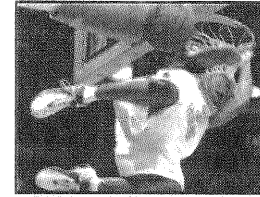




Sports



SPORTSLINE

Led by point guard Jarrett Jack, Georgia Tech prepares for the first round of the NCAA Tournament. See 4B

GOVERNOR'S *honors*

Perdue, state legislature recognize Newton coach

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Winning more games than any other high school coach in state history is bound to draw the gaze of prominent eyes.

Weeks after leading the Newton High School boys' basketball team to the Class AAAAA State Tournament Final Four, head coach Ron Bradley was honored by Gov. Perdue with a certificate of commendation Wednesday at the State Capitol in Atlanta.

Bradley, who is one of only four coaches in United States history to win 1,300 career games, guided the Rams through a magical campaign, which saw them reach the state semifinals for the first time in 23 years.

Presented to Bradley by the governor himself, the certificate of commendation recognizes his significant achievements over his 45 years in coaching, including his record-setting 1,301 victories and his 1997 induction into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

In February, the Georgia General Assembly passed a resolution — Senate Resolution 192 — honoring Bradley's career. The bill was written by Sen. John Douglas.

The Covington Rotary Club presented Bradley with a certificate commemorating the resolution at its meeting Tuesday at the Covington Family YMCA.

He is no stranger to recognition.

In 2004, he was chosen as national coach of the year by the National High

School Athletic Coaches Association and the National Federation of High School Associations, becoming the first coach in state history to win both awards in the same year.

A legendary local figure, Bradley became the state's all-time winning boys' basketball coach in 2004, planting the late Eric Staples with a 925th victory. Staples' record of 925 wins as a boys' coach had stood for more than four decades. Bradley's wins rank him seventh nationally.

He led Newton to its only national championship back in 1964, directing his teams to a national-record 129 consecutive home wins over a one 9-year span. He has won 11 region championships and three titles.



Submitted photo

Commending a career: Stu Tabor, left, president of the Covington Rotary Club, presents Ron Bradley with a certificate commemorating the Georgia General Assembly resolution passed in his honor in February.