

Bradley notches historic victory

Newton coach earns 925th win at Salem

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CONYERS — Newton coach Ron Bradley collected his 925th career win as a boys basketball coach to overtake the late Eric Staples and become Georgia's all-time winningest boys coach as his Rams beat host Salem 54-40 on Tuesday night.

By surpassing Staples, who coached at Perry High School, Bradley also became the seventh winningest boys basketball coach in the nation.

"You always know it's close but you wonder if you'll ever get there," said Bradley. "Once you get it, it's a relief because you don't have the distractions of people talking about it.

"I've received several calls. Plus, we've received a little national coverage. I got a call from USA Today. It's nice to have something that people are getting excited about. It's a special record, it's quite a milestone."

In the first period, Newton (18-6 overall, 6-3 subregion) took a 13-5 lead before the Seminoles (7-17, 1-8) closed the gap to make it a one-point contest. The Rams made it a two-point game to end the first period after Brandon Finch hit a free throw following a foul at the buzzer.

Neither team was able to mount much offense in the second quarter as both teams man-

aged to score eight points.

Early in the third quarter, the Rams increased their lead to 28-24 before a trey by Jerrell Boswell sparked a Newton 10-0 run. Darius White provided the spark needed by the Rams in the third with 10 points.

Each team added two points to its tally to send the game into the final eight minutes with the Rams holding a 40-26 lead.

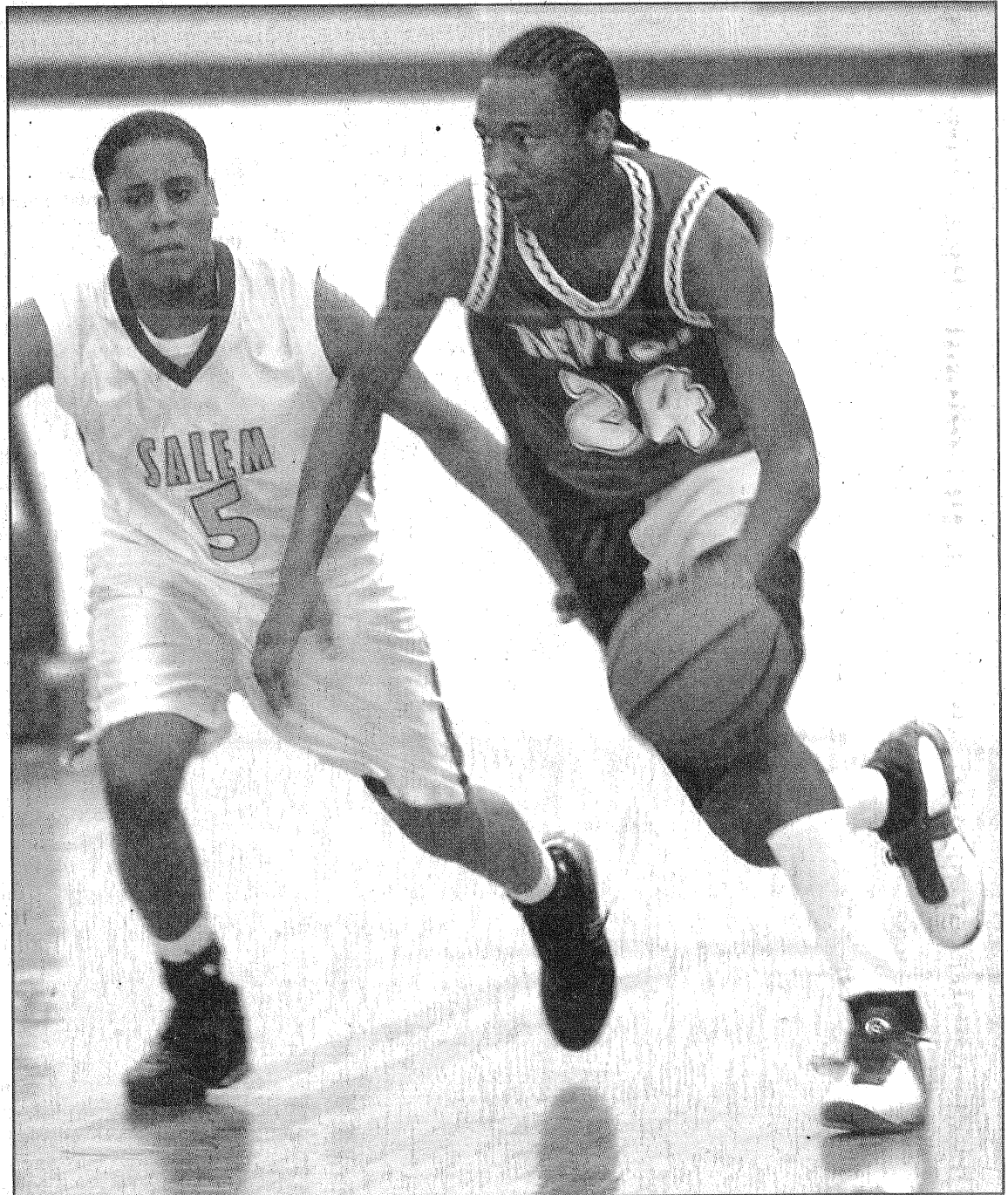
Newton scored the first two baskets of the fourth to make the score 44-26 before Leon Shepard and Brandon Thomas connected from 3-point range to close the gap to 12 points. But the Seminoles were unable to bounce back after being out scored 18-6 in the third quarter.

Scoring in double digits for the Rams were Jerrell Boswell with 19, White with 15 and Vincent Scott with 13.

Thomas paced the Seminoles with 14 points while Will Manget had eight.

"When you're in the middle of a game, the game is all you think about," said Bradley. "But (getting the record) is really special. When I think of how fortunate it is to work with young people as long as I have, it's really a joy to look back and to be able to share in their lives."

The Rams will close out subregion play at home against Loganville, while Salem will be on the road to play Heritage.



Newton's Darius White (24) drives past Salem's Brandon Thomas (5) during the first half Tuesday night. The Rams beat the Seminoles 54-40 as Newton coach Ron Bradley became the state's all-time leader in boys basketball coaching victories with 925. — Photo by Shannon Peacock