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SPORTS

BOB GREER, News Sports Editor

Newton Rams Team Lost Final Game To Headland High 7-4

BY BOB GREER
(News Sports Editor)

ROME — Newton County's Rams posted a second place finish in the 1964 State AA baseball tournament this North Georgia city Saturday afternoon, losing the finals to Headland high 7-4.

Friday night the charges of Coach Ronald Bradley battled for nine innings before turning back the Region 1AA champs, Wayne County of Jesup by a 2-0 score. Some 200 fans who braved the chilly weather at Legion Field in Rome for this battle said it was the best game of the two-day affair.

However, the pepped-up NCHS nine met their match in the Headland team on Saturday afternoon. A jittery first inning in which the Rams let the enemy score four runs on two hits just about sealed the title for the Greater Atlanta nine.

In the Rams first inning the NCHS squad scored two markers. Billy Shepherd walked and went to third on Terry Smith's single. An infield out and an error permitted both Newton runners to score.

Headland's Mike Gebel struck out 12 hitters and ended the game by striking out the last four Ram to come to the plate. Tony White started on the mound for Bradley's boys and he was relieved in the fifth

Newton 2, Wayne Co. 0		
Jesup	AB	R
Sewell, ss	3	0
Bolt, 2b	3	0
Cowart, lf	4	0
Brown, 1b	3	0
Warren, rf	4	0
Harris, cf	3	0
Poindexter, 3b	3	0
Thomas, c	3	0
Simmons, p	3	0
TOTALS	29	0

Newton			
	AB	R	H
Batchelor, 2b	3	0	1
Shepherd, 3b	3	0	0
Christian, 1b	4	0	1
Smith, ss	3	1	1
Gibbs, lf	4	0	0
Whisnante, rf	4	1	2
Hopkins, c	2	0	1
Jones, cf	4	0	1
Bledsoe, p	4	0	0
TOTALS	31	2	7

Score by innings:				
Newton	000	000	002-2	7 3
Wayne	000	000	000-0	3 3

Headland				
	AB	R	H	
White, 2b	4	2	0	
Martin, lf	4	1	1	
Pinyen, 3b	3	1	1	
Stover, rf	4	1	2	
Lewis, 1b	4	1	0	
Pace, ss	3	0	1	

ROME, Ga. — As soon as the Newton team arrived at the General Forrest Hotel in Rome, it was discovered that one duffle bag containing a uniform was missing, apparently left behind by mistake at the NCHS gym. Out of the 20 loaded at the gym, the one left belonged to Coach Ronald Bradley. It contained his uniform; and boy, was he furious! / etc. A telephone call to Al Bledsoe got the bag to Rome in time for Bradley to dress before the tilt Friday night.

The most sensational fielding play of the entire tournament was pulled off by Terry Smith and Billy Shepherd of the Rams. And it probably saved the Rams from defeat at the hands of the Wayne County nine on Friday night. With runners on second and third and one out in the fourth frame Jesup's Jimmy Warren hit a liner that Smith leaped high in the air to catch; Smith then threw to Shepherd at third to double off Carl Cowart. Shepherd took the throw while on the ground with his outstretched toe touching the bag.

Tim Christian, due to his football and basketball reputation of the past season (he was All-State in both) got a write-up in the Atlanta Constitution by striking out three times in the AA baseball finals Saturday against Headland at Rome. Doug Bledsoe, ace pitcher of the Rams gave up one run in 12 innings in the state Tourney. His NCHS record for the past two years is now 16-1.

Coach Bradley told yours truly after the game Saturday that "I never thought we would get this far this year." The team came in second in the State and won Region 4AA again. The overall record for the year was 13-5.

Terry Smith was the only Ram player who hit above the .300 mark during the year. He had a .386 mark going into the State meet. In the State tourney he had 2 for 6.

Jesup Coach Jim Collins has advised