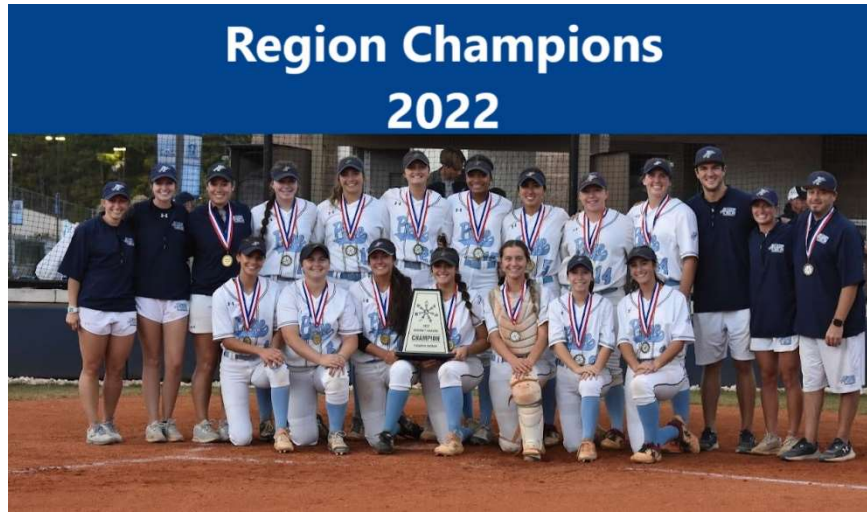


State Champions 2022

Pope Fastpitch Season in Review

The 2022 season ends for the Greyhounds as they became Region 7AAAAAA Champions and AAAAAA State Champions. The Region Championship was the 6th consecutive for the Hounds, and 7th overall (2012, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022). The State Championship was the third overall (2014, 2019, 2022). And for the first time ever, Pope was named “National Champions” by Extra Innings Softball for all fall sport states (7 in total – Georgia, Oklahoma, Iowa, Colorado, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska). See Extra Innings Article here: <https://extrainningssoftball.com/high-school-the-final-2022-extra-elite-25-fall-softball-national-rankings-it-all-comes-down-to-georgia/> .

The season had a 4-0 start with victories over West Forsyth, Harrison, Cambridge, and Westminster the first week of the season. Pope entered region play that next week and dropped a back and forth 6-4 game to East Cobb neighbor Lassiter. This would be the only time the Hounds ended up on the losing end the rest of the season! Pope took care of business in the remaining region games in the month of August. On September 13th, Pope played Lassiter for the second time of the season, needing a win by 3 or more runs to break the tie-break and overtake first in the region. They did just that, winning 11-3 in a 5 inning run rule game. Pope went on to win the remaining region games to secure the Region 7AAAAAA Championship.



Entering the last week of regular season play, Pope played two close games, first against the eventual 7A third place team North Gwinnett, winning by a score of 3-1 behind the complete game performance of Kendall Frost who struck out 11 and the bat of Jady Laneaux with a 2 run homerun and Addy Garris with a late game single to score Lizzie Metzinger from second. Then on senior night, Pope faced off with the eventual 2A state runner-up, Mount Paran Christian, and secured a 3-2 victory, the pair of runs for MPC occurring in the first inning. This game was split in the circle, starting Kendall Frost (4 innings pitched) and closing with Ellie Paley (3 innings pitched). Pope’s offense pushed across one run in the 1st courtesy of the bat of Kendall Frost, one run in the third as Emily Ricci crossed the plate on a wild pitch, and a 6th inning double by Natalie Klingler who scored from a Sam Tener single. Pope entered playoffs planning to keep the momentum with a 28-1 record.

Elite 8 – Columbus

Game 1: Pope 8 Effingham County 0

With a fun school send-off courtesy of the Pope Band and Pope Cheerleaders, PFP hit the road for Columbus, playing game 1 that same day against Effingham County. Pitching was off to a strong start as Kendall Frost threw a complete game 1-hit shut out. 10 total hits by Pope's offense led to 8 runs, including Jadyn Laneaux going 3-4 with a 2-run homerun, Natalie Klingler going 2-4 with 3 RBIs, and Abby Lawson adding a hit and 2 RBIs. Pope's victory advanced them in the winner's bracket to take on River Ridge the following day.



Game 2: Pope 4 River Ridge 2

Game 2 was against Cherokee County's River Ridge, a team Pope has played in Columbus three of the past four years. River Ridge pushed one run across in the top of the first, but that lead was quickly eliminated as Jadyn Laneaux launched the first pitch she saw over the right center fence. A tie game ensued until the third inning when Jadyn Laneaux reached by a walk, stole 2nd, and scored on a bunt single by Emily Ricci. In the fourth inning, Natalie Klingler reached by a single and pinch runner Lizzie Metzinger entered the game, Abby Lawson added a single, and Addy Garris reached with a bunt single. Bases loaded, two outs for Laneaux, she drives a double in the gap to score two runs, making it a 4-1 game. River ridge scored one in the 5th, but that would be all as Pope held on for the 4-2 victory. In the circle, Kendall Frost threw the complete game, striking out 10 while allowing 6 hits. This win secured a spot in the Final Four, Pope's 5th consecutive Final Four appearance and 9th in the past 11 years.

