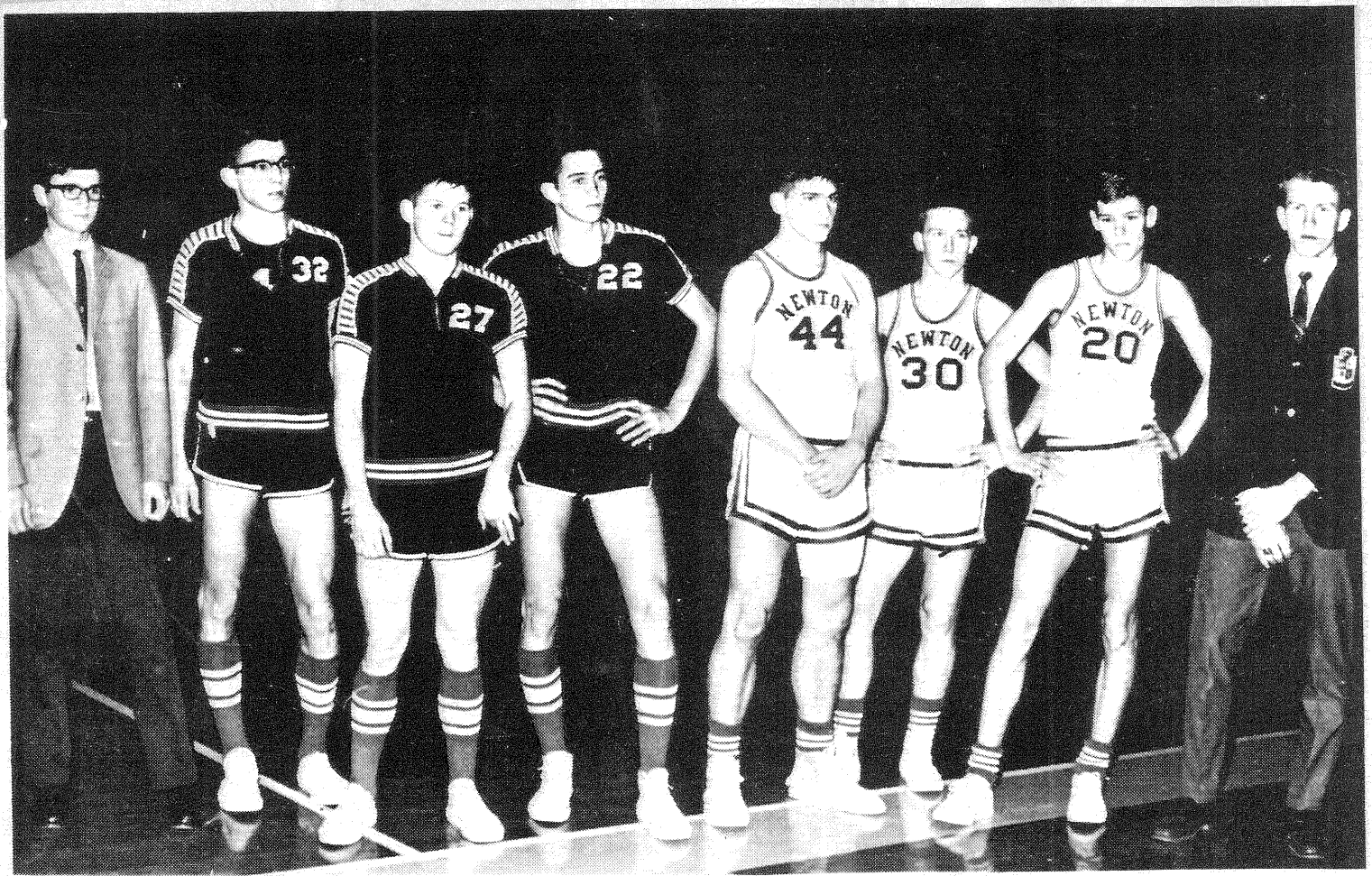


## Three Newton County Rams Named To State AA All-Tournament Team



THREE NEWTON RAMS were named to the State All-Tournament team Saturday night when the twinkle squad was announced by Tom Bennett, Prep Editor of The Atlanta Journal. Left to right: Kerry Sikes, Russell; Wood Montgomery, Cairo; Pat Killimett, Cairo; Charles Prince, Cairo; Gary Wilkerson, Newton County; Wayne

Hall, Newton County; Bob Richardson, Newton County; and Scott Wilson, Troup of LaGrange. Two players were not present for the picture: Lyle Martin of Hart County and Ronnie Williams of Crisp County.

was excellent. They hit on 20 of 38 shots for a 53% mark. NCHS had 16 for 48 for a 33% mark.

