

SPRINGERS SPRUNG BIGGEST AA COUP

By HAL HAYES

Any trace of drama awaiting Saturday's finals curtain call at the state AA basketball tournament will be anticlimactic. Sandy Springs, which produced one of Georgia's most earth-shaking plots Thursday night, will live in memory as the "thespian" who upstaged everybody.

As 4,500 stood, jumped and yelled in complete abandon, Coach Stan Moses' Panthers earned its academy award status by knocking off all-powerful Newton County, 63-56. The deed sabotaged the dynasty built by Ronald Bradley.

Before Thursday came, Newton County had won 42 straight. This included a sweep of 1964's AA classic. The Rams had zipped past 34 foes this season, behind the lead of Tim Christian, Stan Harris, Wayne Hall and pals.

Few, seriously, gave the Panthers even a courtesy chance of upending Newton County. Even the most loyal of Sandy Springs' athletic following never seriously thought this would be the night of nights.

Except, maybe, the Panthers themselves. Surely, the way they played, Richard Thibus, Mike Forbes, Dallas Tindall, Bob Wills, Alan Robbins and mates had other ideas.

"We sacrificed personal glory for team effort," Moses said afterwards. "And, every boy went out there and did his very best." He said the team expressed confidence throughout the game, one player telling him during a timeout: "Don't sweat it, coach."



Hal Hayes

It took Vernon Warren, the personable coach of Cass High, Cassville, to sum up why, maybe, a team excels to greater degrees away from home:

"My boys simply don't want to go back to school!"

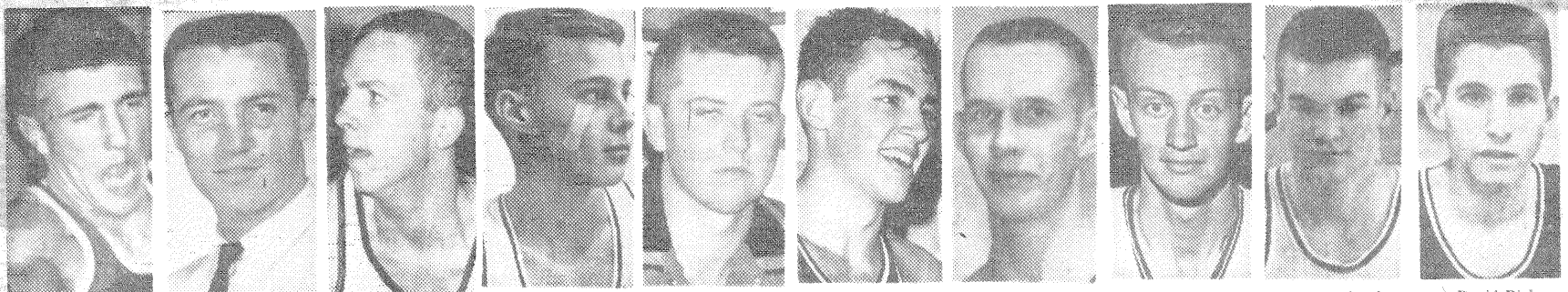
Charles Cates, the right hand of Sam Burke's GHSA headquarters office in Thomaston, is coordinator of the AA tournament. The able gentleman was a key force behind the huge success of last week's Constitution-GHSA co-sponsored AAA tournament, also at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

Cates, a winner by habit, continues in efficiency this week.

Except for the remaining girls B and C tournaments, state basketball passes for another year Saturday night. Preparing for the passing of this sport, Atlanta's Dugout Club is set to usher in baseball bright and early Saturday morning.

The club will present its baseball clinic from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday at Georgia Tech's Rose Bowl Field. The admission is free and lunch will be served compliments of the club.

The affair is open to college coaches, players, high school coaches and players, all youth baseball managers and any interested fan. Heading the panel for the clinic will be Harry Lloyd, E. E. "Red" Whitsett, Jim Luck, Bud Theodocion, Harry Lockhart, Julian Mock and Jack Short.



