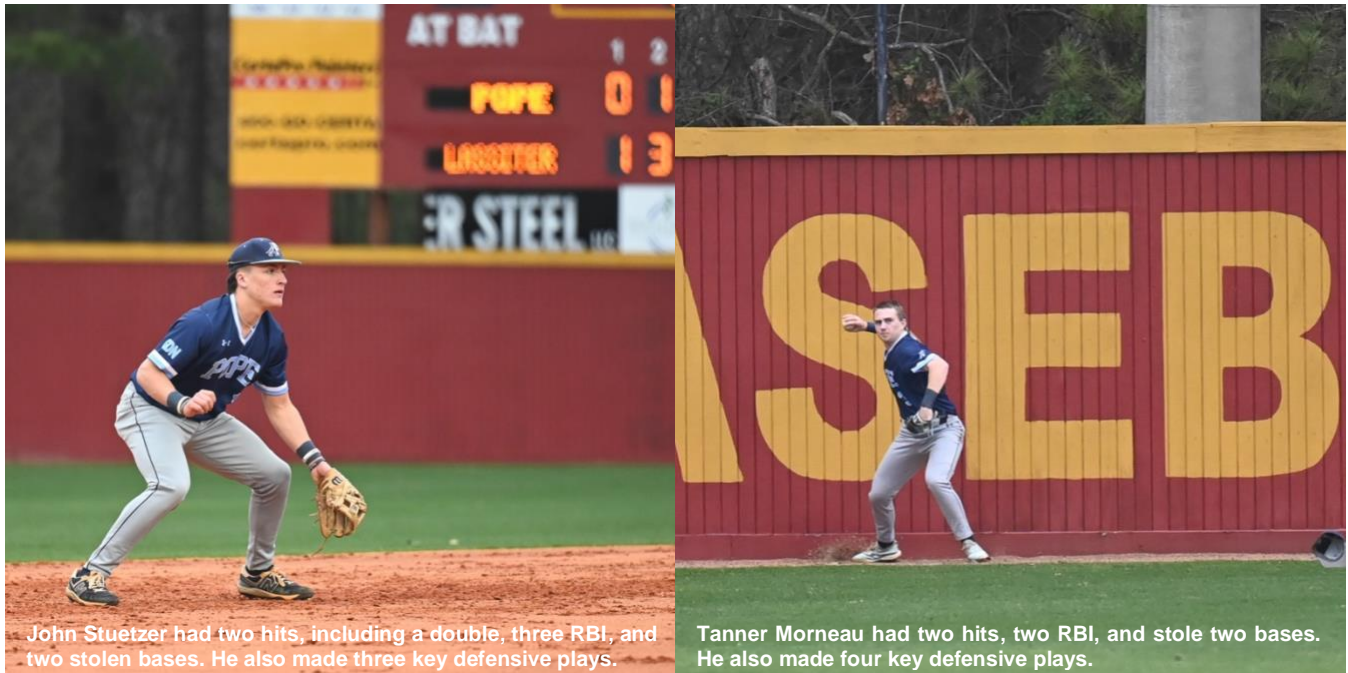




Game 10, February 29, 2024
Pope Greyhounds 7, Lassiter Trojans 3
Weather: 49 degrees, 3 mph winds
Doubleheader Played at Lassiter High School
Varsity Record: Overall 6-4, Region 2-1
Game 3 of Best 2-of-3 Region Series



POPE BEATS LASSITER TO WIN SERIES HOUNDS NEVER TRAIL IN CRUCIAL EARLY SEASON REGION VICTORY JOHN STUETZER AND TANNER MORNEAU LEAD POPE



John Stuetzer had two hits, including a double, three RBI, and two stolen bases. He also made three key defensive plays.

Tanner Morneau had two hits, two RBI, and stole two bases. He also made four key defensive plays.

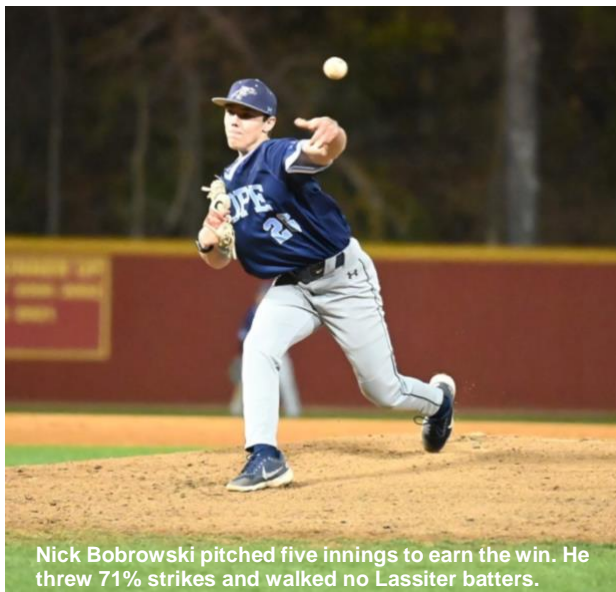
Pope and Lassiter split the first two games of their best 2-of-3 region series by a combined three runs. In the all-important game three showdown, the Hounds flexed their roster depth, broke open an early 3-3 tie, and scored four unanswered runs to beat the Trojans, 7-3, at chilly Lassiter High School. Pope's region record improves to 2-1 and overall record is 6-4.

