



Staff Photo—Billy Downs

Ram Coach Ron Bradley, Bench Show Anxiety in AA Loss to Cairo

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**THE PREP BEAT**

# Taylor Credits Discipline, But Says It 'Hurts' Star

By TOM BENNETT  
Atlanta Journal Prep Editor

There's just one thing about his offense that upsets Coach Tommy Taylor of Cairo, winner of two straight Class AA state championships.

"You can't look good playing me," Taylor said Saturday after his team, as exact and disciplined as any basketball team in Georgia, put down Newton County for the championship at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

Guard Charles Prince, one of Taylor's finest products in nine years at Cairo High School, had played only a half in the championship and had scored no more than 14 points in any tournament game.

"I played such disciplined ball that a boy doesn't have the opportunity he might have on another team where one or two players monopolize the game," Taylor said.

"IN THIS tournament we took only what you would call the high-percentage shot, and I guess Prince didn't shoot four times against Newton County."

Prince had three fouls before two quarters were over with in the finale against Newton County.

The Cairo coach is certain that Prince can make it as a college basketball player.

"He's six-three and still growing, and he's only 17 now," said Taylor.



Tom Bennett

Wood Montgomery, 6-3 Cairo center named "Most Valuable Player" in the tournament after scoring 18 points in Cairo's 55-46 championship victory, once fell down in a skating rink, had to undergo an operation, and played only briefly last season.

"I know every coach says this," Taylor began, "but in terms of character and willingness to work, this is the finest group of boys I've ever coached."

TWELVE YEARS AGO Taylor, a pole vaulter at the University of Florida, graduated and headed back home to Coronado, Calif. Instead, he signed on as recreation director for the city of Cairo.

In nine years as track coach Taylor has won exactly that many region track championships, and has now made Cairo the only school in Georgia other than Druid Hills to win two straight state championships in class AA basketball.

The fire that burns in the soul of Ron Bradley, coach at Newton County, dimmed a little Saturday night. Bradley wants to build an unbeatable basketball team and he almost did it this year, even though he had only one starter from Newton's great 1965 team and no bench at all.

Sunday afternoon Covington, Ga., paid its debt to Bradley and his team.

"We stayed in Atlanta and went to Church," Bradley explained, "and got back home about 2 o'clock. Our gym was packed with people to see us. There was a little ceremony, and I think most of the boys cried before it was over."

## Blab Slab

By BOB GREER  
News and Sports Editor



### State AA All-Tournament Team

Gary Wilkerson,  
Bob Richardson,  
Wayne Hall,  
Wood Montgomery,  
Pat Killimett,  
Charles Prince,  
Scott Wilson,  
Kerry Sikes,  
Lyle Martin,  
Ronnie Williams,

Newton Co.  
Newton Co.  
Newton Co.  
Cairo  
Cairo  
Cairo  
Troup  
Russell  
Hart Co.  
Crisp Co.

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Coach Olin Presley, a graduate of NCHS, attended much of the State AA Tournament last week in Atlanta. Presley is the girls' coach at Campbell Fairburn high school . . . Another man who thoroughly enjoyed the Thursday night overtime win over Crisp County was B. E. Williams of Avondale. Mr. Williams was the Avondale high school coach of Ronald Bradley . . . Attendance Thursday night was below the first night's crowd at the 'Big Dome.' Tuesday some 3,560 saw the games and on Thursday the crowd was 2,927.

# Rams Take 2nd In State AA Tournament

BY BOB GREER  
(News and Sports Editor)

Those amazing Newton County Rams battled into the finals of the State AA Tournament at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum in Atlanta Saturday night before bowing to Cairo, champions of Region 1, by a 55-46 score. Newton, on their way to the Saturday final, had downed Hapeville 58-52, Crisp County in an overtime 64-59 and Troup of LaGrange 57-55.

Cairo's superior height and a scintillating night from the floor which saw Coach Tommy Taylor's defending champions hit on 20 of 38 shots for an average of 53% sealed the doom of the NCHS five. This also thwarted the dream of Newton Coach Ronald Bradley for a second State AA title. His Rams won the state diadem back in 1964 on the same Tech Coliseum floor.

The game Saturday started off much in the same fashion as most tourney clashes. Each team swapped baskets with Cairo holding a slight lead at the first quarter stop, 18-15. At half-time the Syrupmakers from South Georgia led by four points, 26-22.

At this point Newton did not find itself in a strange spot as the team had trailed in two other games in the 1966 meet at the intermission timeout. In fact, only the night before the Rams were behind the Troup team until about four minutes remained in the game. The NCHS boys won the game 57-55 after getting the lead in that skirmish.

But Saturday night, it was a different story, as three Cairo boys, Wood Montgomery, the tournaments' Most Valuable Player, Pat Killimett and Charles Prince, banged in field goal after field goal. Montgomery had eight for eight in the game.