Tim Christian Larry Long Jim Bostick Ken Brewer Russell Smith Rich Mahaffey Ronnie Visage Charles Day Bruce Richardson David Rich

It's Official: Christian No. 1

By KIM CHAPIN

When it was at last all over, Tim Christian, the most fabled basketball player in the state of Georgia, took one quick last look at the Coliseum scoreboard, blinked his eyes once or twice, and limped to the dressing room.

Newton County had been painfully upset by Sandy Springs, 63-56, in the quarter-finals of the State Class AA hardcourt tournament, and it was sad because Christian had to play his last basketball with a gimpy leg, the result of a charley horse that wouldn't go away.

"I'll tell you this," his coach, effervescent Ron Bradley, said, "Tim's the greatest one-legged player I've ever seen. When that game was over, a pair of college coaches came to me and said, 'We've never seen a greater high school competitor.'"

For those reasons, and for a dozen more, Tim Christian is ranked the No. 1 basketball player in the final 1965 Top 25 poll.

Larry Long of Stewart County (No. 2) and Kenny Brewer of South Cobb (No. 4) shot better, Jim Bostick of Westminster (No. 3) drove better, Russell Smith of Attapulgus (No. 5) and Charles Day of Cherokee (No. 8) rebounded better, but none of these, nor the others in the final list, dominated and controlled a game quite like Christian did.

He did not score much, although his 22.6 points per game average was solid enough, and he could have added 10 or 15 more a game if he had had to shoot more.

Rather than score, which he did do well in the clutch, he would make a sudden pass from outside to a man breaking underneath, or drive hard and wind up at the foul line. When Christian played, it was his game, and no one else's.

FINAL TOP 25

Player, Team	G	Pts.	Avg.	Rec'd	Team
1. Tim Christian, Newton Co.	35	791	22.6	34-1	
2. Larry Long, Stewart Co.	23	728	31.7	25-5	
3. Jim Bostick, Westminster	27	733	27.1	15-12	
4. Kenny Brewer, South Cobb	24	715	29.8	18-6	
5. Russell Smith, Attapulgus	30	912	30.4	29-1	
6. Rich Mahaffey, LaGrange	27	563	20.9	25-4	
7. Ronnie Visage, Reynolds	27	726	27.2	17-12	
8. Charles Day, Cherokee	33	438	13.2	29-4	
9. B. Richardson, Cross Keys	25	633	25.3	14-11	
10. David Rich, Groves	24	603	25.1	15-9	
11. Doug Burdett, Hart County	18	Fred Jones, Tucker			
12. Larry Mosley, Columbus	19	David Phillips, Osborne			
13. Jimmy Padgett, Cochran	20	Brent Wells, Harlem			
14. Dave Sitton, S'west	21	Tom Cornelius, Lanier			
15. Joe Wedel, Avondale	22	Alex McGraw, Doerun			
16. Joe Wilson, Clarkst'n	23	Hank Kalb, Decatur			
17. Gerald Reeves, Yatesville	24	Earl Wright, Dudley			
	25	Kim Kimbrough, Harris Co.			

Stewart County's Long is the most prolific scorer in the Top 25, averaging 31.7 points per game and scoring 3005 in four years. He was more than a gunner though, and his assists and playmaking very nearly led the Rebels to the Class C championship.

Bostick, who had over 2000 career points, is next to Christian, the best all-round player in the list, and by far the most openly competitive. Very docile on the surface, Bostick would suddenly streak, sometimes for a few minutes, sometimes for an entire game, and during these streaks it

would be difficult to pick against him, head to head with anybody else in the state.

Brewer had a 29.8 points per game average, but like Long, was not just a shooter. He was deceptively quick despite a bum knee, and worked equally well from the pivot, a strange position forced upon him late in the season, as well as from the outside.

Smith carried Attapulgus to within one game of the State Class C title and scored 912 points doing it to earn the praise of knowing observers, many of whom said he was the best big man (6-5) in the state.

Ronnie Visage of Reynolds, No. 7, was troubled by a weak team and tired blood. The latter ailment kept him from action in the regional tournament, where Reynolds was eliminated.

Day, the lanky Cherokee center has the lowest scoring average of the top 10 players, just 13.2 points. But he was playing for a Warrior quintet that had exceptional balance, and led his team in scoring — and rebounding, with 383 in 33 games.

