

### **Game 1: Pope 7 Marist 1 - @ Marist (1-0; 0-0)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> hit of the season was recorded by Quentin Staton who had 2 hits on the day for the Hounds to go 2/4 and the first RBI of the season was driven in by Senior Megan Metzinger with an RBI double who also had a 2/4 game driving in Senior Lauren Palace for the 1<sup>st</sup> run of the year. Kelly Barnhill threw a complete game in the circle striking out 16 and surrendering only 2 hits. The Hounds pounded out 9 hits on the day making just 1 error in the game leading to a Marist unearned run.

### **Game 2: Pope 4 Chapel Hill 5 - @ Pope – Georgia Dugout club leadoff classic (1-1; 0-0)**

Pope pitcher Kelly Barnhill does what many considered impossible by tying her own school record recording 21 strikeouts in the game, but is the tough luck losing pitcher in an 8 inning international tie-breaker game that entered the extra frame tied at 3-3. Lindsey Monkiewicz led the Greyhound offensive attacked going 3-4 at the plate with a solo homerun (1<sup>st</sup> of the season) in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning to tie the game at 3-3. Quentin Staton and Samantha Crabtree also added extra base hits both pounding out doubles in the game.

### **Game 3: Pope 5 Chapel Hill 1 - @ Pope – Georgia Dugout club leadoff classic (2-1; 0-0)**

Devyn Smith is able to scatter 5 Chapel Hill hits allowing only 1 run in her first pitching action of the season for the Hounds. Lindsey Monkiewicz continues her hot hitting, running off 6 straight hits in the double header and going 3-4 in the game with an RBI. Kyra Williamson and Devyn Smith both chipped in doubles and RBI's for the Hounds and Megan Metzinger and Tamaya Turner also added an RBI a piece.

### **Game 4: Pope 4 Kennesaw Mountain 7 - @ KMHS – Georgia Dugout club leadoff classic (2-2; 0-0)**

Pope is defeated in the 5 inning time shortened game vs KMHS right as their bats were beginning to wake up! After being down 6-0, the Hounds came alive to pound out 4 runs in the 5<sup>th</sup> before the game is called at the conclusion of the inning due to time. Freshman Caelyn Dougherty was 3-3 in the contest with a double and 3 RBI. Tamaya Turner and Kyra Williamson were also 2-3 in the contest for the Hounds.

### **Game 5: Pope 6 Pierce co. 7 - @KMHS – Georgia Dugout club leadoff classic (2-3; 0-0)**

Entering the 6<sup>th</sup> inning ahead 6-2, the Greyhounds cannot overcome 3 errors in the last inning to put Pierce County away and ran out of time to mount a comeback. Kelly Barnhill was excellent in the circle for the Hounds striking out 15 while scattering 4 hits and surrendering only 2 earned runs. Offensively, 5 Greyhounds had multi-hit games with Caelyn Dougherty having her 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive 3 hit game chipping in her 2<sup>nd</sup> double of the day. Monkiewicz, Palace, Staton and Crabtree each had 2 hits in the contest.

### **Game 6: Pope 3 Thomas County Central 2 - @ KMHS – Georgia Dugout club leadoff classic (3-3; 0-0)**

Devyn Smith tosses a complete game 4 hitter to lead the Greyhounds to victory in the final game of the GADC Leadoff classic. Lauren Palace is 2-3 in the game with an RBI and Megan Metzinger also drives in a run in her 1-3 performance. Shawna Finister and Lindsey Monkiewicz also have 1-3 days and freshman Lea Mcfadden secures her first career varsity hit with a 1-2 day.

### **Game 7: Pope 3 Milton 0 @ Pope – (4-3; 1-0)**

The Pope offense does just enough with their 5 hits to push across three runs and the pitching and defense did the rest as Pope captures its first ever 5-AAAAAA region victory. Lauren Palace is 2-3 and Megan Metzinger blasts an RBI double in the 6<sup>th</sup> to push across an insurance run after the Greyhounds scored 2 in the first on a 2 out error. Kelly Barnhill was masterful in her complete game 3 hit performance where she struck out 14 and walked 0.

### **Game 8: Pope 1 Riverridge 0 @ Riverridge – (5-3; 0-0)**

Pope consistently hit the ball hard all morning but sparkling defensive gems by Riverridge keep the Hounds off the board until the ITB in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning. Lea Mcfadden scored the winning run for the Hounds after Shawna Finister sacrifice bunts her to 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lindsey Monkiewicz hits a deep sacrifice fly to plate Mcfadden.

