

Pope Suffers 9-2 loss in Game Two vs North Paulding

Pope managed only 3 hits in game 2 Friday in a 9-2 loss that evened the series 1-1 in a best of 3. Stephen Skruck and Brett Lyle each had Long homeruns, and Mason Shiflett earned a single in the game.

Harrison Siegal drew the only Pope walk, and Braden Zarbnisky had the Greyhounds only stolen base.

Zarbnisky pitched 4 innings, striking out 4. Cameron Allison and Chip Mattiford combined to pitch the final 3 innings. Allison struck out 1 and Mattiford 3.

Pope will play game 3 Saturday at 2:30 to decide the series.

Wiseman lifts Pope in Game 1 Playoff Win

Patrick Wiseman scattered 2 hits and struck out 9 in a 5-4 win over the North Paulding Wolfpack Friday. The win gives Pope a one game to none lead in a round one, best of three series lead in the state playoffs.

Pope only managed 4 hits in the contest, two singles each by Brett Lyle (RBI) and Stephen Skruck (RBI). Josh Lowe also had a SAC RBI.

Mason Shiflett (BB), Jacob Culberson (HBP), and Wiseman (BB) also reached base for the Hounds and scored.

Jacob Ramos pitched the final 2 frames, striking out 3 and securing the 1-0 series lead, and the save.

Pope will play game 2 30 minutes following game 1.

Four Homeruns , Solid Pitching Propel Greyhounds to 15-4 Win Over Riverwood

Stephen Skruck hit a single, two Homeruns and had 4 RBIs Thursday night at Riverwood to lead a 15 hit attack in a 15-4 Region win over the Riverwood Raiders Thursday. Along with Skruck, Braden Zarbnisky and Mason Shiflett feasted on Riverwood pitching, each hitting long homeruns in a relentless Pope attack.

Pope jumped on top in the first inning 3-0 on a Patrick Wiseman RBI single and a Skruck 2 run homer and never looked back, extending the lead to 5-0 in the 2nd. In the 3rd, Pope sent 10 men to the plate on the strength of 2 singles (Jacob Ramos, Patrick Wiseman), 2 doubles (Josh Lowe, Mason Shiflett), and 2 more homeruns (Braden Zarbnisky, Stephen Skruck), extending the lead to 12-0.

Pope added 1 in the 5th (Shiflett HR), and 2 in the 6th on RBI singles by Brett Lyle and Jared Miller complete the 15-4 victory.

Starter Braden Zarbnisky was again sharp, going 3 innings and striking out 6 Raiders. Zarbnisky scattered 2 hits and walked no one. Zarbnisky was never threatened, only twice having to pitch from the stretch while no Riverwood hitter advanced past 2nd base in his 3 innings. Cameron Allison, Stephen Skruck, and Jacob Ramos all saw mound action in the victory. Allison struck out 4, allowing 1 hit. Skruck struck out 1 and allowed 2 hits, while Ramos closed the game striking out 2 and allowing 1 hit.

The Hits: Jacob Ramos (2 singles, RBI), Stephen Skruck (single, 2 HR, 4 RBI), Brett Lyle (single, RBI), Mason Shiflett (2 doubles, HR, 2 RBI), Josh Lowe (double), Patrick Wiseman (2 singles, 2 RBI), Braden Zarbnisky (HR, 2 RBI), Logan Taylor (single), Jared Miller (single, RBI).

Pope induced 2 walks (Harrison Siegal, Jacob Culberson) and had 2 stolen bases (Harrison Siegal, Stephen Skruck).

Pope (15-10) (14-6) now awaits GHSA playoff pairings, which will be announced Sunday, April 28.

Pope Throttles Creekview on Senior Night 9-3

All eight Seniors on the 2014 edition of Pope's baseball team saw action Wednesday night as the Greyhounds celebrated Senior Night and a 9-3 dismantling of the Creekview Grizzlies. Senior Brett Lyle set the tone on the game's second pitch as the Creekview leadoff hitter lined a rope into the LCF gap. On a dead run, Lyle laid out and turned a sure double into a diving, top 3 defensive play of the year. Instead of a man on 2nd with no outs and early trouble, Senior starter Patrick Wiseman struck out the next hitter and grounded out the last to bring Pope to the plate in the bottom of the 1st.

Pope would score 4 runs in the home half of the 1st inning. Senior Harrison Siegal reached on an error to open the game, and then a single by Senior Mason Shiflett, a walk by Patrick Wiseman, a 2 RBI single by Senior Stephen Skruck, and an RBI single by Brett Lyle deflated the Grizzlies. After a wild throw to second base, another Pope run scored to open the game with the score 4-0.

Pope would send 10 men to the plate in the 4th, on singles by Senior Patrick Wiseman, Senior Jacob Culberson, and an RBI single by Josh Lowe scoring Brady John. Jacob Culberson came home on a wild pitch to make the score 6-0. After a Brett Lyle RBI single bringing home Lowe, Parker Orr reached base on the 3rd Creekview error of the game. Braden Zarbnisky then roped an RBI double, bringing home Senior Logan Taylor to make the score 8-0.

Pope added more insurance in the bottom of the 6th, on the strength of a Mason Shiflett single and a Stephen Skruck RBI single to make the score 9-0.

