

RAMS SWEEP REGION 4AA TOURNEY

Coach Bradley Gets A "Victory Ride"



RONALD BRADLEY, popular coach of the Region 4AA champion Newton County High School Rams, is shown getting a victory ride at Danielsville Saturday night after his team won the championship game over host Madison County 69 to 48. Ram players carried their coach to the center of the gym floor in celebration of the first regional title the NCHS boys have ever won. The Rams are now eligible for the State Class AA tournament in Atlanta March 9-11. They are presently undefeated in season and tournament play with 28 straight victories.

Local Victory String Now 28 Straight Without A Loss

By BOB GREER
(News Sports Editor)

The amazing Newton County Rams basketball team sacked three more victims in the Region 4AA tournament at Danielsville over the weekend, taking the Saturday night championship game over Madison County 69-41.

This marked the first time in the history of NCHS that the Rams have won the region championship. In 1955 the team was runner-up to Athens High for the region diadem.

Newton County girls lost their semi-final Friday night to the Forsyth County six by a 49 - 43 score. The Forsyth girls won the Region title game Saturday night over top-seeded Hart County 42 - 39.

Coach Cooper's girls team now end the 1960 - 61 campaign with a season slate of 22 wins and six defeats. The Rams victory string is now 28 games won without a loss.

The Rams' three victories in the tournament were all rather

easily won as the scores posted were: Newton 65, Hart County 41; Newton 58, Gainesville 39;

REGION 4AA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Newton 69

F—Mitchell 22
F—Evans 8
C—Rowe 10
G—Shaw 19
G—Rutledge 1

Subs: Newton County— Farr 3, Bowen, Tim Evans 2, Travis, Smith 2, Laster, Freeman 2, Jordan. Madison County— Coile, Fleming 1, Davis 1.

Score at halftime: Newton 35, Madison Co. 18.

and Newton 69, Madison County 48.

Forward Bob Mitchell, Center Allan Rowe and Guard Billy Shaw led the Ram scoring in the trio of games. Rowe had a total of 53, Mitchell 50 and Shaw 49.

In the rebounding department it was Rowe and Mitchell who hauled in 49 and 47 respectively. Coach Bradley got superb performance from Forward Terry Evans and Guard Terry Rutledge, the other starters, in the meet.

The team shooting percentage in the tournament was a fine 43.7 percent from the floor. In 160 shots at the bucket the Rams connected on 70 field goals. Against Hart Coun-

ty the NCHS five hit 24 of 53, against Gainesville the chart showed 20 of 44, and in the title clincher the Rams had 26 of 63.

Newton County fans were present in large numbers at the games, and on Saturday night the gymnasium was packed at the time the girls game started at 7:30 o'clock. By the time the Rams and host Madison County took the floor the crowd had increased so that many fans sat on the sidelines near the playing floor.

Presentation of the trophies was handled by Region 4AA Secretary Homer F. Sharp of Covington.

4AA Tourney Notes

It always happens in tournament play! We refer to the scoreboard clock. It went haywire Friday night at Danielsville and two weeks ago at Porterdale the clock there went on the blink during the tourney. The last time the Region meet was held in Covington the clock went out. That was in 1956.

Johnny Johnson, a former

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Bradley Hurls Challenge to Area Teams

Coach Ronald Bradley, in an interview carried in the Atlanta Journal - Constitution Sunday, has answered critics with an answer as to why the Rams don't play a tougher schedule. Gene Asher of the Journal wrote the article and said that "Victors in 24 of 27 outings, the Rams have drawn fire for playing a 'soft schedule'."

Coach Bradley said, "We will play anyone who is willing to play us. Why should we care if we lose. Nothing counts anyway except the tournament."

Many local fans have asked yours truly why the Rams didn't play teams like Avondale, Gainesville, Decatur, Henry County and possibly some of the Macon region teams. Many of the aforementioned teams are AAA and AA and should, no doubt be met during the season. Scheduling them is another thing as Coach Bradley has stated.

On the Rams schedule this year there was only two AA teams - - Baldwin County and Briarcliff. All others were A, B and C. It isn't the fault of Coaches Bradley and Cooper that the schedule isn't stronger. I firmly believe that many larger schools can get on the NCHS schedule merely by contacting local school officials.

A sore spot this past year, in particular, was the Newton Invitational Tournament. There wasn't a potent team in the tournament that tested either Coach Bradley's team or Coach Cooper's squad. Many fans expressed their disgust by commenting on the caliber of the teams entered.

One fan in particular said that it would be to the best