

Mustangs Romp, Near Class A Title

By CINDY SMITH

Jeff Wood's one-hitter through five innings was not his most important contribution to David Lipscomb's win over Upperman yesterday.

Nor could Wood's two RBI triple in the first, be deemed the senior's key accomplishment.

NO, WHEN all was said and done, and Lipscomb had chalked up a 7-2 win over the visiting Upperman Bees at Ken Dugan Field in the TSSAA Class A state baseball championship series, it was one

strikeout which stood out as Wood's outstanding accomplishment of the game.

With two outs in the top of the fifth, Wood struck out Upperman right fielder Johnny Brewington to end the inning and make the game official.

And, before Wood could even step off the mound, the storm hit, flooding Ken Dugan Field and sending the fans dashing for their cars.

A TSSAA championship series game is official if a game is called when the home team, Lipscomb in this case, leads after 4½ innings.

The victory gave Lipscomb a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three TSSAA series for the Class A title. The series resumes today at Dugan Field at 1 p.m.

If Lipscomb wins the first game, the Mustangs take the crown. If Upperman wins, it forces the series into a final, winner-take-all contest to be played immediately following the conclusion of the 1 p.m. game.

"I couldn't believe the way the rain started pouring down just as soon as the game was official," said Lipscomb coach Ernie Smith, whose team is now 25-2. "Jeff pitched a fine game, especially the first two innings, but that last strikeout turned out to be his most important pitch all day."

WHILE WOOD'S pitching kept the Bees off balance, the Mustangs' hitting in the first inning stunned the visitors from Baxter, Tn.

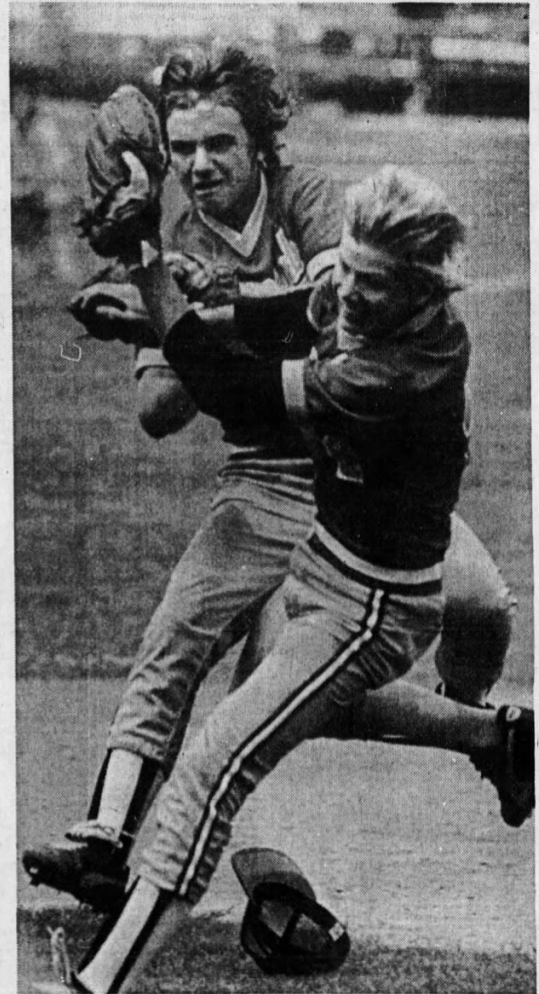
Lipscomb leadoff hitter Trey Hartman smacked the first of two doubles in his first at bat. Shortstop William Via got on with a single, and Wood's triple brought them both home after Keith Clay grounded out to first.

Mustang designated hitter Bill Richards was on with a single when Mike (Home Run) Harper blasted one over the tennis courts toward McQuiddy Gymnasium. "That's the first time, I've ever hit one out of this field," said Harper, a senior. "We hadn't seen anything like their pitcher. He threw me a slider with a sidearm motion. I just jumped on it."

But Harper's homer was not the end of trouble for Bees' starter Mike Jones, the sidewinder. Hartman hit his second double to drive in teammates Ken Cooper and Mark Wright, who both had hits, before Jones was relieved by Tim Jones who finally got the Mustangs out in the first.

Upperman's reliever held Lipscomb to two hits and no other runs in his four innings.

Upperman's two runs came on a rare infield error by first baseman Harper which scored Tim Brown and Tim Jones, who both got on board on walks.



—Staff photo by Robert Johnson

It's Mine!

David Lipscomb shortstop William Via, left, and second baseman Tim Howell collide during the first game of the TSSAA Class A championship at Ken Dugan Field. Howell came up with the catch as Lipscomb defeated Upperman 7-2.



SPORTS Scope

by F. M. Williams

The Grab Bag

I'VE BEEN conducting a small survey of Alabama and Tennessee football fans to determine how they feel about Paul Bryant making \$450,000 a year, and John Majors making

\$128,500 ... The Alabama man I talked to said "He's worth it" and the Tennessee man said "As long as he fills the stadium, he's worth it." That's one thing Majors has done, fill the stadium.



Cheeseborough

But I can't help wondering if there isn't going to be an adverse reaction to the high levels of coaching income that was revealed in the *Miami Herald* if the economy gets much worse, when university officials go asking for contributions or higher prices for tickets, which they are doing in ever-increasing amounts ... Sports is a fickle business, depending in large part on enthusiasm and emotion, and those two characteristics are subject to constant change.

ONE HAS TO wonder, for example, how Ok-