FABULOUS PITCHING PERFORMANCES FOULED UP IN POPE JV LAST INNING LOSS TO SEQUOYAH 1-2 March 12, 2024

Fans were treated to three Pope JV pitchers throwing some of their best stuff of the season across seven innings only to have the last call not go in favor of the Greyhounds. **Jacob Israel** started the game and gave up five hits across five innings with zero runs scored while striking out <u>10</u> <u>players</u> and walking just one.

Israel's mix of speeds on his pitches- peppering his barrage of fast balls with some slow lazy curves, had the Sequoyah batters guessing and swatting at balls they couldn't time up. Freshman **Ian Hair** came out of the pen to start the bottom of the 6th. Hair pitched into trouble giving up a lead off walk, recovered with a strike out and a great catch in shallow left by **Ryan Healy** after the runner had moved to second. The next batter walked with the help of a strike zone that wandered most of the game. With runners on first and second, Hair dug in and recorded the third out with a strike out swinging. Sequoyah was held scoreless at this point.

In the bottom of the 7th, **Parker Troughton** came into clean things up with the Greyhounds up 1-0. Troughton walked the first batter and got the next batter to bunt the ball back to him. With 1 out and a runner on, the freshman hurler got behind the batter 3-0 and worked the count to 3-2 and had the batter whiff at a 77mph fastball for out number two. The next batter reached on an error. The next batter came up with runners on first and second. He hit the ball hard two plus feet foul on the first base side of the field, in fact. However, it was seen differently by the umpire behind the plate, allowing two runs to score ending the game.

The Greyhounds battled at the plate all evening and got on the board in the 4th inning when **Luke Winbush** led off the inning with a full count walk and a steal of second. **Aaron Best** hit a fly to left field for an out and **Thomas Williams** cranked a ball to the warning track that was snagged for the second out of the inning. **Maddox Corya**'s two out single line drive to center field scored the speedy Winbush.

Corya also had a hit in the 2nd to bring his total to two on the evening and **Everett Espe** hit a double to centerfield in the 5th accounted for the Greyhounds 3 hits on the evening. On the basepaths, **Luke Winbush** swiped two bases and Corya swiped one. **Hall Mitchell** and Winbush were patient at the plate two times each to draw walks and **Parker Troughton** also drew one free pass.

While the game didn't end fairly, pun intended, the Greyhounds will take the field at home on Wednesday evening in a rematch. First pitch is slated for 6pm.