

Newton's Bradley named national coach of year

Coaching legend becomes
state's all-time winningest
boys coach in February

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The National Federation of State High School Associations has named Ron Bradley as its 2003 National Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year.

Bradley, who has led the Newton High School boys' basketball team to back-to-back 20-win seasons and consecutive state playoff appearances, was one of four finalists for the award.

The NFHS used career coaching record, community service, involvement in other school activities and the coach's basic philosophy on athletics as criteria in the selection process.

The NFHS had earlier selected Bradley as its 2003 South Sectional Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year, automatically making him a national finalist. The South section covers the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississip-



BRADLEY

pi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Bradley became the state's all-time winningest boys' basketball coach in February, supplanting the late Eric Staples with his 925th victory in a 54-40 win at Salem. Staples' record of 924 victories as a boys' coach stood for more than 40 years.

Bradley's 927 wins as a boys' coach rank him seventh nationally behind only Morgan Wooten (1,242), Robert Hughes (1,217), Ralph Tasker (1,122), Bill Krueger (1,096), Leslie Gaudet (1,026) and Walter Van Huss (1,021). They also establish him as the winningest coach in any varsity sport in state history.

Bradley has passed two significant milestones in little more than a year.

He moved past D.B. Carroll as the state's all-time winningest high school basketball coach (boys and girls) with his 1,255th career victory in January 2003.

Inducted into the State of Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1997, Bradley has also been honored by the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association as the first basketball coach ever to receive its Circle of Achievement Award.

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Bradley: Won both national awards in same year

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wrestling — each year.

The National Federation of State High School Associations selected Bradley as its National Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year in March. He is the only coach, by any verifiable account, in state history ever to win both awards in the same year.

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with his 925th victory in a 54-40 victory at Salem. Staples' record of 924 wins as a boys' coach stood for more than 40 years.

A legendary local figure, Bradley has passed two monumental milestones over the past two seasons. He moved past D.B. Carroll as the state's all-time winningest high school basketball coach (boys and girls) with his 1,255th career victory in January 2003. His 927 wins as a boys' coach rank him seventh nationally.

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Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1997, Bradley has also been recognized by the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association as the first basketball coach ever to receive its Circle of Achievement Award.

In 2000, the Atlanta Tipoff Club named him as its Steve Schmidt Award winner for his outstanding contributions to the game. He is currently in his second tour of duty with Newton. He led the school to its only state championship back in 1964 and directed his teams to a

national-record 129 consecutive home wins during one nine-year span. He has won 24 region championships and three state crowns over an unparalleled career that has spanned six decades.

Bradley, who has led Newton to two consecutive 20-win seasons and state tournament appearances, announced in the spring that he would be returning for his 46th season on the sidelines. He will enter the 2004-05 season 20 wins shy of 1,300 for his career.