

Amazing Beech Wins AA Title In Second Year

MEMPHIS — Not even Beech coach Bill Green thought it was possible.

Not a state championship in the second year of the school.

Not a state championship for a team that doesn't even have its own baseball field.

Yes. Yes. Yes.

THE UNHERALDED Buccaneers did all that and more yesterday, defying the odds and defeating Memphis Harding Academy 4-1 at Tony Gagliano Field to win the Class AA state baseball championship, 2-0, in the best-of-three series.

Jay Pomeroy, hitless in the first game of the series, smacked two doubles and a single yesterday to pace the winners, 21-6, while Sammy Alexander, making only his fifth start of the season, hurled a four-hitter.

"I told the guys way back that we'd do things my way and that I'd accept the blame if things didn't work out. Then we lost four of our first five games and things didn't look very good," said Green, who made a name in college baseball across the state while head coach at Trevecca.

"TO BE TRUTHFUL, I never considered the state championship. No way, not with a second-year school that doesn't even have a baseball field. Everything just fell into place."

Yesterday's win didn't come cheap. Beech beat Harding ace Charles Stanford, who came on in relief in the first game of the series Tuesday. The Bucs handed him just his third loss in 13 decisions with timely hitting and by taking advantage of five Harding errors. And the loss was only the fifth for Harding in 26 games.

Beech took a 2-0 lead in the third inning when Pomeroy doubled, Harding made two errors and Danny Robinson singled.

The two-run sixth inning, which all but clinched the crown, featured a single by catcher Billy Carter, back-to-back doubles by Pomeroy and Johnny White, and a single by Guy Neal.