Game 3: Pope 4 Apalachee 0

Pope matched up with Apalachee with a spot in the championship game on the line. Pope scored first with Jadyn Laneaux reaching by walk, stealing second, advancing to third on a sac bunt, and scoring from a Kailey Martin single. It wasn't until the 4th inning that Pope could push more across. Natalie Klingler led off the inning with a single, and pinch runner Lizzie Metzinger entered and successfully stole second base. Addy Garris then ripped a double to right center, scoring Metzinger and making it a 2-0 game. Sam Tener then added a single to score Garris, now a 3-0 game. In the top of the 7th, Jadyn Laneaux added a solo homerun, and Kendall Frost finished off the game, earning the 4-0 win and striking out 11. Pope secures spot in championship game the following day.

Game 4: Pope 6 Apalachee 3

Apalachee won to advance to the championship game, so it was a semi-final rematch. This time, Apalachee struck first, scoring one in the top of the first inning, but it was quickly matched in the bottom of the inning as Jadyn Laneaux led off with a single, stole second base, and scored on a single from Ellie Paley. Pope pushed two more across in the bottom of the second inning as Addy Garris reached by a single, and scored on a double from Sam Tener. Jadyn Laneaux was the intentionally walked and Emily Ricci reached by a single, and Kailey Martin drew a bases loaded walk to score Sam Tener from third. Going into the third, it was a 3-1 game, but two solo home runs for Apalachee made it a tie game and gave them a spark, but not for long. Pope chopped the momentum in the bottom of the fourth as Sam Tener hit her second double of the day, Jadyn Laneaux was intentionally walked for her second time of the game, then an Apalachee error on an infield pop up allowed Sam Tener to score and Jadyn advance to third. Ellie Paley then hit a single to earn her second RBI of the day, pushing Pope to a 5-3 lead. In the bottom of the 5th, Natalie Klingler led off the inning with a single, pinch runner Lizzie Metzinger advanced to second on Addy Garris's single, and Sam Tener then hit a single (her third hit of the day) to load the bases for Jadyn Laneaux. A wild pitch scored Lizzie Metzinger from third, then Jadyn was intentionally walked for her third time of the day. Kendall Frost went on to shut out the Apalachee hitters the rest of the game, with the help of stellar infield play behind her all around. Addi Trotter took away any chance at a hit with a backhand play in the 5-6 hole, followed by four straight 5-3 hot corner plays by Kailey Martin at third that spanned the 5th and 6th inning. In the top of the 7th, three outs needed to secure the victory, Kendall Frost was unstoppable as she got three straight outs, the first two ground outs to Addi Trotter at short stop, then final batter falling victim to a Kendall Frost strikeout.

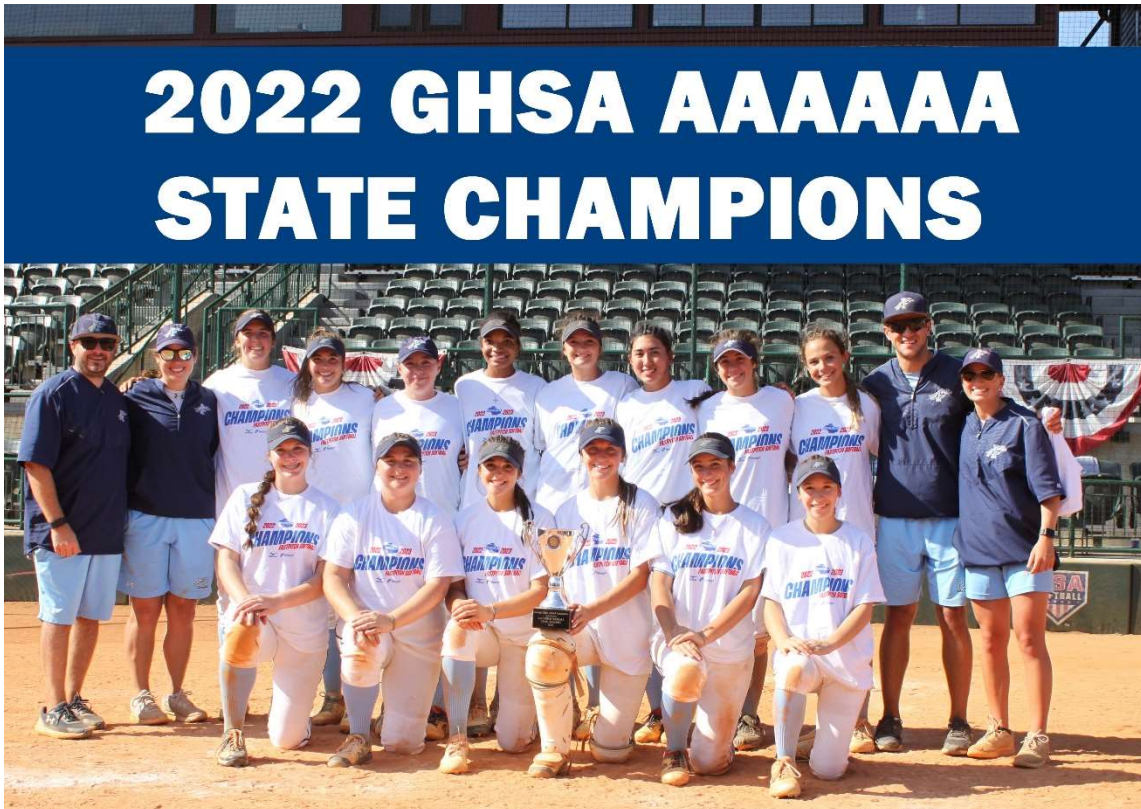


(See video of the celebration here: <https://youtu.be/eZT15UsTQJU>)