Starter Patrick Wiseman was sharp, allowing 2 hits while striking out 6 in 5 innings of work. While Wiseman was on the mound, only 1 Creekview hitter reached as far as third base. Matt Rowland pitched the 6th, getting a line out, ground out, and a strike out. Ryan Webb started the 7th, striking out 2.

With one out to get, Senior Chip Mattiford was brought in. Mattiford induced a ground out to secure the win.

Pope had 11 hits in the game led by Stephen Skruck (2 singles, 3 RBI), Brett Lyle (2 singles, 2 RBI), Mason Shiflett (single, double), and Patrick Wiseman (2 singles, BB). The others: Jacob Culberson (single), Josh Lowe (single, RBI), Braden Zarbnisky (double, RBI).

Pope (14-10) (13-6) travels to Riverwood Thursday night for a 5:55 start. Tonights play will decide the region. With Wednesdays results recorded, there is a 4 way tie for 1st with Pope, Creekview, Sequoyah, and Sprayberry.

Six Pope Pitchers Combine For One Hitter in 14-3 Win

Six Pope pitchers took the mound Monday and shut down the Osborne Cardinals allowing only a single en route to a 14-3, run rule shortened 6 inning game. Pope also was on fire at the plate, getting 15 hits in the game, including 6 doubles and a triple.

Pope jumped on top 6-0 in the first on the strength of a single, 3 doubles, and a triple while sending 10 Greyhounds to the plate. Pope came to bat in the 6th leading 9-3, and would extend that lead to 14-3 on the strength of 4 singles and a double. Pope needed only 3 outs in the bottom of the 6th to invoke the GHSAA run rule.

Starter Stephen Skruck struck out 3 in his inning of work. Ryan Webb pitched the 2nd inning, striking out 2 Cardinals. Chip Mattiford came on in the 3rd and struck out 2. Cameron Allison came in to pitch the 4th inning, striking out 2. Jacob Ramos tossed the 5th striking out 2 as well. Josh Lowe pitched the 6th and deciding inning, striking out 1. In all, Pope had 12 Ks on the night.

Pope had 15 hits in the game led by Brady John (2 singles), Brett Lyle (2 singles, 2 RBI), Mason Shiflett (double, triple, 2 RBIs), Logan Taylor (2 singles), and Jacob Culberson (single, double, 3 RBIs)

The others: Stephen Skruck (double), Matt Rowland (double), Josh Lowe (double, RBI), Patrick Wiseman (RBI), Teddy Chambers (double, 2 RBI), Ethan Lawson (single).

Pope drew 2 walks in the game (Tyler Thornton, Josh Lowe), and stole 4 bases setting a season high (Brady John, Jacob Culberson, Harrison Siegal, Logan Taylor).

Pope (13-10) (12-6) will host Creekview Wednesday at 5:55. This game is designated as Senior Night.

Zarbnisky Fires Complete Game 2 Hitter to Lift Pope Over Sequoyah 6-1

Braden Zarbnisky scattered 2 hits and struck out 7 Saturday as Pope defeated the Sequoyah Chiefs 6-1. Zarbnisky only gave up a meaningless HR in the 5th, and a double in the 7th en route to a complete game. The key was pinpoint control (1 BB) and a baffling curve ball that kept hitters off balance all day.

Pope jumped on top in the 1st inning off of 3 Sequoyah errors and a Jacob Culberson RBI single. Pope extended their lead in the 3rd on singles by Mason Shiflett and Patrick Wiseman, followed by a Stephen Skruck RBI single to extend the lead to 4-0.

Pope extended the lead to 6-0 in the 4th on a Harrison Siegal RBI SAC scoring Brady John, and a Mason Shiflett RBI single.

Pope had 9 hits in the game, all singles, led by Mason Shiflett (2 singles, RBI), Jacob Culberson (2 singles, RBI) and Braden Zarbnisky (2 singles). The others: Stephen Skruck (single, RBI), Harrison Siegal (single, RBI), Patrick Wiseman (single).

Pope had 3 stolen bases in the game-Josh Lowe, Culberson, and Siegal.

Pope (12-10) (11-6) travels to Osborne Monday night for a 5:55 game time.

Complete game by Wiseman and Homerun by Skruck Equals Pope Win

Patrick Wiseman pitched a complete game, scattering 7 hits and striking out 7 in a 3-1 win over Forsyth Central. Wiseman had great command, walking only one batter.

Stephen Skruck broke a 1-1 tie in the top of the 4th with a long Homerun to right center field with Brady John on base. That 3-1 score would hold up for a Pope victory.

The Greyhounds had seven hits in the game led by Stephen Skruck (single, HR, 2 RBI) and Jacob Culberson (2 singles). The others: Brett Lyle (single), Mason Shiflett (single), Patrick Wiseman (single), Braden Zarbnisky (single). Josh Lowe drew the Hounds only walk.

Shiflett and Zarbnisky each stole a base for Pope.

Pope (11-10)(10-6) plays region leader Sequoyah at Pope Friday at 5:55

Pope Uses Two 4 Run Innings, Strong Pitching to Topple North Springs

Pope scored 4 runs in the 1st and 6th innings, and Stephen Skruck scattered 4 hits over 6 innings striking out 7 Spartens to gain a 10-2 victory over North Springs Saturday.

