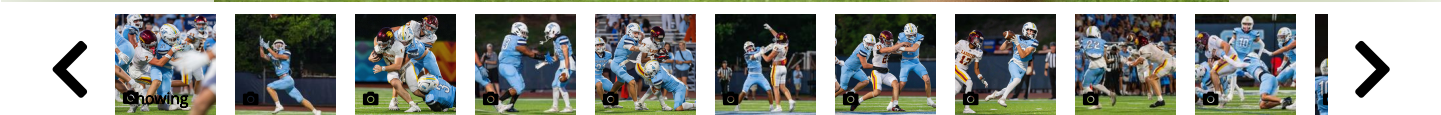


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Lassiter wins, ends long dry spell against Pope

By Jack Martin MDJ Sports Correspondent
Sep 20, 2025



MARK HE
Pope's ball carrier Caleb Mardis(21) is taken down by Lassiter's Collin Price(7).

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MARIETTA — Lassiter cruised to a 49-7 victory Friday at Pope, ending a long wait for the Trojans against their east Cobb rival.

Lassiter (4-2, 1-2 Region 6AAAAA) earned its first win over Pope (0-6, 0-3) since 2018, also marking the first win in the series first under Trojans coach Sean Thom and for every current player.

Thom said beating the nearby rival felt good, and he knows what it means to the community.



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“(Quarterback) Mitch (Seaman) and all of the seniors got their first win against these guys,” Thom said. “More importantly, we got our first region win and now we have four weeks left. I’ll still say this — it’s not about me. It’s about the kids and it’s so much bigger than football. Hopefully, experiences like these propel them forward to being great humans down the road.”

Despite the loss, it was still a momentous day for the Pope community as the field within the Pope Multi-Sport Complex was named in honor of Matt Hobby, a former Greyhound football player who was diagnosed with cancer in 2003 and died from the disease three years later, shortly after his graduation.

Friday was the 20th annual Matt Hobby Classic, dating back to the fall after Hobby’s death.

Both teams opened with strong rushing attacks, and Drew McGee capped off the Trojans’ opening drive with the first of his two first-quarter touchdowns at the 9:20 mark.

Pope, however, ran down the field to set up Hudson Marinko’s 19-yard touchdown pass to Luc McClendon with 4:43 left in the first quarter.

The quarterback run with Marinko was working for the Greyhounds for the first series, but as the game went on, it got shut down.

Thom said he was proud of his defense for making an adjustment.

“They had to make an adjustment after that first series,” Thom said. “They were running a lot unbalanced. There is an importance of being able to communicate, and I thought they did a great job the rest of the night.”

Lassiter entered the second quarter up one score, and after forcing a Pope punt, seized the momentum.

With 7:57 left in the first half, Collins Price returned a punt 86 yards for a touchdown.

Seaman capitalized on the next two drives. He hit Dalton Price for a 29-yard jump-ball touchdown to put Lassiter up 28-7, then found Collins Price for a 59-yard score over two defenders with 6 seconds left in the half.



Seaman and running back Caden Bloom added two more scores in the second half, giving the Trojans five different players in the end zone on the night.

Lassiter has averaged over 30 points per game on offense this season, which Thom attributes to the coaching staff and players stepping up.

“A lot of it’s built into the scheme,” Thom said. “People look at Collins, Collins, Collins, but there’s other guys who were able to step up.”

Collins Price ended with 190 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns, bringing his season total to 942 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Thom said Collins Price would be the first to say “it’s not all him.”

“Yeah, he’s been huge,” Thom said. “If you look at his excitement when his brother caught the touchdown, he would do that with any guy. The kid is a competitor. I’m just happy for him. The work that they put in, it’s good when they can be rewarded and be able to celebrate like this.”

Thom said the Trojans are looking to continue their success as the season moves on.

“We have four weeks to make this thing,” he said. “Hopefully, we get the seniors and the rest of the program where we want to go.”



PHOTOS: Lassiter-Pope football
Mark He Sep 19, 2025