

POPE RALLIES TO BEAT NORTH ATLANTA HOUNDS SCORE THREE IN BOTTOM OF SEVENTH, OVERSTREET HITS WALK OFF

Trailing 9-7 in the bottom of the seventh inning with two outs, Pope was down to their last out for five batters in a row and down to their last strike two times. The Hounds did not flinch, and rallied to score three runs on four hits to win a **dramatic 10-9 come-from-behind victory** over the talented North Atlanta Warriors Thursday night at Pope High School's Jeff Rowland Field. The win was the Hounds fifth-straight and improves their overall record to 6-1.



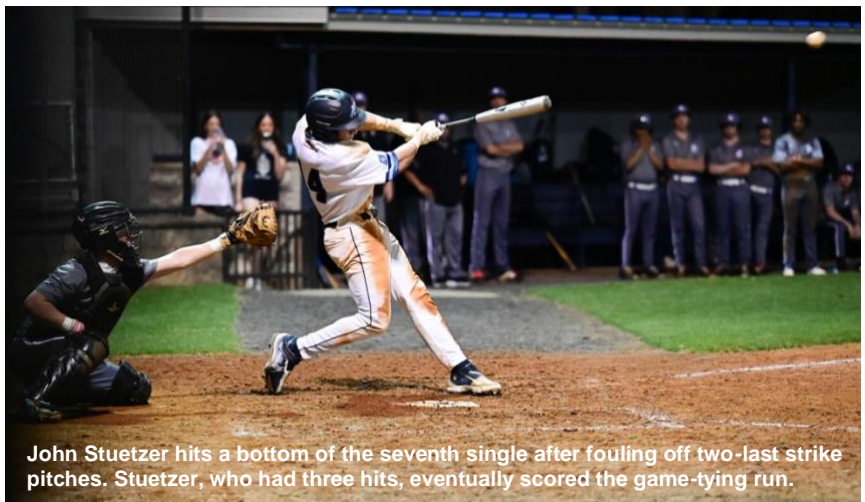
Eli Overstreet watches his game-winning double with two outs in the bottom of the seventh to score Carson Kerce. Overstreet had three hits in the game.

In the bottom of the seventh, after cutting the lead to 10-9, Pope had runners on first and second with two outs. Senior **Eli Overstreet** made his way to the plate with confidence. On a 0-1 pitch, Overstreet slugged a fastball deep into left field toward the line. The ball landed safely just past the left fielder at the bottom of the fence for a dramatic walk-off double that scored fellow senior **Carson Kerce** from second and set off

a most deserved celebration around Overstreet. It was Overstreet's third hit of the game.

Pope began the seventh inning with two straight outs. Junior **Jack Myers** got the Hounds started and hit a first-pitch ground ball just past the first baseman that nicked off his glove towards second base for an infield single. On the next pitch, Myers advanced to second base on a wild pitch.

The next hitter, sophomore **John Stuetzer**, worked the count full and the Hounds were down to their last strike. Stuetzer, with ice water in his veins, fouled off the next pitch to stay alive. He then fouled off a second pitch that could have ended the game. On the seventh pitch of the at bat, Stuetzer hit a sinking line drive to center field. The North Atlanta center fielder dove for the ball, which disappeared for a moment into the ground – or was it in the



John Stuetzer hits a bottom of the seventh single after fouling off two last strike pitches. Stuetzer, who had three hits, eventually scored the game-tying run.

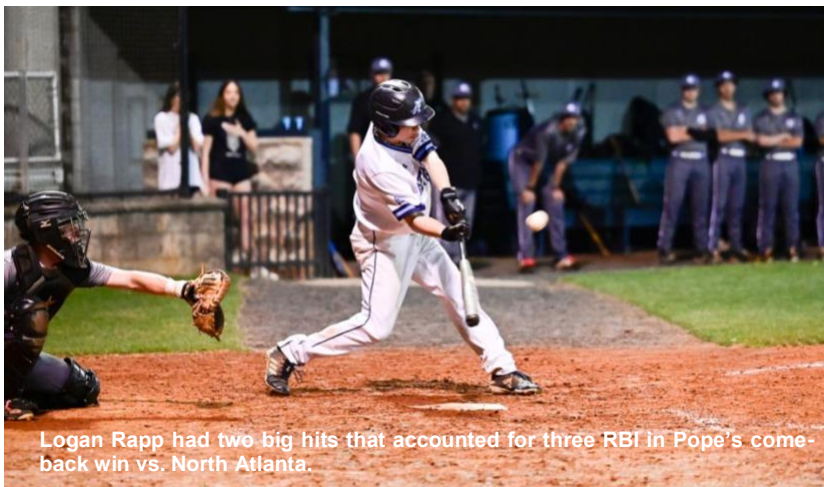
glove. The ball emerged in front of the center fielder on the ground for a gutty single that scored Myers from second base and cut the Warriors lead to 9-8.

