

Rams Are Region 4AA

Champs Again; Enter State

Team Takes Both Playoff Games From Winder Nine

BY BOB GREER
(News Sports Editor)

Newton County High's baseball team scaled the pinnacle of success on their road to the State AA Tournament by taking the measure of Winder-Barrow High Tuesday afternoon on the foe's field 4-3. This marks the second straight year that Coach Ronald Bradley's boys will have made the coveted trip to the four-team state meet, probably next week. Tony White, Terry Rutledge and Doug Bledsoe helped their team achieve the victory. Bledsoe batted in two of the four runs. Billy Shepherd squeezed in one run on a scintillating play in the sixth inning.

White limited the Winder sluggers to five hits in the game. He pitched himself out a jam in the fourth frame when Winder threatened to break the game wide-open. In this inning White didn't give up a hit, but he did walk one batter. Three stolen bases and three infield errors got the Winder-Barrow team only one run as the NCHS chunker struck out Jimmy Greeson with runners at every base.

Rutledge, Roy Lee and Jim Loggins were the only players to stroke extra base blows. Rutledge banged a long double in the seventh frame.

Scoring in the game went like this:

Winder Second Inning: Lurey singled and Lee tripled. One run, no errors, one left on base.

Newton Fourth: Christian walked. Smith grounded to second and Christian was forced, second to short. Batchelor was safe on an infield error and both players moved up a base on a double steal. Bledsoe singled to center, scoring Smith and Batchelor. Dobbs grounded to the pitcher. Two runs, one hit, one error and none left.

Winder Fourth: Herrin grounded out to Christian unassisted. Loggins was safe on the second baseman's error. Yearwood walked. Lurey bunted and the pitcher erred on the play.

Rams Take First Playoff Game 3-2

Newton Rams combined the efforts of pitcher Doug Bledsoe, second - sacker Freeman Batchelor and third - baseman Terry Smith to down the Winder-Barrow baseball nine Monday in the first game of Region 4AA playoffs here. The score was 3-2.

Smith hit a long home run up against the right-field fence and Batchelor stroked home the winning run in the fifth frame. Freeman had two bingles in the till.

Bledsoe hurled another masterful game as he permitted only two hits. It was his seventh straight win of the current season without a loss.

Yearwood walked. Yearwood was attempting to steal second, as Herrin scored. Lurey walked. Roy Lee bounced out, Bledsoe to Christian to end the game. One run, one hit, no errors and one left.

Ram Coach Bradley said yesterday that the state pairings will be announced Monday after a meeting of coaches and officials of AA baseball. This is the second year the NCHS will have entered the State meet. Last year the Ram team was second in the state, losing in the finals to East Rome. The early morning game of the 1962 state meet was won by the Rams over Tifton 5-3.

Newton	000	202	0-4	6	3
Winder	010	100	1-3	5	3

BOX SCORE:

Newton 4	AB	R	H
Rutledge, ss	3	0	2
Lynch, c	4	0	0
Christian, 1b	3	0	0
Smith, lf-ss	3	2	1
Batchelor, 2b	3	2	0
Bledsoe, 3b	3	0	2
Dobbs, cf	3	0	0
Shepherd, rf	3	0	2
White, p	3	0	1
Jones, lf	0	0	0

