

'I'm thrilled to be back' — Ron Bradley

Coming home



An icon's return: Ron Bradley, who brought Newton its only state championship in 1964, will be introduced as the Rams' new head coach tonight at 6 p.m. at Newton High School. *Staff photo by Ron Manson*

Bradley ready to 'go to work' at Newton, again

By Brian Knapp
Sports Editor

He's won 1,225 games in two states, coaching 112 teams, 56 All-State players and one All-American in four sports over an historic 41-year career. He brought Newton its first and only state championship in 1964 and saw his teams set a national record with 129 consecutive home victories from 1959 to 1967.

Tonight, he comes home.

Ronald M. Bradley will be introduced as Newton's next head boys basketball coach tonight at 6 p.m. at Newton High School when he holds a meeting to become acquainted with current and prospective players

"Right now, I don't know a single name," Bradley said. "But, we hope to go to work next week. I can hardly wait."

On Friday, in an unexpected move, Newton announced it had hired Bradley to replace the retired Billy Hendricks as head coach. The mastermind behind the program from 1958 to 1975, Bradley won an astonishing 10 region championships in 17 seasons with the Rams.

"They gave me an opportunity to come back, and that's all I needed," Bradley said. "We've spent over half our life here. It's home. I had always hoped I'd get the opportunity to come back, and I jumped at it. I'm thrilled to be back. I want to do the

What does the old man and the young man have in common? A love for the game."

Bradley takes over a program which is already established among the state's elite. Newton has put together three straight 20-win seasons and has advanced to the state tournament in each of those three seasons. Last spring, the Rams won their first region championship in 17 years, going 25-4 under the venerable Hendricks.

"I'm inheriting a program that's in much better shape than the one I inherited the first time (in 1958)," Bradley said. "Coach Hendricks has done an excellent job. This is my last job, I hope. There are still some things I want to be a part of in my