Pope had 10 hits in the game, led by Mason Shiflett (2 singles, 2 BB, RBI) and Harrison Siegal (2 singles, RBI)....The other hits: Stephen Skruck (single, BB), Brett Lyle (single), Jacob Culberson (single, RBI), Josh Lowe (double, BB, 2 RBI), Patrick Wiseman (double, 2 RBI), Braden Zarbnisky (single).

Brady John and Stephen Skruck each had a stolen base in the game.

Stephen Skruck gave way to Chip Mattiford in the 7th inning. Mattiford closed the game facing three hitters, getting a ground out, a line out, and a strike out to seal the 10-2 region win.

Pope (10-10) (9-6) takes on Forsyth Central Monday at 5:55 at Forsyth Central in region action.

Zarbnisky's 10 K Not Enough as Pope Falls to Sprayberry

Braden Zarbnisky scattered 4 hits over 5 innings and struck out 10 Sprayberry Yellowjackets, but Pope fell 4-2 managing only 3 hits in the game.

Pope gained a 1-0 lead as Sprayberry balked in a run in the first. In the bottom of the 3rd, Sprayberry notched 2 runs on the strength of 2 doubles and a walk to take a 2-1 lead. Pope evened the score in the 5th when Brady John scored as a result of a Sprayberry error.

The score remained 2-2 until the bottom of the 6th when Sprayberry hit a 2 run home run to make the score 4-2, a lead which would hold up.

Pope had 3 hits in the game: Stephen Skruck (double), Mason Shiflett (double), and Patrick Wiseman (single)....Brady John had the games lone stolen base.

Pope (9-10)(8-6) hosts North Springs in a 3pm Saturday Region Contest.

Pope Defeats Kell 8-4 For Region Win

Patrick Wiseman tossed 6 innings, scattering 6 hits and striking out 7 Longhorns as Pope defeated Kell 8-4 Saturday. Matt Rowland pitched the final inning for Pope, striking out 2 batters.

Pope had 11 hits in the game, led by Jacob Culberson with 3 singles and 2 RBI, and Patrick Wiseman with 2 singles, a double, and 2 RBIs. The others: Stephen Skruck (double, RBI), Brett Lyle (single), Mason Shiflett (single), Josh Lowe (single, RBI), Harrison Siegal (single).

Pope (9-9) (8-5) next plays at Sprayberry on Thursday.

Cambridge Defeats Pope 10-4

Pope fell to Cambridge 10-4 Thursday to move to (8-9) on the season.

Braden Zarbnisky pitched 4 2/3 innings striking out 5. Ryan Webb pitched 1/3 inning with 1 K and Josh Low struck out the side in his inning of work.

Pope had 10 hits in the game: Mason Shiflet (3 singles), Brett Lyle (double), Stephen Skruck (HR, 2 RBI), Patrick Wiseman (2 singles, 2 RBI), Braden Zarbnisky (2 singles), Logan Taylor (2 singles).

Pope (8-9) (7-5) takes on Kell Saturday at Pope.

Greyhounds Start 2nd Half of Region Play with 3-2 Loss to Northview

The Pope Greyhounds (8-8,7-4) started the second half of Region 7AAAAA play with a tough, 3-2 loss to visiting Northview High School (8-9,4-7). The game, originally scheduled for Friday, was moved to Thursday due to impending weather.

Patrick Wiseman took the mound as the starter for the Hounds and set the Titans down 1-2-3 in the first. A 4-6-3 double play by the Titans kept the game scoreless after one inning of play. Neither team scored in the 2nd though Stephen Skruck managed the game's first and lone hit to that point, a single. In the third, Northview capitalized on a leadoff walk moving the runner around to third base on a sacrifice bunt and a wild pitch. He later scored on a two-out, sharply-hit, infield single that caromed off the pitcher to make the score 1-0. Neither team would score until the 5th inning when Northview's leadoff hitter was hit by a pitch with two outs. He would score on a double down the left field line to make the score 2-0 at the end of 5.

Northview stretched it's lead to 3-0 in the 6th as they were able to move a leadoff single around the bases where he eventually scored on a pitch that got through to the backstop. Despite not showing much offensive life through five innings the Greyhounds got things started in their half of the 6th inning as Mason Shiflett plated Harrison Siegal who led off the inning via a base on balls with a sharply hit single to right-center field. A pinch runner for Shiflett moved around to third base and scored on a wild pitch. With two outs the Hounds got back-to-back singles from Jacob Culberson and Parker Orr to keep the rally alive but a ground out to second base ended the threat send the game to the 7th at 3-2.

The Titans threatened in the 7th putting two runners on without the benefit of a hit. However, the Hounds turned a sharply hit ball up the middle into a double play to keep the deficit at one run going to the bottom of the 7th. Brett Lyle brought the crowd to life with a leadoff single and he was moved to second base on a sacrifice bunt by Braden Zarbnisky who was called out at first base on a very close call. The excitement was shortlived however as the Hounds finished things off quietly with a line drive out to the first baseman and a ground out to the second baseman.

