

AAA crown to Sullivan South

Wingfield gets revenge with 8-2 victory over Christian Brothers

LARRY TAFT

Sports Writer

Jimmy Wingfield got his revenge and Kingsport Sullivan South got the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association State Baseball Tournament Class AAA championship last night.

Wingfield hurled a six-hitter in leading the Rebels to a 8-2 win over Memphis Christian Brothers last night in the final game of the week-long tournament at Greer Stadium.

The senior right-hander, pitching on one day's rest, didn't give up an earned run in the tournament.

Wingfield fired a two-hitter in the Class AAA opener as the Rebels defeated Chattanooga Baylor 6-0. The state AAA title was the third in five years for a Sullivan County school.

"My arm was real tired," Wingfield said. "It was a little tough, but as I lay in bed last night I prayed and said, 'Please, God, help me go one more game.' He came through for me."

Wingfield said he and a few of his teammates felt they had a debt to settle with some members of the CBHS team.

"When we were eight or nine years old, we went to Memphis two or three times to play in state baseball tourna-

ments," Wingfield explained. "I recognized some of their guys from way back then."

Catcher Mark Harris, who collected two hits, scored twice and drove in a run, was Wingfield's batterymate on those youth league teams.

"We'd always get in the losers' bracket and they'd be on top," Harris said. "Tonight they were in our shoes. I guess we've gotten even with them now."

Wingfield gave Harris much of the credit for the victory.

"He's my partner. I couldn't have done it without him," Wingfield said.

"Hey," Harris interrupted, "this guy has got more guts in his little finger than most people have in their whole body."

"He's the one," said Harris. "He was tired and not pitching as well as the other night, but he pitched on guts and got them out."

Sullivan South made only one error in three tournament games.

"I relied on the defense more tonight than I ever have before," said the pitcher. "They did what they have done all year. They made the plays all night long."

After the game the Sullivan South coaches and team voted to dedicate

the season to principal Carl Matherly and athletic director Bud Potter.

Matherly and Potter are retiring this year after nearly 70 years of combined service in the school system.

Sullivan South, who defeated Smyrna Friday night in the winners' bracket final, scored four first-inning runs on five walks, a single and a CBHS error.

South added two more runs in the fourth. Wingfield walked but was erased on Scott Edwards' fielder's choice groundout. Nicky Crawford singled, leaving runners at first and second. After a double steal Edwards scored on a single by Harris and Crawford later came home on a wild pitch.

In the fifth, the Rebels scored another run as Brad Compton walked, moved to second on another base on balls, was balked to third and scored on an error.

They completed their scoring in the sixth when Harris tripled and came home on a groundout.

Christian Brothers, which lost in the opener but battled to the finals with wins over Baylor and Smyrna, got two runs in the sixth on an error, two singles and a sacrifice fly. ■