

GAC boys hoops coach Bradley retires — again

By JOHN HOLLIS
jhollis@ajc.com

This retirement thing and Ronald Bradley don't appear to get along.

The Greater Atlanta Christian boys basketball coach embarked on his fourth try at it on Friday afternoon when the school announced his decision to step down after two years.

Hours later, Bradley was already talking about another possible career stop.

"I guess I don't really know what the word means," Bradley joked. "My last retirement lasted just 2½ weeks."

And if the barrage of phone calls Friday afternoon was any indication, his latest try at retirement

might prove just as short-lived.

Before Friday, Bradley was the only active high school coach in the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and also was the nation's winningest active coach after compiling a 1,327-379 record in 47 years. His teams at Newton County won 129 consecutive home games from 1959 to '67.

He was named the National High School Coach of the Year in 2004 and has a gym named in his honor in Covington.

Bradley came to GAC in 2005, following the sudden departure of Tom Kelsey to a college job. In his two years at the school, GAC went 26-25, including 15-11 last season.

School president David Fincher lauded Bradley's service and dedi-

cation.

"Coach Bradley was a legend when he arrived at GAC," he said in a statement, "and he continues to be legendary as we bid him farewell and good luck in the future."

Bradley and Jan, his wife of 53 years, are Loganville residents who have been considering a move to a tranquil golf community. He felt the time was right.

He insisted that his love for the game and working with young people remains undiminished.

"We're anxious to see what the future holds," he said. "If there's a fit, we'll be coaching again."

GAC has already begun interviewing potential replacements, Fincher said.



File

This will be the fourth retirement for **Ronald Bradley**. He was the winningest active coach in the country, with 1,327 victories.