

# Ron Bradley set for life after coaching

► Former George Walton, Loganville coach retires as state's winningest coach

By **CHRIS BRIDGES**  
Tribune Sports Editor

LOGANVILLE — His number of career victories boggles the mind. Yet, for Ron Bradley giving of himself to high school athletics is far more important than the 1,301 career wins as a basketball coach.

It appears the number of wins will stay at 1,301 — at least for now — as Bradley announced his retirement last week as the Newton High School boys coach. Bradley confesses it is his third “retirement” but said it could be for good this time.

“It really hasn’t hit me yet,”

Bradley said. “I will realize it this summer when I am not working with the team.”

Bradley, who has continued to make his home in Loganville, said his car may continue driving to Covington each day out of habit.

“We talked all year about retiring,” Bradley said referring to himself and his wife Jan. “We almost did it last year, but with the school moving into a new region we felt we really needed to stay one more year.”

The 2004-05 season turned out to be a dream one for the Newton Rams. Even Bradley admits to being surprised by how well his team did, advancing to the Final Four before losing to the eventual state champion.

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Ron Bradley, who has more wins than any high school basketball coach in Georgia, retired last week. Bradley is a former coach at George Walton Academy and Loganville High School.

Photo by  
SUE ANN  
KUHN-SMITH/  
Newton Citizen

# Bradley announces coaching retirement

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Bradley has been long tied to high school athletics in Walton County. He coached several sports at George Walton Academy from 1975 to 1987 winning two boys state basketball titles (1976 and 1985) and a football state championship (1979).

Bradley's 1979-90 Lady Bulldog team finished 29-1 and was the state runner-up. Until this season, no GWA girls basketball team had reached the state championship game.

Bradley retired for a couple of years before returning to his profession at Trinity Christian School in Dublin. After his stay at Trinity, he was hired by Loganville High School where he was the boys basketball coach from 1994-97.

"I couldn't have asked for a better coach to play for," said Zeb Reid, who played for Bradley at LHS. "He taught me so much about the game. He's truly the best."

Reid, now a high school coach himself in South Carolina, said Bradley always helped his players on and off the court.

"We still talk today," Reid said. "He came to my wedding and still includes me in so much. He teaches how to be first class and he treats you first class. The impact he has on young people goes beyond coaching."

Reid said he recalls Bradley never cut a player at LHS.

"I remember he would really get after you in practice," Reid said. "However, you knew he knew what he was doing. I am sorry to hear he is retiring. I consider him the Dean Smith of Georgia. He took teams at Loganville that many didn't think much of and had them winning 20 games per season."

Bradley was a standout athlete himself, playing for Avondale High School and for the University of Georgia. At UGA, Bradley played on the baseball and basketball teams.

Through the years, Bradley's coaching accomplishments at Newton High School have been well documented. His first tenure at Newton was from 1958-1975 and included a 129-game home winning streak.

Bradley admitted this week it was nice to finish his career where it started.