

Sports

Bradley earns record 925th victory

Coach stands alone atop boys' state list

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Ron Bradley reached a plateau no other coach in state history had Tuesday night.

Bradley became the state's all-time winningest boys' basketball coach, supplanting the late Eric Staples with his 925th victory as the Newton High School boys' basketball team defeated Salem 54-40 at

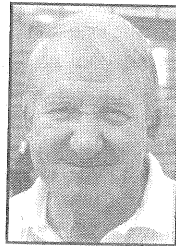
Salem High School in Conyers.

The historic win also moves Bradley into sole possession of seventh place nationally, 96 behind Walter Van Huss.

"I hope it doesn't stop here," Bradley said. "I hope we can win a few more."

Staples was inducted into the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2002. He won 25 region championships and eight state titles, posting a career record that stands 726 games above .500.

His record of 924 victories as a boys' coach stood for more than 40 years.



Ron Bradley becomes the state's winningest boys' basketball coach.

"He was very special," Bradley said. "At one time, I wasn't sure anyone could ever get there. It's amazing we've been able to endure and coach for as many years as we have."

Bradley has averaged 22 wins per season over a career that has spanned six decades. The 14-point victory

over Salem also established him as the winningest coach in any varsity sport in state history.

His current players, many of whose parents were not yet born when Bradley began his coaching career back in 1957, are amazed by his longevity and sustained success.

"I can't imagine even playing in 925 games," said senior point guard Justin Herring. "That he has that many wins is unbelievable."

Senior guard Centrell Delamar agreed.

"It's fantastic," Delamar said. "He cares about his team. He always tells me to keep pushing on, no matter

what comes at me and that I'm going to be something special later in life."

This is the second milestone Bradley has passed 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 last January.

"I'm glad we're on the team that helped him get it," Herring said. "We helped him get the first [record]. He helps us reach our goals and we help him reach his. It just goes to show you that players can help their coaches."