

## We're Proud of Both Teams!

This week the basketball fans of Newton County are riding on a cloud due to the success of our two teams at the Region 4AA basketball tournament at Gainesville during the weekend. Our Rams successfully defended their regional title and our girls took third place in the tournament, all of which makes both teams eligible for the State Class AA tournament next week.

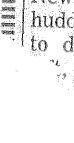
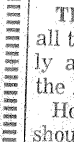
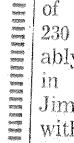
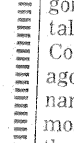
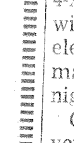
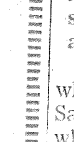
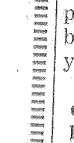
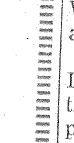
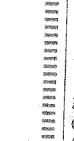
For both NCHS coaches, Stone Cooper of the girls team and Ronald Bradley of the boys aggregation, it culminated a most rewarding season for their teams. The girls squad now has won 28 of 30 games and the boys have a 27-3 season thus far.

The combined total victories of the Newton squads sets a school record of 55 victories in one season, and also the coming participation of both teams in the State meet is something that hasn't been accomplished before.

Local fans have been loyal to these teams during the past years and this year is certainly no exception. Half the Gainesville gymnasium resounded with Newton cheers when one of our players made a scintillating maneuver. This instilled a lot of personal pride in the hearts of all Newton Countians who drove to the Hall County seat for the tournament.

May the combined efforts of all players, coaches, fans and parents, ever spur our boys and girls of the hardwood to the pinnacle of success in the forthcoming State tournament.

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# Newton Co. Five Wins With 6 Men

## 'Memory of Rutledge' Carries 'Pee Wees' to 4-AA Playoffs

By BILL ROBINSON

You can't beat six men in basketball.

And a sixth youngster, slipping into a late and desperate huddle on the glossy floor of an emotion-charged gym Saturday night, is the real standard bearer of the champion Newton County High team of Coach Ron Bradley.

"The kids won that Gainesville game for Billy Dean Rutledge," declared Bradley softly, preparing to bring his renowned little "Pee Wees" into Cross Keys for the annual Region 4-AA title slugfest.

"Billy Dean was a great boy. I really think, all along, that this team of mine has really been playing for him. And that is as it should be. He was a real fine ball player, the heart and soul of the best team I've ever had — last year's bunch."

Billy Dean was tragically drowned last summer shortly before he was to represent Newton County in the high school All-Star game at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

Bradley and Newton County, who open tournament play against Sandy Springs Thursday night while the rest of the star-picked 4-AA brigade busy themselves with chewing each other up, leveled with perhaps the finest team material in Georgia Saturday night.

Only two of the 10 Newton youngsters in 1960 colors had gone forth to do battle with the talent-rich Red Elephants of Coach Bobby Gruhn's a year ago. Opposing the Pee Wees, so named because of Newton's almost comical lack of height, was three all-staters in the persons of Billy Martin, the agile 6-5, 230 giant; Billy Lothridge, probably the finest all-round athlete in Gainesville's history, and Jimmy Coyle, a fierce competitor with eagle eyes for baskets.

THIS KINGLY delegation gave all that was expected, automatically adding 17, 16 and 11 points to the Elephant ledger.

However, as the tumult and shouting drowned all instructions Newton County called a quick huddle. They knew what they had to do. Behind and with seconds the pledge was still to Billy Dean. Down the floor they flew.

Now, the original Pee Wee just-

an arching fielder that brought Bradley and his midget battalion a 50-49 victory and the Region 4-AA East championship.

Probably no man in the state can get as much mileage from a compact cage machine as can Bradley. There were not enough seniors around — only two — to select a standing captain. The two upperclassmen, Bobby Hunter and Johnny Gates here blended steady games to the 21-4 effort, but it has been Shaw and junior Billy Mitchell, 6-0, able to hit in tandem anywhere from the field, who have fired this heart-pleasing little outfit.

Now they join their champion counterpart, Headland, champ in the West, in the mad squabble with such strong teams as College Park with Jimmy Tumlin, Avondale with Freddie Guy, Chamblee, Sandy Springs, et al, for the regional crown and a place in the state.

Gainesville, although it couldn't whip six men, is still the team to beat in this one.



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