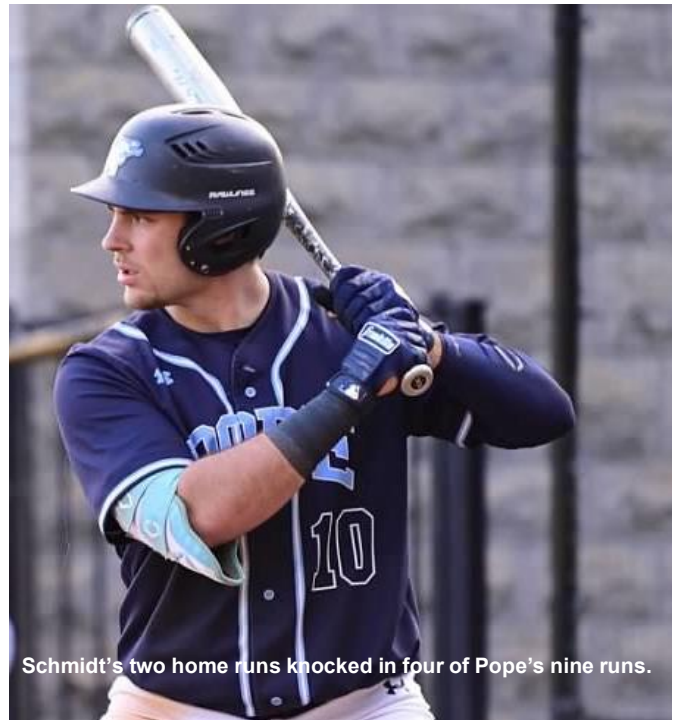


POPE HANDLES NORTH FORSYTH SCHMIDT BLASTS TWO HOME RUNS

In five of the previous eight games, Pope senior cleanup batter **Kent Schmidt** hit line drive doubles that bounced off various heights of the outfield fences. Several of the hits looked like home runs and prompted an early bat flip or two. Monday night at chilly North Forsyth High School, Schmidt left no doubt about any fences, and barreled two monster home runs deep into the woods, to lead Pope past the Raiders, 9-2, in a non-region game. Pope's overall record is 11-3 and region record is 4-2.

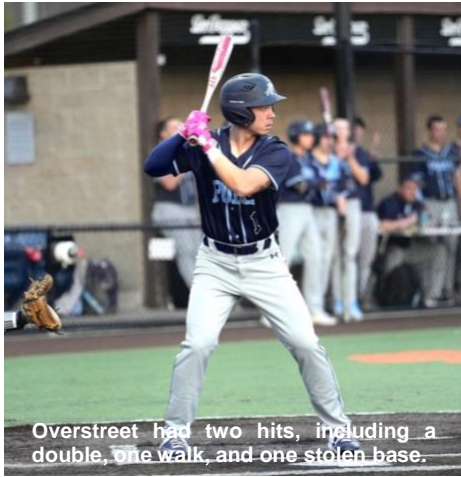
Schmidt's first home run came in the first inning with two outs and two strikes. Schmidt pulled a fastball over the right field fence and enjoyed his quickly paced trot around the bases. The second home run came in the sixth inning with one out. Schmidt crushed a fastball so deep that the North Forsyth center fielder did not move. He simply stood in place, turned his head to the left, and watched the ball soar over the fence into the trees.