\*\*\*\*

Many Newton fans were loyal right up to the end although facing a Herculean task on Saturday night in meeting a great Cairo team. A car was observed going up the Interstate 20 with a homemade sign on its rear which read: "We're No. 1." The license number of the car was 38D-716.

During Thursday night's tight

game between the Rams and Crisp County a sportswriter kept watching the anguish antics of Gary Mitchell, Rams team manager who sits with the players on the bench. "I've been watching that fat little fellow on the bench over there; he's really more interesting to watch than the ball game," the scribe added.

\*\*\*\*

A crowd of only 3,139 showed up for the semi-final games on Friday night at the Tech roundhouse. That was less than half the seating capacity of 6,999.

Newton County and Russell furnished most of those \$1.50 paying customers, however.

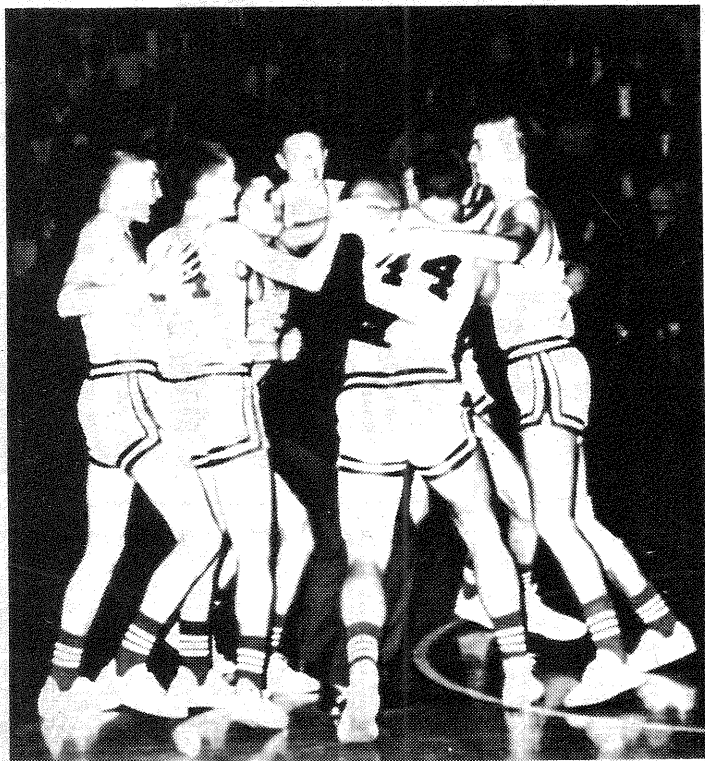
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An ambulance came screaming down Tenth Street by the Coli-

