pretty good, so I started celebrating before it was caught," Todzo said.

San Carlos won two close games to advance to last night's championship, triumphing 9-4 over Foster City in Sunday's opener, before edging Belmont-Redwood Shores on Monday, 6-5. San Carlos utilized seven different pitchers in the tourney, with starters Jarrod Blau, Oliver Zak and Derick Knecht, along with relievers Sam Rosenberg, Keith Knecht, Joseph Casente and Blake Wienckowski.

Derick Knecht and Spencer Gayner paced San Carlos with three hits apiece in the tournament.

"I think the element to the team that helped us get to the championship, all the boys supported each other," San Carlos manger Alison Spong said. "Everyone played as a team... Everyone kept their energy up — didn't hang their heads if something didn't go our way. Everyone kept their head up, stayed in the game and supported each other."

The championship also marked the end of Doug Kelly's tenure as Superbowl Tournament director. He has headed the annual event since 2000.



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