Pope's offense had seven hits, stole seven bases, and walked seven times. The junior dynamic duo of **John Stuetzer** and **Tanner Morneau** paced the Hounds with two hits each. Together they accounted for five of the Hounds seven RBI and both reached base 3-of-4 times. Stuetzer drove in three runs with a two RBI double and a RBI single. He scored one run, stole two bases, and walked one time. Morneau had two singles, two RBI, and stole two bases.

Senior **Carter Joachim** remained red hot for the Hounds. In game three, Joachim singled his first at bat and extended his hit streak to four in a row. Joachim reached base his final two at bats with a walk and fielder's choice to extend his on base streak to seven at bats. He also scored two runs and stole one base.

Jack Myers had a single that scored two runs and stole one base. **Brady Otero** had a single, one walk, and scored one run. **Jensen Morneau** reached base 2-of-3 times with two walks,

scored two runs, and had one stolen base. **Ben Hill** walked one time and scored one run. **Bryce Chapin** walked one time.



Nick Bobrowski pitched five innings to earn the win. He threw 71% strikes and walked no Lassiter batters.

Pope's pitching allowed just two earned runs, one walk, scattered six hits, and shut out the Trojans in the final five innings of the game. **Nick Bobrowski** (2-0) continued his impressive mound work and pitched five innings to earn the win. He wore out the plate with 71% strikes (58-82). Bobrowski walked no batters, struck out two, allowed just two earned runs, and picked off a base runner from first base on a 1-3-6 put out (Bobrowski to Chapin to Stuetzer).

Matt Levinson pitched two scoreless innings in relief to finish the game and earn the hold. He had a save in game one of the series. Levinson allowed no runs, no hits, struck out two, and retired 6-of-7 batters that he faced. Levinson ended the game with a strike out when the

Lassiter batter watched the final pitch disappear into catcher **Drew Abney's** glove to the sweet sound of the umpire yelling, strike three – game over.

Stuetzer and Morneau also led the Hounds defensive effort. Morneau made four put outs in center field, including an ESPN highlight catch on a ball that was hit way over his head. Morneau raced back toward the center field wall, tracked down the ball on the warning track, and caught it falling backwards.

Stuetzer was involved in three defensive outs at shortstop. One ground ball was hit up the middle on the second base side of the bag. Stuetzer raced to his left, reached down for the ball, fielded, and threw to Chapin at first base for the impressive out. Stuetzer also fielded a slow roller over the pitcher's mound and threw to Chapin for an equally impressive out.



Matt Levinson pitched two scoreless innings in relief to earn the hold. He retired 6-of-7 batters that he faced.

In the top of the first inning, Pope scored one run on one hit to take a 1-0 lead. Stuetzer led off with a full count walk. Stuetzer then stole second base. With one out, Tanner Morneau hit a first pitch line drive up the middle to score Stuetzer with the first run of the game. Morneau stole second base, but was unable to advance any further.

In the top of the second inning, Pope scored two runs on three hits to take a 3-1 lead. With one out, Otero hit a full count ground ball to shortstop and beat the throw to first for a base hit. Joachim hit a solid line drive single up the middle to center field and moved Otero to second. Jensen Morneau grounded out to the pitcher, but advanced Otero to third base and Joachim to second base. With two outs, Stuetzer hit a clutch full count double down the left field line to the wall to score Otero and Joachim.

In the top of the fourth inning, Pope sent eight batters to the plate and scored four runs on two hits to take a 7-3 lead. With one out, Joachim walked on a full count. Jensen Morneau was walked on four straight pitches. Stuetzer pulled a line drive single to left field and scored Joachim from second. The Hounds then pulled off a double steal with Jensen Morneau taking third base and Stuetzer moving to second base. Hill was walked on a full count to load the bases.

Tanner Morneau hit a fielder's choice ground ball to the second baseman, who tried to tag Hill running to second, but he missed the tag. Jensen Morneau scored from third on the play and the bases remained loaded. Myers then hit a first pitch line drive single to left field to score Stuetzer and Hill with the final runs of the game.

Pope plays Sprayberry next week with a best 2-of-3 region series. On Monday, the Hounds play at Sprayberry at 5:00. On Thursday, Pope hosts a doubleheader vs. the Yellow Jackets beginning at 5:00.