Bob Richardson was the high scorer of the tournament with 80 points in the four games in which Newton took part. Another Region 4 player, Lyle Martin of Hart County scored 64 points in two games in the tourney.

Gary (Yogi) Wilkerson had a total of 72 rebounds in the four games and this must have been tops in that department. Yogi hauled in 16 against the tall South Georgians on Saturday night.

Wayne Hall brought his NCHS career to a blazing finish in the final. He played an excellent tournament, just as he did three years ago when the Rams won the state title and Wayne made the All-State Tourney team. Hall now has made All-State as a sophomore and as a senior.

In the consolation game for third and fourth place in the State AA Tournament Saturday evening the Troup team downed Russell by a 52-44 score.

## State AA Notes:

Coach Ronald Bradley now has won 232 games and lost 22 since he became the head coach at Newton High in the fall of 1958. The Rams record for this season was 33 victories and four defeats in regular season and tournament play.

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Wayne Hall now joins Tim Christian as a Newton County player who has made All-State AA Tournament team two years (1964 and 1966). Tim made it in 1964 and 1965.

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The crowd of 3,505 Saturday night brought the total to 16,000 for the five nights of the tournament. It was indeed strange that the Big Dome was not filled any one night of the AA meet.

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Tom Bennett of The Atlanta Journal had three of the top four AA teams rated in the top four in the final week of The Prep Top Ten. Cairo was rated third, Newton fourth and Troup first by Bennett.

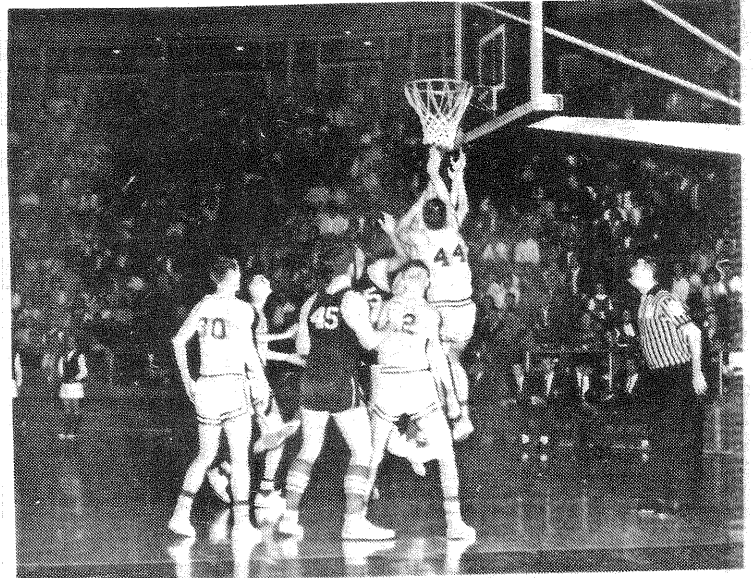
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A very unusual development happened on the All-Tournament team when it was announced Saturday night at the conclusion of the AA meet. Three Rams were named to the team and it is seldom that a second place team gets three players on a 10-man squad. However, Gary Wilkerson, Bob Richardson and Wayne Hall made the twinkle squad. Three players from the championship Cairo team also made the squad.

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Cairo not only had a good defense Saturday night, but their shooting average from the floor

## Action In The Ram-Cairo Title Game



ACTION UNDER the basket in the Ram-Cairo game Saturday night at the Georgia Tech Coliseum was fast and furious. In this photo Gary Wilkerson (44) goes up for the rebound under the Syrupmakers' goal. Other Ram players pictured are, left to right: Wayne Hall (30), Bob Richardson and Eddie Hinton. Ricky Heath (45) and Pat Killimett (15) are the Cairo players visible.

## Rams Receive 2nd-Places AA State Trophy



TROPHY PRESENTATIONS were made by Georgia Tech cage coach Whack Hyder (right). Newton County seniors, Bob Richardson, Steve Smith and Wayne Hall, and Coach Ronald Bradley accepted the second-place trophy (held by Coach Bradley). The Rams won the state title in 1964. Cairo downed the NCHS five this year 55-46.

### SEMI-FINAL WIN

Netton	57	Troup	55
F—Schell	2	Farmer	11
F—Hinton	2	Wood	6
C—Wilkerson	9	Wilson	17
G—Hall	17	Walker	5
G—Richardson	27	Nasworthy	12
Smith		Neal	2

Score at Halftime: Troup 39, Newton 34.

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### Championship Game

Newton	46	Cairo	55
F—Schell	7	Burt	7
F—Hinton	3	Maxwell	8
C—Wilkerson	7	Montgomery	18
G—Hall	10	Prince	6
G—Richardson	17	Killimett	14
Smith	2	Heath	2

Score at Halftime: Cairo 26, Newton 22.

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