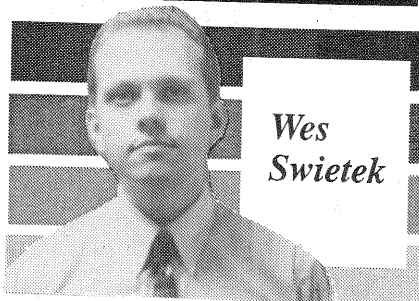


## Views From Press Row



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### *The best gift*

**I**n search of a Christmas message for this column, I ran across one quite unexpectedly.

I was talking to Loganville basketball coach Ron Bradley Wednesday.

When talking to Bradley, the subject invariably turns to kids and providing them with the proper guidance.

Bradley knows a thing or two about the subject. A little background:

Bradley has been a coach and educator for more than 30 years. His teams have won four state championships in football and basketball. He coached one of his basketball teams to a decade-long home winning streak — a national record 129 wins in a row. He has more wins under his belt than any active coach in Georgia.

His honors and awards are literally too numerous to mention — they would take up the rest of this column.

But one of the things that stands out in Ron Bradley's resume is this: during one ten-year stretch, every starter except three received college scholarships.

Bradley preaches some old-fashion virtues, like the importance of education and the importance of being a good person. He stresses being disciplined, on the court and in life, and doing well in the classroom.

And while his success as defined by wins and losses is evident, his success at the latter can't be pinned down by numbers.

But the testimony of his former players, who invariably seek to make known their admiration and respect for their mentor, speaks volumes.

When people come up to someone from the media to talk about a person, it's usually to complain. In Bradley's case, people approach to offer unsolicited testimonials.

So while the wins and losses offer proof that Bradley's system works with basketball, his other triumphs show that Bradley's system works in life too.

It's a system that stresses guiding young people through the hardships and uncertainty of youth with discipline and hard work while offering a positive outlook.

His players know that Bradley cares, so when he stresses these virtues or the importance of education, they listen.

So forget about the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers or a new car, Bradley's is the best Christmas gift an adult can give.

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