



Game 10, March 4, 2023
Pope Greyhounds Varsity 7, Lassiter Trojans 8
Weather: 66 degrees, 10-17 mph winds
Played at Jeff Rowland Field at Pope High School
Record: Overall 7-3, Region 1-2



POPE LOSES BY A RUN

Pope lost to Lassiter, 8-7, in a hotly contested and tightly competitive game on Saturday afternoon. Pope's overall record is 7-3 and region record is 1-2.

An overflow crowd filled the stands at Jeff Rowland Field and watched three hours and fifteen minutes of baseball. The game started under sunny blue skies and finished in darkness with a chill in the air. The two teams combined to throw 301 pitches (Pope 173, Lassiter 128), 14 walks (seven each), six batters hit by a pitch (three each), 18 strikeouts (nine each), and defensively combined to commit 10 errors (Pope 4, Lassiter 6). Pope's offense had six hits and the Trojans had eight.

Sophomore **John Stuetzer** led Pope with two bunt single hits, two runs scored, one walk, and one stolen base. **Carson Kerce** had a single, walked twice, and scored three runs. **Kent Schmidt** slugged a two RBI double. **Jack Myers** reached base 4-of-4 times on two walks, two errors, and scored two runs. **Eli Overstreet** had an RBI single and walked one time. **Jesse Walter** had an RBI single. **Cooper Orr** walked one time.



Sophomore **Ethan Garrett** started for the Hounds, struck out five, and scattered four hits. **David Lovell** pitched one inning and struck out two. **Carson Kerce** pitched the final two innings and struck out two.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, Pope trailed 8-5. The Hounds sent seven batters to the plate, scored two runs, had two hits, and three walks. Myers led off with a walk on a 3-1 count. Four pitches later, he was thrown out trying to steal second base. Stuetzer then walked on a 3-1 count. With one out, Kerce hit a line drive single to centerfield. Stuetzer raced from first base to third base and beat the throw from the centerfielder. Kerce took second base on the throw. Two pitches later, Stuetzer scored on a wild pitch from third and Pope cut the lead to 8-6. Kerce moved to third on the play. Schmidt hit a 3-2 pitch between the third baseman's legs and into left field. Kerce was running on the play and scored from third to cut the lead to 8-7. With two outs, Overstreet walked on a full count to put runners on first and second. Walter followed and hit a ground ball deep in the hole at shortstop. Walter hustled down the line and

beat the throw to first base for an infield single. The runner sprinted from second base on the hit, but was thrown out at home on a close play to end the game.

In the top of the first inning, Lassiter had a runner on third base with two outs. The Trojans batter hit an opposite field slice to left field. Pope left fielder **Andrew Walters** took two steps back, ran in toward the left field line, battled the sun directly in his eyes, dove, and caught the ball for the out to end the inning with no runs.

In the bottom of the first inning, Pope scored one run on one hit and two Trojan errors to take a 1-0 lead. Myers led off and reached base on an error by the shortstop. Myers was awarded second base when the throw went into the Pope dugout. Stuetzer singled on a perfectly placed bunt down the third base line and beat the throw by three steps. Myers advanced to third on the play. Kerce grounded out, but scored Myers from third. Schmidt reached base on a full-count catcher's interference error to load the bases, but the Hounds were not able to score any additional runs.

In the top of the second inning, a Lassiter batter hit a sinking line drive to right field. Senior right fielder, **Logan Rapp**, raced in, dove, and caught the ball for the first out of the inning.

In the top of the third inning, Lassiter loaded the bases with no outs. Garrett struck out the next hitter swinging. The next batter hit a one-hop grounder to Myers at third base. Myers fielded the ball on the third base line and threw to catcher **Andrew Nelms** for the second out of the inning. Garrett then struck out the next Lassiter batter on a 3-2 pitch to end the inning with no runs allowed.

In the bottom of the third inning, trailing 3-1, Pope sent eight batters to the plate, scored three runs, had three hits, and two walks, to take a 4-3 lead. With one out, Myers reached base on a four-pitch walk. He advanced to second on a wild pitch. Stuetzer followed with another nice bunt single, this time to the left of the pitcher. Myers advanced to third. Stuetzer then stole second base. Kerce walked on a 3-1 count to load the bases. Schmidt pulled a first pitch fastball, up and in, over the right fielder's head for a line drive double. The ball rolled to the fence and scored Myers and Stuetzer to tie the game. Kerce moved to third on the hit. Overstreet followed and pulled a fastball just off his hands into left field for a single and scored Kerce to give the Hounds the lead.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, Pope trailed 4-3. The Hounds scored one run on two walks and an error to tie the score. With one out, Kerce walked on a full count and moved to second base on a passed ball. Schmidt grounded out to second base and moved Kerce to third. With two outs, Overstreet hit a ground ball to the shortstop, who threw high to first base. Overstreet hustled past the tag and was safe on the error. Kerce scored from third.

Before the game, Pope celebrated the **10-year-anniversary of the 2013 State Baseball Championship team**. The coaches and players were welcomed back to the same field where the team won the championship and the school's second state title. Pope has gone on to win three more state titles for a total of five, the most in Cobb County history.

Pope continues region play this week with a three-game series vs. Sprayberry. On Tuesday, the Hounds host the Yellow Jackets at Jeff Rowland Field at 5:55. On Thursday and Friday Pope travels to Sprayberry to play games two and three at 5:55.