

## Pope Fastpitch 2017 Prospectus

Pope will play the 2017 season once again in region 7-AAAAAA, which proved during the 2016 season to be one of the best and most competitive regions in the state. Region 7-AAAAAA was the only region in the 6-A classification to send 2 teams to the state FINAL 4 with Pope finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place and Cambridge high school finishing as state Champions.



This season, there is excitement surrounding the Greyhounds as Pope returns 13 players from last year's 26-10 final 4 team losing only 3 seniors to graduation. The 2017 Hounds will be comprised of 7 seniors, 4 juniors, 2 sophomores and 3 freshman. The 26 wins in 2016 is the 4<sup>th</sup> most in school history and the final 4 appearance is the 4<sup>th</sup> such appearance in the last 5 seasons for the Greyhounds.

If the Hounds wish to repeat this success, the road will prove challenging as another competitive schedule has been mapped out for the team.



Of the Greyhounds' 18 opponents in 2017, 11 of these opponents qualified for the GHSA playoffs with 4 of the opponents qualifying for the Elite 8 in Columbus in 2016. (Cambridge, Harrison, Creekview, River Ridge).

Pope finished runner up in region 7-AAAAAA and hopes to contend for the region title again in 2017, but the Hounds face stiff competition with the likes of Cambridge (2017 region champ and state champion), Chattahoochee (which tied Pope for the same record in regular season region play), as well as strong teams in Alpharetta (playoff team in 2016) and Dunwoody (limited Pope to 1 run in games last season). Centennial, Johns Creek, and North Atlanta will all be dangerous as they have renewed energy in 2017 with the addition of new coaching staffs and Northview only graduated one senior from a very competitive 2016 team!

The Hounds return 5 All region players in 2017 with 1<sup>st</sup> team members **Hannah Rogers (OF), Trinity Pizzuti (P), Lea McFadden (OF) and Zoe Laneaux (INF)** leading the way and **Taylor Henson (2<sup>nd</sup> team C)** anchoring the defense for the Hounds.



**Rogers and McFadden** also earned All-State Honors in 2016 with Hannah Rogers being named 1<sup>st</sup> team All State as an outfielder and Lea McFadden being named 2<sup>nd</sup> team All State as an infielder playing 3B.

Although few in numbers, the 3 seniors the Hounds graduated will be greatly missed. Led by the play of Georgia Dugout club Senior All State player and Berry College signee **Samantha Crabtree**, the 2016 Greyhounds senior class provided much leadership and strong depth for the Hounds. Crabtree is arguably the Greyhounds best SS in school history setting a school record for

assists in a season in 2016 and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in career assists for the Hounds while also finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in career bats, 5<sup>th</sup> in career hits, 3<sup>rd</sup> in runs scored, 5<sup>th</sup> in career doubles, 4<sup>th</sup> career triples, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in career walks. Pitcher **Cailynn Moran** is the 7<sup>th</sup> winningest pitcher in Greyhounds history posting 12 career wins, 6<sup>th</sup> in career strikeouts, 6<sup>th</sup> in career average against, and 6<sup>th</sup> in career innings pitched and outfielder **Christina Tan** started 16 games for the Hounds in the OF in 2016 so the Greyhounds lose 3 strong players who will be tough to replace.



### Pitchers and Catchers:

The Greyhounds pitching and catching are in strong shape returning 2 pitchers who accounted for 84% of the innings pitching in the circle in 2016 with junior **Trinity Pizzuti** and senior **Hannah Rogers** both returning. To fill the void left by the graduation of **Moran**, talented freshman **Hallie Adams** will play an integral role in the circle for the Greyhounds. Rounding out the battery for Hounds will be seniors **Taylor Henson** and classmate **Leah Higginbotham** and sophomore **Carolyn Deady** who all accounted for every inning behind the plate in 2016 for the Hounds.



Pizzuti



C. Deady

### Infield

The Greyhounds return senior 1st basemen **Leah Higginbotham**, sophomore **Zoe Laneaux (2b / 3b)**, senior **Lea McFadden (3b)** from the 2016 starting lineup. Filling the void left by Crabtree at SS will be junior **Gracie Kittrell (SS)** who rehabbed from a severe injury the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 2016 to join the Hounds in late September to give a play-off push to the Hounds starting in both LF and 2b upon her return to action. Junior **Jodie Smith** who played in every game for the Hounds in 2016 (2b and RF) will also get significant time at 2b and returning players Junior **Hannah Dodd** and senior **Mary Deady** will provide quality depth at 2b, SS, and 3b for the Hounds. **Trinity Pizzuti** also played significant time at 1<sup>st</sup> base when not in the pitching circle in 2016 and will serve in that role again in 2017 along with **Henson**, **Carolyn Deady**, and freshman **Kaitlyn Wells** who will all provide great depth at 1<sup>st</sup> base. **Laneaux** will see significant time at 3b when not starting at 2b for the Hounds.



Laneaux



Kittrell

### Outfield

Senior **Hannah Rogers** will once again lead the way anchoring the outfield for the Hounds for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in 2017. When **Rogers** pitches, her CF spot will likely fall to **McFadden** who also excels in CF and has started in the Hounds outfield for 4 years as well.

Seniors **Sydney Sheahan** and **Kyla Smith** will compete for playing time in the outfield in LF and RF. Both Sheahan and Smith played integral roles on the 2016 team with Sheahan playing 16 games in the Of and Smith 11. Both **Sheahan** and **Smith** will assume starting roles at designated runner when not in the outfield as they accounted for 26 stolen bases for the Hounds (27% of team's total) with Smith swiping 19 and Sheahan 6. The duo also accounted for 15% of the Greyhounds runs scored in 2016 with Smith scoring 21 times and Sheahan 17 bringing the added dimension of speed to the Greyhounds lineup and serving as a "secret weapon" for the Hounds when an extra base is needed. Talented freshman **Bailey Chapin** will battle for playing time in LF and RF as well as at designated runner. **Leah Higginbotham** and **Kaitlyn Wells** may also see some time in the Greyhounds OF as well. When not playing in the Greyhounds infield, 2016 Greyhound RF **Jodie Smith** will also play some OF for the Greyhounds.



J. Smith



Sheahan

The Greyhounds will scrimmage Harrison High School on August 4<sup>th</sup> at Harrison and open up the regular season with a home game against Sequoyah on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. The Greyhounds 1<sup>st</sup> region game will be a home game against Alpharetta on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.



M. Deady



Dodd



K. Smith