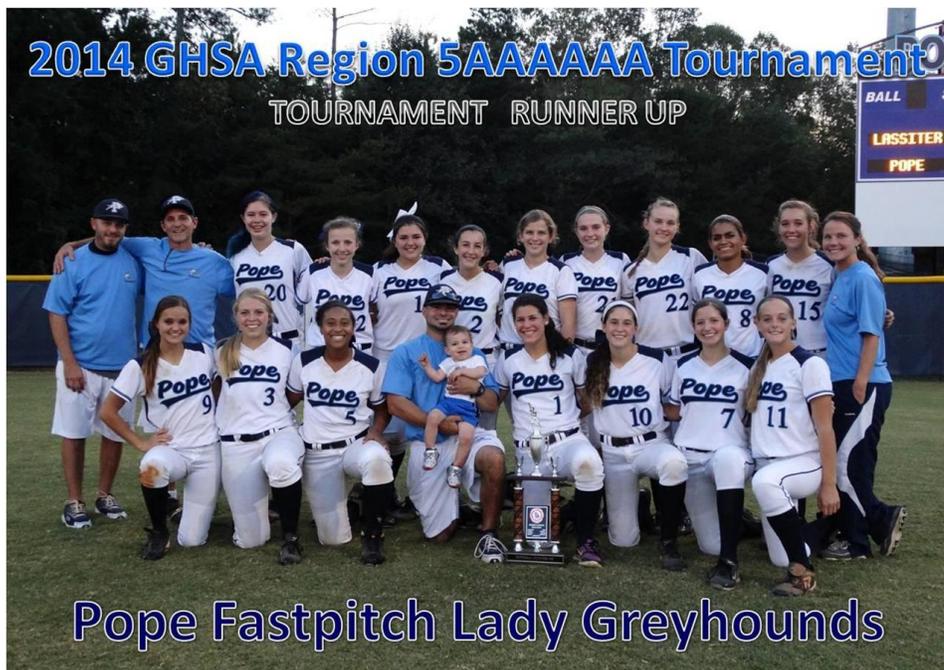


Greyhounds Qualify for State Finals Tournament for 3rd consecutive year

The Pope Greyhounds will return to Columbus for the state finals tournament for the 3rd consecutive year. In 2012 and 2013 the Greyhounds competed in the state's 2nd largest classification (AAAAA) finishing state runner up in 2012, and 4th in 2013. This year, in the state's largest classification (AAAAAA), Pope once again qualified for the state finals in Columbus.

Pope finished as region runner up in Region 5-AAAAAA coming in second in the double elimination region tournament after winning the regular season region title going a perfect 8-0 in the regular season including a 1-0 victory over rival Lassiter to secure the regular season title.



The Greyhounds finished 3-2 in the region tournament after defeating Walton once and Woodstock twice but Lassiter would get their revenge over the Hounds securing a narrow 1-0 victory in the winner's bracket championship game and then posting a 4-1 victory in the championship game.

Finishing 2nd secured a first round home playoff series in the GHSA playoffs as the Hounds hosted West Forsyth, the region 6-AAAAAA #3 seed. The Hounds defeated West Forsyth 5-1 and 7-2 in the best of three series to move on to the 2nd round of the GHSA

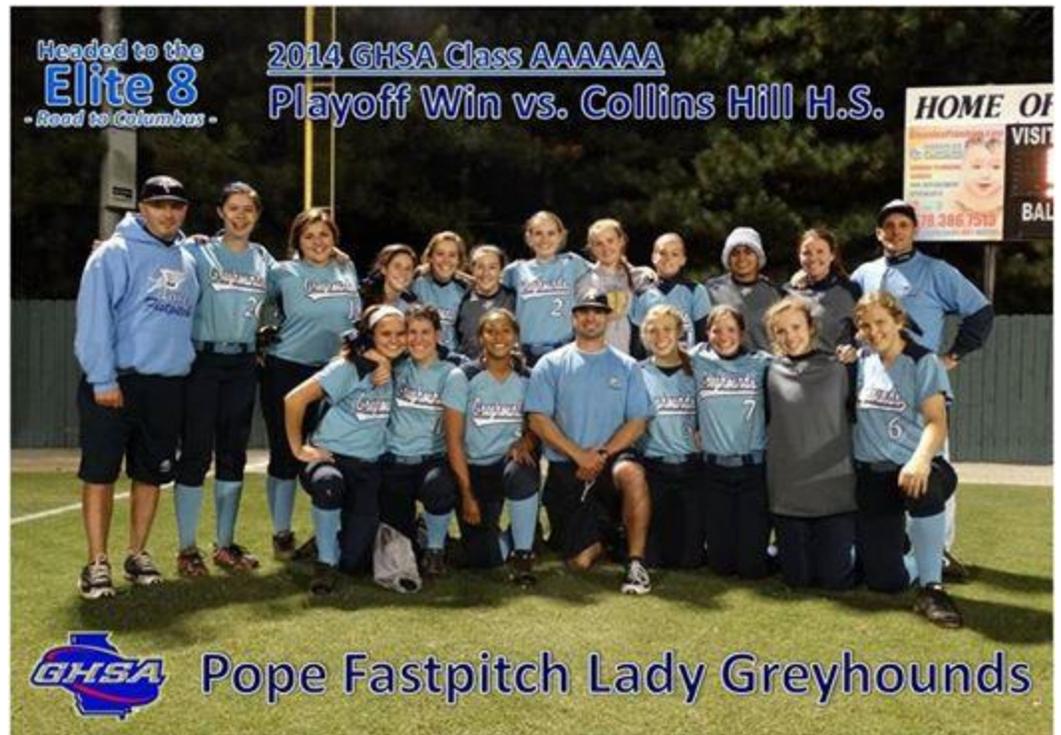
playoffs.

In round 2, the Greyhounds faced a tall task having to travel to Collins Hill, winner of 4 of the last 5 AAAAAA state championships (2009, 2010, 2011, 2013) and the 2014 region 7-AAAAAA champion. Collins Hill had qualified for the state finals in Columbus 6 consecutive years prior to 2014, but the Greyhounds were able to sweep the #2 ranked team in the state in the best of 3 series 4-1 and 2-1.

In the deciding game of the series, the Hounds were the home team and were clinging to a 1-0 lead in the top of the 7th when Collins Hill mounted a rally to tie the game at 1 a piece. In the bottom of the 7th, the Hounds secured their berth to Columbus in exciting fashion with a walk off win on the strength of a Lindsey Monkiewicz double which plated Hannah Rogers who singled earlier in the inning. Monkiewicz was batting with 2 outs and 2 strikes in the last inning when she fought through a 10 pitch at bat to send a shot down the right field line to secure the walk-off hit.

The Hounds will go on to play for the State Championship Tournament October 30 – November 1st in Columbus Georgia at South Commons Softball Complex (site of the 1996 Olympic softball tournament). The tournament is a double elimination style tournament and consists of 8 teams.

Cobb County has 4 teams in the AAAAAA tournament (Harrison, Hillgrove, Pope, Lassiter) who are all seeking to bring the title back to Cobb County for the 1st time since 2007 when Lassiter secured the counties last state softball championship.



See the Greyhounds road to the State Championship here: <https://www.ghsa.net/2014-2015-ghsa-class-aaaaaa-state-softball-tournament-bracket>