

I don't like to lose.

At anything.

Whether its Words with Friends, SongPop or a sporting event, I play to win, and I don't take losing very well.

**4<sup>th</sup>**  
**& GOAL**



EARL WATT

Some of my friends don't like watching games on TV with me because I am an intense fan. During big games, I usually go down to the basement by myself and watch on my own, still providing advice and questioning plays from my chair. I'm not sharing this as a point of pride. I'm sure it's a shortcoming.

But there's someone else that I know that doesn't like to lose either, and he has had a rough start to this year's season.

Lady Redskin coach Bill Baird is as competitive as they come.

He not only tries to educate his players, but he also participates in the practices to push them as hard as he possibly can.

He is digging into deep to put the best team on the floor that he can.

And he has done that.

So far, the Lady Redskins are 0-3.

I know each of those girls are trying their best, and more importantly, I know their coach is trying his best.

Here are some of the things Baird is doing that not everyone may know.

He has gone to South and West to advocate for girls basketball.

During the off-season, he has open gyms after school at Sunflower and Cottonwood intermediate schools so that fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade girls are getting to play basketball and learn techniques from the high school coach.

He coaches MAYB with his team in the summer so he can expose them to more games and more competition.

I don't know of a head coach of a high school varsity sport doing any more to develop players for his program more than Baird.

In his third, year, Baird is laying the foundation for success so that Lady Redskins basketball can be the best it can be.

And while Baird is doing all of those things — everything a coach can do — there is still more needed to have a winning program.

Some call them gym rats. What that means is kids that can't go a day without shooting the ball. They live in the gym year 'round. They are on playgrounds or getting kicked out of places they aren't supposed to be playing basketball.

Does Liberal have talent? Yes. Does Liberal have a gym rat? Not really.

If Baird can continue to spark the interest, gym rats will develop, and that will improve Lady<sup>1</sup> Redskin basketball.

Baird is doing everything he can, not just for this year but for years and years to come.