Kelly Barnhill had the performance of a lifetime for the Hounds as she strikes out 23 batters in a game that only had 24 outs. 23 strikeouts is a new Pope school record which breaks the record of 21 which was set by Barnhill on 2 separate occasions. (both 8 inning games) There was 1 hit in the game, but that base runner was erased by Greyhound catcher Caelyn Dougherty on a steal attempt by Riverridge. In the 8<sup>th</sup>, Riverridge attempts to steal 3<sup>rd</sup> and the runner is also cut down by Dougherty. Barnhill is able to get to 23 K's because one runner reached base on a dropped third strike in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Game 9: Pope 9 Blessed Trinity 14 @ Riverridge – (5-4; 1-0)**

After falling behind 14-3 in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the Greyhounds are able to bat around in the 6<sup>th</sup> scoring 5 runs and cutting the lead to 14-8. The Hounds keep up the fight in the 7<sup>th</sup> with another run but are not able to complete the comeback.

Freshman Hannah Rogers led the Hounds with a 3-4 performance tallying a double and an RBI. Madeline Dobkin was 2-4 with an RBI and Kyra Willimason had 2 RBI's for the Hounds in the contest.

### **Game 10: Pope 11 North Paulding 0 @ Pope – (6-4; 1-0)**

The Greyhounds led from wire to wire after scoring in each inning of the game plating 11 runs on 12 hits. The offense was led by Samantha Crabtree, Caelyn Dougherty, and Lauren Palace who each had 2 hits in the contest with Palace being 2-4, Crabtree 2-3 and Dougherty 2-2. Crabtree, Lindsey Monkiewicz and Kelly Barnhill all had 2 RBI's for the Hounds in the contest. Pitch Kelly Barnhill tossed a 2 hit shutout with 13 K's and she helped her own cause in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning as she blasted her 1<sup>st</sup> homerun on the year which was a 2 run blast.

### **Game 11: Pope 7 Etowah 3 @ Etowah - (7-4; 2-0)**

Pope traveled to Cherokee county for it's 2<sup>nd</sup> ever AAAAAA region game which was an exciting contest which was much closer than the score would allow one to think.

Pope was clinging to a 2-1 lead in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> when the game was broken open by a 2 run double by Freshman Hannah Rogers and then followed up by another long homerun by Kelly Barnhill (her 2<sup>nd</sup> of

the season) to bring the score to 6-1. Pope added an insurance run in the 7<sup>th</sup> when Megan Metzinger scored on a passed ball. Metzinger also added a big hit of her own in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning when she scored Lauren Palace from 1<sup>st</sup> with a triple into the right field corner to make the score 2-1.

Mezinger and Rogers both had multi-hit games with Metzinger going 2-4 and Rogers going 2-2.

Kelly Barnhill broke her own 7 inning (regulation game) strikeout record recording 19 K's in the 7 inning game while surrendering only 2 hits in the complete game performance.

#### **Game 12: Pope 8 Cherokee 0 – (8-4; 3-0)**

The Pope offense exploded for 6 runs in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning and Kelly Barnhill held the Cherokee batters to 0 hits to move Pope to 3-0 in region play.

Samantha Crabtree had a 3 hit performance going a perfect 3-3 and plating two RBI's with a bases loaded double. Caelyn Dougherty and Lauren Palace also had 2 hit games with Palace going 2-2 and Dougherty going 2-3 on the day.

Megan Metzinger hit a milestone in the game as her double in the 2<sup>nd</sup> was her 97<sup>th</sup> career hit which moves her into 3<sup>rd</sup> place all time in Pope history behind Laura Beall's 150 hits and Jenna Reilly's 138 hits. Metzinger's double also gives her 27 for her career which moves her into 2<sup>nd</sup> all time for doubles behind Laura Beall's 41.

Kelly Barnhill extended her record for no-hitters at Pope by tossing her 16<sup>th</sup> solo no-hitter (17<sup>th</sup> overall with 1 combined no hitter) tossing a complete game and adding an RBI to her cause with a long sacrifice fly in the 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Game 13: Pope 8 Sprayberry 0 – (9-4; 3-0)**

Kelly Barnhill tossed her 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive no-hitter and added her 3<sup>rd</sup> homerun of the season to help her own cause in the 5 inning mercy rule victory against Sprayberry on the campus of Pope High. Barnhill had 14 K's in the game while walking just 1 and hitting 1 batter.

