

POPE JV SPLITS DOUBLEHEADER WITH WOODSTOCK JV

FIRST GAME 4-9, SECOND GAME 13-0 RUN RULE

MARCH 18, 2024

On an evening when the temperature got chillier, the Greyhound bats got hotter. Fans and the team were treated to a last hurrah of winter prior to the first day of spring.

The first double header of the 2024 season for the JV Greyhounds was a split decision affair. Strong pitching by the Greyhounds was apparent in both games.

Southpaw **Maddox Corya** started Game 1 and allowed just four hits and one earned run while striking out six and walking on over a four-inning outing. The Greyhounds trotted out pitchers **Davis Johnson** and **Ian Hair** in relief of Corya. Johnson hurled 3 strikeouts and gave up two earned runs on four hits in his 1 1/3 innings and Hair gave up 1 hit and no runs in his 2/3 stint.

Aaron Best went 2-2 in the game with a double, a stolen base and 2 RBIs. Best's double was a clutch connection on the ball with 2 outs in the top of the 2nd. Corya helped himself with a double and one RBI. **JC Slavis** and **Davis Smith** had base knocks to account for the Greyhounds five hits. Best, Smith, Bauer and **Luke Winbush** picked up extra real estate with steals as well. **Reid Bauer's** fielder's choice in the top of the 5th tallied him an RBI on the evening.

The Greyhounds hit the ball hard and worked the count full several times. It was a cat and mouse exchange of scoring in the first five innings only to have the Greyhounds offense slow down a bit. The wheels came off in the 6th after a significant game stoppage for a very long discussion on "the infield fly rule".

Coach Sav was unflappable during the painful exchange with the umpire crew when the spectators, in some cases, were not. It was a learning opportunity for the men in blue.

In the second game, with the sting of the wind and the previous game still resonating amongst the Greyhounds, the young pups jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the top of the first and never looked back. **Thomas Williams** led off with a four pitch walk and moved around the bases to cross the plate with a steal, a **Paker Troughton** single to right field, and a ground out RBI by **Maddox Corya**.

Pitcher **Jacob Israel** took the bump for his 5th appearance of the season in Game 2. And, if you can call getting out of runners on the corners in the first a jam, that was the only time Israel needed some toasted bread. Israel recorded ten strikeouts, two hits, and no runs in 4 2/3 innings. Israel logged two three up three down innings striking out the side in the bottom of

the 3rd. Teammate **Ellis Couch** came in to finish up the evening with three pitches... the third being a tapper to the third baseman **Luke Winbush** who threw over to **Maddox Corya** on first.

The Greyhounds eight hits on the night came off the bats of six players. **Maddow Corya** had the score keeper running out of ink in their pen by tallying five RBIs. He had a monster triple to right, a ground out, sac fly to left, and a sac fly to center. **Luke Winbush** drove in four runs on two hits- one of which was a double. **Jack Healy** also had a 2-hit night and crossed the plate three times.

The offense signaled to the bench to start the bus its performance in the 4th inning. With the score 3-0, the Greyhounds capitalized on **Will Zeigler** getting hit by a pitch, a sneaky **Reid Bauer** showing bunt just before he pulled that bat back to single to center, a fielder's choice by **Everett Espe**, a bunt by **Greg Gastley** who got to the bag on an error, a **Jack Healy** single, **Thomas Williams** reaching on an error, **Luke Winbush's** double, a walk to **Paker Troughton**, and the Corya triple to light up the scoreboard for seven additional runs.

In the top of the 5th inning, with Woodstock on their 3rd pitcher, the Greyhounds scored three more runs to seal the run rule at more than enough at thirteen runs. The Greyhounds (and their fans) will thaw out and returned to action on Wednesday night hosting Cherokee High School.