

# STATE CHAMPS HEAD TOP TEN

## Osborne, Newton Co., Clarkston, Perry, Jackson Co. Voted Best

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Osborne, Newton County, Perry, Clarkston and Jackson County took the mythical championships of The Journal's Top Ten basketball poll, but there was nothing mythical about the state titles they won.

The state's sportswriters, who vote in the poll, took the state champs and placed them at the top, but it was nothing new for Newton County, Perry or Jackson County. They were rated at the top from the beginning.

The Top Ten teams have the records to warrant their lofty perches, Osborne, AAA champ, lost only three of 31 games; AA champion Newton County was 32-1; Perry, best in A for the second straight year, ended 30-4; Clarkston, surprise of B, lost 5 of 32 and Jackson County was 34-1.

IT GOES without saying that many good teams stayed home from state competition but still were well thought of and were rated.

LaGrange and Warner Robins, upset victims in 1-AAA, held on, taking seventh and eighth places, respectively; West Rome and Cairo are ninth and 10th in AA; Dublin is sixth in A and Valley Point eighth; Clinch County and North Gwinnett finished ninth and 10th in B and Attapulgus is sixth best in Class C.

Jackson County emerged as the team with the best record while Newton County finished a close second.

Osborne and Clarkston, the only two teams not rated first previously, made tremendous jumps to the top spot. Osborne, never rated above fifth, climbed from the sixth slot in AAA while Clarkston rose from the No. 5 position in Class B.

THE FINAL poll shows eight teams that weren't rated during the season. North Fulton of Atlanta and Decatur tied for the 10th spot in AAA; Dodge County eighth in AA; Mitchell County third in A and Commerce 10th in B, while Adrian finished second in C and Dudley eighth.

It's interesting to note that the 51 rated teams compiled a combined record of 1,207 victories against only 300 defeats for a .794 percentage.

Teams that were rated

### FINAL RANKINGS

Final Top Ten ratings with records in parenthesis:

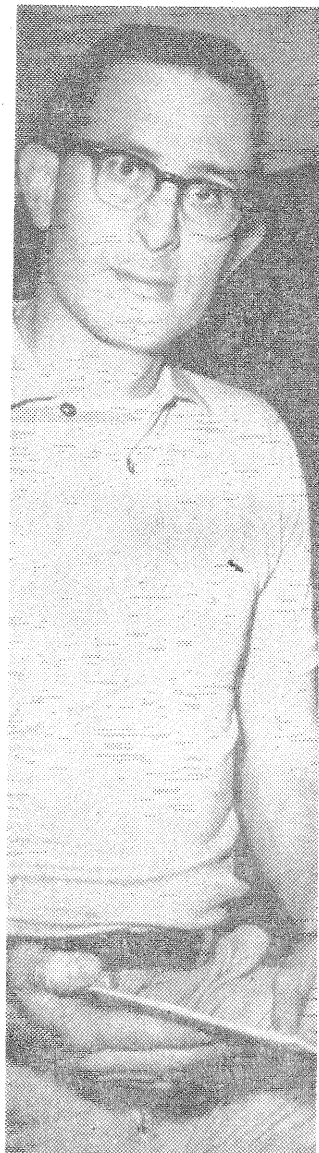
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|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>CLASS AAA</b>      |                      | <b>CLASS AA</b>      |                        |
| 1. Osborne (25-3)     | 2. S. Cobb (25-6)    | 1. Newton Co. (32-1) | 2. Hart Co. (23-7)     |
| 3. Cross Keys (25-2)  | 4. Avondale (24-7)   | 3. W. Fannin (26-5)  | 4. Headland (23-9)     |
| 5. Columbus (22-5)    | 6. Jenkins (24-4)    | 5. Crisp Co. (24-4)  | 6. Rockmart (26-8)     |
| 7. LaGrange (19-3)    | 8. W. Robins (21-4)  | 7. C-Fairburn (24-4) | 8. Dodge Co. (21-7)    |
| 9. Savannah (21-5)    | 10. Decatur (22-10)  | 9. W. Rome (24-6)    | 10. Cairo (24-6)       |
| <b>CLASS A</b>        |                      | <b>CLASS B</b>       |                        |
| 1. Perry (30-4)       | 2. Cass (31-5)       | 1. Clarkston (27-5)  | 2. C-C'rollton (30-4)  |
| 3. Mitchell           | 4. Bacon Co. (24-4)  | 3. Blakely (28-4)    | 4. Pike Co. (31-5)     |
| 5. Cochran (23-11)    | 6. Dublin (22-8)     | 5. Vidalia (29-4)    | 6. Glensville (21-6)   |
| 7. Tucker (17-8)      | 8. Valley Pt. (22-5) | 7. Seminole          | 8. Franklin            |
| 9. Berry (25-8)       | 10. Commerce (21-11) | County (18-9)        | County (16-9)          |
| <b>CLASS C</b>        |                      | 9. Clinch Co. (21-8) | 10. N. Gwinnett (22-9) |
| 1. Jackson Co. (34-1) | 2. Adrian (23-8)     | 3. Normank           | 4. Park (23-9)         |
| 3. Calhoun Co. (28-4) | 4. Johnson (26-4)    | 5. Dudley (21-8)     | 6. W. H'rlson (27-5)   |
| 7. Jones Co. (23-5)   | 8. Attapulgus (26-4) | 9. Sav'n'h CD (17-5) |                        |

throughout the season only to fall by the wayside during region tournaments and out of the Top Ten numbered 12. Marist, Albany and Richmond Academy couldn't keep up in AAA; Ringgold and Winder-Barrow fell from AA; Irwin County, Blackshear and Cartersville dropped out of A; Telfair County and Oconee County vanished from B, while Crawford County, Twiggs County, Harlem and Reynolds were booted out of Class C.

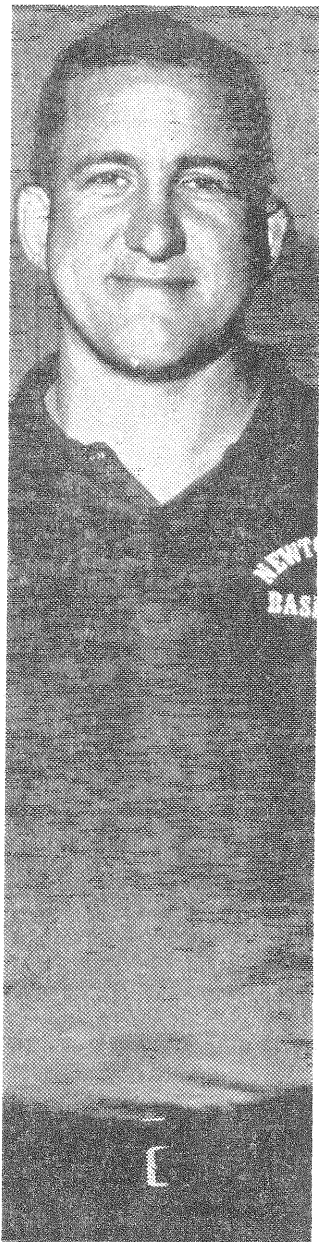
Members of the panel who voted on the Top Ten each week were Tom McCollister, Atlanta Journal; Bill Babb, Thomasville Times; Don Biggers, Rome Tribune; Ellwood Moyer, Columbus; Billy Deal, Savannah Morning News; Sammy Glassman, Valdosta Daily Times, and Paul Robinson, Waycross Journal-Herald.



ERIC STAPLES  
Wins His Eighth



TOM CHURCH  
Came From Sixth



RONALD BRADLEY  
King of All AA



J. L. PADGETT  
On Top Again