The Greyhounds scattered six hits, all singles, by Stephen Skruck (2), Jacob Culberson, Parker Orr, Brett Lyle, and Mason Shiflett. On the mound, Patrick Wiseman went four innings surrendering one run three hits, striking out two and walking two. Matt Rowland threw the 5th and 6th innings allowing two

runs on two hits, striking out two while yielding one walk and a hit batter. Jacob Ramos finished the game going one inning allowing no runs and no hits, while giving up a walk and hitting a batter.

The Greyhounds will take a few days off for spring break before returning to action on Thursday April 3 on the road at Cambridge High School in another Region 7AAAAA game.

Ten Hit Attack lifts Pope over Riverwood

Harrison Siegal and Patrick Wiseman led a 10 hit attack for Pope Wednesday night as the Hounds defeated Riverwood 12-2 in a game shortened by the GHSA run rule (10). Siegal had a single, triple, RBI and 2 BB. Wiseman had a triple, 2 RBI, and 2 BB. The game was never in doubt as Stephen Skruck tossed a 1 hitter with 5 Ks in the 5 inning contest.

Riverwood jumped on top 1-0 in the first inning, but Pope evened the score in the bottom half with a Siegal triple and a throwing error that allowed Siegal to complete his trip around the bases. In the bottom of the 2nd, Parker Orr singled, and Brady John (PR for Orr) scored on a Logan Taylor single to make the score 2-2. By the time the inning was over Pope had a 5-2 lead and never looked back.

Pope pushed the lead to 8-2 in the 4th on a Patrick Wiseman 2 RBI triple and a Siegal RBI single.

In the 5th, Braden Zarbnisky put down his 2nd perfect bunt single of the game to load the bases, and 2 wild pitches later Pope was up 10-2. Two walks later, the run rule was invoked and Pope won the game 12-2.

Skruck pitched 5 innings allowing 1 hit with 5 Ks.

Pope had 10 hits and 8 walks: Stephen Skruck (BB), Brett Lyle (single, double), Mason Shiflett (SAC< RBI, 2 BB), Jacob Culberson (BB), Harrison Siegal (2 BB, single, triple, RBI), Patrick Wiseman (BB, triple, 2 RBI), Parker Orr (single), Braden Zarbnisky (2 singles), Logan Taylor (BB, single, RBI)

Pope also had 3 stolen bases in the game- Brady John, Logan Taylor, Braden Zarbnisky.

Pope is back in action Thursday against Northview at Pope. Game time 5:55.

Big Inning Dooms Pope in Region Loss to Creekview

For 5 innings on Wednesday, it looked to everyone in attendance at Creekview HS that Pope was not only going to win the game, but run away with it. Starting pitcher Braden Zarbnisky had completed 5

innings, striking out 7 and leaving with a 7-2 lead, and the offense had delivered towering home runs by Patrick Wiseman and Stephen Skruck. But all of that changed in the 6th inning. Four pitchers and 8 walks later, with 1 hit in between, Pope was down 11-7 facing it's last at bat. Pope went down in order and walked away with a crushing 11-7 loss.

Pope started the game on fire, quickly jumping up in the first inning. Harrison Siegal roped the first pitch of the game into the left center gap for a double, and moments later came home on a Mason Shiflett single. Next came Patrick Wiseman who launched a 2 run Homerun into the trees in right field giving Pope a 3-0 lead.

After a quiet 2nd, and 3rd inning for both sides with Zarbnisky in control on the mound, Pope again attacked in the 4th. After a Jacob Culberson single to open the inning, Josh lowe launched a LCF gap triple to score Culberson giving Pope a 4-0 lead. Two singles later by Brett Lyle and Braden Zarbnisky, Siegal flied out to right to bring home Lyle and Pope was in command 6-0. Pope added another run in the 7th on a laser shot HR by Stephen Skruck pushing the lead to 7-0.

Creekview added 2 runs in the 5th, closing the gap to 7-2. With Zarbnisky out of the game, the Pope bullpen could not find the strike zone enough times to keep the Grizzlies at bay. Creekview scored 9 runs in the frame on only 1 hit and walked away with an 11-7 gift wrapped win.

Pope had 10 hits in the game: Harrison Siegal (double, RBI), Stephen Skruck (HR, RBI), Brett Lyle (single, RBI), Mason Shiflett (single, RBI), Jacob Culberson (2 singles), Josh Lowe (triple, RBI), Patrick Wiseman (HR, 2 RBI), Parker Orr (single), and Braden Zarbnisky (single).

Pope (7-7) (6-3) will host Riverwood on Wednesday at 5:55 in another Region Matchup.

Osborne Cardinals no Match for Pope in 12-2 Greyhound Win

Pope earned a 12-2 region victory over Osborne Friday night in a game shortened to 6 innings by the GHSA Run Rule (10). Pope pitching was outstanding, facing 20 batters, striking out 10 and inducing 7 groundouts while allowing only 2 hits.

Patrick Wiseman set the tone with a quick 1st inning, grounding out 2 Cardinals and striking out the 3rd hitter.

Cameron Allison worked the 2nd inning, grounding out the first hitter and striking out the next two hitters.

Josh Lowe worked the 3rd and 4th, striking out 5 of the 6 hitters he faced.

Tyler Thornton pitched the 5th and 6th, striking out 2 and grounding out the side in the 6th to complete the 6 inning 12-2 Victory for Pope.

