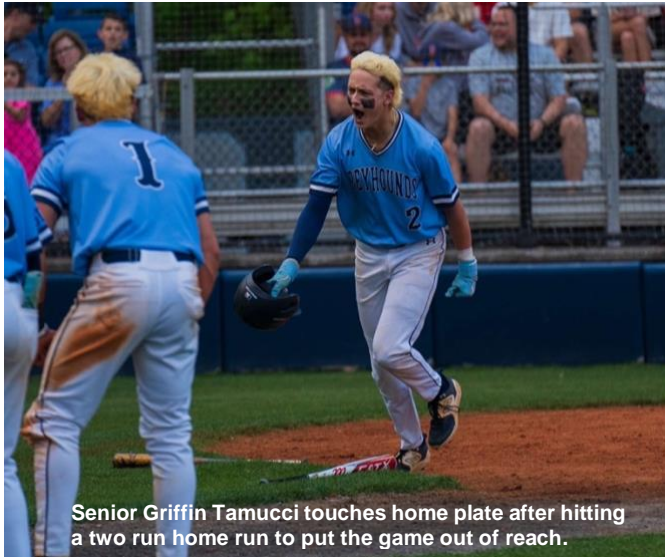




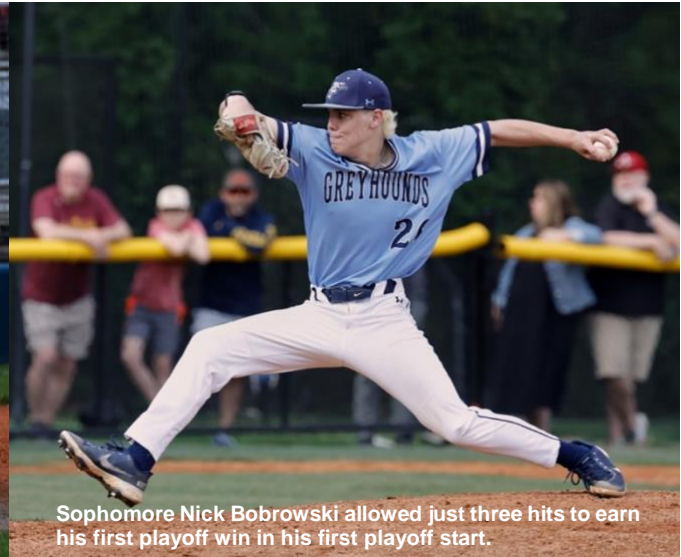
Game 33, April 26, 2024
Pope Greyhounds 11, Allatoona Buccaneers 2
Weather: 77 degrees, 11-18 mph winds
Played at Jeff Rowland Field at Pope High School
Overall Record 21-12
GHSB Playoffs Round One, Game Three, Best 2-of-3 Series



POPE WINS DECIDING GAME THREE AGAINST ALLATOONA HOUNDS ADVANCE TO SWEET 16 FOR THIRTEENTH TIME IN PAST 16 SEASONS



Senior Griffin Tamucci touches home plate after hitting a two run home run to put the game out of reach.



Sophomore Nick Bobrowski allowed just three hits to earn his first playoff win in his first playoff start.