Bruce Richardson of Cross Keys, No. 9, started the season like a ball of fire, tailed off slightly near the end of the season, but still finished with a 25.3 average.

David Rich of Groves of Savannah, led his region in scoring, picking up 603 points in 24 games.

The rest of the Top 25 is filled with capable players, who maybe should be rated higher. Hart County's Doug Burdette (No. 11) could very well be the best rebounder in the state; Southwest's Dave Sitton (No. 14) had an exceptional state tournament and will be back next year to gain more laurels; Joe Wedel of Avondale (No. 15) is undoubtedly the fastest player in the list, and Joe Wilson of Clarkston (No. 16) inch for inch may be the finest defensive player.



Staff Photo—Dwight Ross

AUBURN'S RALPH JORDAN (L) AND BILL LYNN (R) SHARE A PRIZE RECRUIT
Newton County's Tim Christian Casts Grid-Cage Lot with Auburn

Christian Will Sign With Auburn

By TERRY KAY

Tim Christian, the No. 1 basketball player in the state and one of the most complete athletes in high school sports, will sign a grant-in-aid with Auburn University, The Atlanta Journal learned Thursday.

The Newton County (Covington, Ga.) star, all-state in three sports, will sign a football grant Saturday afternoon, but with the opportunity to play both football and basketball.

His signing ends speculation that Christian will attend the University of Georgia on a similar grant.

Coach Ralph (Shug) Jordan, commenting on Christian's decision to attend Auburn, said, "This is the only boy since I've been at Auburn (14 years) that we've recruited under such conditions. We think he's a fine athlete, certainly capable of playing football and basketball."

In football, Christian became one of the most outstanding quarterbacks in the state and in one game, against Chamblee, passed for 390 yards in one of the finest individual performances ever turned in by a high school athlete.

As a guard on the Newton County basketball team, he led his team to one state AA championship (as a junior) and to an undefeated regular season this year, suffering an upset

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defeat to Sandy Springs in the Class AA tournament.

"He's a great guard," said basketball coach Bill Lynn, who will accompany Jordan on the Saturday signing. "We feel he is an excellent prospect."

Auburn assistant football coach Buck Bradberry said, "I saw Christian play basketball and football and work out in baseball. He not only is a tremendously talented athlete, but his greatest asset is his attitude as a winner and leader. He's the kind of boy you are proud to have."

TIGERS SAY CHRISTIAN'S TOP T-MAN

Special to Atlanta Journal-Constitution
COVINGTON — Newton County High School's fabled football and basketball (and baseball) star Tim Christian officially signed a Southeastern Conference grant-in-aid with Auburn University here Saturday.

On hand were Auburn's head football coach Ralph Jordan, head basketball coach Bill Lynn and football offense coach Buck Bradberry.

Bradberry said, "Tim is a great prospect in football and basketball. As a T-formation quarterback, I think he is perhaps the best prospect we have ever signed."

Christian's basketball teams never lost at home in over 90 games in his career. In one football game last fall, he passed for 390 yards to defeat Chamblee High. He is a short-stop in baseball.

Tim Christian pulls upset in Tiger jump

By KEN JONES
Times Staff Sportswriter

COVINGTON, Ga. — In a fast shuffle of events, the Auburn Tigers have snared Newton County's fabulous football-basketball star, Tim Christian, from the seemingly unbreakable grip of the Georgia Bulldogs, it was learned (not exclusively).

Christian, considered the best all-around athlete in Georgia, led Newton County to the state AA basketball championship in 1964. Standing only 6-2, he played cen-

ter and consistently grabbed rebounds over much taller opponents while averaging almost 23 points a game.

Behind the amazingly quick 180-pounder, Newton County won 33 games without a defeat before losing in the quarterfinals of this year's state tournament. Despite playing the pivot, many of Tim's baskets came on long

one-handed jump shots, which he hit with uncanny regularity.

The signing with Auburn comes as a complete shock. Christian was considered in the bag for Georgia coaches Vince Dooley and Ken Rosemond.

Dooley is in Texas and Rosemond is on a recruiting trip. Neither could be reached for comment.