To go along with Barnhill's 1-3 two RBI performance was Megan Metzinger who was 3-4 in the game with a double and an RBI. Metzinger surpassed the 100 career hit mark in the game to become only the 3<sup>rd</sup> Greyhound in school history to be in the prestigious 100 hit club. Laura Beall leads all Hounds with 150 hits and Jenna Reilly is 2<sup>nd</sup> with 138.

Caelyn Dougherty and Samantha Crabtree also had 2-3 games to assist the Hounds in reaching 13 hits in the game.

#### **Game 14: Pope 9 Wheeler 0 – (10-4; 4-0)**

Pope had quite the offensive explosion pounding out 16 hits in the contest with 4 going for extra bases, 3 of those by way of the home run.

Devyn Smith blasted a double and a homerun to mark the 1<sup>st</sup> HR of her career. Smith's shot was a 2 RBI blast in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. Kelly Barnhill became only the 2<sup>nd</sup> player in Pope history to blast 2 homeruns in a

game when she homered in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> innings, matching Jenna Reilly (2012) as the only players in school history to accomplish the feat.

Smith, Barnhill, Lauren Palace, Quentin Staton, and Megan Metzinger all had multiple hits in the contest to lead the Greyhound attack.

Barnhill barely missed her 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive no-hitter as she tossed 6 2/3 innings of no hit ball only to surrender a single in the 7<sup>th</sup>. Barnhill set a new school record striking out 20 batters in a 7 inning game however as all outs except 1 came by way of the strikeout.

#### **Game 15: Pope 2 Woodstock 1 – (11-4; 5-0)**

Megan Metzinger led a 7 hit Greyhound attack by going 2 for 3 and blasting her 1<sup>st</sup> career homerun in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning that sailed well beyond the confines of the “Racetrack” (Pope softball field). Lauren Palace added a clutch RBI as she singled home the eventual winning run with 2 outs in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning to give the Greyhounds the win and helping them remain spotless in region play.

Kelly Barnhill tossed a complete game 2 hitter striking out 17 and walking only 2 in the contest.

#### **Game 16: Pope 0 Cambridge 2 – (11-5; 5-0)**

Cambridge and Pope were locked in a hotly contested pitcher’s duel that remained scoreless for 10 innings before Cambridge could finally push across a couple of runs in the 11<sup>th</sup>. Kelly Barnhill tied the school record for strikeouts in a game with 23 K’s on the night as she mastered the Cambridge hitters in a strong 4 hit performance that ended with Cambridge scoring with the assistance of the International tie breaker rule.

Pope had opportunities as runners were on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with no outs in the 8<sup>th</sup>, bases loaded with 0 outs in the 9<sup>th</sup> and runner at 3<sup>rd</sup> with 1 out in the 10<sup>th</sup>, but stellar defensive plays by Cambridge kept the Hounds at bay.

#### **Game 17: Pope 4 Marist 2 – (12-5; 5-0)**

In the return from fall break, Pope picked up where it left off before the break winning with strong pitching and defense.

Kelly Barnhill picked up her 10<sup>th</sup> win of the season surrendering 0 earned runs and striking out 14.

The Pope offense was led by Megan Metzinger who plated 2 runs in the 4<sup>th</sup> with an RBI double off the wall in left field. Monkiewicz, Dougherty, Crabtree, Rogers, and Palace also chipped in hits.

#### **Game 18: Pope 1 Grayson 0 – (13-5; 5-0)**

Pope and Grayson had the opportunity to play at Georgia Gwinnett College’s beautiful new softball facility and played a hard fought 1 run game.

Kelly Barnhill tossed her 3<sup>rd</sup> no hitter of the year striking out 14 once again.

Megan Metzinger was instrumental once again as she had the lone RBI in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning with a sacrifice fly to score Lindsey Monkiewicz. “Monk” singled, stole 2<sup>nd</sup>, advanced to 3<sup>rd</sup> on an error before being plated by Metzinger’s deep fly ball. Monkiewicz was 3-3 in the contest to lead all Greyhound hitters.

