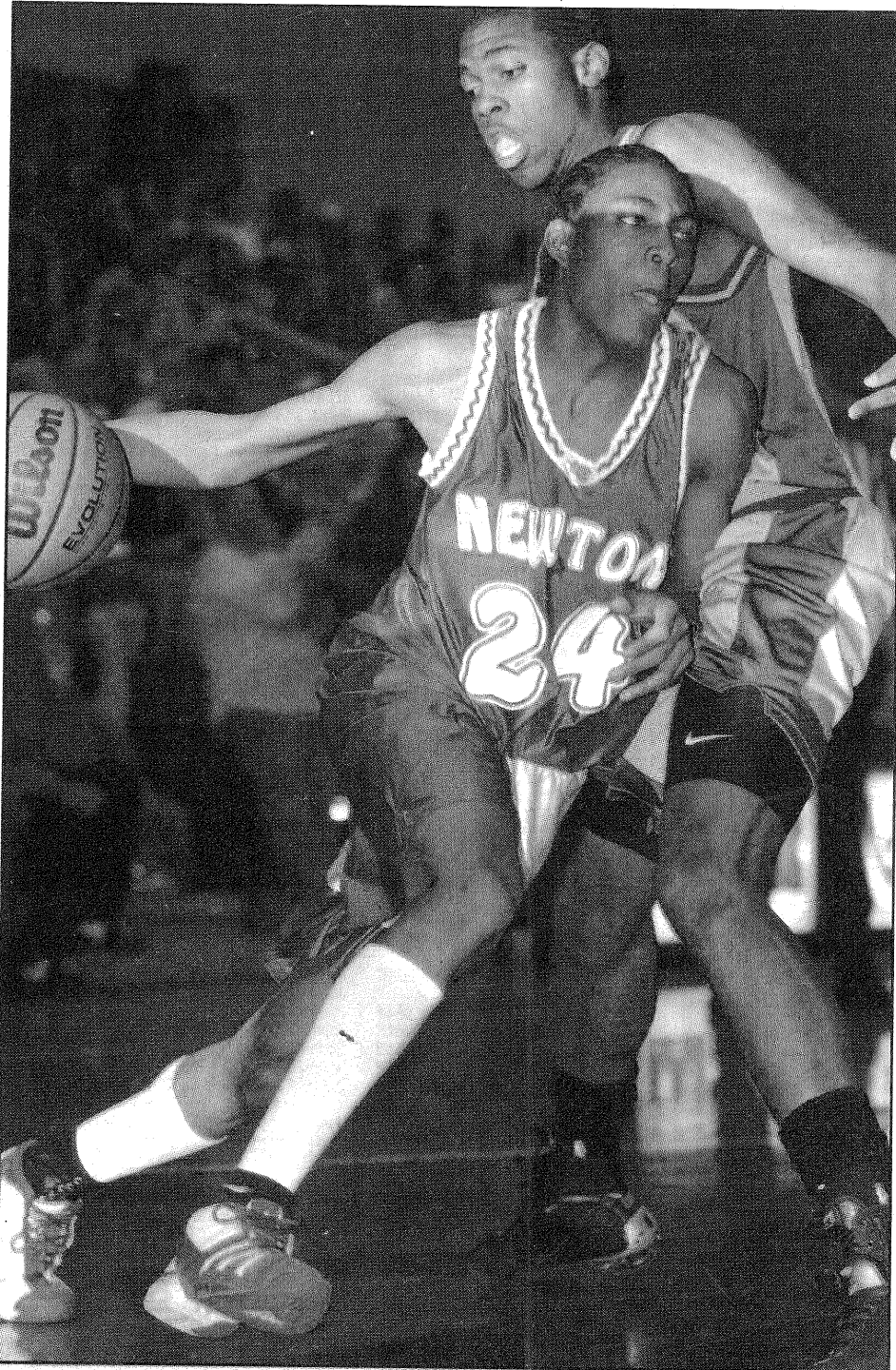


Bradley sets record in sweep



Newton's Darius White (24) drives past Eastside's Emmanuel McWilliams on the baseline during the first quarter Friday night. — Photo by Dan Henry

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Newton's Ron Bradley is now the king of the hill in Georgia basketball with 1,255 career wins after his Rams (17-6 overall, 7-1 subregion) defeated the Eastside Eagles (17-6, 5-3) 66-43 in front of an sellout crowd at Eastside.

"When this all started in my 20s, I never dreamed of this," said Bradley. "Back then, it was just a job. But today, I'm just as excited about working with young people as I was 43 years ago."

The Lady Rams (16-7, 7-1) started the doubleheader with a 61-34 win over the Lady Eagles (5-18, 2-6).

Newton will play its final home games on Tuesday against Salem with the opening game starting at 6 p.m. The winner of the girls game will take sole possession of the subregion with one game left. A win by the Newton boys will ensure the top spot before heading into the playoffs. With the No. 1 and 2 seeds of the subregion getting byes, those teams only need one win to make it to the state playoffs.

IN THE BOYS game, Eastside's Bruce Smith gave the Eagles a 3-0 lead with a 3-pointer to start the game. After a free throw and a baseline layup by Newton's Vincent Scott tied the game, Legale Floyd's 3-point shot gave the Rams a lead they never relinquished. Newton continued to pull away by out scoring Eastside 6-3 to end the first quarter with a 12-6 lead.

In the second quarter, the Rams outscored the Eagles with several mini-runs of 4-2. However, after eight minutes, the mini-runs added up as the Rams held a 26-18 edge at halftime.

The third frame belonged to the Rams as they started with a 10-point run. Following a 3-pointer by Eastside's Darius Kelly, both teams

exchanged baskets until Newton scored the final five points to end the period.

With Newton leading Eastside 48-26 going into the final eight minutes, Eastside's Smith tried to spark his team by scoring seven of his team-high 13 points. But Floyd's two 3-pointers kept his team from giving up its 22-point lead.

Floyd paced all scorers with 18 points as the rest of the Newton scorers all finished in double digits. Darius White finished the game with 14, followed by Scott's 13, Antwone Smith's 11 and Quint Middleton's 10.

IN THE GIRLS game, the Lady Rams held a slim 4-3 lead after the first period.

In the second quarter, Eastside's Nicole Belcher scored five points while the rest of the team only combined for six points, as the Rams put up 16 with Shanetria Hill's six points leading a group of five scorers. After two quarters of play, the Lady Rams were ahead by a score of 20-14.

"We didn't play well in the first half," said Lady Rams coach Mike West. "After I chewed them out at halftime and we made some adjustments, we got after them in the second half."

The Lady Rams' Ieshia Wallace began playing more aggressive basketball on offense by controlling the post position and scoring seven of Newton's 16 points. The Lady Rams began to extend their lead by taking a 36-26 lead into the last quarter.

In the final period, Newton's Jamica Wyatt scored seven points as eight of the 10 team members put points on the board.

The Lady Rams outscored Eastside by a 25-8 margin.

Newton's Wyatt and Wallace led all scorers with 13 points followed by Hill with 10. Pacing the Lady Eagles with 10 points each were Belcher and Kenyatta Bell.