



## POPE BUILDS EARLY LEAD TO BEAT ALPHARETTA SCHMIDT HOMERS IN A RECORD FOURTH STRAIGHT GAME



Kent Schmidt watches his record setting fourth home run in four straight games and sixth homer during that time frame.



Cooper Orr hit a double that knocked in two of Pope's five runs and reached base 2-of-2 times.

Pope scored six runs in the bottom of the first inning. The Hounds were held scoreless the remainder of the game, but did not need any more runs, and beat Alpharetta, 6-3, Tuesday night at Jeff Rowland Field in game one of the three-game region series. Pope's overall record is 14-3 and region record improves to 5-2. The Hounds have won seven games in a row.

Pope out hit Alpharetta 6-5, with five of the hits coming in the first inning. The Hounds had six batters with one hit each. Seniors **Kent Schmidt** and **Cooper Orr** accounted for 4-of-6 runs. Schmidt stayed red hot and hit a two-run home run. It was Schmidt's fourth straight game to hit a home run and his sixth long ball during that time frame. Both are **Pope Baseball school records**. After the home run, Schmidt had reached base in 12-of-13 plate appearances, including one double, five walks, 12 RBI, and eight runs scored. Orr reached base 2-of-2 times with a double, one walk, two RBI, and one run scored.



Dawson Jones pitched five innings, allowed just three hits, and struck out eight to earn the win

**Eli Overstreet** had a single, scored one run, and stole one base. **John Stuetzer** had a bunt single, scored one run and stole one base. **Logan Rapp** hit a single that scored one run. **Carson Kerce** hit a sacrifice fly that scored one run. **Jack Myers** hit a single, reached base by an error, and scored one run. **Jesse Walter** reached base by a HBP. **Tanner Morneau** scored one run. **Logan Castro** had a stolen base.

Three Pope pitchers struck out 10 batters and walked four. Two Alpharetta pitchers struck out one batter and walked one. Pope junior lefthander **Dawson Jones** (3-2) pitched five strong innings to

earn the win. Jones used an effective curve ball and located his fast ball to strike out eight batters. He scattered three hits, walked two, allowed just one earned run, and threw 64% strikes (58-90). Myers pitched one inning and struck out one. Kerce pitched the final inning and earned his second save in the past two games and fourth of the season. Kerce retired the side in order for the second consecutive game, struck out one, and threw 75% strikes (9-12).

In the bottom of the first inning, Pope sent 10 batters to the plate and scored six runs on five hits to take a 6-1 lead. Overstreet led off with an infield single that skipped off the lip of the grass and into the hole to the shortstop. On the next pitch, Overstreet stole second base. Stuetzer bunted a ball down the third base line. Alpharetta's defense was late covering first base and Stuetzer beat the throw for a single and advanced Overstreet to third. Two pitches later, Stuetzer stole second base. Kerce hit a sacrifice fly to centerfield that scored Overstreet from third and advanced Stuetzer to third.

Schmidt followed and blasted a 3-1 fastball 370-feet over the center field fence and into the trees for a two-run home run that scored Stuetzer. It was a no doubter that allowed a confident bat flip midway between home plate and first base. Myers hit a first pitch grounder to the shortstop, who misplayed the ball. On the next pitch, Walter was hit by a pitch. Morneau ran for Walter. Orr slugged a first pitch line drive double down the right field line. Myers scored from second and Morneau scored all the way from first. With two outs, Rapp hit a first pitch line drive to left field that scored Orr from second base.

Before the game, Pope Baseball celebrated Sponsor Night. Sponsors were recognized on the field and threw out a ceremonial first pitch. Those present were Jamie Wright with his son, Banks, representing **River Street Sweets, Savannah's Candy Kitchen**. Jason Holder with his daughter, Aria, and his son, Bentley, representing **Turf Master Lawn Care**. Clint Casebier, representing **Terrace Barbershop**. Jay Andrews, former Pope Baseball Booster Club President, representing **6-4-3 DP Athletics**. Jenny Kopach, representing **Inspired Mobility Physical Therapy**. Scott Kerns, representing **McCray's Tavern**. Heather Taylor, representing **Rock River Realty**. Dr. Dina Royal, representing **PAMA Pediatrics**.

Pope and Alpharetta play game two in the region series Thursday night at 6:30 at Alpharetta High School.