#### **Game 19: Pope 3 Roswell 2 – (14-5; 6-0)**

In a game tied 1-1 in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning with 2 outs, Samantha Crabtree came up with the based loaded and pounded out a clutch 2 run single to put the game away for the Greyhounds. Crabtree had 2 hits on the day to go 2-3 along with fellow Hound Megan Metzinger. Caelyn Dougherty had the other big hit of the day shooting the ball to the RCF gap in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning and scoring Metzinger all the way from 1<sup>st</sup> on the hit.

Kelly Barnhill handled the pitching duties for Pope striking out 16 and surrendering just 3 hits.

#### **Game 20: Pope 1 Lassiter 0 – (15-5; 7-0)**

With regular season 1<sup>st</sup> place seeding on the line, Pope and Lassiter battled in a scoreless game until Pope was able to edge out the states #1 ranked team with another clutch single by Samantha Crabtree, this time in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning with runners on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and two outs.

Quentin Staton led the Hounds 7 hit attack going 2-3 from the plate and Kelly Barnhill added a long double in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning.

In the circle, Barnhill tossed a complete game 1 hitter striking out 14 and walking 0.

With the victory, Pope remains the lone unbeaten team in region 5-AAAAAA and captures the top seed in the region tournament. Pope will host 11 of the tournaments 15 games from 10-4 through 10-9.

#### **Game 21: Pope 8 Eagles Landing 0 (16-5; 7-0) – North Cobb Warrior Classic**

In game 1 of the Warrior classic Pope’s hot hitting and strong pitching prevailed. Shawna Finister and Devyn Smith both had 2-3 games for Pope with Finister chipping in 2 RBI’s on the day.

Kelly Barnhill silenced the Eagle bats with a complete game 1 hit shutout striking out 14.

#### **Game 22: Pope 2 Northside Columbus 13 (16-6; 7-0) – North Cobb Warrior Classic**

With the tournament running about an hour and a half late, the groggy Greyhounds sleep walked through their 2<sup>nd</sup> game only able to secure 3 hits in the contest. Quentin Staton, Samantha Crabtree, and Hannah Rogers each had 1 hit for the Hounds.

The pitching and defense had a slight let down as they surrendered 13 runs in the contest.

#### **Game 23: Pope 8 Sprayberry 3 (17-6; 7-0) - North Cobb Warrior Classic**

After the Hounds walked off the field at 11:35 the night before, the Hounds showed up surprisingly alert and ready to go in the 10AM game (1<sup>st</sup> of 3 on the day).

The Greyhounds pounded out a 12 hit attack which was led by freshman Lea McFadden who was 3 for 4 with a double. Megan Metzinger, Samantha Crabtree, and Hannah Rogers were each 2-4 in the contest.

The Hounds found themselves down early 2-0, but pitcher Devyn Smith came up with 2 on in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning and unleashed a double off the wall to knot the score. The Hounds never looked back as they tacked on their final 6 runs over the next 5 innings.

Smith tossed a complete game to secure her 3<sup>rd</sup> win in the pitching circle for the Hounds.

The win secured a spot in the "Gold" Division of the Warrior Classic.

#### **Game 24: Pope 4 Dunwoody 0 (18-6; 7-0) - North Cobb Warrior Classic**

Kelly Barnhill has done some amazing things in her Pope career, but none more incredible than her performance in the first game of Pope's "Gold" round in the warrior Classic.

Barnhill tossed a perfect game which is just the 5<sup>th</sup> perfect game in Pope history (Barnhill's 3<sup>rd</sup> career PG). In the game every out was recorded by way of the strikeout with Barnhill facing 21 batters and fanning every single one of them. The 21k's also ties a Pope record for most strikeouts in a 7 inning game.

Barnhill also led a Pope power surge that saw Pope blast 3 homeruns in the game with two coming off the bat of Barnhill and 1 coming from fellow senior Megan Metzinger.

#### **Game 25: Pope 4 South Cobb 1 (19-6; 7-0) - North Cobb Warrior Classic**

Pope secured the "Gold" Division crown with a victory over South Cobb which was the Hounds' 5<sup>th</sup> game in 24 hours. Quentin Staton led the Hounds with a 2-3 performance blasting an RBI double off the wall in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning. The Hounds had multiple base-runners in the game as they secured 5 hits and 6 walks in the contest.

Barnhill tossed a 3 hitter with 11 K's in the time shortened 5 inning game.

