



BALANCED EFFORT LEADS POPE PAST ALPHARETTA HOUNDS SWEEP SERIES



Ethan Garrett earned the win and held the top six Alpharetta batters to a combined 2-of-16.

John Stuetzer had two hits, including a triple. He made the defensive play of the game in center field.

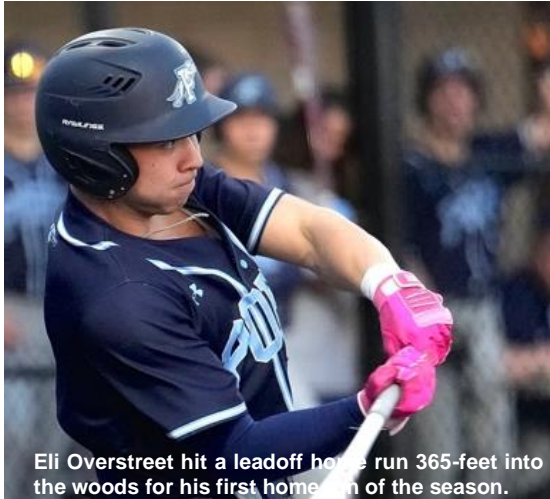
Every hitter for Pope reached base with either a hit, a walk, HBP, or a run scoring sacrifice fly, to highlight a balanced attack and lead the Hounds past Alpharetta, 7-3, Friday night at Alpharetta High School. Pope swept the three-game region series, 3-0. Pope's overall record is 16-3 and region record is 7-2. The Hounds have won nine straight games.

Sophomore right hander **Ethan Garrett** (3-0) pitched six strong innings to earn the win. Garrett used a mid-to-high 80's fastball with an effective off-speed pitch and retired Alpharetta in order in three-of-six innings. Garrett retired the last seven batters he faced and held the top six Alpharetta batters to a combined 2-of-16. Garrett scattered five hits, struck out four, walked just one, gave up two earned runs, and threw 67% strikes (56-84). Junior right hander **Andrew Nelms** pitched the final inning and retired the side in order. Nelms struck out one and threw 67% strikes (12-18).

Pope's offense generated nine hits, with five extra base hits (one home run, two triples, two doubles), and three run scoring sacrifice fly balls. Sophomore **John Stuetzer** and senior **Kent Schmidt** each had two hits. Stuetzer had one triple, one single, one walk, two runs scored, and stole one base. Schmidt had one double, one single, one RBI, and scored one run. **Carson Kerce** slugged a triple, had a RBI sacrifice fly, walked one time, and scored one run. **Eli Overstreet** set the tone early and started the game with a leadoff home run deep into the woods. **Jack Myers** had a double that scored two runs and one walk. **Tanner Morneau** had a single and a RBI sacrifice fly. **Jesse Walter** hit a single and reached base by an error. **Logan Rapp** had a RBI sacrifice fly. **Logan Castro** scored two runs and stole two bases. **Cooper Orr** walked one time. **Andrew Walters** was hit by a pitch.

Stuetzer made the defensive play of the game in the bottom of the second inning. The Raiders leadoff batter hit a line drive into the left center field gap. Stuetzer was playing straight away in center field. He pivoted right and sprinted towards the sinking line drive. As the ball was about

to fall for a hit, Stuetzer laid out with a full horizontal dive. He backhanded the ball, fell to the ground, and held on for the catch of the year, thus far.



Eli Overstreet hit a leadoff home run 365-feet into the woods for his first home run of the season.

In the top of the first inning, the first five hitters for Pope reached base and the Hounds grabbed an early 4-0 lead. Overstreet led off the game with a bang and launched a 3-1 pitch 365-feet over the left field fence for a home run deep into the pine trees. It was Overstreet's first home run of the season. Stuetzer followed with a ball hit in the hole to the shortstop and beat the throw to first base for an infield single. Stuetzer then stole second base. Kerce walked on a full count. Schmidt came to the plate and Alpharetta adjusted into a defensive shift with a short fielder in right field. Schmidt hit a two-strike pitch 325-feet to the bottom of the left field fence into the open area created by the shift for a stand up double. Stuetzer

scored from second and Kerce moved to third. Myers slugged a line drive double right over the third base bag to score Kerce and Schmidt.

In the top of the third inning, Pope scored one run on one hit to take a 5-0 lead. Stuetzer hit a ball down in the zone and drove it over the center fielder's head to the 370-foot mark on the outfield fence for a lead-off triple. Kerce followed with a sacrifice fly to center field to score Stuetzer standing up.

In the top of the fourth inning, Pope scored one run on one hit and two walks to take a 6-1 lead. Walter led off with a ground ball over the third base bag and beat the throw to first for an infield single. Castro ran for Walter. Orr walked on a full count. Morneau bunted the ball to the pitcher on the right side of the infield and reached base on a single when the Raider second baseman was late covering first base. With no outs and the bases loaded, Rapp hit a sacrifice fly to center field that scored Castro from third.

In the top of the sixth inning, Pope added one more insurance run on no hits to take a 7-3 lead. Walter reached base on an error by the first baseman. Castro ran for Walter and stole second base. Walters squared to bunt and was hit by a pitch. Castro stole third base. Morneau hit a sacrifice fly to right field to score Castro from third.

Pope continues region action next week with a three-game series vs. Roswell. The first game is on Monday night at Pope. The final two games are at Roswell on Wednesday and Thursday right before Spring Break.