seum immediately after the Ram-Troup game Friday night. Some-

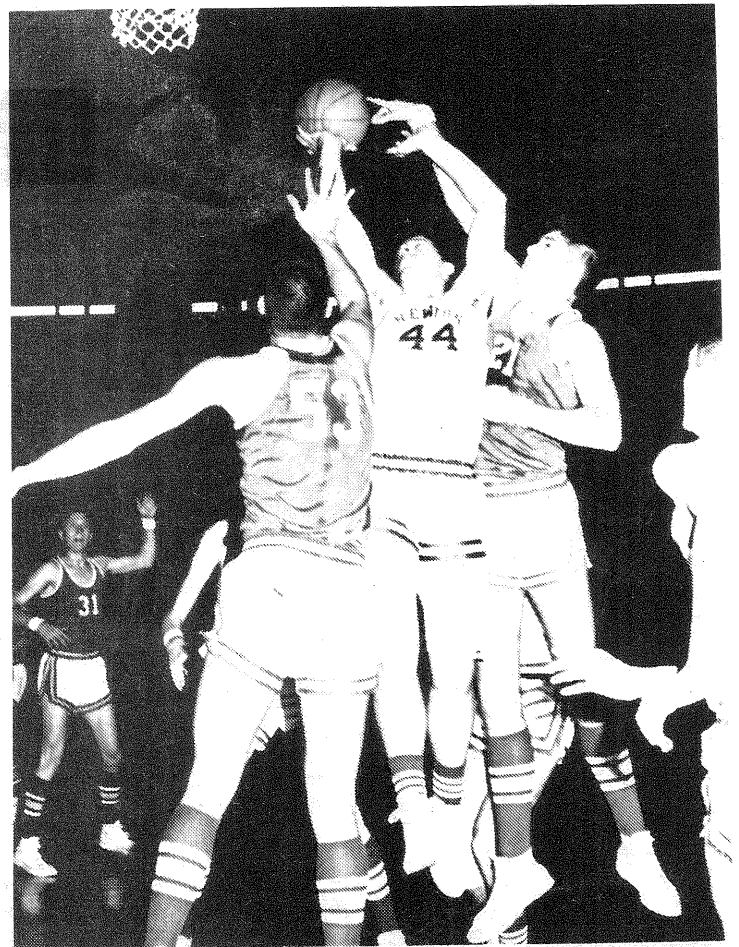
one quipped that a "Newton fan has probably had a heart attack after that thrilling finish."

## Newton Players And Coach Overjoyed



THIS HUMAN MASS of overjoyment took place on the Tech Coliseum court immediately after the final buzzer of the Ram-Troup game Friday night. Newton's small squad of 10 players are shown pounding Coach Ronald Bradley after the Rams turned back Troup 57-55 in a thriller.

## Wilkerson Had 72 Rebounds In Tourney



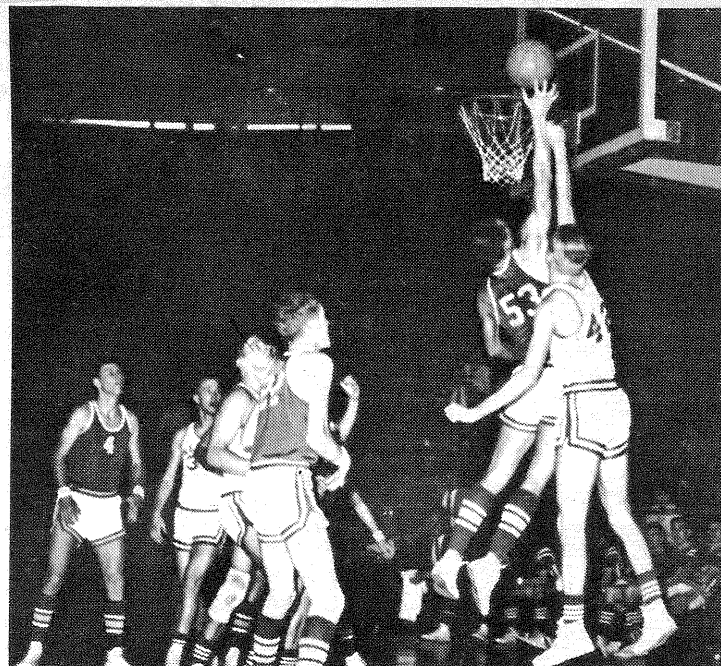
GARY (YOGI) WILKERSON (No. 44) tries for a field goal after getting a rebound in the Ram-Crisp County game on Thursday night of the State AA Tournament at Alexander Memorial Coliseum. Wilkerson is guarded here by two tall Crisp County players Fred Williams (No. 53) and Danny Lamb (No. 21). Gary had 23 rebounds in this game and a four-game tourney total of 72. (Other Tournament pictures on Sports Page today).

## Newton Fans At AA Championship Game



THIS NEWTON COUNTY Cheering section came prepared to cheer their team on to a state championship Saturday night at the Tech Coliseum. Many wore Ram T-Shirts and plaid caps. Here they displayed one finger for a victory over Cairo. However, the Syrupmakers of South Georgia proved to be too tough and won the 1966 State crown 55-46.