#### **Game 26: Pope 8 Walton 0 (20 – 6; 8-0)**

Pope secures its 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive 20 win season (4<sup>th</sup> in school history) on the strength of a perfect game, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in 4 days and the 6<sup>th</sup> in program history as Pope defeats Walton in 5 innings. All but 1 of the outs were recorded by way of the strikeout as Kelly Barnhill strikes out 14 of 15 batters faced with the 1 non strikeout coming by the way of a ground out to Barnhill.

Megan Metzinger led the offense pounding out 3 hits with 3 RBI and Lea Mcfadden was a perfect 2 for 2 on the day. Quentin Staton and Hannah Rogers also chipped in 2 RBI's for the Hounds.

The victory secures a perfect 8-0 record in region play which is the first perfect region record in Greyhound history!

#### **Game 27: Pope 2 Harrison 0 (21-6; 8-0) Senior Night**

The senior night game was the final regular season game of the year for the Hounds and it ended in exciting fashion with the hero being freshman catcher Caelyn Dougherty who hit a 2 run walk-off homerun in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> with 2 outs to secure the victory.

The Hounds and Hoyas were locked in a pitcher's duel which went scoreless into the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> before Dougherty struck her big blow. The Hounds had only 3 hits in the contest with Samantha Crabtree securing the 2 other hits, both singles.

Kelly Barnhill tossed a 1 hit gem striking out 17 in the process.

### **Game 28: Pope 14 Walton 0 (22-6; 8-0) Region Tournament**

The Pope offense started the region tournament in strong fashion plating a season high 14 runs making the most of 5 hits and capitalizing on 11 free bases in the form of 9 walks and 2 HP.

Lindsey Monkiewicz, Megan Metzinger, Hannah Rogers and Shawna Finister all had 2 RBI's in the game.

Kelly Barnhill tossed her 5<sup>th</sup> no hitter of the season striking out 10 Walton batters in the 4 inning game.

### **Game 29: Pope 11 Woodstock 2 (23-6; 8-0) Region Tournament**

Pope continued it's hot hitting pounding out 14 hits enroute to 11 runs. The win secures a state tournament berth for the Hounds for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year .

The Greyhounds had 5 multi-hit performers with Samantha Crabtree, Megan Metzinger, Quentin Staton, Kelly Barnhill, and Lea Mcfadden all securing 2 hits in the game.

Caelyn Dougherty pounded out her 2<sup>nd</sup> homerun in 3 games as she crushed a 3 run shot in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning to give the Hounds a quick 3-0 lead.

Barnhill tossed a complete game 3 hitter and struck out 12 in the shortened 5 inning game. With the win, Barnhill becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> Pope pitcher ever to win 20 games in a season breaking her own record of 19 wins set in 2012. Barnhill's 2014 record is now 20-3.

### **Game 30: Pope 0 Lassiter 1 (23-7; 8-0) Region tournament**

Pope and Lassiter mix it up with a big time pitcher's duel that sees only 3 hits in the game, 1 by Pope and 2 by Lassiter.

Lea Mcfadden pounds out the only Pope hit and steals second to give Pope its best scoring threat, but the Hounds are unable to plate the run.

Kelly Barnhill surrendered a run in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning on an attempted steal of home plate by a Lassiter runner and an errant throw to the catcher allows the run to score. Barnhill struck out 13 and surrendered only 2 walks.

### **Game 31: Pope 9 Woodstock 1 (24-7; 8-0) Region Tournament**

Pope secures their place in the region tournament championship game by defeating Woodstock 9-1.

Kelly Barnhill tosses a 1 hit gem securing her 21<sup>st</sup> win of the season and third over Woodstock for the season . In the game, Barnhill struck out 9 while walking only 2.

The Greyhounds pounded out 12 hits with Quentin Staton, Hannah Rogers, Tamaya Turner and Lea McFadden all securing 2 hits in the contest. Rogers also was the only Hound who had multiple RBI's on the day with 2 runs batted in.

### **Game 32: Pope 1 Lassiter 4 (24-8; 8-0) Region championship**

For the second time in program history, the Greyhounds have finished region runner-up as the Hounds drop the championship 4-1. The other region runner up finish was in 2011.

Pope had 9 base runners getting 6 of them into scoring position, but could not capitalize.

After Lassiter plated 2 runs in the 1<sup>st</sup>, Pope answered back with one of its own but left runners on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to end the inning.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> with a runner on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, a soft hit by Shawna Finister was fielded and the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman was overthrown. The runner from second was sent to the plate and she seemingly beat the throw to the plate by a fair margin, but was called out by the umpire on the throw from the right fielder to end the inning and the scoring threat.

