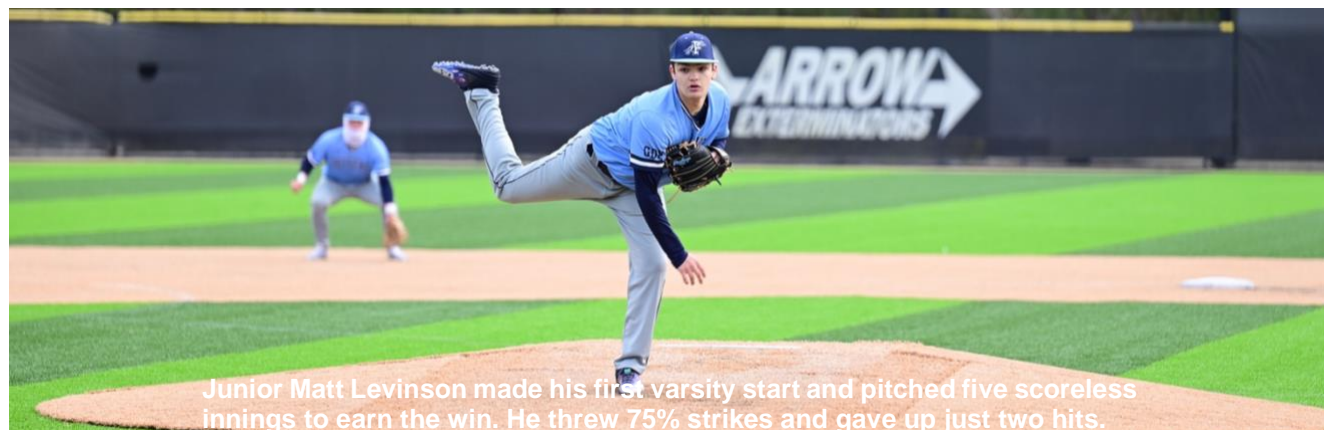




Game 3, February 17, 2024
Pope Greyhounds 3, Kennesaw Mtn Mustangs 1
Weather: 42 degrees, 13-22 mph winds
Played at LakePoint Sports in Emerson, GA
Varsity Record: Overall 2-1, Region 0-0
Georgia Dugout Club Tournament



POPE BEATS KENNESAW MOUNTAIN PITCHING AND DEFENSE LEAD HOUNDS



Junior Matt Levinson made his first varsity start and pitched five scoreless innings to earn the win. He threw 75% strikes and gave up just two hits.



Saturday morning got off to a challenging start for the Pope Greyhounds baseball team. The school bus transporting the team to the LakePoint Sports Complex for the Hounds doubleheader developed engine issues and was reduced to a top speed of 10 mph. The bus never made it to the interstate. An SOS went out to the amazing Pope parents, who showed up in full force with ample transportation, and the mini crisis was averted.

The Hounds quickly refocused on baseball and relied on strong pitching and defense to help Pope beat the Kennesaw Mustangs, 3-1, in game two of the Georgia Dugout Club Tournament. The Hounds overall season record is now 2-1.

Junior righthander **Matt Levinson** (1-0) made his first varsity start on the mound for Pope and earned the win. Levinson filled up the strike zone with a combination of fast balls and breaking pitches. He threw an impressive 75% strikes (41-55), allowed just two hits, no runs, no walks, and struck out three. At one point, Levinson retired nine batters in a row. Junior **Hudson DeLine** pitched the final two innings to earn his first varsity save.

Defensively, Pope continued to be perfect with no fielding errors. In the top of the second, the Hounds turned a nice 1-6-3 double play (Levinson to **John Stuetzer** to **Bryce Chapin**) to end the inning. In the top of the fourth with the bases loaded and two outs, third baseman **Andrew Nelms** fielded a ground ball and touched third base to end the inning with no runs allowed. In

the top of the seventh, freshman catcher **Jensen Morneau** made three block saves with runners on third base to prevent three runs.



Sophomore Ben Hill singled in the fifth inning and has collected a hit in his first three varsity games.

Pope collected four hits as a team. Senior **Jack Myers** slugged a triple and scored two of the Hounds three runs. Junior **Tanner Morneau** hit a double and scored one run. Chapin traded in his basketball shoes for the day and hit an RBI single. Sophomore **Ben Hill** hit a single to center field and extended his hitting streak to three games. Senior **Logan Castro** put down a sacrifice bunt that scored a run and reached base without a throw.

In the bottom of the first inning, Pope scored one run on two hits, all with two

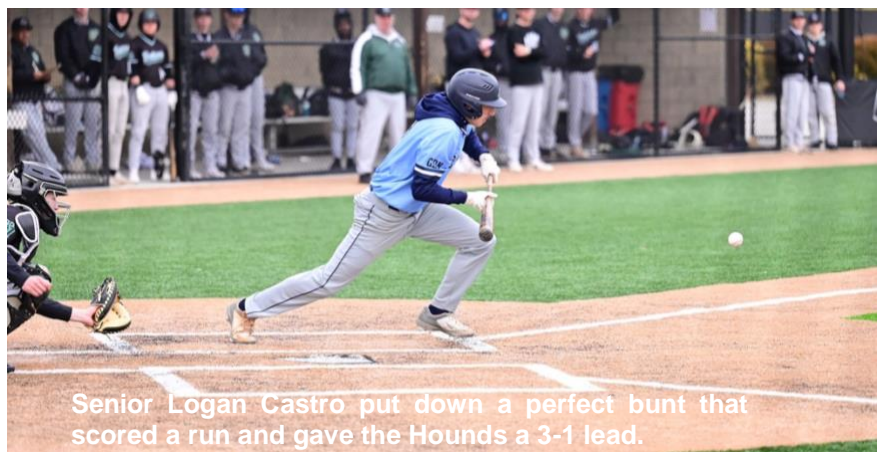
outs, to take a 1-0 lead. Myers drove an outside fastball 345 feet to the right center field gap all the way to the fence for a triple. Chapin followed and hit a bouncing ground ball up the middle. The second baseman back handed the ball, but Chapin beat the throw for a single and scored Myers on the play.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, holding onto a 1-0 lead, Pope scored two runs on one hit and a sacrifice bunt to get some breathing room. Tanner Morneau led off and punched an outside pitch over the first baseman's glove down the right field line for a hustle double. The throw from right field got past the shortstop covering second base and Morneau ran to third base.

With one out, Myers struck out swinging on a curve ball in the dirt, but the play was far from over. Myers sprinted to first base on the dropped third strike. The catcher's throw to first base hit Myers in the helmet and bounced towards short right field. Morneau scored on the play from third base with the Hounds second run of the game. Myers never stopped running and raced to second base. Another throw from right field got past the shortstop covering second base. Myers continued to run and was safe at third base with a Little League triple on a strike out!

Castro was called to pinch hit and executed a perfect first pitch sacrifice bunt down the third base line. Myers scored from third and Castro was safe at first with the RBI.

Pope continues action in the Georgia Dugout Tournament with a final game in 30 minutes vs. the undefeated Sequoyah Chiefs and a chance to win the division championship at the LakePoint Baseball Complex in Cartersville.



Senior Logan Castro put down a perfect bunt that scored a run and gave the Hounds a 3-1 lead.