

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Newton's Bradley retires

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Ronald Bradley, the winningest basketball coach in Georgia history, said he's coached his last game.

Bradley, 70, turned in his resignation at Newton High on Tuesday, bringing to a close an unparalleled 45-year career that concluded with an appearance in the state semifinals.

Bradley finished with a career record of 1,301-353.

"We thought about it and decided that after 45 years it was about time," Bradley said. "It was nice it happened on a real good year, and that made it even easier to do."

Bradley finished the last four seasons of his career at Newton, where he started coaching after his graduation from the University of Georgia in 1957. Newton went 21-10 and lost to eventual champion Wheeler in the Class AAAAA semifinals.

Bradley coached at Newton from 1958-1975, where his teams won a national-record 129 consecutive games and the 1964 Class AA championship.

From there he coached at George Walton Academy in Monroe from 1975-87, Trinity Christian in Dublin from 1989-94, Loganville from 1994-97, Piedmont Academy in Monticello from 1997-99, and at Port St. Joe, Fla., in 2000. He returned to Newton in 2001, where he was hired by principal J.W. Rutledge, who played for Bradley during the Rams' glory days.

"It was fantastic to be able to go back," Bradley said.

Bradley was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1997. Son Bill recently won his second consecutive Colorado girls championship at Thunder Ridge High.



Bradley