Pope had 10 hits and 9 walks in the game, led by **Brady John** (2 singles, BB, RBI), **Braden Zarbnisky** (2 singles), and **Patrick Wiseman** (single, double, RBI). The others: **Jacob Ramos** (BB), **Stephen Skruck** (single, BB), **Brett Lyle** (single, BB), **Jacob Culberson** (BB), **Josh Lowe** (2 BB, RBI), **Teddy Chambers** (single, BB, RBI), **Hayden Miller** (BB), **Parker Orr** (single).

Pope scored 5 runs on 5 Osborne wild pitches, including one by **Braden Zarbnisky** from 2nd base on a great hustle play.

Pope (7-6) (6-2) will be back in action Monday at Creekview in a key region contest. Game time in 5:55 pm.

Greyhounds lose to Region Leader in 10 Innings

Pope travelled to region leader Sequoyah Wednesday night and game home with hard fought loss in 10 innings. The Greyhounds jumped on top in the first inning 5-0 and it appeared that the tone was set when Pope extended the lead to 6-0 one inning later. Pope used 8 singles and two Chief's errors to jump on top before the Sequoyah starting pitcher settled in.

In the 3rd, a Grand Slam by the Sequoyah clean up hitter brought the score to 6-4. The Chiefs added a run in the 5th to close to 6-5, and tied the game in the 7th sending the game into extra innings. Neither team could push across a run in the 8th or 9th innings. In the 10th, Sequoyah was able to push the winning run across sending Pope home with its second region loss 7-6.

Pope had 9 hits in the game led by **Jacob Culberson** (2 singles, RBI) and **Patrick Wiseman** (2 singles, RBI). The others were: **Jacob Ramos** (Single, 2 RBI), **Stephen Skruck** (single), **Josh Lowe** (single), **Harrison Siegal** (single), and **Braden Zarbnisky** (single).

Pope also coaxed 7 walks in the game (**Hayden Miller**, Wiseman, Siegal (2), **Mason Shiflett**, and Skruck (2)).

Three Pope pitchers saw action in the game: **Stephen Skruck** (4 innings, 5 K), **Chip Mattiford** (2 2/3 innings) and **Matt Rowland** (3 innings, 5 K).

Pope (6-6) (5-2) will be back in action at home against region foe Osborne at 5:55 Friday night.

Zarbnisky strikes out 11 as Greyhounds blank Forsyth Central 4-0

Braden Zarbnisky scattered 8 hits and struck out 11 hitters while walking no one in a complete game shutout victory for Pope on Friday night. Forsyth central threatened three times in the game, having two runners on base in the 2nd, 4th, and 6th innings but Zarbnisky was able to pitch around the base runners using ground balls and strikeouts to end each threat. His curveball frustrated the opposing hitters all night, and Popes defense played well behind him.

Two defensive plays stood out, and helped keep Forsyth Central off the scoreboard. In the second inning, with men on 1st and 2nd, **Brett Lyle** snared a line drive and threw across to **Patrick Wiseman** for an inning ending double play. The 2nd play occurred in the top of the 7th. **Stephen Skruck** made a diving catch crashing into the left field wall on a dead run taking away a sure double to start the inning.

Pope jumped on top in the 1st inning, sending 7 men to the plate. In the inning, **Patrick Wiseman** had an RBI double scoring **Harrison Siegal**, and Parker Orr had a 2 RBI single scoring Brady John and Wiseman to take a 3-0 lead after one inning.

The score stayed that way until the 4th, when **Brett Lyle** came home on a wild pitch to make it 4-0. That score would stand up pushing the Hounds record to 6-5 and 5-1 in the region.

Pope had 5 hits on the night: Stephen Skruck (double), Brett Lyle (single), Harrison Siegal (single), Patrick Wiseman (double, RBI), Parker Orr (single 2 RBI)

Pope stole 1 base (**Siegal**) and had 4 walks (**Hayden Miller, Logan Taylor, Harrison Siegal (2)**)

Zarbnisky's line: Complete game, 8 H, 11 K, 0 BB

Pope will be back in action next Wednesday at Sequoya at 5:55 pm.

Hounds Flex Muscles in Late Rally to Defeat North Springs

For 5 innings Wednesday night it looked like the Pope Greyhounds were going to limp home with a 2-0 loss to region foe North Springs. Pope pitcher **Matt Rowland** had only allowed 3 hits through 5 innings, but North Springs held a 2-0 lead and time was running out. And then, in the 6th, all of that changed.

Patrick Wiseman came to the plate in the 6th for his third look at the North Springs pitcher. He took the 1st pitch he saw deep to right field for a home run, cutting the North Springs lead in half. Rowland came out for the 6th, with **Chip Mattiford** warming up just in case Rowland faltered. He did not, striking out two batters and grounding out the third setting the stage for the 7th inning rally.

After two quick groundouts to start the Pope half of the 7th, North Springs was one out away from a region win. **Harrison Siegal** stepped to the plate as Pope's last hope. Siegal roped a ball in the right center gap, and was full speed out of the box determined to stretch the hit to a double, and get in scoring position. With Siegal on 2nd, **Josh Lowe** roped a double to left, scoring Siegal and knocking the

North Springs starter out of the game. With Wiseman coming to the plate, North Springs decided to intentionally walk him setting up a force play with Lowe on second as the potential go ahead run.

