



Game 31, April 25, 2024  
Pope Greyhounds 2, Allatoona Buccaneers 10  
Weather: 77 degrees, 4 mph winds  
Played at Jeff Rowland Field at Pope High School  
Overall Record 19-12  
GHSAA Playoffs Round One, Game One, Best 2-of-3 Series



## POPE DROPS GAME ONE TO ALLATOONA HOUNDS LOSE OPENER IN FIRST ROUND OF STATE PLAYOFFS



Perhaps lulled to sleep by the snail paced Allatoona pitchers, Pope's offense could not get untracked and managed just five hits, three coming in the first inning by the first three batters of the game, and the Hounds lost to the Buccaneers, 10-2, in game one of the GHSAA first round best 2-of-3 series. Pope trailed 4-2 heading into the sixth inning, but Allatoona scored six runs in the final two innings to put the game away.

Pope needed to refocus quickly to try and extend the series, as game two of the doubleheader at Jeff Rowland Field started 30 minutes following game one. Pope was the two-seed out of region seven and Allatoona was the three-seed out of region six. The Hounds overall record is 19-12 and Buccaneers are 21-10.

Five different players had one hit each for Pope. Senior **Andrew Nelms** had a double, one RBI, and scored one run. Junior **John Stuetzer** had a double and scored one run. Senior **Griffin Tamucci** had a sacrifice bunt that scored one run. Freshman **Luke Winbush** had a single and stole one base. Freshman **Jensen Morneau** had a two strike hustle single to second base. Junior **Tanner Morneau** had a single. Senior **Carter Joachim** walked on a full count. Senior **Brady Otero** reached base on a two strike HBP.

Senior **Dawson Jones** started for Pope, pitched six innings, threw 104 pitches, struck out five batters, and picked off a runner at first base.

In the bottom of the first inning, Pope's offense got off to a good start and scored two runs on three hits to tie the score 2-2. Stuetzer led off with a line drive hit over the center fielder's head

that bounced over the fence for a ground rule double. Nelms followed with his own line drive double down the left field line to the fence and scored Stuetzer from second base. Morneau made it three hits in a row with a line drive single past the shortstop into left field. Nelms sprinted to third and Morneau advanced to second base on the throw. Tamucci hit a 0-1 sacrifice bunt down the first base line to score Nelms from third base with what proved to be the Hounds final run of the game.



Freshman Luke Winbush made multiple defensive stops at third base.

Defensively, Winbush led Pope with multiple nice plays. In the top of the first inning, Morneau fielded a ground ball in center field and threw out a runner trying to advance to third base. Winbush made the catch and tag at third. In the top of the third inning, Jones had a ball deflect off his foot and it redirected to Winbush at third base. Winbush fielded the ball and threw to Nelms at first base to record the out. In the top

of the sixth, Winbush knocked down a line drive at third base. He chased the ball, picked it up, and threw to Nelms at first base to record the out.