

Hillsborough 9-10s to championship round

By Terry Bernal Daily Journal Staff 11 hrs ago

After falling behind six runs in the top of the first inning, the Hillsborough Little League 9-10s All-Star team came from behind, scoring four runs in its final at-bat to claim an 11-7 win over Maidu-Granite Bay in the elimination bracket semifinal of the Northern California 9-10s All-Star Championship Tournament at Sutter Baseball Field.

With Hillsborough trailing 7-6 in the bottom of the fourth, Beau Schaffer tied it with a solo home run. Then in the fifth, Hillsborough turned over its order with consecutive singles from No. 8 hitter Quinn Folk and No. 9 hitter Ryan Schoup. Then leadoff hitter Nate Coughlin produced a bases-clearing triple to give his team the lead.

Anakin Manuel followed with an RBI single. Manuel and Schaffer each tabbed 3-for-3 performances.

Hillsborough totaled 12 hits in the game.

“I think the bats really woke up tonight,” Hillsborough manager Ben Coughlin said. “We got hits from everybody all through the lineup. So I think we feel really good about going into that game [Friday].”

That game Friday is the championship-round opener against River Park, the team that knocked Hillsborough into the elimination bracket Wednesday. Hillsborough need beat River Park twice, with a second championship game, if necessary, scheduled for Saturday night.

Had it not been for the relief pitching of Luke Levitt, though, Hillsborough might have been finished. The right-hander emerged with two outs in the first and went on to finish the game.

“He pitched in effect a complete game after that,” Ben Coughlin said.

Levitt held Maidu scoreless through the final four frames to earn the win.

Devin Saltzgaber paced Hillsborough with three RBIs.