Stephen Skruck came to the plate with two on and two out, and launched a dramatic 3 run homer to right to give Pope a 5-2 lead with only 3 outs to get.

Rowland came out for the 7th, and gave up a single to the first hitter, giving North Springs hope for a rally of their own. However, Rowland grounded out the next two hitters and struck out the last to give Pope a 5-2 victory. With the wind howling the entire game, the key to Rowlands performance was the amount of ground balls he induced, keeping the ball out of the air for the most part. Rowlands line: 7 innings, 5 hits, 4 Ks , 0 walks, complete game.

Pope had 8 hits in the game, led by **Harrison Siegal** (2 singles, double). The others were: **Stephen Skruck** (HR, 3 RBI), **Josh Lowe** (double, RBI), **Patrick Wiseman** (HR, RBI), **Parker Orr** (single), **Logan Taylor** (single).

Pope also had 2 walks (**Jacob Ramos, Wiseman**) and 2 stolen bases (**Brady John**)

The Greyhounds (5-5) (4-1) return to action Friday in a region contest vs Forsyth Central at 5: 55 pm.

Offensive Explosion Equals Hounds Victory Over Sprayberry

Pope used 13 hits Monday night to gain a 14-8 victory over the Sprayberry Yellow Jackets, pushing their record to 4-5 overall and 3-1 in region play.

Sprayberry notched 3 runs in their half of the first on the strength of only one hit. In Pope's half of the inning, 12 Greyhound hitters went to the plate, and six of them scored to bring the score to 6-3. In the inning, Pope earned 5 walks and had 4 hits.

Pope manufactured a run in the 3rd on a Jacob Ramos sacrifice bunt, and a Mason Shiflett single that brought home PR Tyler Thornton to make the score 7-4. Pope broke the game open in the 5th and 6th innings, including a Home Run by Harrison Siegal, and back to back doubles by Stephen Skruck and Patrick Wiseman. The 13 hits and 14 runs are both season highs for Pope.

Four pitchers saw the mound Monday night, striking out 13 and allowing 9 hits: Starter Stephen Skruck (2 2/3 innings, 3 hits, 5 Ks), Cameron Allison (1 1/3 innings, 1 hit, 2 Ks), Josh Lowe (1 inning, 3 hits, 2 Ks), and Jacob Ramos (2 innings, 2 hits, 5 Ks)

Pope had 6 BB and 13 hits: Jacob Ramos (single, 2 RBI), Stephen Skruck (BB, single, RBI), Brett Lyle (single, 2 RBI), Mason Shiflett (double, 2 HBP), Jacob Culberson (single), Josh Lowe (2 BB, single, RBI),

Harrison Siegal (double, HR, 2 RBI), Patrick Wiseman (2 doubles, RBI), Parker Orr (single, double, RBI) Braden Zarbnisky (HBP, single).

Pope will be back in action Wednesday night at 5:55 pm at North Springs.

Big Inning Dooms Greyhounds in Loss to Region Foe

Pope travelled to Kell Saturday to face the Longhorns in a game that was scheduled for Friday. Both starting pitchers matched each other pitch for pitch for 4 ½ innings before Kell finally broke through in the bottom of the 5th on a double, a sacrifice bunt, and a single to take a 1-0 lead. With the score 4-0 Pope brought in **Chip Mattiford** in relief of starter **Braden Zarbnisky**. Mattiford induced a ground ball to the first batter he faced, which would have resulted in an inning ending double play, but a Pope error on the play extended the inning and the lead. With the score at 8-0 and 1 out, **Cameron Allison** was brought in to relieve Mattiford. Allison struck out the first batter he faced, and tagged out a Longhorn runner in a rundown between 2nd and 3rd base to end the inning. Pope could manage only one run on a sacrifice fly RBI by Patrick Wiseman in the 8-1 loss.

Pope had 6 hits in the game, led by **Harrison Siegal** (3 singles, BB). **Jacob Ramos** (2 singles) and **Mason Shiflett** (single) had the others.

Three pitchers saw action in the contest: Starting pitcher **Braden Zarbnisky** (4 1/3 inning, 4k), **Chip Mattiford**, and **Cameron Allison** (1 2/3 inning, 5k).

The loss moves Pope to 3-5 overall and 2-1 in region play heading into a Monday contest with Sprayberry at 5:55 at Pope.

Late Inning Heroics Spell Region Victory for Hounds

Pope Head Coach **Jeff Rowland** inserted **Braden Zarbnisky** in the lineup in the bottom of the 6th inning as a pinch hitter, and a defensive replacement in right field for the 7th. With the score tied at 3-3 in the bottom of the 7th, Zarbnisky came up for the 2nd time in the game with men on 1st and 2nd with one out. Zarbnisky hit a single to left field, and when the left fielder misplayed the bounce coach Rowland waved pinch runner **Hayden Miller** home for a 4-3 victory over the Cambridge Bears Wednesday night.

Pope collected 8 hits in the game, led by **Patrick Wiseman** (2 singles, 2 RBI). The others: **Jacob Ramos** (single, BB), **Stephen Skruck** (double, 2 BB), **Mason Shiflett** (single, BB), **Harrison Siegal** (triple, BB), **Parker Orr** (single, BB), and Zarbnisky (single, GW RBI).