## Hinton Fights For Ball In Crisp Game



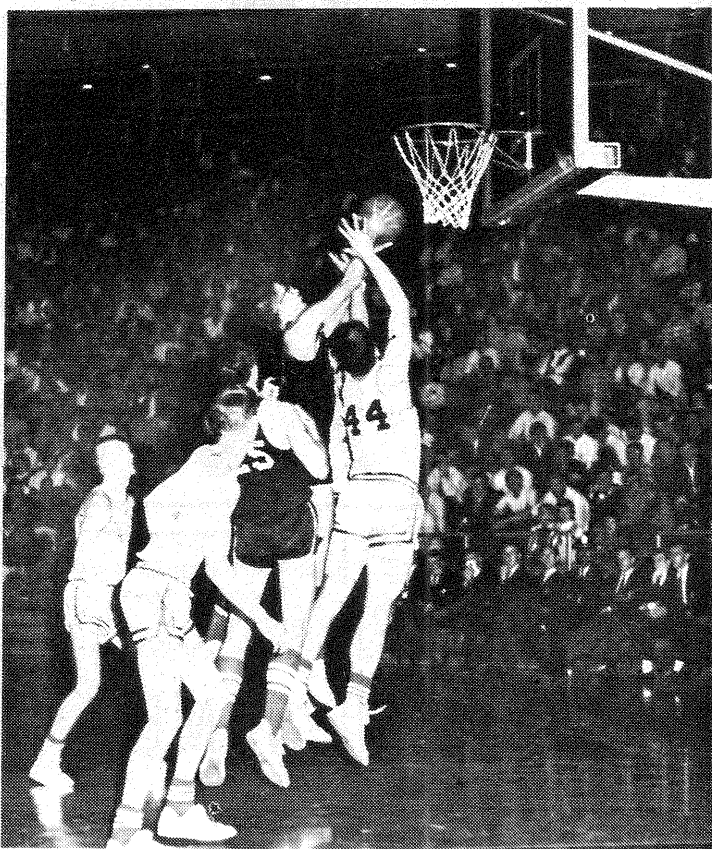
EDDIE HINTON (No. 42 in White uniform) and Crisp County's Fred Williams (No. 53) are up in the air as Hinton attempts to block Williams' field goal attempt in the quarter-finals of the State AA Tournament in Atlanta Thursday evening. Other players in the picture are, from left to right: Ronnie Williams (No. 4) of Crisp; Wayne Hall and Gary Wilkerson of NCHS, and Charles Posey of Crisp. The Rams won this tilt in overtime 64-59.

## Rams' Keepers Of Statistics



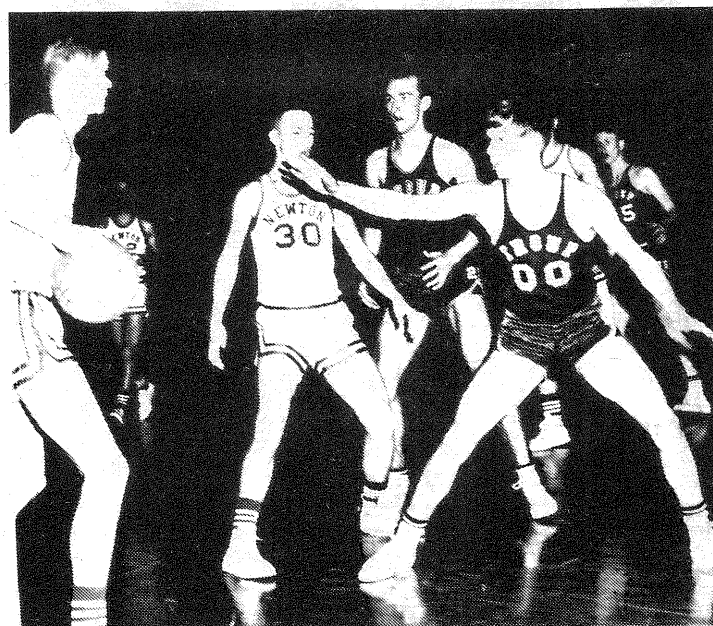
NEWTON Statisticians and Scorer are shown seated with the NCHS squad members at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum. From left to right: Artie Hays, statistician; Linda Hoffman, scorer; Kenneth Hodges, statistician; and "Brad" Bradley, son of Coach Ronald Bradley.

