



Game 15, March 16, 2023
Pope Greyhounds Varsity 11, Northview Titans 0
Six-Inning Run Rule Game
Weather: 68 degrees, 9 mph winds
Played at Jeff Rowland Field at Pope High School
Record: Overall 12-3, Region 4-2



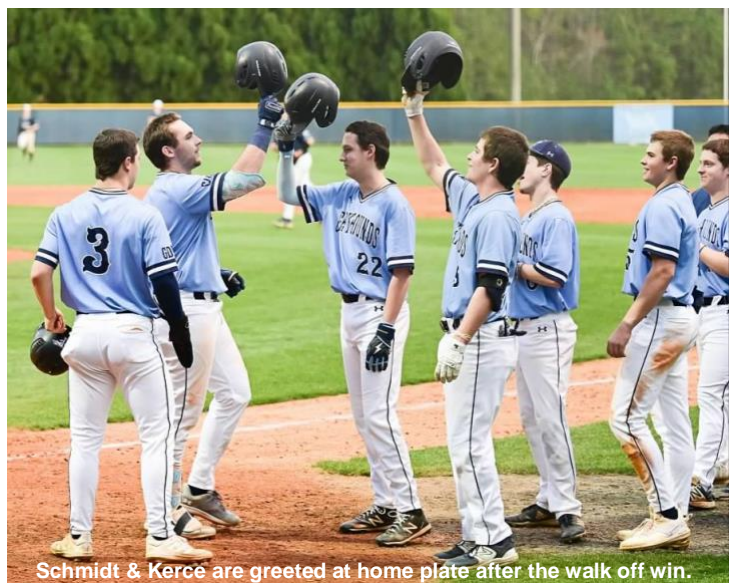
POPE RUN RULES NORTHVIEW SCHMIDT HITS TWO HOME RUNS AND WALKS OFF SENIOR NIGHT



On Senior Night, it was only fitting that senior **Kent Schmidt** hit a 370-foot walk off home run that scored senior **Carson Kerce** with the game ending run. The Hounds raced past Northview, 11-0, in a non-region game Thursday night at Jeff Rowland Field. Schmidt and Kerce are Pope's two senior leaders who have set the championship tone for the team the past two seasons. The Hound's overall record is 12-3 and region record is 4-2.

Schmidt remained red hot and followed his two-home run effort on Monday night with two more home runs against Northview. He almost had three with a double that hit off the fence. Schmidt went 3-for-3 with four RBI and three runs scored. Kerce walked twice, scored two runs, stole one base, had a sacrifice fly that scored one run, and made three defensive put outs.

Pope's offense totaled 10 hits, including five extra base hits with three doubles and two home runs. The Hounds did not strike out during the game. Senior **Eli Overstreet** had two hits with a double,



one RBI, two runs scored, and one stolen base. Senior **Jake Gastley** had a single, one walk, one stolen base, and one run scored. Senior **Andrew Walters** had a single, was hit by a pitch, stole one base, and scored one run. Sophomore **John Stuetzer** went 2-for-2 with a double, one walk, one RBI, two runs scored, and one stolen base. Junior **Jack Myers** had a single that scored run one and a sacrifice fly that scored another run.

Three Pope pitchers combined to shut out the Titans. They allowed just four hits, no walks, and struck out seven. The Hounds filled up the strike zone, threw 78% strikes (56-72), and retired the last nine batters of the game. Senior left hander **Blythe Keisler** (5-0) started and pitched four innings to earn the win. Keisler struck out five, scattered four hits, and threw 74% strikes (43-58). Senior right hander **Andrew Walters** pitched one inning and retired the side in order. Walters struck out one and threw 75% strikes (6-8). Junior right hander **Bryce Chapin** pitched the final inning and also retired the side in order. Chapin struck out one and threw 86% strikes (6-7).

In the bottom of the first inning, Pope took a 3-0 lead on two hits, two walks, and one error. Overstreet led off and reached base on a ball misplayed by the Northview shortstop. Overstreet stole second base. Stuetzer hit a one-bounce double to the left field fence that scored Overstreet. Stuetzer advanced to third on a passed ball. Kerce walked on four pitches and then stole second base. Schmidt walked on a full count to load the bases with no outs. Stuetzer scored from third on a passed ball. Myers hit a ground ball to the shortstop and beat the throw to first base for an infield single. Kerce scored on the play.

In the top of the third inning, the Northview leadoff batter hit a soft ground ball towards third base. Senior catcher **Jesse Walter** pounced on the ball and threw to Schmidt at first base to record the out on a nice play.