Pope also swiped 2 bases in the contest- Ramos and Miller.

Three pitchers saw action in the game, allowing 6 total hits: **Matt Rowland** (4 2/3 and 3 Ks), **Chip Mattiford** (1 2/3 and 3 Ks), and **Joshua Lowe** (2/3 inning).

Pope moves to 2-0 in region play, and will be in action Friday night at 5:55 pm at Kell.

Skruck Dominates in Region Opener

Starting pitcher **Stephen Skruck** was dominant in 5 innings of work, scattering 3 hits and striking out 12 in Pope's Region opener vs the Northview Titans.

Skruck used an effective fastball to overpower, and a sharp breaking ball to frustrate Titan hitters. It was a great combination for 5 innings, before giving way to **Chip Mattiford** to close the game. Mattiford struck out 2 in one inning of work, as the GHSA "run rule" was evoked and Pope gained the victory 14-3 in 6 innings.

Pope fell behind early (2-0 and 3-1), but fought back to tie the game at 3-3 in the fourth inning, sending 8 men to the plate in the frame. Pope then went on to again send 8 men to the plate in the 5th inning, extending the lead to 6-3. Pope broke the game wide open in the 6th, sending 12 hitters to the plate and scoring 8 runs and giving Pope a 14-3 lead.

The key offensive play of the night occurred in the 5th inning. With men on 2nd and 3rd and two outs, coach **Jeff Rowland** called on PH **Braden Zarbnisky** to squeeze bunt to gain an insurance run. Zarbnisky laid down a perfect bunt, bringing home **Brett Lyle**. **Brady John** came home on the play as well on an errant throw giving Pope all the momentum and a 6-3 lead.

Pope had 8 hits in the game: **Stephen Skruck** (2 singles, 2 RBI, BB), **Mason Shiflett** (single, 2 RBI, 2BB), **Jacob Culberson** (2 singles, double, RBI), **Joshua Lowe** (single, BB) **Harrison Siegel** (single, BB). **Parker Orr** had a huge night without the benefit of a hit. Orr had 2 SAC, plating 4 runs for Pope.

Pope (2-3) (1-0) continues region play on Wednesday night at Pope in a 5:55 game vs Cambridge.

Mistakes and Controversy Equals a Loss for Greyhounds

Defensive mistakes and a controversial 6th inning were too much for Pope to overcome on Saturday as the Greyhounds lost to defending AAAA State Champion Redan 6-4.

Going into the 6th inning with a 4-3 lead, P Chip Mattiford appeared to have struck out the Raider hitter for the 3rd out. The umpire made 2/3 of a strike out call, paused, and then awarded ball four instead of strike 3. Pope Head Coach Jeff Rowland, as well as the entire fan base in attendance, questioned the call. Shortly after the play, Redan quickly put up 3 unearned runs to take a 6-4 lead. Pope could not mount a threat in the 7th and lost 6-4.

Pope had 6 hits in the game: Brett Lyle (2 Singles), Mason Shiflett (Single), Jacob Culberson (Single), Patrick Wiseman (Single), and Logan Taylor (Single).

Pope pitchers were sharp, allowing only 3 hits in the contest, and struck out 5 Raider hitters: Cameron Allison (3 2/3 IP, 2 H, 2K), Chip Mattiford (2 2/3 IP, 0 H, 1K), Joshua Lowe (1 IP, 1 H, 2K).

Pope begins region play Monday night at Northview at 5:55 pm

Pope Uses Big Inning and Dominant Pitching to Bury Hillgrove

Pope exploded for 7 runs in the 4th inning on Friday night in the Greyhounds home opener to move its record to 1-3 (0-0), with one more non region game before region play begins Monday.

Pope sent 12 batters to the plate in the 4th inning highlighted by a bases loaded, bases clearing double by **Harrison Siegal** to make the score 5-0. Pope took the lead 1-0 when **PR Brady John** scored on a **Logan Taylor** fielder's choice. Pope kept the bats going in the inning, collecting 5 hits including 3 doubles and putting up 7 runs.

Pope had 8 hits in the game, led by **Patrick Wiseman** (single, 2 doubles, RBI), **Stephen Skruck** (BB, single, double, RBI) and **Harrison Siegal** (double, 3 RBI). **Jacob Culberson** and **Braden Zarbnisky** also had singles in the game.

Pope also looked strong defensively, using the double play to squash a Hillgrove threat in the 3rd inning after 2 singles.

Starting pitcher **Braden Zarbnisky** was dominant and consistent, throwing six complete innings and earning his 1st win of the season. Zarbnisky scattered 4 hits and struck out 7, baffling Hawks hitters with a variety of off speed pitches. **Matt Rowland** came on in the 7th to get 3 ground ball outs to seal Pope's first win of 2014.

The Greyhounds will be back in action on Saturday at 1pm vs Redan. The Raiders are the defending GA AAAA State Champions.

Valdosta Edges Pope in Wild 9 Inning Tilt

The Pope Greyhounds and Valdosta Wildcats squared off Saturday in a wild extra inning game that ended in a 9-8 loss for Pope (0-2).

