

(P) SHAW, RAMS HAVE IT MADE

Little Billy Leads Newton County In State Class AA Title Bid

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COVINGTON, Ga., March 5—Newton County High's 5-11 guard Billy Shaw truly has the heart of a champion.

Since he broke into the Ram starting lineup as a undersized, underweight sophomore three years ago, he has accomplished more than any other basketball player in the history of the school. Of the 113 games Shaw has played in over those three years, Newton County has won 101, a fantastic percentage of 89.

"Billy Shaw is not only a tremendous shooter," said coach Ronald Bradley, "but he is also a terrific ball handler, a terrific driver and a great team player."

Shaw holds practically every school scoring record. In his career he's scored better than 1,600 points. Billy Rowe, who graduated last year, held the record with 952 points. Shaw scored 42 points this year against Central Gwinnett to set a new single game mark.

Emblematic of his championship play is the fact that nine times in his career he has scored the game-winning points in the last seconds of the game.

This season the little guard hit on 65 per cent of his floor shots.

"He did this despite being double-teamed and the victim of special defenses by our opponents," Bradley pointed out.

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LAST SEASON Shaw and his teammates came to the Class AA tournament and in the first game it was the little tantalizer himself that scored the winning basket to beat Cairo in the first game, 51-49. Shaw was even greater in defeat the next night against Headland.

Wednesday night, at the O'Keefe gym, Shaw will lead his teammates into the AA tourney again. Murray County of Chatsworth

is the foe (9 p.m.).

"Regardless of how we come out Wednesday night," Bradley said, "we owe a lot to Billy Shaw. We'd never won a region championship before he came. We won it (4-AA) this year. Newton County has enjoyed its greatest basketball success while this little 5-11 dynamo has been here. The city of Covington along with myself is deeply indebted to him."

All-Tournament Selections Named for Region 4AA

Newton County's Region 4AA champion Rams basketball team placed three players on the All-Tournament team as selected by sports writers at the recent meet at Gainesville.

Billy Shaw, Michael Rutledge and Terry Rutledge were named to the 10-man squad. Others making the team were Sherrill Whitaker and Tim Floyd of Hart County, Preston Riddlehuber of Gainesville, Bill Woodall of Briarcliff and Rye Ramsey of Baldwin County.

Most valuable player was a unanimous selection in the person of Billy Shaw. Shaw scored 74 points in the three games that led to the Rams successful defense of their region title.

Named to the girls all-tournament team were three players each from Hart County, Forsyth County and Newton County, Melba Yeargin, Wanda Reynolds and Connie Sadler of champion Hart County, Shirley Whitt, Mary Hammond and Linda Hughes of Forsyth County, Jordye Bailey, Betty Faith Jaynes and Carol George of Newton County were honored along with Kathie Mason and Linda Dye of Elbert County, and Frankie Graham of Madison County.

Melba Yeargin was voted the outstanding girls player in the tournament.