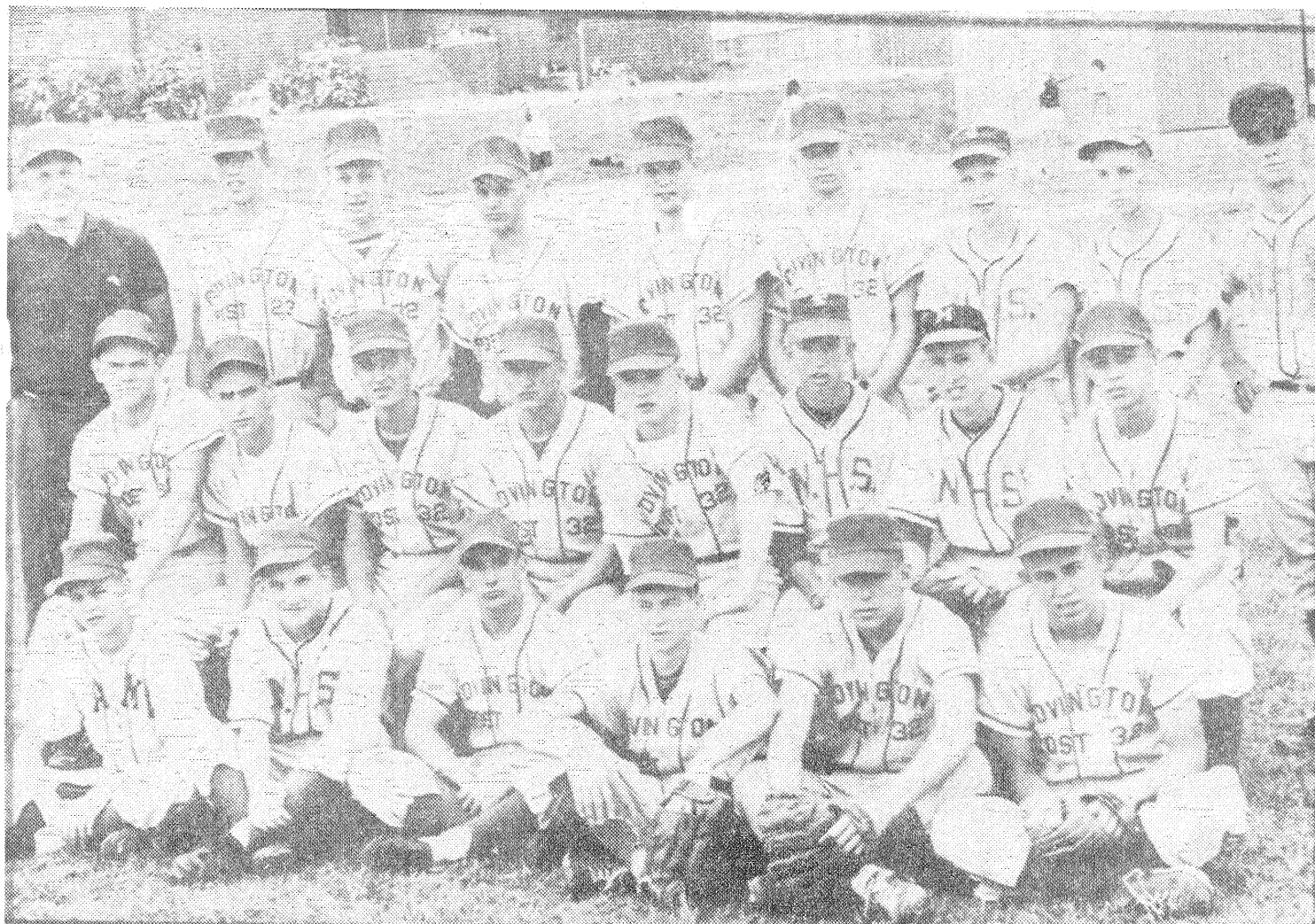
Totals 28 4 6

Winder 3	AB	R	H
Dickens, 1b	4	0	0
Cook, ss	2	0	0
Griffeth, rf	4	0	0
Herrin, lf-p	3	0	0
Loggins, cf	4	2	2
Yearwood, 3b	2	0	0
Lurey, c	3	1	4
Greeson, p	2	0	0
Doster, lf	1	0	0

Totals 27 3 5

Miss Lois Gray was among recent guests attending the W. B. Wilson in Macon, Sunday and Eleanor visited Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Moore.

Newton County Rams Baseball Squad for 1963 Season



NEWTON RAMS BASEBALL squad is shown in the photo above. Front row, left to right: Bob Richardson, Billy Shepherd, Freeman Batchelor, Doug Dickson, Terry Rutledge and Reuben Whisnante. Middle row, left to right: Jeffrey Hinton, Jack Gibbs, Denny Dobbs, Ronnie Lynch, Tim

Hopkins, Bobby Standard, Joe Yarborough and Jimmy Jones. Back row, left to right: Coach Ronald Bradley, Tim Christian, Doug Bledsoe, Terry Smith, Tony White, Jimmy Wiley, Bill Aaron, Ronnie McCart and Danny Tribble.

Rams Post First Win of Year Over Avondale High 3 to 1

Doug Bledsoe and Freeman Batchelor led the Newton County baseball Rams to their opening victory of the 1963 season Monday on Legion Field as the NCHS nine downed the Avondale Blue Devils 3-1.

