

Hall of Fame to honor Newton's world-record basketball team

By **BENJAMIN J. BUSH**
Staff Reporter

The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame will commemorate the former Newton County High School boys basketball team's world record of winning 129 home games in a row. The legendary season lasted from December of 1959 to December of 1967.

Alan D. Robison, senior curator of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in Macon, wrote to J.W. Rutledge, prin-

cipal of Newton High School, that he would like to include a plaque commemorating the winning streak with the rest of the exhibits in the Hall of Fame.

"I received a phone call, followed up by a letter, regarding the plaque commemorating the win streak that is a world record," said Rutledge. "Robison, the curator at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, told me that he wanted to display this item in the museum."

Robison said the plaque represented the high caliber of sports in Georgia and would be cared for in the highest of museum standards.

"The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame's major mission is to collect, preserve and to educate the general public in the rich history of Georgia's sports and the personalities of our state's sporting heritage," said Robison.

The plaque had been on display at Sharp Gymna-

sium, used by Newton County High School during its eight-year succession of wins, but was reported missing for some time, according to Superintendent Dr. E. Wendell Clamp. Recently, upon its discovery, Clamp handed the plaque over to Rutledge so that it would receive proper care.

Rutledge approached the Newton County Board of Education in September to request that the board comply with the hall of fame and

allow Robison to borrow the plaque.

"I think since the plaque is no longer posted in the gymnasium where the record was set, this is an appropriate way to share this accomplishment with the rest of the state of Georgia," Rutledge said.

The school board voted unanimously to lend the plaque to the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, as long as two identical plaques were made to be placed in the trophy

cases of both Newton High School and Eastside High School.

When asked how long the plaque would be "on loan" to the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, Rutledge guessed that the museum would display the plaque until Newton County's record was bested by another school.

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Heritage and Salem are back to square one in the Area 4-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-A slow-pitch softball tournament.

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