## Tall Cairo Center Gets Valuable Rebound



HERE'S ONE OF the reasons the Cairo Syrupmakers won the championship game over Newton 55-46 Saturday night in the State AA finals. Wood Montgomery (center of picture in dark uniform) hauls in the rebound over the shorter NCHS team members. Gary Wilkerson (No. 44) fights for the ball. Other Newton players in the picture are: Eddie Hinton (left) and Bob Richardson (No. 20).

## Bob Richardson Makes Move With Ball



BOB RICHARDSON displays that familiar "cat and mouse" stance as he holds the ball in the 57-55 victory over Troup of LaGrange on Friday in the State AA semi-finals. Screening for Richardson is the Rams' Wayne Hall (No. 30). The Troup defender in the foreground is Danny Hart (No. 00). Bob was the high point scorer of the tourney with 80 points in the four games.

## Newton County's No. One Basketball Fan



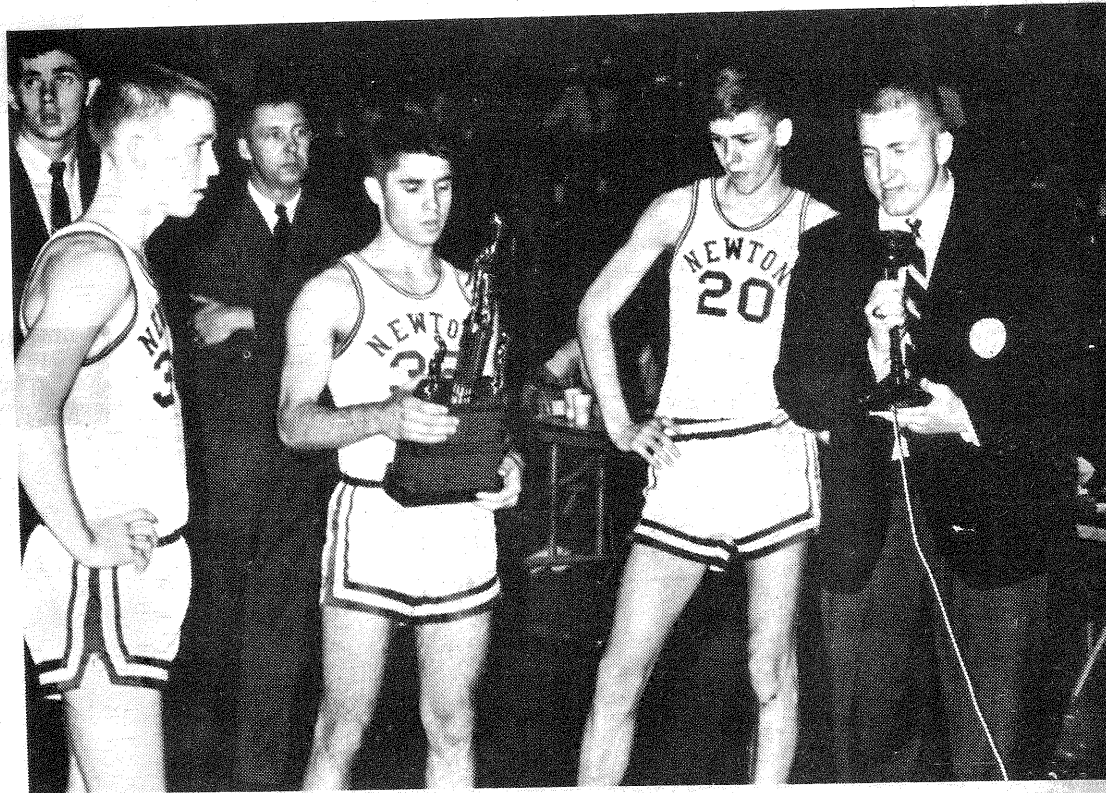
NEWTON COUNTY'S Number One Basketball Fan, Mrs. Pearl Young, cheers her team on to victory over Troup of LaGrange Friday night as this picture was taken at the Tech Coliseum. Mrs. Young was among the honorees Sunday afternoon at the NCHS gymnasium program when the team returned from the State AA tournament.