The Hounds were not able to muster anything in the 7th and ended the contest as the #2 seed from region 5-AAAAA.

### **Game 33: Pope 5 West Forsyth 1 (25-8; 8-0) GHSA Playoffs Round 1**

West Forsyth played Pope close with the score sitting at 2-1 entering the 6<sup>th</sup> inning when Kelly Barnhill helped her own cause by blasting a 3 run homerun to blast the game open. Barnhill's homerun is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the season which places her 2<sup>nd</sup> all-time in career homeruns at Pope.

Earlier in the game, Quentin Staton hit a homerun of her own which is both the 1<sup>st</sup> of her season and the 1<sup>st</sup> of her Pope career.

Kelly Barnhill tossed a 1 hitter in which she struck out 17 while walking 4.

Barnhill was able to work out of a couple of jams, with the toughest one being in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning when West was able to load the bases with no outs but failed to plate a run.

### **Game 34: Pope 7 West Forsyth 2 (26-8; 8-0) GHSA Playoffs Round 1**

The Hounds were the visitors in game 2 of the best of three series and they wasted no time scoring in the game as they pounded out 5 1<sup>st</sup> inning runs to cruise to the 7-2 victory.

Lindsey Monkiewicz was the hitting star in game 2 pounding out 3 hits including a triple and 3 runs batted in. Devyn Smith, Kelly Barnhill, Tamaya Turner, and Hannah Rogers each chipped in 2 hits for the Hounds with Turner adding a double in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning.

Kelly Barnhill tossed a complete game 3 hitter striking out 17 and only walking 1.

### **Game 35: Pope 4 Collins Hill 0 (27-8; 8-0) GHSA Playoffs Round 2**

Pope had to travel to Collins Hill, the defending state champions and winners of 4 of the last 5 titles, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the state playoffs.

Pope made the most of 7 hits and 3 walks plating 4 runs in the game with the big inning coming in the 3<sup>rd</sup> when the Hounds scored 3 runs to take a commanding 3-0 lead.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lea McFadden walked, Lauren Palace singled, Samantha Crabtree scored Mcfadden on a fielder's choice and Megan Metzinger had the big hit plating both Palace and Crabtree with a single up the middle.

In the 4<sup>th</sup>, the Hounds were able to add an insurance run when Hannah Rogers singled, stole 2<sup>nd</sup> and scored on a defensive miscue by the Collins Hill 1<sup>st</sup> baseman.

Barnhill was electric striking out 18 Collins Hills Eagles while walking only 2.

### **Game 36: Pope 2 Collins Hill 1 (28-8; 8-0) GHSA Playoffs Round 2**

The Greyhounds secured their 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive berth to Columbus and the state finals in dramatic fashion.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning the Hounds plated the 1<sup>st</sup> run of the game when Megan Metzinger scored on a 2 out error by Collins Hill.

The Hounds were clinging to a 1-0 lead going into the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> (Pope was home team in game 2) when Collins Hill answered back for their first run of the night in 14 innings.

2 singles, a sacrifice bunt and a sacrifice fly did the trick for Collins Hill as they knotted the score at 1.

Pope, down to its last chance to score began the inning harmlessly with a fly out to cf. The 2<sup>nd</sup> batter of the inning, Hannah Rogers, managed a single to put the Hounds in business. Kelly Barnhill laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Rogers to 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lindsey Monkiewicz came to the plate with 2 outs and quickly went down 0-2 in the at bat. Monkiewicz continued to foul off pitches and work the count to 2-2. On the 10<sup>th</sup> pitch of the at bat, Monkiewicz powered a shot down the right field line just out of the grasp of the diving Collins Hill right fielder to score Hannah Rogers and send the Hounds to Columbus on a walk off win!

### **Game 37: Pope 6 – Harrison 2 (29-8; 8-0) State Finals winners bracket game 1**

Pope faced a familiar foe in game 1 of the championship series in the Harrison Hoyas as Pope had played Harrison in their scrimmage game as well as on senior night in 2014. The Pope offense pounded out 6 runs on 13 hits in the opener rallying for four 2 out runs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning where a 2 out single and stolen base by Lauren Palace turned into the 1<sup>st</sup> Greyhound run when Samantha Crabtree singled Palace home. Crabtree's hit was followed up by singles by Megan Metzinger and Hannah Rogers to complete the scoring.

