

Inside Edition

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Bradley Breaks State Record

Congratulations to Newton High School basketball coach Ronald Bradley, who recently became the state of Georgia's winningest boys' basketball coach in history, with 925 wins. Bradley surpassed the late Eric Staples, who held the record with 924 wins. The history-making game was a 54-40 win over Salem High School on February 3.



In addition to the state record, the 925 wins made Bradley the 7th-winningest boys' only coach in the United States. Last year, Bradley became the winningest overall boys and girls coach in Georgia history, when he earned his 1,255th win on January 31, 2003 at Eastside High School.

Bradley is in his 44th year of coaching and has served two stints as head coach at Newton High School. He coached the team from 1957-1975 and led Newton High School to its only basketball state championship in 1964. After serving as coach in other school systems, Bradley returned home to Newton High School in 2001.

"It's very special," said Bradley of breaking the state record. "Coach Staples was a great coach and he held that record for probably 50 years at least. His final record was 924 and it was a record that I wasn't sure anyone could ever touch. He was just an outstanding coach and person so it's definitely quite an honor."

Although Bradley knew of the impending record, he admitted his team was most likely unaware of it.

"I'm not sure they were aware of it and I didn't tell them because I didn't want it to be a burden on them," Bradley said. "I never really dreamed as we got in the 800 wins category that this would even be possible. With that number of wins--925--that's in the top ten in history. When you think of the number of coaches in the U.S., well that's just amazing."

Although the record belongs to him, Bradley was quick to praise the students who comprised his teams throughout the years.

"I've definitely had some outstanding young people that made this possible," he said. "I've had some wonderful students on my teams over the years. Plus, we've had outstanding support from the fans and the community. That's made it all the more special."