## Coach Bradley Receives Keys To New Car



RAM COACH RONALD BRADLEY was presented a new 1966 Plymouth Station Wagon by friends of the team Sunday afternoon as the Newton Ram team returned to Covington from the State AA Tournament. Covington Mayor Walker Harris (left) is shown giving the keys to Bradley at the NCHS gymnasium. Mrs. Bradley holds a bouquet of roses presented to her by Mrs. Pearl Young, the "Number One Newton Fan." Players holding the second place state trophy are (left to right): Wayne Hall, Steve Smith and Bob Richardson, all seniors.

## Coach Bradley Makes Short Talk At AA Tourney



NEWTON COACH RONALD Bradley holds the microphone at the Georgia Tech Coliseum as he thanks the "Newton fans for their loyalty during the season and the state tournament." The three seniors on the NCHS team this year, Wayne Hall, Steve Smith (holding trophy) and Bob Richardson are pictured with the coach.

## 'Best B'Ball Town In Nation'-Bradley

"They showed us again that this is one of the best basketball towns in the nation."

The speaker was Newton County Coach Ron Bradley and he was talking about the reception that his Rams received Sunday returning home with the state AA Runner-up trophy.

"They had a band at the gym, the sheriff escorted us into town from Atlanta, they gave my wife flowers and there were speeches -- the whole works," he said.

The people of Covington and Newton County also presented Bradley, whose career at Newton County has already become a legend, with a 1966 Plymouth Fury Deluxe Station wagon.

"The town was real proud of these boys. It has been a great year. I couldn't have dreamed that we would have gone so far," he said.

Bradley was full of praise for mighty Cairo, two-time

"Cairo has a fine ball club, even better than last year. They miss Stanfill (6-5 Bill) but they seem better organized than last year. They played terrific defense and we just didn't play the ball to beat them.

"We played well in the opening games, but by the time we played Cairo, we had just run out of gas. We were just whipped physically," he said. -- FUTCH

66

# RIBOCK, BROOKINS, McCONNELL SHOOT FOR SUPERSTAR TAGS

By CHARLIE ROBERTS

Butler of Augusta, Cairo, Perry, Waynesboro and Taylor County (of Butler and Reynolds) have won court tests that settled debates as to which were the finest 1966 Class AAA, AA, A, B and C basketball teams in Georgia.

So let's argue the 1967 case. Question 1: Which ones among 300-plus teams will own the most champion-



Charlie Roberts

ship potential? Question 2: What individuals are likely to shoot for the bulls-eye of "best in state?"

After a fairly extensive probe, we'd answer No. 1: "Aquinas, Warner Robins, Wheeler (that's right) and Commerce."

After keeping an intense ear tuned to conversation of college and high-school basketball coaches, and attending court frequently in person, we'd answer question No. 2 with a big three — Aquinas' John Ribock, Roosevelt's Ewell Brookins and Warner Robins' Wayne McConnell.

And if you go in for picking a "Big Ten" or "Big Twenty" or "Big Twenty-Five" we'll start you off with 17 returning blue-chip athletes who "can't miss" being included in such company.

Along with the 6-6 Ribock, 6-1 Brookins and 6-2 McConnell we'll include Commerce's Steve Gary, Madison County's Cauthen Westbrook, Vienna's Tim Dominey, Taylor County's Buddy Perkins, Griffin's Larry Webb, Central Gwinnett's Tom Harris, Baker's Mike Stokes, Newton County's Gary Wilkerson and Cairo's Wood Montgomery.

And from the Greater Atlanta area we'll add Druid Hills' Rudy Kinard, Wheeler's Larry Keener, Russell's Kerry Sikes, George's Barry Griswell and Sprayberry's Ken Davis, the 6-8 part-time backboard sweeper of Hal Cochran's finalists in The Constitution's state AAA tournament.