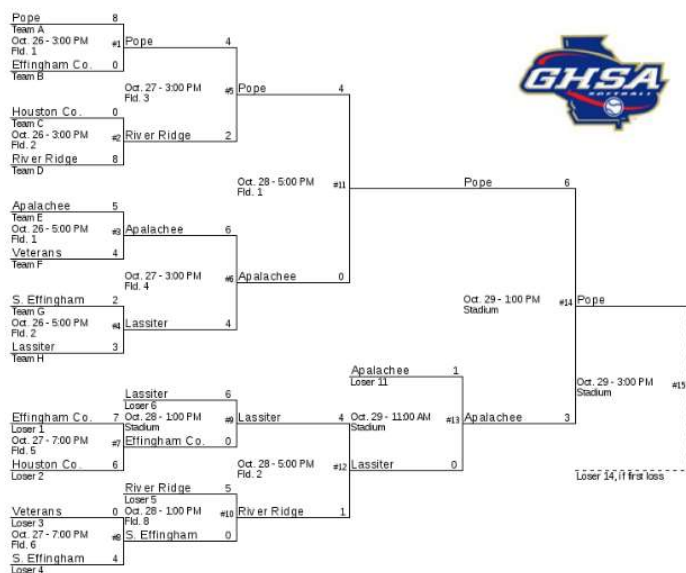
Columbus Stats:

Pope outscored opponents 22-5 in Columbus, batting .346 in the tournament with 37 hits while only allowing 16 hits in four games. Kendall Frost threw an astounding 32 strikeouts in 27 innings. Senior Jadyn Laneaux hit .800 in Columbus, going 8/10 with 3 homeruns and 5 walks (three of them intentional).

For the 3rd time in school history, the Pope Greyhounds are State Champions! The 35-1 record a program best, engraving the 2022 team in the record book forever!



2022-2023 GHSA Class AAAAAA State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
Columbus Softball Complex, Oct. 26 - 29, 2022



Pope
Champion

Apalachee
Runner-Up

Class of 2022:

The 2022 seniors, Natalie Klingler, Jadyn Laneaux, and Emily Ricci, carve their name in history, being the first senior class to ever win two State Championship (2019 and 2022). They end their Pope Fastpitch career with a 126-17 record (.881 winning percentage), earning 4 region championships, a state runner up finish in 2020, a state third place finish in 2021, and the two state titles in 2019 and 2022. The Pope Fastpitch program thanks the newest alumni for the legacy they have set. You can view the 2022 senior/alumni video here: <https://youtu.be/e6n8ctEAI84>



PFP Class of 2022 (from left to right):
Emily Ricci, Jadyn Laneaux, Natalie Klingler

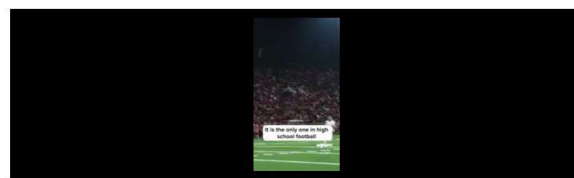
National Rankings:

#1 national ranking from Extra Innings Softball - <https://extrainningssoftball.com/high-school-the-final-2022-extra-elite-25-fall-softball-national-rankings-it-all-comes-down-to-georgia/> .

1. (1) Pope (Marietta, Ga.) 35-1
2. (2) Buford (Buford, Ga.) 32-1
3. (3) Columbine (Littleton, Colo.) 28-1
4. (4) Blue Springs South (Blue Springs, Mo.) 33-2

#2 national ranking from MaxPreps - <https://www.maxpreps.com/softball/fall/rankings/1/>

High School Softball Rankings



- Last update: 11/17/2022, Minimum Games Played: 6
- [Learn more about the rankings](#)

#	School	St...	Ovr.	Rating	Str.	+/-
1	Buford	GA	32-1	32.2	14.6	+67
2	Pope (Marietta)	GA	35-1	30.4	13.2	+64
3	Columbine (Littleton)	CO	28-1	29.0	11.8	+...

#4 national ranking from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA)-
https://nfca.org/component/com_nfca/Itemid,230/list,1/pdiv,hsf/top25,1/year,2022/

RANKINGS

Rank	Team	Record	Points	Previous
1	Buford (Ga.)	32-1		1
2	Columbine (Colo.)	28-1		2
3	Westfield School (Ga.)	28-0		3
4	Pope (Ga.)	35-1		4