

## Ronald Bradley

You would figure that after 45 years of teaching, and with four children of his own who have given he and his wife Jan eight grandchildren, Ronald Bradley might slow down a bit and take life a little easier and not worry so much about X's and O's. Those who believe that Coach Bradley would be doing such a thing obviously haven't met this man who continues to have the drive and stamina of men half his age and younger.

After guiding his Newton County boys basketball team to the GHSA Final Four in Class 5A last year, Coach Bradley chose to "*retire*" and "*slow down, take it easy, and get away from the daily grind of teaching and coaching.*" That lasted- ohhh- about a month or so because our honoree is now beginning a new career as Head Boys Basketball Coach and Assistant Athletic Director at Greater Atlanta Christian School which has dual memberships in both the GHSA and the GISA. So much for "*taking it easy*".

Tonight, we want to reflect a bit on the accomplishments that this man has produced over the last half century in Georgia high school athletics and when one opens the record books, the totals Coach Bradley has produced are quite bewildering.

In 44 years of coaching boys basketball and 17 more coaching girls basketball, Coach Bradley's teams have collectively won 1,301 ballgames- the most ever in the state of Georgia and he is just one of seven coaches nationally to reach the 1300 win milestone. In Georgia alone, no one can equal his amazing total of 948 wins by his boy's teams.

Granted, not all of these wins came in SEAIS/GISA competition, but for his 19 years in private schools, his teams steam-rolled their way to 12 region titles and twice won the boys state championship. He also found time to coach football and win a state title in 1979 and coached golf, track, and baseball during his years at George Walton, Trinity Christian, and Piedmont Academy. In these years he also served as an Athletic Director and as an assistant Headmaster.

Throughout his overall career, Ronald Bradley has garnered five state coach-of-the-year awards and has been honored with 21 regional coach-of-the-year awards. In 2004, he was presented with the National High School Basketball Coach of the Year Award by the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations, and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

Coach Bradley has always conducted himself with a level of honesty, integrity, and a high standard of morals, which he has imparted to each of the teams he has coached throughout his career. In 1997 he was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and it is an honor to recognize the winningest “active” coach in the country with this GISA Distinguished Service Award---- Coach Ronald M. Bradley.