

## Pope Fastpitch wins 2018 7-AAAAA Region Championship

The reigning region 7-AAAAAA Greyhounds finished a flawless region regular season with a 16-0 record earning the Hounds the right to host the best of 3 region championship series at their home field for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. The appearance in the region championship is the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive appearance for the Hounds and it is also the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive appearance for opponent Cambridge High School who, like the Greyhounds, have risen to the top of the region and maintained their grip on the top of the standings table through the years.

In 2016 Cambridge won the championship on the campus of Cambridge high in a 2 game sweep of the Greyhounds, but in 2017, the Hounds would have their revenge as they would win the championship in a nail-biting 3 game series at Pope.

The 2018 championship would be won in a less dramatic fashion than in 2017 with the Hounds taking the championship in a sweep of the Bears.

Game 1 was a 4-1 game that was never really in question as Greyhound starting pitcher Hallie Adams exerted complete control scattering 5 hits in the complete game victory and striking out 10 along the way. Gracie Kittrell, Kaitlyn Wells and Hannah Dodd all had RBI's for the Hounds while Jodie Smith scratched out 2 hits and was the only Pope multi-hitter for the game.

Game 2 was a bit closer seeing the Hounds jump out to a 4-0 lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> only to have Cambridge answer back in the bottom of the inning with 3 runs of their own. The Hounds would pull ahead in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-3 but 2 homeruns in the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> would tie the game for the Bears. Pope game 1 starting pitcher Hallie Adams would enter the game in the bottom of the 4<sup>th</sup> and hold the Bears at bay while the Hounds put up 3 more runs to take a 9-6 lead into the 7<sup>th</sup>. In the final frame, the Bears attempted a comeback but with 2 runners on and the winning run at the plate, Adams struck out the final batter looking to end the threat and secure the region championship.

Bailey Chapin had a Homerun and 2 RBI's and Gracie Kittrell and Carolyn Deady also chipped in 2 RBI's in game 2 while Hannah Dodd and Trinity Pizzuti each had 2 hits to lead the way for the Greyhound offense.

The region championship is the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the history of the Greyhound program with the other 2 championships being won in 2012 and 2017. In all, the Greyhound won 18 consecutive region games and outscored region opponents 177-11 through the course of these 18 games in 2018.