Bledsoe hurled 7-hit ball and Batchelor banged out two hits in three plate appearances. Ringing doubles in the game by Terry Rutledge and Billy Shepherd helped Coach Ronald Bradley's team remain undefeated in two seasons of regular action. The team last year won 11 straights during the regular campaign. They came out second in the State AA tournament at Thomaston.

Newton's team jumped off to a one-run lead in the first inning as Bledsoe grounded out with the bases loaded to plate with the first run of the game. The Rams added their other counters in the third frame.

Linescore:
 Avondale 000 100 0-1 7 2
 Newton 102 000 x-3 7 2
 Almond, Johnson (4) and Steele, Bledsoe and Lynch

Jackson downed the Newton Rams Tuesday afternoon at Jackson 812. The local slate now reads 1-1 for the young season. Next home game for Newton is Forsyth County Friday at 4 P. M.

Rams Win 5-4 Over Chamblee

The strong right arm of Doug Bledsoe elbowed a 5-4 victory over Region 4AA foe Chamblee Friday afternoon on the Chamblee diamond. This was Bledsoe's third straight triumph of the season against no setbacks.

Wednesday (yesterday) the Rams were to have met the St. Pius nine of Atlanta on the Covington field. Friday the NCHS team will journey to Forsyth County for another Region 4AA clash. Next Wednesday, May 1, Coach Ronald Bradley's team will venture to St. Pius to return their game.

Rams Cop 2 Tilts

Newton County Rams baseball team took two victories during the past week, downing the Forsyth County nine here Friday by a score of 16-2. Monday Coach Bradley's team took the measure of Jackson 5-0.

In the Jackson game the starter on the hill for Newton was freshman Tony White, a former Little League pitcher of note. Tony limited the Jackson team to two hits and the NCHS victory evened the season's series with the Jackson team as that outfit had downed the Rams at Jackson a week ago 8-2. Doug Bledsoe hurled the Ram victory over Forsyth County.

Terry Smith and Ronnie Lynch led the onslaught Monday at the plate with three hits each. Smith drove in three of the five runs for the local aggregation.

White's superb performance against the heavy-hitting Jackson team, marks the first time a freshman at Newton High has stepped into the limelight on the mound since Haskell Johnston toed the slab in his initial year at NCHS in 1955. White was a member of Manager Earl Tribble's Covington Brave team in the Newton LL. The Braves, behind White, won three pennants in Little League play.

Friday the Rams will journey to Chamblee for a Region game. Next Wednesday afternoon the St. Pius team of Atlanta will come to Covington for another Region clash. The Rams are now 3-1 in the present season against all foes.

Linescore:
 Jackson 000 000 0-0 2 2
 Newton 104 000 x-5 11 2
 Blue and Kitchens, White and Lynch.

Rams Meet East

Rome In AA State

Newton County's baseball Rams will meet the winner of Region 3AA, East Rome High, Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock at Rome in the State AA tournament. Four teams are entered in the meet and the finals will be played Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Completing the first day of action in the state tourney will be a clash between Crisp County and Headland at 8 p. m. Friday. They represent regions

The Rams' headquarters in Rome will be at the Forrest Hotel.

1 and 2 respectively. The 1963 event is a single game elimination.