In the bottom of the third inning, Pope scored one run on one hit. It was a big hit. Schmidt led off the inning and pulled an inside fastball 315-feet down the right field line. It stayed fair just left of the foul pole and over the fence for a solo home run.

In the bottom of the fourth, Pope scored five runs on five hits to take a 9-0 lead. Gastley led off with a line drive single to left field. Walters pulled a fastball past the second baseman into right field for a single. Gastley hustled to third on the play. Three pitches later, Walters broke for second base. The Northview pitcher threw to the first baseman, who then threw to second base. Gastley broke for home and scored standing up. Walters was safe at second base. Overstreet hit a full count line drive double down the left field line to the fence that scored Walters. Stuetzer placed a bunt past the pitcher towards third base for a single that was not even touched. Overstreet advanced to third. Stuetzer then stole second base. Kerce hit a two-strike sacrifice fly to center field that scored Overstreet. Schmidt followed and hit a two-strike, 340-foot line drive double to right field that hit the middle of the 2017 State Championship banner. Stuetzer scored on the hit. Schmidt moved to third on a wild pitch. Myers hit a sacrifice fly to right field that scored Schmidt.

With two outs in the fourth inning, senior pitcher **David Lovell** dusted off his bat, strapped on an elbow and shin guard, and made his way to home plate for his first varsity at bat. On a 1-1 pitch, Lovell hit a line drive to left field that was caught, but did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Hounds dugout that erupted with respect for the well hit ball.

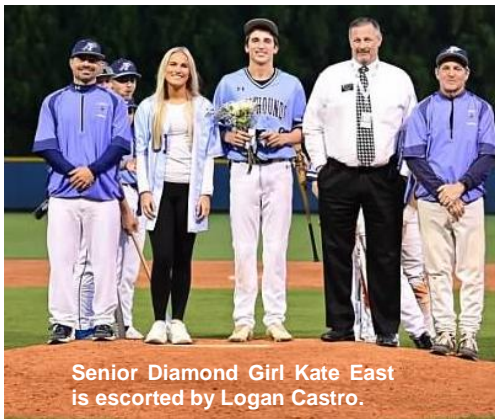
In the bottom of the sixth inning, Pope scored two final runs to complete the run-rule victory, 11-0. With one out, Kerce walked on a full count. Schmidt followed and took the first pitch for a ball. The next pitch was a strike. Schmidt connected and launched a 370-foot game ending home run over the center field fence that scored Kerce. It was the first walk off winner during Senior Night in the history of Pope Baseball.

Pope hosts one more non-region game this week on Saturday vs. Marietta at 12:00.

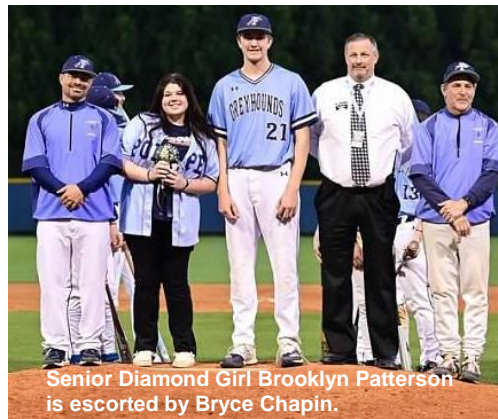
SENIOR NIGHT AND TEACHER APPRECIATION NIGHT



Senior Night, Front row from left to right: Overstreet Family, Kerce Family, Walters Family, Rapp Family, Walter Family, Schmidt Family, Keisler Family, Orr Family, Gastley Family, Lovell Family, and Koo Family. Back row from left to right: Coach Khan, Coach Leidberg, Principal Bradford, Coach Nelson, Coach Savaransky, Coach Turco, Coach Harrison, and Coach Lott.



Senior Diamond Girl Kate East is escorted by Logan Castro.



Senior Diamond Girl Brooklyn Patterson is escorted by Bryce Chapin.



Teacher Appreciation Celebration, from left to right: Logan Rapp/Mrs. Fraker, Mr. LaFleur/Blythe Keisler, Carson Kerce/Dr. Kokan/Jake Gastley, Cooper Orr/Mrs. Cason/Jesse Walter, Coach Savransky/Kent Schmidt, Eli Overstreet/Mrs. Sims, Andrew Walters/Coach Anderson, Mrs. Robinson/David Lovell, and Calvin Koo/Ms. Thomas.

