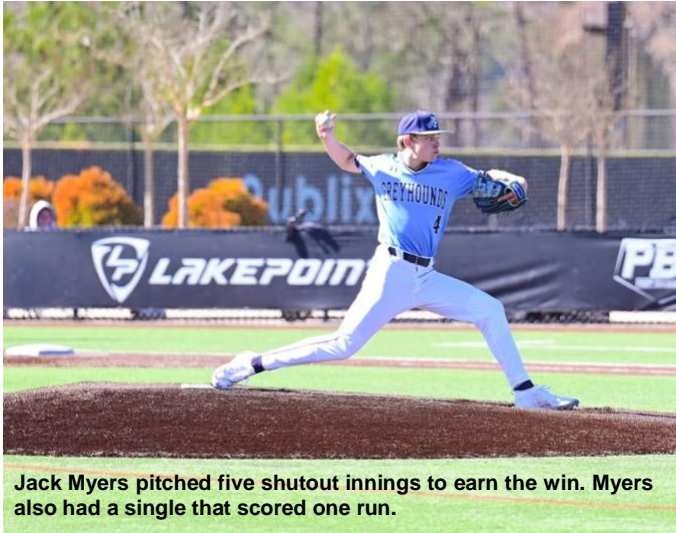




POPE SHUTS OUT EFFINGHAM



Jack Myers pitched five shutout innings to earn the win. Myers also had a single that scored one run.

The Pope pitching duo of junior righthander **Jack Myers** and senior lefthander **David Lovell** threw a combined four-hit shutout and **paced the Hounds to a 3-0 win** over the Effingham County Rebels Saturday afternoon in game two of the Georgia Dugout Club tournament at the LakePoint Sports facility. Pope's tournament record is 2-0 and overall record is 3-1.

Myers and Lovell maintained a quick pace of play while pitching and combined to throw an impressive 75% strikes (68-91). In five innings of work, Myers threw 71% strikes (49-69), allowed just three hits, and struck

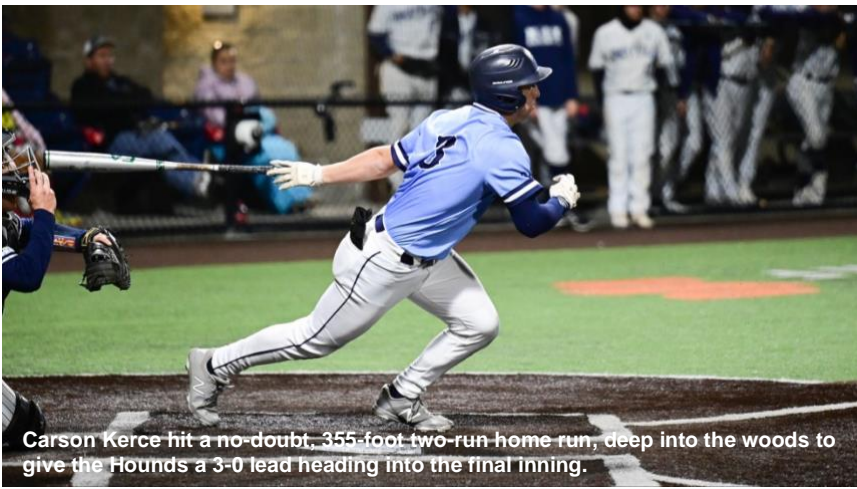
out three to earn the win. In two innings of relief work, Lovell threw 86% strikes (19-22), allowed one hit, and struck out one to earn his first varsity save. Myers only had one three-ball count and had five first-pitch outs. Lovell had had no three-ball counts and one first-pitch out.



David Lovell threw two shutout innings and 19-of-22 strikes (86%) to earn his first varsity save.

Pope hitters were kept off balance by Effingham's reduced velocity pitching and managed just four hits, but they made them count. **Carson Kerce** delivered the knockout blow when he slugged a towering two-run home run to give the Hounds a 3-0 lead heading into the final inning. Myers hit an RBI single and walked one time. **Eli Overstreet** hit a one-bounce ground rule double and walked one time. **John Stuetzer** hit a double and scored one run. **Logan Rapp** was hit by a pitch, scored one run, and stole one base.

In the bottom of the third inning, Pope scored first to take a 1-0 lead. With one out, Rapp was hit by a one-strike pitch, and promptly stole second base. Myers helped his own cause on the mound and hit a two-strike pitch to centerfield to score Rapp.



In the bottom of the sixth inning, still leading 1-0, Pope scored two runs on two hits to provide some much-needed breathing room. With one out, Stuetzer hit a hot line-drive ground ball that overpowered the shortstop and bounced into left field. Stuetzer rounded first base, never stopped running, and hustled into second for a head-first sliding double. Kerce followed and worked the count to 3-1. The next pitch was in

Kerce's wheelhouse and he unloaded a 355-foot blast way over the left field fence and deep into the woods for a two-run home run. Stuetzer scored from third on the hit.

Effingham almost scored a run in the top of the first inning, but Kerce picked up a loose ball around the second base bag, threw to catcher **Adam Nelms**, who applied to tag to the runner for the out. In the top of the fifth inning, Overstreet fielded two straight hits at third base and made two throws to **Kent Schmidt** at first base for the first two outs of the inning. Rapp caught a fly ball in right field for the third out to end the six-pitch inning by Myers.

Pope plays Norcross at 5:30 in the championship game of the Georgia Dugout Club Tournament, Rob English Division.