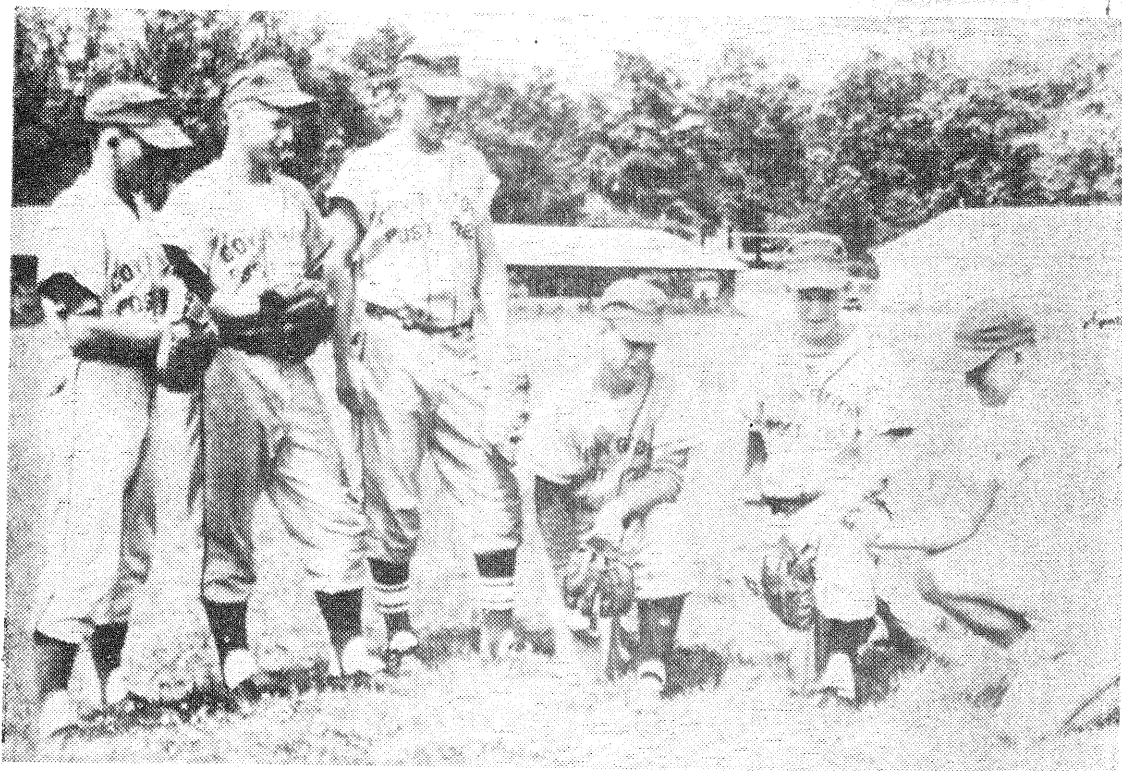
Coach Ronald Bradley's team will engage one of the finest

high school teams in the state in East Rome. They defeated the 1962 State champion West Rome in order to get to the state finals this year. West Rome clobbered the Rams in the finals at Thomaston last June to take the State diadem.

All four teams entered in the tourney this year have impressive season records. The Rams are 10-2, East Rome 14-1, Crisp 13-3 and Headland 18-2.

Newton's defensive lineup will get a severe test in their Friday afternoon clash with East Rome. Doug Bledsoe, undefeated this season on the mound, will draw the starting game assignment. If the Rams get by the Friday game the Saturday assignment will go to Tony White. Tony has lost one game this year.

Rams Make Plans for Second Try at State Title



NEWTON RAMS are pictured above going over baseball plans for their State AA Tournament meeting Friday with East Rome at Rome. Standing are three players who were selected on the State Tourney All-State team last year left to right: Ronnie Lynch, Terry Smith and Tim Christian. Hurlers Tony White and Doug Bledsoe (center) are shown kneeling with Coach Ronald Bradley looking at the baseball. NCHS is the representative of Region 4AA in the meet.

Newton Rams Face Acid Test in AA Playoff

By CHICO GENOVESE

Coach Ron Bradley's Newton County Rams have withstood the test of time in 1963 4-AA baseball wars, but this Friday and Saturday brings the acid test for the Rams and three other hard-hitting aspirants to the GHSA State Class AA Baseball Tournament in Rome.

The state's top AA clubs will clash head-on at Rome's Barron Field to decide the "best of the best" in a sudden-death elimination, beginning with Newton County taking on East Rome at 4 p.m. Friday pitting tough pitching against lethal batting

prowess. Headland faces Crisp Co. at 8 p.m. in the second AA clash of the day.

On Saturday at 2 p.m., Friday's winners will meet for the state title with presentations of first place and runner-up trophies along with the selection of a Class AA All-Tournament team.

ALTHOUGH Bradley's proteges have not won as many times this season as the other three tourney clubs, Newton County figures to have the best-balanced entry at Rome with its fine junior pitching sensation Doug Bledsoe and the Rams hit-

ting array which is sprinkled with five .300-plus batsmen.

Bledsoe tacked up seven consecutive victories, relying on stuff and effective headwork while on the hill. He was backed

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up very well by freshman Tony White, who recorded a 3-1 slate this season.

Terry Smith, an all-state selection in 1962, currently is hitting .409 and rates as one of the best power threats in the classification. Freeman Batchelor, Ronnie Lynch, Terry Rutledge, and Tim Christian also

are banging the ball at a .300 or better clip in 1963.

