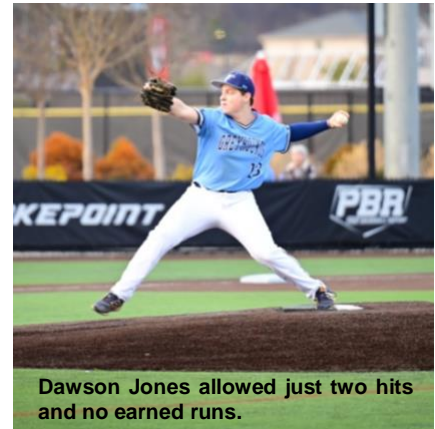


## **POPE'S COMEBACK FALLS JUST SHORT**

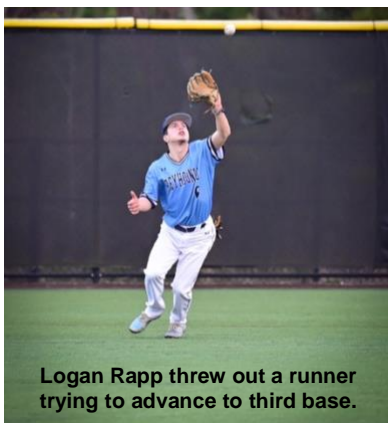
Pope's comeback efforts fell just short in the **Hounds 6-5 loss** to Forsyth Central Bulldogs Tuesday night at the LakePoint Sports Facility. Trailing 6-0, Pope scored five runs in the final two innings and had the tying and winning runs on base at the end of the game. Pope's record drops to 1-1 overall and remains 0-0 in region play.

Junior lefthander **Dawson Jones** pitched five strong innings, allowed just two hits, no earned runs, and struck out five. Jones retired seven batters in a row in the first three innings of the game.

Senior centerfielder **Logan Rapp** made a key defensive play in the top of the first inning. With one out and a runner on first base, a ball was misplayed in the infield and rolled to Rapp in right center. The runner from first base tried to advance to third. Rapp collected the ball and threw a strike to **Jack Myers** at third base. Myers caught the ball and tagged the runner out by two steps. Rapp later added an RBI single in the sixth inning to score the Hounds second run of the game.



Pope had seven hits, were walked six times, and had one HBP. The Hounds left the bases loaded in the fourth inning. **Carson Kerce** hit an RBI double, walked, and scored two times. Myers hit a double and scored one run. **Eli Overstreet** reached base 3-of-4 times with an RBI single, two walks and scored one run. Overstreet's first walk was a full count 10-pitch battle. **Cooper Orr** reached base 3-of-4 times with a single, walk and HBP. **Kent Schmidt** had a single, walk, and scored one run. **Jesse Walter** had a single and walked in a run. **John Stuetzer** and **Jake Gastley** both had a stolen base. Gastley also made three put outs in right field.



Pope pitchers held Forsyth Central to six hits, walked six batters, and struck out six. Pope's defense made four errors and Forsyth Central made one. **David Lovell** pitched one inning after inheriting a bases loaded jam with no outs. Lovell retired 3-of-4 batters, threw only eight pitches, and allowed no earned runs. Stuetzer, a sophomore, made his varsity pitching debut in the final inning, struck out the first batter he faced, threw only seven pitches, and retired the side in order.

**In the bottom of the fifth inning**, Pope scored two runs on one hit to cut the Forsyth Central lead to 6-2. Kerce led off with a walk on a 3-1 count. With one out, Overstreet walked on a 3-1 count. Orr followed with a full count walk to load the bases. With two outs, Walter walked on a full count to score Kerce. After fouling off four consecutive two-strike pitches, Rapp hit an infield single just over the pitcher's head, beat the throw to first base, and scored Overstreet from third.

**In the bottom of the seventh inning**, Pope sent eight hitters to the plate and scored three runs on three hits to come within a run before the final out of the game. Myers led off with a full-count stand-up double to the left center gap that bounced to the wall at the 340-foot mark. With one out, Kerce cracked a line-drive double to the right center gap that one bounced the fence at the 350-foot mark and scored Myers. Schmidt followed and worked an 0-2 count to a full count before he walked. **Tanner Morneau** pinch ran for Schmidt. After a pitching change, Overstreet slugged a first-pitch single to center field that scored Kerce from second. Orr was hit by a two-strike pitch to load the bases. With an 0-2 count, Gastley hit into a fielder's choice at second base that scored Morneau from third with what proved to be the Hounds final run.

Pope returns to LakePoint this weekend and will play in the Georgia Dugout Club tournament. On Friday, the Hounds play North Cobb Christian at 4:00. On Saturday, Pope plays Effingham County at 12:30 and Norcross at 5:30.