Metzinger, Lea McFadden and Hannah Rogers all had multiple hits for the Hounds with Metzinger securing 3 hits and McFadden and Rogers securing 2 a piece.

Kelly Barnhill starred in the circle surrendering 1 hit and striking out a whopping 19 batters while walking only 1.

### **Game 38: Pope 3 – Brookwood 3 (30-8; 8-0) State Finals winner's bracket game 2**

Pope made the most of 5 hits against Brookwood ace Amanda Ablan as the Hounds managed to pound out 2 homeruns in the contest coming off the bats of Megan Metzinger and Kelly Barnhill.

Metzinger blasted her 3<sup>rd</sup> homerun of the season in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning to give the Hounds a 1 – 0 lead. That homerun was followed up by a team leading 9<sup>th</sup> homerun from the bat of Kelly Barnhill where her solo homerun made the score 2 – 0. The 9<sup>th</sup> homerun from Barnhill also ties the Greyhound career homerun record of 9 held by Jenna Reilly.

Hannah Rogers capped off the scoring with a 2 out RBI single that scored Metzinger as Megan had reached on an error.

Barnhill shone bright in the circle surrendering only 2 hits and striking out 15 batters.

On Barnhill's 13<sup>th</sup> strikeout, she tied the state record for strikeouts in a season with her 497<sup>th</sup> strikeout, and on her 14<sup>th</sup> strikeout, Barnhill became the states all – time single season strikeout record holder with 498 K's (and counting).

### **Game 39: Pope 4 – Lassiter 0 (31-8; 8-0) State Semi-Finals – winner's bracket game 3**

When Pope and Lassiter met in the winner's bracket final of the State Finals tournament, one thing was clear, a team from region 5-AAAAAA would be qualifying for the state championship, but the question remained of which team that would be. Lassiter held the advantage in the season series with a 2-1 record vs. Pope, but the Greyhounds would avenge their 2 consecutive losses to the Trojans to even the at 2-2 and punch their ticket to the state championship.

In the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning, the Hounds would strike early with Megan Metzinger blasting her 2<sup>nd</sup> homerun of the day, a two run shot to give the Greyhounds an early 2-0 lead. The Greyhounds would eventually tack on 2 more runs on 10 total hits.

Quentin Staton drove in Hannah Rogers with a squeeze bunt and then she would come around to score on a head first dive into homeplate after a throwing error sailed the ball into right field where the Trojan outfielder attempted to throw Staton out at the plate in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

Rogers also starred for the Hounds blasting a double and triple in the contest to continue her hot hitting for the tournament and Lauren Palace also had a multi hit game, going 2-3 in the contest.

The pitching duties were handled masterfully by Barnhill who tossed a complete game 1 hitter striking out 19 Lassiter batters to secure her 28<sup>th</sup> win of the season.

The win qualifies the Hounds for the state championship for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in 3 years and the win also breaks the all time wins mark for Pope by securing their 31<sup>st</sup> victory of the season.

#### **Game 4: Pope 4 – Hillgrove 0 (32-8; 8-0) STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Pope would face a fellow Cobb County team in the AAAAAA state softball championship guaranteeing the county a state champion and ending a 7 year softball championship drought for the county.

After giving up a leadoff walk and then quickly picking up 2 strikeouts, Barnhill faced the Hillgrove cleanup batter who hit a rocket shot back up the middle. Out of nowhere, Pope shortstop Quentin Staton makes a full extension diving play up the middle and crawls to 2<sup>nd</sup> base to force out the runner from 1<sup>st</sup>. That opportunity would be the best scoring chance that Hillgrove would have all day as Barnhill, on the strength of spectacular infield defense and superb pitching, would go on to no hit the Hawks en-route to the state title.

In the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup>, Hannah Rogers would drive in the 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 Greyhound runs, and Pope never looked back as they would win the game going away 4-0.

The no hitter is the 2<sup>nd</sup> no hitter that Barnhill has thrown in a state championship game as she no hit Union Grove in 2012 in the championship but lost the game in ITB on a passed ball 1-0.

The 2014 result is much sweeter and it marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> no hitter of Kelly Barnhill's illustrious career.

In the championship game, Rogers and Samantha Crabtree would each secure 2 hits a piece and Megan Metzinger would secure the 5<sup>th</sup> hit for the Hounds. Metzinger ends the tournament hitting at a .462 clip and freshman Hannah Rogers would end the tournament securing a .583 batting average over the 3 day span.