Butler's Barry Timmerman, Decatur's Herb White, Avondale's Joe Wedel, Perry's Joe Martin, Briarcliff's Larry Welch, North Fulton's Walter Chandler, Southwest's David Sitton and Bob Belloir, Groves' David Rich, Osborne's Robert McKenny, Newton County's Bob Richardson, Hart Coun-

ty's Lyle Martin, Sandy Springs' Bob Wills, Headland's David Taylor, Dawson County's Gene Odom, Adrian's Hoke Brantley, Vienna's Walt Stone, Dougherty's Scotty McLennan, Albany's Don Beach, Waynesboro's Walt Seeger — that's a list which includes most of the tip-top senior talent that moves on and leaves the field wide open for our list of rising superlatives.

Butler won the AAA championship with a slogan of "If anyone can, Timmerman can." And Timmerman, a great one, did. He scissored almost all tournament scoring records with 44 points against Baker and 105 in four games.

But for a variety of reasons, one being that Ribock stands 6-6, even most Augustans rate Bob Stewart's Shamrock ace a superior college prospect to Timmerman. In fact, Ribock, who averaged 25.8 points per regular-season game to 23.7 for Timmerman, could emerge as Georgia's finest college prospect in a decade. He hauled in 83 rebounds, shot 103 points in four state tournament games. And at 16, of course, he was a growing boy.

One college head coach professed interest in only two Georgia players, Ribock and Brookins. The latter, who came into his own with several 29-to-35-point performance in city and state tournament games, excited more coaches at the state than any player in years. "That guy can outjump a kangaroo," one marveled. Roger Couch, now coach at Gulf Coast junior college, vowed, "I coached Herb White at Decatur and he's the greatest I've seen who was only 6-0, 6-2 or thereabouts. But I'll rate Brookins right with him.

McConnell, a 16.8 averager this year and producer of 85

state tournament points, and David Davidson, also a 6-2 junior, should make Warner Robins the team to beat in 1-AAA even though Baker will have fabulous Mike Stokes (12.6) back two more years. And we'd guess that if all Georgia teams had played a year-long league schedule, Baker would have won the title. Most coaches agreed that Bubba Ball's Lions, 29-0 going into the state, were the state's best in any classification.

Gary, a fabulous 5-10 football halfback and court magician, is the reason we must rank Commerce so high. He almost shot down mighty Perry before the Panthers earned

their ninth state cage crown. Wheeler's Wildcats, at two, could make history winning 1967 state AAA 1 rels. Bill Halcomb's five-ished third in 5-AAA with 15-7 record and narrowly missed knocking Spraybe out of its state berth. And v the 6-5 Keener (18.3 average) 6-6 Bill Chenault, Jim Gre grass, Ronnie Wallace, Ba Parker, Larry Carter and R nie Jenkins returning, doubt Greater Atlanta offer a stronger 1967 unit.

Harris of Gwinnett Cou and Fitzgerald's Jack Pa probably will be the sta most accomplished all-ro athletes in 1966-67.

Mr. Leo Mallard  
Mr. Bob Greer  
The Covington News  
Covington, Georgia

Dear Leo and Bob:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you both and the Covington News for the fine support you have given the N.C.H.S. Rams Basketball Team once again. The many articles and pictures you have in your paper each week certainly create much interest and excitement among the people of the county.

To the fans and supporters of the team, I want to say that the reception the team received upon their return from the State Tournament was overwhelming. It was an unexpected and happy surprise for everyone connected with the team. It means a lot to know that their many hours of practice, their sacrifices, and their self-discipline are so appreciated. The 1966 Rams will always be remembered for having so much heart.

Coach and I have no way of reaching everyone connected with the special gift presented to us Sunday except through your newspaper. We want to express our deep appreciation to each and every person who had a part in it. We both were completely overwhelmed, and for the first time in his life, Coach was completely speechless. The people of Covington and Newton County are without equal. It is folks like these who make this THE place to live.

We want the boys, their parents, the fans of Newton County, and The Covington News to know that we appreciate each and every thing they have done for us, not only this year but all the years we have been in Covington. We are proud to be a part of this wonderful community. And to the boys we want to say--we love you! You ARE Number One!

Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Jan Bradley