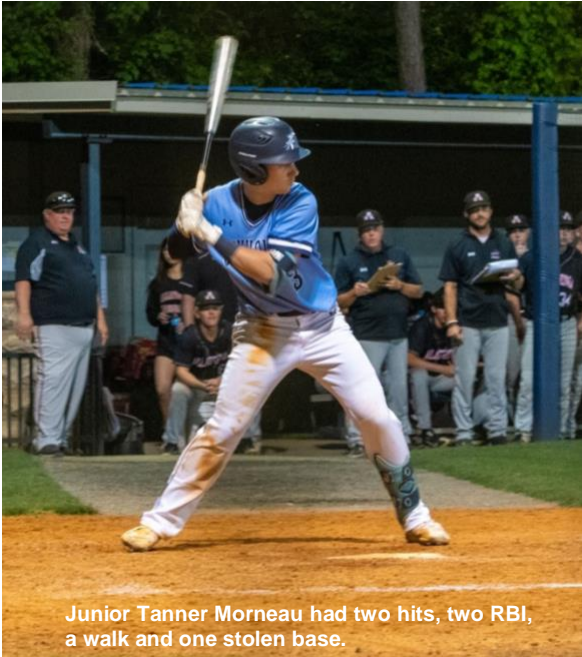


You could feel the tension and pressure before the deciding game three in the GHSB first round of the state playoffs best 2-of-3 series between Pope and Allatoona. You could also sense the anticipation and confidence of the golden haired Hounds before they stepped onto the perfectly manicured Jeff Rowland Field. That confidence was not misplaced. Pope scored three runs in the first inning, seven more runs in the next three innings, and raced past the highly talented Allatoona Buccaneers, 11-2, Thursday night, and advanced to the Sweet 16 for the 13th time in the past 16 seasons. Pope was the two-seed out of region seven and Allatoona was the three-seed out of region six. The Hounds overall record is 21-12 and the Buccaneers finish at 21-12.

Pope's offense collected nine hits, including a home run, a double, seven walks, two HBP, four stolen bases, and took advantage of five Allatoona errors. **Tanner Morneau** and **Carter Joachim** led the Hounds with two hits each. Morneau had two singles, a walk, one stolen base, two RBI, and scored two runs. Joachim slugged a double, a single, and scored one run. **Griffin Tamucci** launched a 345-foot two run home run, scored one run, and was hit by a pitch.

John Stuetzer reached base 5-of-5 times with a single, three walks, and a fielder's choice. Stuetzer scored two runs and stole two bases. **Brady Otero** had an RBI single, was hit by a pitch, and scored one run. **Ben Hill** had a single, two RBI, scored one run, reached base by an error, and stole one base. **Luke Winbush** had an RBI single. **Andrew Nelms** walked one time, scored one run, and had a sacrifice bunt to advance a runner who eventually scored. **Drew Abney** walked one time, reached base by an error, and put down a sacrifice bunt to advance a runner who eventually scored. **Regan Cochran** scored two runs.

Steady sophomore left hander **Nick Bobrowski** (7-1) got the start for the elimination game and did not blink. Bobrowski pitched five innings, threw 96 pitches, scattered three hits, held Allatoona to two runs, and struck out six to earn his team leading seventh win of the season. Bobrowski struck out at least one batter in all five innings he pitched. **Nick Truhan** pitched the final two innings in relief, allowed no runs, two hits, and struck out one. Truhan covered up the plate and threw 21-of-25 pitches for strikes (84%). Bobrowski and Truhan held Allatoona's first six batters hitless for the game.



In the bottom of the first inning, Pope scored three runs on three hits and took an early 3-0 lead. It was all the runs the Hounds needed to win. Stuetzer led off with a first pitch line drive single past the third baseman and into left field. Three pitches later, Stuetzer stole third base. Nelms hit a fielder's choice ground ball to the shortstop. Stuetzer ran on the play. The shortstop threw to third, but Stuetzer beat the throw and was safe. The ball got away into the Allatoona dugout, and Stuetzer was awarded home on the errant throw. Nelms advanced to second base on the play. Morneau hit an opposite field line drive slice single into right center field to score Nelms. Tamucci grounded out 6-3 and advanced Morneau to second base. With one out, Otero hit an opposite field line drive single past the first baseman into right field and scored Morneau.

In the top of the second inning, Winbush showed off some leather at third base. With one out, on a 3-2 count, and runners on first and third, the Allatoona batter hit a line drive towards third base that appeared to be heading down the left field line. Winbush reacted to the hit, reached to his right, backhanded the ball, and snagged it for the second out of the inning. Bobrowski struck out the next Buccaneer batter swinging on a 2-2 pitch to end the inning with no runs allowed.

In the bottom of the second inning, Pope scored one run on one hit to take a 4-0 lead. With one out, Joachim pulled a two strike breaking pitch down the left field line for a double. Stuetzer worked a 10 pitch count for a walk, including five foul balls. Nelms hit a sacrifice bunt to first base and moved Joachim to third and Stuetzer to second. On the play, Nelms tried to avoid the tag at first base and almost ran over Coach Nelson, who side stepped the near contact with cat like reflexes. Three pitches later, Joachim scored from third base on a wild pitch.