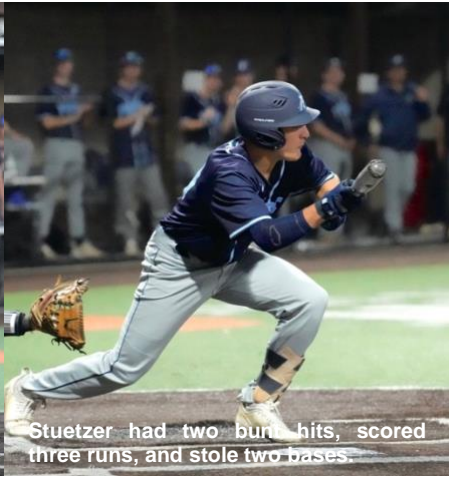
Pope's offense featured four players with a multi-hit game. The Hounds totaled 10 hits, including two doubles and two home runs. Schmidt led the charge with two home runs, four RBI, two runs scored, and one walk. **Eli Overstreet** had two hits with a double, one walk, one run scored, and one stolen base. **John Stuetzer** put down two bunt singles, one walk, one RBI, scored three runs, and had two stolen bases. **Logan Rapp** had two singles and scored a run. **Jack Myers** had a single, two RBI, and walked one time. **Andrew Nelms** hit a double. **Carson Kerce** walked one time, scored one run, and stole one base. **Jesse Walter** walked one time. **Logan Castro** scored one run.

Five Pope pitchers scattered seven hits, struck out 13 batters, and allowed two runs. **Dawson Jones** started, pitched two innings, and struck out three. **David Lovell** (2-1) pitched the next two innings to earn the win. Lovell struck out three and allowed no runs. Stuetzer pitched one inning, struck out two, and allowed no runs. Myers pitched one inning, struck out three, and allowed no runs. Kerce pitched the final inning, struck out two, and allowed no runs.

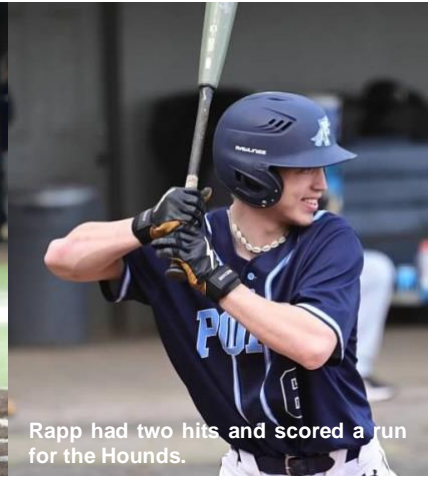
In the top of the first inning, Pope grabbed a 2-0 lead. With one out, Stuetzer walked on a full count. Stuetzer stole second base after getting a big jump on the pitcher. With two outs, Schmidt hit his first home run and scored Stuetzer.



Overstreet had two hits, including a double, one walk, and one stolen base.



Stuetzer had two bunt hits, scored three runs, and stole two bases.



Rapp had two hits and scored a run for the Hounds.

In the top of the third inning, with the score tied 2-2, Pope scored two runs on three hits to take a 4-2 lead. Overstreet led off with a two-strike double off the left center field fence. Stuetzer put down a perfect first-pitch bunt single just past the pitcher toward third base that did not even draw a throw. Overstreet advanced to third base. Stuetzer stole second base. With one out, Schmidt walked on four pitches to load the bases. Myers hit a two-strike single past the shortstop in the hole into left field to score Overstreet and a head-first sliding Stuetzer from second base.

In the top of the sixth inning, the Hounds broke open the game. Pope sent eight batters to the plate and scored five runs on five hits to take a 9-2 lead. Nelms led off with a two-strike line drive stand up double over the center fielder's head. Castro ran for Nelms. Rapp bunted a ball literally at his face down the third base line for an infield single. Overstreet hit a line drive single over the center fielder's head to score Castro from second. Rapp moved to third from first base. Stuetzer bunted a pitch in front of home plate for a safety squeeze single and scored Rapp. Kerce hit into a fielder's choice and Overstreet was forced out at third base. Stuetzer and Kerce were balked to second and third base. Stuetzer then scored on a wild pitch and Kerce moved to third. Schmidt hit his second home run and scored Kerce.

Pope hosts Northview at 6:00 on Thursday. Pre-game, the Hounds will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Night. Post-game, the Hounds will honor the seniors at Senior Night. On Friday, Pope hosts Marietta at 6:00, weather permitting. If the game is rained out, it will be made up on Saturday.