Harrison Siegal roped a triple to right field and later scored on a wild pitch to give Pope a 1-0 lead in the first inning. After Valdosta put up 2 runs in the second inning, Pope went on the attack again in the 3rd. After a **Braden Zarbnisky** single, **Brady John** (pinch runner for Zarbnisky) scored a double by **Mason Shiflett** tying the score at 2-2.

Pope jumped up 4-2 in the 4th inning on back to back RBIs from **Joshua Lowe** and Zarbnisky. Pope extended the lead to 5-2 in the 5th when **Tyler Thornton** scored on a **Brett Lyle** single. Valdosta then surged ahead in the sixth inning to lead 8-5.

With only 3 outs remaining, Pope found magic in the 7th to score 3 runs to tie the game and send it to extra innings. Pope scored on an error by Valdosta after a **Jacob Culberson** single, a **Patrick Wiseman** walk, and a **Brett Lyle** single. With men on second and third, **Joshua Lowe** roped a double scoring 2 and tying the game at 8. The score remained 8-8 until the bottom of the ninth when Valdosta was able to push a run across to win 9-8.

Pope had 10 hits in the game: **Brett Lyle** (2 singles, RBI), **Mason Shiflett** (double, RBI), **Jacob Culberson** (2 singles), **Joshua Lowe** (double, RBI), **Harrison Siegal** (triple, 2 RBI), **Patrick Wiseman** (double), and **Braden Zarbnisky** (2 singles, RBI).

Six pitchers saw action for Pope (**Zarbnisky, Jacob Ramos, Lowe, Chip Mattiford, Matt Rowland, and Carl Williams**). Pope had 12 strikeouts in the game with **Matt Rowland** collecting 5 in 2 innings of work. Starter **Braden Zarbnisky** was collected 2 strikeouts, while **Jacob Ramos** had three Ks and **Carl Williams** struck out two Valdosta hitters.

The loss drops Pope to 0-2 on the season, and will be back in action on Wednesday February 26th at Walton in another non-region game.

Pope Shows Early Firepower but falls 9-6 to Lowndes Vikings

The 2014 season kicked off Saturday in South Georgia as the Pope Greyhounds took on the Lowndes Vikings in a non-region game. Pope jumped on top early in the first inning, and again surged in the second inning but could not hang on in a 9-6 loss.

Pope jumped on top early as **Logan Taylor** drove in **Harrison Siegal** to give Pope a 1-0 lead. One batter later **Brett Lyle** doubled and drove in **Jacob Culberson** and Taylor to push Pope's lead to 3-0. Lowndes put up 2 runs in their half of the first inning. In the second, **Joshua Lowe** doubled and scored from third on a wild pitch after a **Parker Orr** single. After a **Mason Shiflett** walk, pinch runner **Brady John** (for Orr) scored on a Lowndes error pushing the Greyhound lead to 5-2, a lead which would not hold up as the Greyhounds fell 9-6.

Offensively, Pope collected seven hits: **Brett Lyle** (single, double, and 2 RBI), **Mason Shiflett** (single), **Joshua Lowe** (double), **Parker Orr** (single, double, RBI), **Logan Taylor** (single, RBI).

Four pitchers saw action for Pope (**Patrick Wiseman, Cameron Allison, Matt Rowland, and Chip Mattiford**). Rowland and Mattiford were impressive in the final 4 innings holding the Vikings scoreless but Pope went scoreless over the last 4 innings as well resulting in the 9-6 loss moving Pope to 0-1 on the 2014 season.

Pope Looks to Shake off Rust in Scrimmage vs Etowah

The 2014 edition of the POPE Greyhounds took the field Monday night against the Etowah Eagles in hopes of shaking off the rust of a long off season, and after enduring a brutal stretch of weather that has limited field time for the Hounds.

Etowah jumped on top in the first inning 3-0 and never looked back. POPE had multiple base runners in several innings but could only push 4 runs across the plate despite 9 hits. Senior **Patrick Wiseman** led the way with two doubles and an RBI. Both doubles were screaming line drives in the outfield gaps. Seniors **Harrison Siegal** and **Stephen Skruck** also had doubles in the game, with Skruck's producing an RBI. Senior **Jacob Culberson** had two singles in the game, while Freshman **Parker Orr**, Junior **Braden Zarbnisky**, and Senior **Mason Shiflett** each reached base with a hit.

Pope never really found a rhythm in an 8-4 loss that was littered with defensive miscues and lost opportunities. Nine Greyhound pitchers saw action on the mound (**Patrick Wiseman, Braden Zarbnisky, Stephen Skruck, Cameron Allison, Jacob Ramos, Carl Williams, Matt Rowland, Chip Mattiford, and Joshua Lowe**) and combined to scatter seven hits while striking out nine and walking five Eagles.

Zarbnisky (1 1/3 innings), **Skruck** (1 inning) **Williams** (1 inning) and **Lowe** (2/3 inning) were all very impressive.

Zarbnisky used his curve ball effectively to induce two ground outs, a fly out and a strikeout.

Skruck struck out the side in his one inning of work.

Williams only needed 11 pitches in get three ground ball outs in his inning.

Lowe struck out both batters he faced.

POPE travels to Valdosta to Friday to begin the 2014 campaign. The defending GA State AAAAA champions will play Friday night against Valdosta, and Saturday at noon against Lowndes.