

## A MUCH SHORTER EVENING HOUNDS RUN RULE LASSITER, 11-1

Wednesday, February 14, 2023

It took half as many innings this evening for the young Greyhounds to put 11 runs on the board than it did yesterday evening. The home opener was called in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning with the Greyhounds up by 10 runs on their opponent, the Lassiter Trojans.

The newly improved and manicured Jeff Rowland Field hosted the 1-0 Greyhounds versus the 0-1 Trojans on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Both teams- including the reserves of both squads- were introduced, the National Anthem played, and the game began with the freshman **Luke Winbush** on the mound for Pope. It was the right hander's first start of the season. Winbush struck out one batter in the first inning.

In the bottom of the first, Winbush doubled to dead center and the Hounds had a runner in scoring position to start the inning. Winbush advanced to 3<sup>rd</sup> on a wild pitch. **Aaron Best** earned a walk and stole 2<sup>nd</sup>. With the runners in scoring position, **Parker Troughton's** sac fly scored Winbush and the speedy Bush tagged up and advanced to 3<sup>rd</sup>. A walk to **Thomas Williams** followed by a stolen base to second, a single by **Maddox Corya** to score Best and Williams and a walk to **JC Slavis** gave the Greyhounds a 3-1 lead.

Pope benefitted from four straight walks and allowed the slow jogs of runners to cross the plate moving the score 5-1 Pope. **Jack Healy** hit into a fielder's choice but a series of errors while the ball was in play allowed **Hall Mitchell** and **Everett Espe** to score.

The Greyhounds batted around the lineup and the scoring parade gave the Hounds a 7-1 lead.

**Lennon Baker**, a freshman southpaw with a large contingent of family and friends in the stands, made his season debut with Winbush as his batterymate. Baker started with two quick outs, worked through a couple of fielding miscues, and finished the inning unscathed by baserunners in scoring position.

In the bottom of the second inning, the Greyhounds scored one run when Best crossed the plate after beating out a bobbled ball to the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman and working his way around the basepaths with a walk, a wild pitch, and sac fly. Pope up by 7 with a score of 8-1.

Baker returned to the mound for Pope and forced three flyouts hit to different parts of the field to end the inning with no runs.

In the bottom of the third inning, with Lassiter's third pitcher of the evening on the mound, **Everett Espe** singled and a subsequent wild pitch moved him to second. That set up **Jack Healy's** line drive single to dead center to get him home. The run moved the score to 9-1 in favor of Pope.

Baker's third inning of action was nearly effortless on his part. A leadoff single was quickly squashed by a strike out, strike out, and tapper back to the mound and an underhand toss by Baker to his first baseman.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, **Chandler Mathis** and **Davis Smith** both walked. **JC Slavis** followed and pounded a scorching line drive to center field to score both Mathis and Smith. The two runs moved the needle to the critical 11-1 mark.

In the top of the fifth, Head Coach **Alan Sarvansky** tapped freshman **Davis Johnson** to hold the score where it was to shorten the evening. The right hander, making his second appearance in the young season, owes his teammate, **Everett Espe** dinner for tracking a missile of a hit into center field and snagging it with an acrobatic leap sending the Lassiter batter back to the dugout. After a double to left field, Johnson fielded a grounder and tagged the runner himself for the out. This smart baseball move kept the runner from scoring. Second baseman **Jack Healy** made the final out when he fielded a ground ball and then threw to first baseman Smith to preserve the 10-run mercy limit rule.

The Greyhounds will look to go 3-0 with a 5:55pm start at rival Walton on Friday night. It will be the Greyhounds first game at the new Raiders Stadium.