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Prep basketball teams get back to business

Coaches entering time of transition

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Uncertainty is the word of the moment for the county's four high school basketball coaches as they begin to fine tune their rosters for the 2004-05 campaign.

Ron Bradley, who has guided the Newton High School boys'

basketball team to consecutive 20-win seasons and state tournament appearances, is preaching the basics as he gets reacquainted with his returning players.

"We're trying to get the fundamentals down," said Bradley, the state's all-time winningest coach. "We're looking to give our guys that edge where they'll be ready to play. We've got a lot of new people who are trying to learn our system."

Newton graduated three of its



BRADLEY



GERALD



HOLLEY



HORTON

five starters, including leading scorer Darius White (18.9 points per game) and starting point guard Justin Herring, the

backbone of the team.

Their departures mean junior guard Jerrell Boswell will have to shoulder more of a burden on

the court. Boswell posted 10 20-point games last season, averaging 16.9 points per game.

"He's obviously an outstanding player," Bradley said. "We're hoping he'll have a great year."

Newton, which makes the jump to Region 2-AAAAA this fall, is attending a team camp at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville this weekend.

"We're going to see a variety of different teams down there,"

Bradley said. "Our kids will be tested. We're going to learn a lot about our people."