

Pope Fastpitch has a season for the Ages in 2012

The Pope Fastpitch Softball team has taken the program to a new level in 2012 ascending to the state championship game for the first time ever in program history.

5 years ago, success like this was completely improbable for the Pope fastpitch program.

As recent as 2008, Pope Fastpitch had never achieved a winning record and had only been to the state playoffs 1 time in team history when they went 0-2 in the 2006 state sectionals during a 13-18-1 campaign.

Pope Fastpitch first posted a winning record in 2009 when they tied the school records for wins with 13 en-route to a 13-10 season, but narrowly missed the state playoffs losing in game 3 of a best of 3 series to Walton 1-0.

In 2010, the Hounds returned to the state playoffs with a 19 win season that saw the Hounds post their 1st playoff victory over Creekview but ultimately lost the 3 game series against the Grizzlies in the first round of the playoffs. In 2010, the Hounds finished 4th in the region which was the highest region finish in school history at the time, tied with



the 4th place finish in 2006.

In 2011, Pope took the next step towards Columbus finishing 2nd in the region while posting 25 victories and advancing to the 2nd round of the playoffs where they ultimately fell to Northwest Whitfield a mere 1 win away from going to Columbus and the state finals. The 25 wins saw Pope reach the 20 win threshold for the 1st time in school history. Pope was also sub-region champion during this run, but fell to Paulding County in the region championship game.

In 2012, Pope Fastpitch picked up where 2011 left off and the Hounds continued their steady progress, taking the final step in their journey towards Columbus. Pope finally qualified for the state finals advancing all the way to the Championship Game in Columbus. Pope steam rolled

their competition in the state playoffs winning 7 consecutive games and going undefeated until the state championship game.

Pope had 15 shutouts in their record breaking 29 win season and Pope managed to no hit teams 11 times. The final no hitter came in the state championship game in a losing effort as Pope fell 1-0 in an 8 inning international tie breaker game.

During the 2012 campaign, Pope also secured their 1st region championship in school history defeating Creekview in 2 games in a best of three series. Pope hosted the series as Pope finished as the top team in the regular season in region 7AAAAA.

The 2012 campaign saw 25 team and individual records fall as well as many other firsts, including:

1st time Pope hosted the region championships

1st time Pope hosted the 1st and 2nd round in the GHSA playoffs

1st time Pope has garnered a state ranking finishing the season ranked 2nd in AAAAA

Team records broken in 2012 were:

- Wins – 29
- .806 winning %
- Runs scored - 228
- Doubles – 58
- Walks – 91
- ERA – 1.00
- Strikeouts – 391
- Opponent batting average - .105
- 11 No hitters
- 7 GHSA playoff victories (undefeated in playoffs until state championship)

Individual records broken in 2012 were:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| • 491 Batting average | Beall |
| • .554 OBP | Beall |
| • Walks – 19 | Reilly |
| • Hit by pitch – 5 | Beall |
| • .741 SLG % | Beall |
| • 1.295 OPS | Beall |
| • Wins – 19 | Barnhill |
| • .818 winning % (9-2) | Walsh |
| • 329 K's | Barnhill |
| • 0.70 ERA | Barnhill |
| • .055 opponent average | Barnhill |
| • K's in a game – 21 | Barnhill |
| • K' / 7 innings – 15.29 | Barnhill |
| • 33 1/3 consecutive scoreless innings | Barnhill |
| • 10 solo No Hitters | Barnhill |