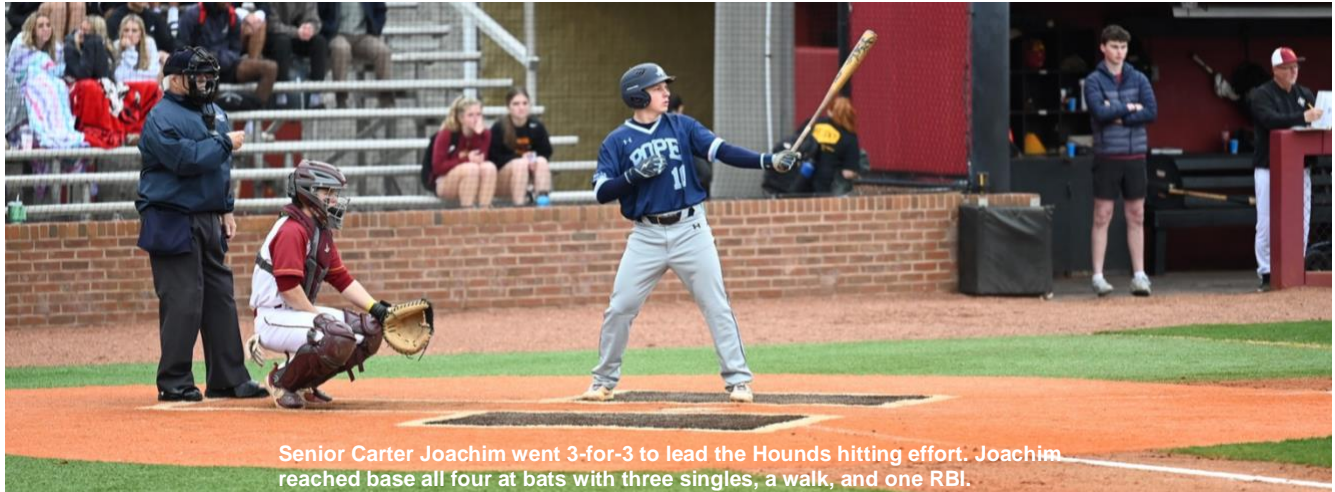




Game 9, February 29, 2024
Pope Greyhounds 7, Lassiter Trojans 9
Weather: 52 degrees, 4 mph winds
Doubleheader Played at Lassiter High School
Varsity Record: Overall 5-4, Region 1-1
Game 2 of Best 2-of-3 Region Series



POPE LOSES LATE TO LASSITER HOUNDS DROP GAME TWO OF SERIES



Senior Carter Joachim went 3-for-3 to lead the Hounds hitting effort. Joachim reached base all four at bats with three singles, a walk, and one RBI.

Pope fell behind early to Lassiter and trailed by as many as four runs. The Hounds fought back and scored four runs in the top of the sixth inning to take a 7-6 lead, but could not hold on and lost 9-7 to the Trojans in game two of the best 2-of-3 region series played Tuesday night at Lassiter High School. Pope's region record is 1-1 and overall record is 5-4.

Senior second baseman **Carter Joachim** was perfect at the plate and went 3-for-3 to lead Pope's 11-hit effort. Joachim reached base 4-of-4 times with three singles, a walk, one RBI and one stolen base. **Tanner Morneau** had two singles, one RBI, and one stolen base. **Bryce Chapin** had two singles and one stolen base.

Brady Otero had a double, two walks, scored three runs, and stole two bases. **John Stuetzer** had one single, one HBP, two stolen bases, and scored two runs. **Ben Hill** had a single, reached base by a HBP, and stole one base. **Jack Myers** walked one time. **Regan Cochran** scored one run. The Hounds had eight stolen bases, including two double steals, benefitted from a balk and three walks.

Junior righthander **Ethan Garrett** started on the mound for the Hounds and pitched four innings. Garrett struck out six batters and threw 62% strikes (51-82). **Nick Truhan** pitched 1.1 innings, allowed no runs, and struck out two.

In the top of the second inning, Pope scored one run on two hits to tie the score 1-1. With one out, Chapin hit a line drive single up the middle into center field. Otero hit into a fielder's choice and Chapin was forced out at second base. With two outs, Joachim hit a single off the end of his bat that dropped safely into center field. Otero was running on the play and hustled to third base. Two pitches later, Otero scored on a passed ball.



Senior Bryce Chapin hit two singles and stole one base.

Junior Hudson DeLine hit a single that scored one run.

In the top of the fourth inning, Pope scored one run on two hits to cut Lassiter's lead to 5-2. With two outs, Otero hit a one hop line drive just inside third base down the left field line for a stand up double. Joachim walked on a 3-1 count. Pope executed a double steal with Otero safe at third and Joachim safe at second. DeLine slugged a hard ground ball into right field that scored Otero.

In the top of the fifth inning, Pope scored one run on two hits to reduce the Lassiter lead to 6-3. Stuetzer led off with a one hop line drive single past the shortstop into left field. Stuetzer stole second base on the next pitch. Hill fought off an inside pitch and punched it into right field for a single and scored Stuetzer from second.

In the top of the sixth inning, trailing 6-3, Pope sent nine batters to the plate and scored four runs on three hits to take a 7-6 lead. Chapin led off with a two-strike line drive single to center field. Cochran ran for Chapin. Otero walked on a 3-1 count. Pope called a double steal with Cochran safe at third and Otero safe at second. Joachim hit a two-strike single into right field that scored Cochran and cut the Trojan lead to two runs. Otero advanced to third base.

With two outs, Otero scored on a balk by the Trojan pitcher to cut the lead to one run. Stuetzer reached first base by a HBP. After three pick off attempts and three pitches, Stuetzer stole second base. Hill struck out swinging, but the ball got past the catcher all the way to the backstop wall. Hill ran to first base and was safe. Stuetzer never slowed down and raced all the way home from second base. He scored on a headfirst slide with his hand safely touching the plate just under the catcher's mitt to tie the score. Truhan ran for Hill. Morneau hit a line drive single up the middle into center field and scored Truhan with the go-ahead run and Pope's first lead of the game.

In the bottom of the sixth, Morneau made the defensive play of the game. A Lassiter batter hit a slicing line drive to left center field. The ball clearly looked like it was going to drop for a base hit. Suddenly, Morneau appeared out of nowhere. He dove for the ball and caught it for the out as he fell to the ground.

Pope and Lassiter will play game three in 30 minutes to determine the winner of the best 2-of-3 region series.