



Game 23, April 5, 2024
Pope Greyhounds 4, Harrison Hoyas 2
Weather: 57 degrees, sunny, 12-19 mph winds
Played at Jeff Rowland Field at Pope High School
Varsity Record: Overall 16-7, Region 10-2
Non-Region Game



POPE BEATS HARRISON STUETZER LEADS HOUDS AND SETS ALL TIME STOLEN BASE RECORD



Junior John Stuetzer stole three bases and became the Hound's all-time career stolen base leader with 50 steals in just two seasons. Stuetzer also had one of Pope's two hits and scored three of the Hounds four runs.

Pope returned to action Friday afternoon following a few days off for Spring Break. The Hounds leaned on the fundamentals of small ball to earn a 4-2 win vs. Harrison in a non-region game at Jeff Rowland Field. Pope's offense had just two hits, but generated four runs with four walks, two HBP, two sacrifice bunts, two sacrifice flies, three stolen bases, and took advantage of one error. The Hounds overall record improves to 16-7 and region record remains at 10-2. Pope has won six-straight games.

Junior shortstop **John Stuetzer** led Pope with a record setting day. To begin, Stuetzer reached base 3-of-3 times with a single, a walk, one error, and scored three of Pope's four runs. However, it was Stuetzer's three stolen bases that propelled him to the top of the Pope record book for the most career stolen bases with 50 steals – in just two varsity seasons. Stuetzer surpassed his teammate from last year, Carson Kerce, who had 48 steals in three seasons. Kerce is now playing for Georgia Tech. Stuetzer has committed to play at Florida State. Pope's Head Coach **Chris Turco** is in fourth place on the career stolen base list with 29 steals.

Senior first baseman **Andrew Nelms** had the Hounds other hit with a double that scored one run. Nelms also had a sacrifice bunt that advanced a runner. **Tanner Morneau** walked one time, was hit by a pitch, and had a sacrifice fly that scored one run. **Carter Joachim** had a sacrifice fly that scored one run. **Hudson DeLine** walked one time, stole one base, and had a successful sacrifice bunt that advanced two runners. **Griffin Tamucci** walked one time and scored one run. **Drew Abney** had one RBI. **Brady Otero** was hit by a pitch.

Five Pope pitchers limited the Hoyas to two runs on five hits and combined to strike out eight batters. **Ethan Garrett** got the start and pitched three innings. He struck out five, scattered three hits, and threw 64% strikes (39-61). **Dawson Jones** (4-1) followed and got the win. Jones pitched one inning, allowed no runs, faced three batters, was bolstered by a defensive double play, and threw 71% strikes (10-14). **Ben Hill** pitched one inning, faced four batters, and allowed no runs. **Nick Truhan** pitched one inning, struck out one, faced three batters, and threw 63% strikes (10-16). **Matt Levinson** pitched the final inning and earned his second save. Levinson struck out two, retired all three batters he faced, and threw 75% strikes (9-12).

In the bottom of the first inning, Pope scored one run on one hit to tie the score 1-1. Stuetzer led off with a full count walk. Two pitches later, Stuetzer stole second base. On the play, the pitcher threw to first base. Stuetzer was caught leaning. He ran to second base, slid headfirst under the tag, and was safe for his 18th steal of the season. The steal tied Stuetzer for the most career stolen bases in Pope Baseball history at 48. Nelms followed, got a green light on a 3-0 pitch, and hit a sharp line drive double to the left field fence to score Stuetzer.

In the bottom of the second inning, Pope played small ball and scored one run on no hits, one walk, one HBP, and had two sacrifice bunts to take a 2-1 lead. Tamucci led off with a walk on a 3-1 count. Otero was hit by a pitch on a 2-0 count. DeLine put down a sacrifice bunt to first base and advanced Tamucci to third and Otero to second. With one out, Joachim hit a sacrifice fly to left field that scored Tamucci from third.

In the bottom of the third inning, Pope scored one run on one hit to take a 3-2 lead. Stuetzer led off with a first pitch line drive single to left field. Nelms moved Stuetzer to second base with a sacrifice bunt to the first baseman. Morneau walked on four pitches. Stuetzer and Morneau moved to second and third on a wild pitch. Abney hit a hard ground ball out that bounced off the first baseman's chin and scored Stuetzer from third.

In the top of the fourth inning, Harrison had a runner on first base with one out. The next Hoya batter hit a ground ball up the middle. Stuetzer ran down the ball behind second base. He flipped the ball out of his glove to Joachim covering second base for the out. Joachim pivoted and threw to Nelms at first base to complete the double play and end the inning.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, Pope scored one final run on no hits to take a 4-2 lead. Stuetzer led off with a high infield pop fly that bounced off the pitcher's glove and fell to the grass for an error. On the next pitch, Stuetzer stole second base, his 20th of the season, and set the Hounds all-time career stolen base record with 49. Three pitches later, Stuetzer stole third base for good measure and an even 50 steals for his career. With one out, Morneau hit a sacrifice fly to right field that scored Stuetzer standing up.

In the top of the sixth inning, the Harrison leadoff batter reached base with a softly hit single. Two pitches later, he tried to steal second base, but was thrown out by freshman catcher **Jensen Morneau**, who threw a strike to Stuetzer covering the base and beat the runner by three steps.

Pope hosts Marist Saturday afternoon at 1:00 in the final non-region regular season game