



Game 34, May 1, 2024
Pope Greyhounds 4, East Paulding Raiders 6
Weather: 81 degrees, 5 mph winds
Played at Jeff Rowland Field at Pope High School
Overall Record 21-13
GHSA Playoffs SWEET 16, Game One, Best 2-of-3 Series



POPE LOSES LATE TO EAST PAULDING HOUNDS DROP GAME ONE IN SWEET 16



Drew Abney led Pope's offense with a double that scored two runs and a one walk. Abney also made three defensive put outs from his catcher's position at home plate.



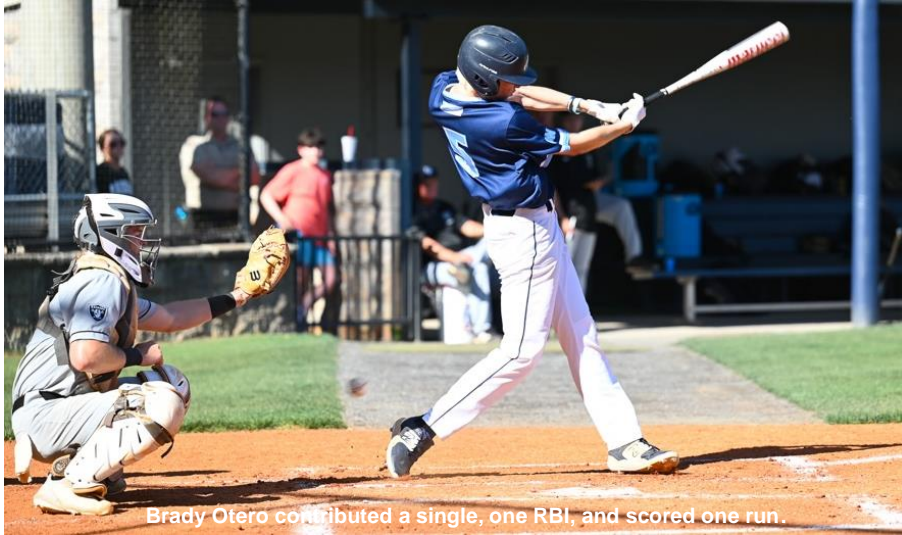
Pope and East Paulding were tied 4-4 after six innings. The Raiders scored two runs in the top of the seventh and the Hounds could not push across any runs in the bottom of the inning and lost, 6-4, in game one of the GHSA Sweet 16 round of the state playoffs at Jeff Rowland Field. Pope was out hit 14-6, but kept the game close with three put outs at home plate and two double plays.

The Hounds were the two seed out of region seven and the Raiders were the four seed out of region six. Pope's overall record is 21-13 and East Paulding is 20-13.

Five different players each had one hit for the Hounds. **Drew Abney** had a double, two RBI, and walked one time. **Andrew Nelms** reached base 3-of-3 times with a single, HBP, walk, scored one run, and had one stolen base. **Brady Otero** had a single, one RBI and scored one run. **Carter Joachim** had a single and walked one time. **John Stuetzer** had a single and stole one base. **Luke Winbush** had a single and walked one time. Winbush was also involved in five defensive plays at third base. **Tanner Morneau** walked one time and scored one run. **Griffin Tamucci** walked one time. **Ben Hill** was hit by a pitch. **Regan Cochran** scored one run.

Senior **Dawson Jones** started for Pope and had a no decision. Jones pitched 4.2 innings, scattered six hits, struck out three, gave up four runs, and threw 60% strikes (47-78). Junior **Nick Truhan** pitched two innings and threw 78% strikes (29-37). Freshman **Jacob Israel**, who

was called up from the JV, made his varsity debut, pitched to one batter, and got a 4-3 put out to end the top of the seventh inning.



Brady Otero contributed a single, one RBI, and scored one run.

In the bottom of the third inning, Pope sent nine batters to the plate and scored all four of their runs on three hits to take a 4-3 lead. Nelms led off with a HBP at his shoulder. Morneau walked on four pitches. With one out, Otero hit a slice line drive single to right field and scored Nelms from second. Morneau advanced to third. Abney slugged a double to center field and scored Morneau

and Otero. Abney ran to second on the throw home. Cochran ran for Abney. Hill grounded out to the pitcher, but scored Cochran from third. With two outs, Winbush hit a one bounce hop infield single to the third baseman, who lost the ball in the sun. Winbush was unable to score.

In the top of the second inning, with the bases loaded and no outs, a curve ball in the dirt bounced away from Abney at catcher. Abney tracked down the ball, slid to his knees, and threw to Jones covering home. Jones dove towards the runner, applied the tag, and held onto the ball for the out.

In the third inning, Pope turned a 5-4-3 double play (Winbush to Joachim to Nelms). Winbush fielded a high bounce, Joachim made a nice turn, and Nelms safely picked a one hop bounce to complete the play.

In the top of the fourth inning, Pope turned another 5-4-3 double play (Winbush to Joachim to Nelms). Two batters later, the batter hit a one hop bounce in the sun to Winbush at third. Winbush fielded the ball and threw to Nelms at first for the out and ended the inning.

In the top of the sixth inning, Pope's defense made back to back outs at home plate to keep the score tied, 4-4. With one out and runners on first and second base, the Raider batter hit a line drive single to center field. The runner from second rounded third and was sprinting home. Morneau fielded the ball cleanly in center field and threw a three bounce strike to Abney at catcher. Abney caught the ball and held on for the dramatic out.

With two outs and runners still at first and second base, the next East Paulding batter hit a single to left field. Hill fielded the ball and threw to Winbush (cutoff man) who relayed to Abney at catcher. Abney caught the ball, waited on the runner, and tagged the runner for the third out. East Paulding had four straight hits in the inning and scored no runs.

Game two followed 30 minutes after game one.