

Sports

GACA recognizing record-setting Bradley

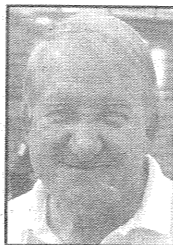
Newton coach to be honored at luncheon

Brian Knapp
bknapp@covnews.com

The Georgia Athletic Coaches Association will recognize Ron Bradley, head coach of the Newton High School boys' basketball team, at its annual Hall of Fame Luncheon Friday and Saturday at the Northwest Georgia Trade Center in Dalton.

The GACA is set to present Bradley, the state's all-time winningest prep basketball coach with the National Federation of State High School Associations National Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year award.

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



Ron Bradley will receive his national coach of the year award this weekend in Dalton.

Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year, automatically making him a national finalist. The South section blankets the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, 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 and also establish him as the winningest coach in any varsity sport in state history.

Bradley 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.

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Bradley: Owns 24 region titles

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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. In 2000,

the Atlanta Tipoff Club named him as its Steve Schmidt Award winner for his outstanding contributions to the game.

Bradley 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 announced he would be returning for his 46th season earlier this spring.

Bradley has won 24 region championships and three state crowns over his unparalleled career.

Bradley named best in nation

Newton boys' hoops coach named national coach of the year

Brian Knapp
bknapp@covnews.com

Ron Bradley has been named National Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

Bradley, the head coach of the Newton High School boys' basketball team, was recognized along with 17 other coaches at the NHSACA convention in Las Vegas Thursday.

"It was a super special occasion," Bradley said. "Just to be recognized at this level is another

tribute to all the wonderful people who have been a part of our teams through the years.

The NHSACA honors one coach in 17 categories — athletic director, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, baseball, girls' cross country, boys' cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, special sports, swimming, tennis, girls' track, boys' track, volleyball and



BRADLEY

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL Coach scores again

By **STAN AWTRY**
sawtry@ajc.com

Ronald Bradley, the winningest basketball coach in Georgia high school history, has earned another national award.

Bradley, the boys coach at Newton High, has been named national coach of the year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association at its annual convention in Las Vegas.

Earlier this month Bradley received the same award from the National High School Federation. It's believed to be the first time both organizations honored the same person with their highest award.

"I really hadn't expected it," said Bradley, 69. "I usually say they give me these things because I'm old and they're afraid I'm going to die, but there were coaches there older than me.

"And to hear the records of some of the other nominees, I feel honored."

Bradley is the second-winningest active coach in the nation. His record of 1,280-343 trails only Robert Hughes of Dunbar High in Fort Worth (1,313-251), who recently announced plans to return for his 47th season.