



The Bradley Team, Ron & Jan

Sports fans, have you ever wondered which high school basketball coach has won the most games in Georgia history? Newton County has the honor of claiming that coach. Coach Ronald M. Bradley has won 1,280 games throughout his career, and lost 343, which makes him the winningest coach in Georgia history. It also gives him the title of 7th winningest coach in U. S. History, and 2nd winningest active coach in the United States.

This year he received the prestigious National Federation of High Schools National Basketball Coach of the Year Award.

Coach Bradley has also received the National High School Coaches Association National Basketball Coach of the Year award. No other Georgia coach in ANY sport has received the BOTH national awards in the same year.

His Newton teams still hold the record for most consecutive wins on the home court. The 129 straight wins have been in the National High School record book for 37 years.

Coach Bradley is now in his 45th year of coaching. His team could go 0 – 30 for 30 years, and still have a winning record. Inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1997, Coach Ron Bradley is 70 years old, still loves basketball and loves working with the young people he coaches.

In 2000, the Ronald M. Bradley gymnasium in Covington was dedicated in his honor. That same year he received the Circle of Achievement Award from the Georgia High School Coaches Association, making him the FIRST basketball coach to receive this award.

U.P.S. selected him to do an international training film on attaining excellence in 1998. Coach Bradley has coached in 7 different schools. This year his team is the 122nd varsity athletic team.



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Coach Bradley tells some wonderful stories and experience of his life and career. You can't help but notice how his eyes light up when he speaks of his wife, Jan. The high school sweethearts have been married for 50 years and have four children and eight grandchildren. When asked who had been his strongest inspiration throughout his career, Coach Bradley quickly answers that without Jan, he could not have accomplished what he has. She has taken part in everything he has done, traveled to all his games, and been his staunchest cheerleader.

Recently speaking at a Rotary Club meeting, Coach Bradley look around the room and saw the Covington Police Chief, lawyers, contractors, and business people, all former student of his. He smiled and joked, "If I had known you would grow up to be so important, I would have treated you better."

When he was young, he was told if you don't like to work, find something you like to do, Coach Bradley knew he loved sports when he was young, as did his father. He knew early on he wanted to make a difference in young peoples lives. He wanted t teach values that would last a lifetime, not jus dribbling and throwing the basketball. He says that his teams thought they were learning how to play ball, but that they were getting for a lifetime of experience. In answer to the question, what has been the secret to winning so many games, Coach Brantley answers that giving them the confidence to believe in themselves and what they could be, discipline and fundamentals has been the key. Some people look at young persons and see the wrong in them; I look at young people and try to see what's right in them.

Coach Bradley points out that some teachers quit teaching after their first year. They don't give themselves a chance to see the fruits of their labors. They don't stay in long enough to see that they made a difference in people's lives. And make a difference in the lives of his players he has, two of his players went on to become major college players. Tim Christian was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles and went on to coach at Auburn. One student, Todd, was going to quit school in the 9th grade because 'it was boring,' but through the efforts of Coach Bradley and another teacher, this student stayed in school, went on to college and Medical School, while maintaining a 4.0 average, and is

now a Cardiologist in Colorado.

Coach Bradley says he has been asked what he has in common with young people. With his friendly smile and a twinkle in his eye, he says the love of the game. He adds that if you fly a kite, people will look at you and think you're crazy, but teach a child to fly a kite and they will say, that's wonderful, what teaching skills!

Following in their father's footsteps, twin sons, Bob and Bill, have both coached high school. Bill is in his 15th year of coaching. His team won the Colorado girls State Championship last year. He also had numerous championship teams at Loganville High School and has now been nominated by state officials for consideration for the National Federation of High School National Coach of the Year Award.

The incredible Bradley family will make history again if Bill receives this award behind his father. At his last high school reunion, Coach Bradley said that one of his former classmates was making a speech and said, "Someone in our class still has to go to school every day." "I wonder who that poor fool is," thought Coach Bradley about the same time as the classmate answered, "Ron Bradley."

We congratulate Coach Bradley and his lovely wife, Jan, on their many accomplishments and thank them for all their contributions to our community and for making a difference in so many lives.