HEADLAND, the Region 2 champ, compiled the most victories with a nifty 18-2 worksheet. Jack Short's Highlanders utilize their fine hitting potential and infield defense to the best advantage.

East Rome, 14-1 on the year, boast a stingy hurling staff and a good defense and doesn't falter in late innings, as proved by their record—including six one-run victories. Region 1 kingpin Crisp Co. rounds out the four-club tourney with a 13-3 tabulation.

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HEADLAND HANGS ON, GETS SHOT AT E. ROME

Single by Norm Lewis
Brings Belated Victory

By CHICO GENOVESE

ROME, Ga.—Many die-hard baseball fans have said, "It's never over until the last out is made." And although East Rome waited patiently, without a real fear, in its 2-1 win over Newton Co.—no one, but no one, knows this axiom better than Headland.

Coach Jack Short's Highlanders, hoping to gain a final berth along with East Rome, found their plight just as frustrating as Ron Bradley's charges had when the Rams failed to get to Gladiator hurling star Buzz Newman in the opening game of the AA baseball tourney at Rome's Legion Field. But things would be different for Headland, which won, 3-2, over Crisp Co.

The Covington representatives of District 4 jumped to a short one-run lead in the third inning of their afternoon tilt with the Crisp County Romans, but lost the advantage in the next frame as the Gladiators pushed across a pair of win-cinching tallies. From then

on, the Bradleymen were stalled.

Although the Highlander's brilliant soph twirling sensation, Stan Bell, was working on a no-hitter through five complete frames, his Headland teammates afield allowed their Crisp Co. opponents to scrape up two markers via various hitless, media, and thus, a 2-1 margin moving into the sixth inning.

RUFUS DOWELL, Crisp's third-sacker, opened the Rebel half of the sixth stanza with the first — and only—hit allowed by Bell, who was 8-1 during the regular season. Stan proceeded to fan the next two hitters and retire the third on an easy grounder, but the Highlanders failed to score again.

Bill Speck's Rebels threatened again in their half of the seventh frame, but a fine play by Headland third baseman Joe White cheated Crisp of a third run. The Highlanders opened the last half of the "last" inning with two quick outs and things looked gray for the Shortmen.

Fred Williams, the Rebels starter and loser, weakened at this point and yielded the tying tally although an easy pop-up, which would have been the final out, allowed the equalizer.

After Williams saw his mates fail to plate a run in the eighth, he also watched the infield mis-play two balls which enabled a pair of Headlanders to reach base. Rebel mound ace Larry Stanford was called in by Speck to quell the tide and Stanford promptly fanned his first two hitters.

HOWEVER, first-sacker Norm Lewis unloaded a line shot to right to end it for the Highlanders and allow them to meet East Rome on Saturday for the AA baseball crown.

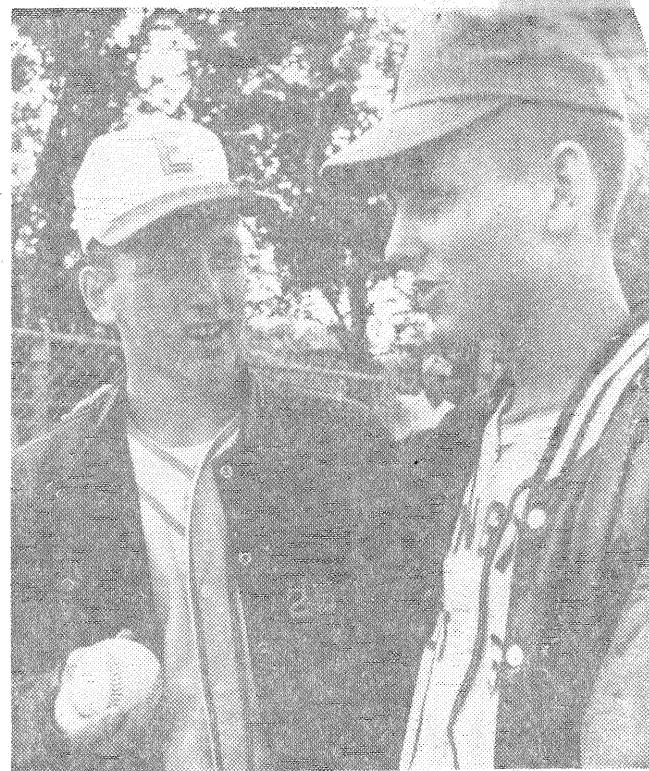
The Gladiators relied upon the

East Rome	000	200	0—	2	7	1
Newton County	001	000	0—	1	3	3
Newman and Yarbrough; Bledsoe and Lynch.						
Crisp County	010	100	00—	2	1	2
Headland	100	000	11—	3	5	2
F. Williams, Stanford (8) and R. Williams; Bell and McDuffie, Porque (7)						

tremendous pitching power of unbeaten Buzz Newman along with the power of his and Larry Lemming's bat to bring for "all the marbles."

