

# Bradley: Won both national awards in same year

*From front page*

wrestling — each year.

The National Federation of State High School Associations selected Bradley as its National Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year in March. He is the only coach, by any verifiable account, in state history ever to win both awards in the same year.

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 victory at Salem. Staples' record of 924 wins as a boys' coach stood for more than 40 years.

A legendary local figure, Bradley has passed two monumental milestones over the past two seasons. 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. His 927 wins as a boys' coach rank him seventh nationally.

Inducted into the State of

Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1997, Bradley has also been recognized 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. He 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 has won 24 region championships and three state crowns over an unparalleled career that has spanned six decades.

Bradley, who has led Newton to two consecutive 20-win seasons and state tournament appearances, announced in the spring that he would be returning for his 46th season on the sidelines. He will enter the 2004-05 season 20 wins shy of 1,300 for his career.

## Bradley named best in nation

Newton boys' hoops coach named national coach of the year

**Brian Knapp**

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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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