

Greyhounds Make History with Region Runner-up finish

Never having finished higher than 4th in the region in the history of Pope High School, the 2011 squad has made history by making it to Pope's first ever region championship game and ending the regular season as the region runner-up.

After an 11-1 regular season region record and an overall record of 18-4, Pope qualified for the #1 seed out of the Northern sub-region of region 5-AAAA thus drawing the #4 seed from the Southern sub-region.

Monday October 3rd:

In game 1, Paulding County, the #4 seed from the south sub-region was able to take a 1-1 tie into the 8th inning thus invoking the international tie breaker. With Paulding County being the visiting team, they would get the first crack at the ITB. Paulding County capitalized on Pope miscues to plate 5 runs putting the game at 6-1 with the Greyhounds set to bat. Needing 5 runs, the Hounds bats came alive to draw within 2, but that's as close as the Hounds could get the score as the game ended 6-4 with the two tying runs on base. The upset victory by Paulding County put the Greyhounds backs to the wall in the double elimination tournament.

Tuesday October 4th:

The Greyhounds enter the day with a tall order ahead of themselves having to win a double header just to keep their season from ending and having to with a total of 4 games in two days if they wished to win the region championship.

In game 1, Pope faced the #2 seed from the south sub-region in South Paulding. Pope struck for 4 runs in the first inning and never looked back as Pope was able to cruise to an 8-4 victory.

In the nightcap, Pope had to face the south subregions #3 seed in Alexander, the team that knocked Pope out of the 2010 region tournament. Last year, the Pope / Alexander game was for state seedings as both teams had qualified for the state tournament, but this year the stakes were much higher as the loser of the game would see their season come to an end. Pope struck for 2 runs in the first inning and that is all they would need as Pope held on for a 2-0 win propelling Pope into the state tournament for the first time in consecutive years.

Wednesday October 5th:

Having qualified for the state tournament, the Greyhounds out looked appeared much more positive, but the Hounds would still have to win a second straight double header just to get back to the championship game.

First up on the day was Kell High School, the northern subregion's #3 seeded team and 2010 region 5-AAAA champion. Kell is the lone team in the region regular season to have defeated Pope as Kell scored a 10-2 mercy rule shorted victory back in August. In October however,

Pope exacted their revenge as the Hounds repayed the favor defeating Kell High School in a mercy rule shortened 12-2 game that ended with a 3 run walk off homerun by Jenna Reilly (her 5th of the season). The win would assure Pope of their highest finish ever in the region as Pope could now finish no worse than 3rd in the region.

In the nightcap, Pope would have face Chapel Hill, the southern subregions #1 seed who was just upset by #4 seed Paulding County in the winner's bracket championship game. Pope's bat's carried over from the Kell game as Pope blitzed Chapel Hill to put up 7 quick runs. Pope held on through the 7 innings to take the 7-0 victory and force a rematch with Paulding County.

Thursday October 6th:

The goal all season long was to play for the region championship, but Pope took the longest road possible, all the way through the loser's bracket of the region tournament to make it to the game. Paulding County had been the surprise of the tourney running off 3 straight victories and defeating both #1 seeds on their way to the championship game. If Pope was to win the championship, a victory over Paulding county would have to happen both on Thursday and then again on Friday. Pope held a 4-2 lead through 5 innings and looked as if they would be able to hold off Paulding, but with 2 outs in the 5th, Paulding plated the 2 tying runs and then plated the go ahead run in the 6th. Pope would lead off the 7th with a base hit, but could not plate the tying run as Paulding County took the 5-4 victory and 2011 region championship.

Although falling short of their goal of a region championship, the 2011 Pope fastpitch team lifted the program to brand new heights having never played for a region championship before and having never gone the state playoffs in consecutive years. A region runner-up finish is the best by far by any Pope team, and Pope has also never had the pleasure of hosting a state tournament series which will happen on Wednesday October 12th on the campus of Pope High School.

The 2011 season set a school record for wins for the 3rd consecutive year increasing in wins from 13 in 2009 to 19 in 2010 to the 22 Pope has posted through the regular season of 2011.

To see how the Greyhounds tournament run, please see the tourney brackets located below.

**G.H.S.A.
REGION 5-AAAA**

Al Bishop Park
OCTOBER 3 - 7,
2011

Chapel Hill (H) - 1A

AB 1 5:30pm
Mon. 10/3/11 1

Chapel Hill

East Paulding - 4B

AB3 5:30pm
Tue. 10/4/11

Chapel Hill

North Paulding (H) - 2B

AB1 7:30pm
Mon. 10/3/11 2

Alexander

7

Alexander - 3A

AB1 5:30pm
Wed. 10/5/11

**Paulding CO. -
5 (H)**

Pope (H) - 1B - 4

AB3 5:30pm
Mon. 10/3/11 3

Paulding Co.

11

Paulding CO - 4A - 6

AB1 5:30pm
Tue. 10/4/11 8

Paulding CO.

S. Paulding (H) - 2A

AB3 7:30pm
Mon 10/3/11 4

Kell

AB1 6:30pm
Thur.
10/6/11

PAULDING COUNTY

Kell - 3B

14

Chapel Hill - 0

L11

AB1 6:30pm
Fri. 10/7/11

15

Kell

L8

AB3 7:30pm

Pope - 4

East Paulding

L1
AB2 5:30pm
Tue. 10/4/11 5

AB2 7:30pm
Tue. 10/4/11 10

Kell - 2

Wed. 10/5/11

13

North Paulding

North Paulding

L2

Pope - 8

L3

AB4 5:30pm

Tue. 10/4/11 6

S. Paulding - 4

L4

Pope - 2

AB4 7:30pm

Tue. 10/4/11 11

Alexander - 0

L7

AB3 5:30pm

Wed. 10/5/11

Pope - 7

12

Pope - 12

LOSER OF 14 IF
FIRST LOSS