

## 2017 End of year banquet celebrates multiple honorees; creates 2 brand new awards



On Tuesday 11-14, the Greyhounds celebrated the 2017 season with their end of the year banquet held at Indian Hills Country club in Marietta, Ga. 15 pieces of hardware were handed out to Pope program award winners as well as an additional 6 awards to all region players. The night was capped off by celebrating the 9 outgoing seniors (7 players; 2 announcers) from the Pope senior class of 2018; softball class of 2017.

The 2017 Hounds had another impressive season winning only the 2<sup>nd</sup> region championship in school history as well as eclipsing the 30 win mark for only

the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in school history with the 2013 winning 31 games and 2014 winning 32 games. The Greyhounds also participated in the GHSA state finals tournament in Columbus Georgia for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year, and the trip marks the 5<sup>th</sup> time since 2012 the Hounds have qualified for the state finals.



The JV Hounds also had a fabulous season to celebrate securing a 12-4 record this season breaking the previous school record of 10 wins in the process. 10 wins had been the standard for the JV as 3 teams had previously set that mark. The .750 winning % is the 2<sup>nd</sup> best in program history, second only to the 2010 JV team that posted a .909 winning percentage (10-1).

Two highlights from the night were the awarding of our inaugural volunteer of the year award to an outstanding member of the Pope community as well as our 1<sup>st</sup> ever legacy award that is given to honor the entire 4 year

playing career of a player who has made a profound impact on the softball program as well as established a legacy of greatness on the field.

### 2017 recipient - Jim McFadden



From giving up time to fix the facility, to updating [www.popefastpitch.net](http://www.popefastpitch.net), to maintaining our budget, to stocking the concession stand, to coaching the junior team, to organizing pre game meals and many other unheralded tasks, Jim McFadden's efforts have earned him the inaugural volunteer of the year award which will be named in his honor.

The Pope Fastpitch program could never create the 1st class experience for our players and coaches that we currently enjoy without serious volunteer hours and Coach "Mac" assumes many roles within our organization and is as responsible for the quality of product the program puts forth as anyone else in the entire organization.

Coach Mac's efforts frequently go unnoticed because he diligently goes about his business with a quiet humility never seeking the spotlight or praise, but everyone in the organization benefits from his efforts.

When asked why he does what he does he once shared that:

"If I didn't believe in the direction of the program or enjoy doing what I am doing, I wouldn't put as much time into it, but I believe in the mission of the program".

Coach Mac will be missed in the coming years as it will literally take multiple people to fill his massive shoes!

The volunteer of the year award has been officially named "Jim McFadden" volunteer of the year in honor of longtime Pope softball supporter Jim McFadden. This award will now be given annually for the volunteer that goes above and beyond the call of duty in support of the Pope program and "Mac's" legacy will live on annually through the awarding of this honor to his predecessors.



Hannah Rogers was awarded our 1<sup>st</sup> ever legacy award for her spectacular on field accomplishments throughout her career as well as her stellar character in the school building and community. Hannah managed to break 6 career records as well as 6 individual records both as a hitter and as a pitcher throughout the course of her career and Hannah's conduct both on and off the field will have players in the future striving to become the next "Hannah Rogers".

The top team honors for the 2017 season were captured by Lea McFadden who was voted the team's MVP for her efforts at the plate, in the OF and at 3B for the Hounds in 2017. Lea was also one of the Pope Team captains in 2017 where her leadership also contributed to her being named "Most Valuable".

Mary Deady was voted "Greyhound of the Year" which is an award given to the best teammate on the varsity team. Mary was highly respected for her commitment to raising the play of her fellow teammates while putting her own wishes and desires 2<sup>nd</sup> to her teammates.

The Banquet closed with the celebration of the 7 seniors who throughout their career captured a region championship, 104 wins, 3 trips to Columbus, 4 State playoff appearances, and a 2014 State championship! The senior class averaged 26 wins per season and provided excellent senior leadership in 2017.



**Full List of 2017 award winners are:**

**Community Award**

"Jim McFadden" volunteer of the year award: **Jim McFadden**

**Junior Varsity Awards**

JV Top performer – **Morgan Herman**

JV Top performer – **Cobyanne Ellington**

**Team Awards**

Coach's Award – **Kyla Smith**

Coaches Award – **Hannah Smith**

Scholar Athlete – **Trinity Pizzuti**

Scholar Athlete - **Sydney Sheahan**



**Varsity Awards**

Best Pitcher – **Hallie Adams**

Best Defense – **Gracie Kittrell**

Breakout Player – **Zoe Laneaux**

Rookie of the Year – **Bailey Chapin**

Silver Slugger – **Leah Higginbotham**

Greyhound Award – **Mary Deady**

MVP – **Lea McFadden**

Legacy Award – **Hannah Rogers**

