



Special photo

THE COACHING BRADLEYS
... (L-r) Bill, Ron and Bob

Bradley

Continued from page 6A

go home with. We just want to win, not have Bob and Bill get beat. It will be bittersweet either way, but I can't lose."

As Ron Bradley said, "We're both going in undefeated, and both of us want to stay that way. I know Bob and Bill want to get their program off on the right track, and we hope to start our season the same way. It's a big

game for all of us, in more ways than one."

Regardless of the game's outcome, Jan Bradley knows she'll be coming away with a sense of pride.

"Ron and I just feel honored that the boys lived with our profession all their lives, then decided to make it their profession, too. It's something that few parents get a chance to see."

Bradley's battle for bragging rights

Pay attention, please, or you could get lost in a large hurry. OK.

When Trinity's Crusaders take the field against the Flint River Wildcats in Woodbury Friday night, Jan Bradley naturally will be rooting for Coach Bradley's team to win.

But she can't lose.

Ron Bradley will also be pulling for Coach Bradley.

He can.

"When I started the football program at George Walton, we only had nine players come out the first day," Ron Bradley recalled. "We were on vacation in Florida and I left Jan and the kids down there for a few extra days and came back early to get things going. When I saw how many players we had out, I called them in Florida and told them to get home, that we needed some bodies to suit up and play."

Brad became a junior quarterback that season, while Bob and Bill were eighth-graders who saw limited playing time. That first team went 6-4-1, and Bob and Bill later went on to garner All-State honors as the 1979 team won the state GISA AA championship. Brad made All-State in basketball, and Ron went on to coach for 12 years at George Walton, winning a string of state titles in basketball and football along the way.

The tradition of winning has continued at Trinity. But what's it going to be like to line up against your son's team in his first outing as a head coach?

"Once the game starts, it won't be a factor," Ron Bradley asserted. "I just want the Crusaders to win to get us off on the right track. They just want to beat Pop; they've been telling me all along that two Bradleys are better than one."

While Ron may be downplaying the situation from a personal standpoint, his wife knows better.

"He's been stewing about it all summer, ever since he found out that Bob had been named head coach," Jan Bradley said. "They've had a lot of fun carrying on about it, with the family bragging rights and all involved."

"I can't say one way or the other, because I just can't pull against either of them. Of course, you know who I have to

**DARYL
GAY**

Bob Bradley and Bill Bradley are likewise totally behind Coach Bradley.

They can lose, too.

Brad Bradley and Brenda Bradley Elliott think very highly of Coach Bradley's chances, also.

But they can't lose, either.

Ron Bradley coaches the Crusaders. His son, Bob, is head coach of the Wildcats. Bob's twin brother, Bill, is offensive coordinator at Flint River. Brad and Brenda are the two remaining siblings, and they'll be on hand at the game as well, Brad coming from Atlanta and Brenda from Enterprise, Alabama.

Ron's wife, Jan, will be filming the game from atop the pressbox for Trinity. Bill's wife is cheerleader sponsor for Flint River. If it is nothing else, this matchup is definitely a family affair.

This is the first time Ron Bradley has faced his son as a head coach, although Bob was an assistant at Flint River last year when the Crusaders beat the Wildcats 20-7. He took over the top spot before this season, bringing brother Bill aboard. Both have football backgrounds that go way back. In fact, football came before fun for the Bradleys.

See BRADLEY on page 7A