In the bottom of the third, Pope scored one run on one hit to take a 5-0 lead. Otero led off and was hit by a pitch. Abney had a successful sacrifice bunt to the pitcher and moved Otero to second base. Hill hit a two strike bouncing ground ball up the middle into center field for a single and scored Otero.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, Pope sent 10 batters to the plate and scored five runs on four hits to take a commanding 10-0 lead. Stuetzer led off with a full count walk. Three pitches later, Stuetzer stole second base. With one out, Morneau hit an opposite field slap single to right field and scored Stuetzer. Tamucci stepped to the plate with a plan to look for an early fastball. Instead, Tamucci got a curve ball down in the zone. He made an adjustment, took a smooth lefty swing, and sent the ball sailing towards right center field. As Tamucci rounded first base

at a full sprint, the crowd erupted as the ball sailed over the fence toward the scoreboard for a two run home run that scored Morneau. Tamucci slowed to a respectful trot around the bases before being mobbed by his teammates after touching home plate. It was Tamucci's first career high school home run.



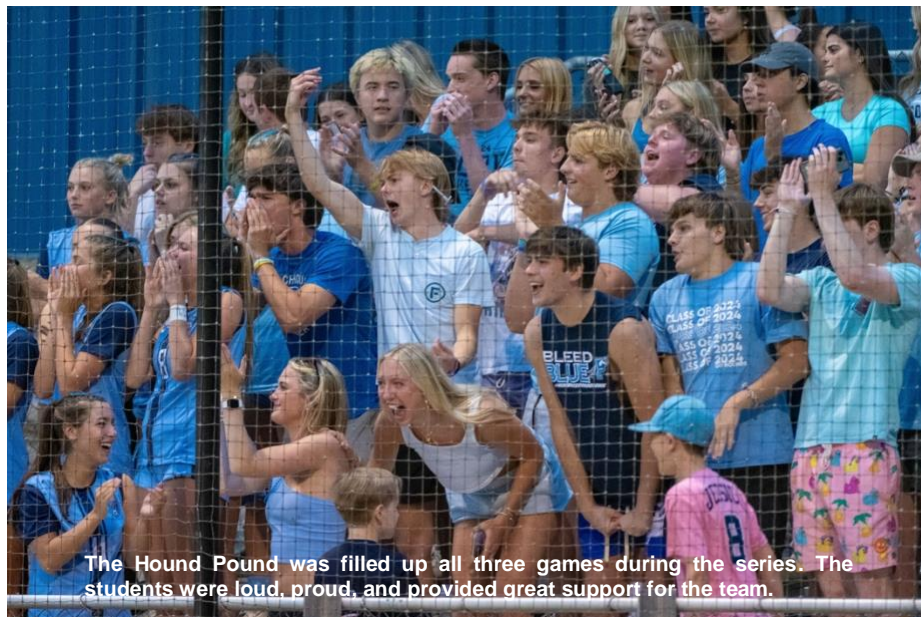
Senior Carter Joachim stands on second base after his double in the second inning. He later scored.

The Hounds continued to pile on the runs. With two outs, Abney walked on a 3-1 pitch. Cochran ran for Abney. Hill walked on a 3-1 pitch. Cochran moved to second base. Two pitches later, the Allatoona pitcher threw to first base on a pick off attempt. The first baseman was not holding the runner on base. The ball went into right field and Cochran scored from second base and Hill ran to third. Winbush hit a two strike line drive single over the second baseman's head into right field and scored Hill from second. Joachim hit a line drive single to center field and moved Winbush to second base. Both runners were unable to score, but the damage was done.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Pope scored one final run on no hits to take an 11-2 lead. Abney reached base on a throwing error to first base by the pitcher. Cochran ran for Abney. Two pitches later, the pitcher attempted a pick off at first base, but the ball was overthrown and Cochran sprinted

to third base. Hill reached base on a fielding error by the first baseman and was credited with a RBI when Cochran scored on the play.

Pope plays in the Sweet 16 and will host a doubleheader on Wednesday vs. East Paulding. The first game starts at 5:00 and the second game follows 30 minutes later. Game three, if necessary, will be played on Thursday at Pope at 6:00. East Paulding was the four seed out of region five. In the first round, East Paulding upset Apalachee, a one seed out of region eight.



The Hound Pound was filled up all three games during the series. The students were loud, proud, and provided great support for the team.