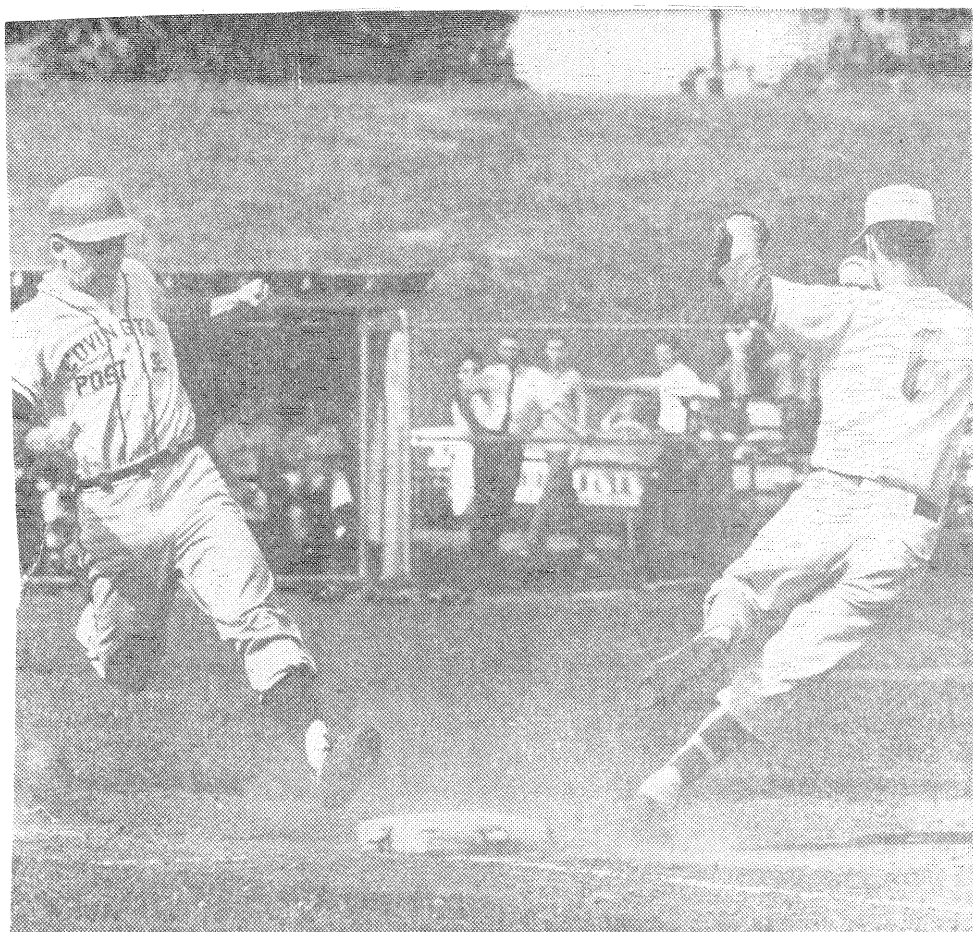
Newman whiffed nine Rams and retired the final 12 men in order after soph Lemming delivered a bases-loaded double to score the winner's only runs of the game in the fourth frame. Terry Smith, Newton's fine infield flash, knocked in the loser's lone tally in the third.

Lemming gathered two hits as did Newman, but the hurler's real accomplishment was holding the Rams, who had five .300-plus hitters, to just three singles.



Staff Photo—Billy Down

**EAST ROME'S TOMMY NEWMAN TALKS WITH
Rams' Doug Biedsoe Discusses AA Defeat**



Staff Photo—Billy Downs

**INFIELDER WAYNE DUNN TAKES BALL FOR NEWTON COUNTY OUT—
Ronnie Lynch (L) Too Late With Too Little in East Rome Game**