



Game 8, February 27, 2024  
Pope Greyhounds, Lassiter Trojans  
Weather: 70 degrees, 8 mph winds  
Played at Jeff Rowland Field at Pope High School  
Varsity Record: Overall 5-3, Region 1-0  
Region Game One: Best 2-of-3 Series



## POPE WALKS OFF LASSITER

TANNER MORNEAU SINGLES TO SCORE JOHN STUETZER WITH GAME WINNER  
DAWSON JONES AND MATT LEVINSON DOMINATE ON THE MOUND



Backyard rivals Pope and Lassiter hooked up in a well-played, pressure packed, high level pitching battle Tuesday night at Jeff Rowland Field. In the bottom of the seventh inning, with one out and the score tied 1-1, the Hounds scored one run on one hit to earn a hard fought 2-1 victory in the opening game of the best 2-of-3 region series. In the sixth inning, the Hounds scored one run to tie the game and set up the last inning dramatics. Pope's region record is 1-0 and overall record is 5-3.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, with one out, the Hounds leadoff hitter **John Stuetzer** was hit by a pitch on a 3-2 count. Stuetzer then stole second base, but was sent back to first base when batter's interference was called on the play. With two outs and two pitches later, Stuetzer stole second base again. Junior **Tanner Morneau** stepped to the plate. With a 2-0 count, Morneau lined an opposite field single to right field. Stuetzer took off from second base and scored the game winner without a throw to home plate. Morneau was mobbed by his teammates in right field.



Dawson Jones started and pitched 5.1 innings, threw 68% strikes, and held Lassiter to one run with six strike outs.



Matt Levinson pitched 1.2 scoreless innings in relief to earn the win. Levinson threw 80% strikes and struck out two.

Senior lefthander **Dawson Jones** and junior **Matt Levinson** were amazing on the mound. They were both laser sharp and combined to throw 70% strikes (83-118), allowed just one run, struck out eight, scattered six hits, and walked two. Jones started and pitched 5.1 gummy innings. Jones threw 68% strikes (63-93), struck out six, allowed four hits, one run, and two walks. Levinson (2-0) came in relief when Jones reached his pitch count to earn the win. Levinson pitched 1.2 pressured innings, threw 80% strikes (20-25), allowed no runs, two hits, struck out two, and walked none.

Pope's offense totaled just three hits, but the Hounds made them count. Morneau hit the game winning RBI single and walked one time. Stuetzer was hit by a pitch, stole one base, and scored the game winning run. **Jack Myers** hit a line drive single, later scored the game tying run, and walked one time. **Drew Abney** hit a hard line drive single off the first baseman's knee. **Andrew Nelms** walked one time. **Brady Otero** had a successful sacrifice bunt. Defensively, Pope made one error and Lassiter made two. There was a 49 minute lightning delay to start the game.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Pope scored one run on one hit to tie the score, 1-1. Myers led off with a line drive single to center field. Otero executed a nice sacrifice bunt down the third base line and advanced Myers to second base. With one out, Abney hit a fly ball to left field that was misplayed and scored Myers from second base. Abney advanced to second on the play.



Tanner Morneau hit the walk of game winner with a one out single to right field that scored John Stuetzer from second.



John Stuetzer reached base by a HBP, stole second base, and scored the game winning run on Morneau's single.



In the top of the seventh inning and the score tied, 1-1, the Lassiter lead-off batter hit a double to right field. The next batter tried to bunt, but popped out to **Hudson DeLine** at third base. Levinson struck out the next Trojan hitter on a 2-2 pitch for the second out. The next batter hit a ground ball to Stuetzer at shortstop. The runner from second base ran in front of Stuetzer on his way to third base. Stuetzer remained focused, fielded the ball, and threw to first base. Nelms snagged the difficult one-hop throw with a clutch catch to end the inning and keep the score tied.

Pope travels to Lassiter on Thursday night to play a doubleheader to complete the series. Game one starts at 5:00.