Two pitches later, Stuetzer got an early jump on a steal attempt that confused the North Atlanta pitcher and resulted in a balk, moving him to second base. On the next pitch, Kerce hit a clutch, one-strike, opposite field slicing single to right field that scored Stuetzer and tied the game at 9-9. Three pitches later, Kerce stole second base. Senior **Kent Schmidt** walked on a 3-1 count to keep the rally alive and set up Overstreet's game-ending hit.

Pope scored in 6-of-7 innings and North Atlanta scored in 5-of-7 innings. North Atlanta took a four-run lead in the fourth and fifth innings, but the Hounds would not go away. North Atlanta's nine runs matched the combined run total that Pope had given up in the first six games of the season.

Pope's offense totaled 12 hits, including four doubles, benefitted from six walks, one HBP, a balk, and four North Atlanta errors. Overstreet reached base 4-of-5 times. He collected three

hits, including a double, three RBI, and one stolen base. Overstreet's first hit of the game gave Pope a 2-1 lead and his last hit gave the Hounds a 10-9 win.



Logan Rapp had two big hits that accounted for three RBI in Pope's comeback win vs. North Atlanta.

Stuetzer reached base 4-of-5 times. He had three hits, including a double, one walk, three runs scored, one RBI, and one stolen base. Kerce reached base 4-of-5 times. He had one hit, two walks, scored three runs, and stole three bases.

Senior **Logan Rapp** had two clutch hits and knocked in three key runs. Junior **Andrew Nelms** had two hits, including his first varsity hit, a single, and followed that with a double his next time at bat. Myers had a single, one walk, was hit by a pitch, and scored one run. Senior **Cooper Orr** had a sacrifice fly that scored one run, walked one time, and scored one run. Sophomore **Tanner Morneau** reached base two times by errors and scored two runs. Schmidt walked one time.



Calvin Koo pitched 2.1 solid innings and struck out four batters before he left the game with what appeared to be an upper body injury.

Senior righthander **Calvin Koo**, who returned to the mound after a hip injury, came in relief and pitched 2.1 solid innings. Koo struck out four before leaving the game with what appeared to be an upper body injury. Senior lefthander **David Lovell** came in for Koo, faced two batters, and enticed a 6-4-3 double play (Kerce-to-Myers-to Schmidt) to end the inning and hold the Warriors scoreless for the inning. Lovell was the winning pitcher

and earned his first varsity win. Senior lefthander **Blythe Keisler** started for the Hounds, pitched four innings, and struck out five.

In the bottom of the first inning, after falling behind 1-0, Pope scored two runs on two hits to take the lead, 2-1. With one out, Stuetzer hit a first-pitch line drive to center field for a stand up double. Kerce walked on a full count. Schmidt flew out to center field and advanced Stuetzer to third. Kerce stole second base. Overstreet hit a ground ball up the middle just inches past the second baseman's outstretched glove for a single and scored Stuetzer and Kerce.

In the bottom of the third inning, trailing 5-2, Pope scored one run on one hit and benefitted from two Warrior errors to stay close at 5-3. With one out, Stuetzer, dropped a nice first-pitch bunt down the third base line for a single. On the next pitch, Stuetzer stole second base. Kerce reached base on an error by the shortstop. Stuetzer moved to third on the play. Kerce stole second base. With two outs, Overstreet reached base by an error by the third baseman that scored Stuetzer.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, trailing 7-3, Pope scored one run on two hits to stay within three runs. Morneau led off and reached base on an error by the second baseman. Nelms hit a first pitch line drive double way over the left fielder's head for a stand up double. Morneau advanced to third. Rapp hit a one strike line drive single to centerfield to score Morneau. Myers was hit by a pitch and Stuetzer walked, but Pope was unable to score any additional runs and left the bases loaded.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, trailing 8-4, Pope scored two runs on one hit, one error, and one walk, to cut the lead to 8-6. With one out, Orr walked on a 3-1 count and advanced to second base on a wild pitch. Morneau hit a full count grounder to the shortstop that was misplayed and moved Orr to third base. Rapp cracked a one-hop double over a jumping third baseman down the left field line to score Orr and Morneau, who was stealing on the pitch and scored all the way from first base.

In the bottom of the sixth, trailing 9-6, Pope scored one run on one hit to remain within two runs. Kerce led off with a 3-1 walk. Overstreet hit a first pitch line drive slice down the right field line for a single. Kerce advanced to third on the hit. Orr hit a sacrifice fly ball to left field that scored Kerce.

Pope returns to action on Friday night with an away game at Dunwoody beginning at 6:00.



Pope celebrates Overstreet's walk-off double to cap the Hounds last inning win vs. North Atlanta.