

MEMPHIS — When the baseball season started in March, Ernie Smith kidded that it would be hard to find enough games for all of his pitchers.

Two months later, it still looks that way.

The David Lipscomb coach said his staff was deep, and the Mustangs have proved it during the Class AA baseball tournament.

The Mustangs (29-8) have shut out their last two opponents by a combined 25-0, earning a trip to today's state championship.

Lipscomb faces Pigeon Forge (28-9) in the final at 1 p.m. at USA Stadium in Millington. It will be the Mustangs' eighth championship appearance.

Chris Baumgartner (5-1) fired a one-hitter with seven strikeouts, leading the Mustangs to a 12-0 rout of Loudon at the University of Memphis yesterday.

One day earlier, Taylor Merry shut out Covington 13-0.

"The pitching has been really awesome for the last two days," Smith said. "Things start to happen, and you get on a roll. I don't know how to explain it."

Loudon starter Aaron Everett, a Tennessee signee, left the game with a sore arm after two innings.

"He threw Saturday in the sectional and Tuesday at state," Smith said. "He's thrown a

Tuesday at state," Smith said. "He's thrown a lot of pitches. We were up 1-0 when he left, and we scored four runs right after that. You could see they were deflated."