

## BA falls in Div. II title game

By MAURICE PATTON

*Sports Writer*

CHATTANOOGA — Brentwood Academy dodged a couple of bullets early last night, but Girls Prep came up with a five-run flurry and grabbed the Division II softball title 5-1.

It was the second championship in three seasons for the Bruisers (26-9), and came at the expense of a BA squad making its first tourney appearance since winning the 1992 Class AA crown.

"This was a heck of a run for us," veteran Brentwood Academy coach Wendell Harris said. "I'm so proud of these girls. There's nothing to be disappointed in; that's a great GPS team."

"It was a heck of an effort for us."

Brentwood Academy (24-11) came back from a 4-0, 10-inning loss to GPS in Thursday's winners bracket final and edged Father Ryan 1-0 in 11 innings yesterday morning to set up a rematch for the crown.

"I think we were exhausted," sophomore pitcher Sara Meek said. "We played our hardest and we made it this far, but they started hitting us. We played better this week than we've ever played. Things happen."

For the Lady Eagles, who scored just eight runs in five tournament games, the rematch came down to a lack of scoring opportunities and an inability to take advantage of the ones that they did force.

BA stranded three runners in scoring position in the first four innings before GPS strung together a pair of hits against Meek, a couple of walks and a couple of defensive miscues to roll up a five-run cushion in the fifth.

"Sara didn't have her normal velocity," Harris said of the rally. "That took the starch out of us."

Meek countered with a one-out triple that scored Leigh Little in the sixth, but that was the extent of their scoring. The duo combined for four of Brentwood Academy's five hits. ■