

Coach Bradley: The Man behind the Legend

Liz Connors
Business Editor

"If I wasn't coaching basketball I would just want to hold my wife's hand and go through life together," responds Ron Bradley. This is not the typical response you would hear from a man who has annihilated the competition and is recognized nationally for his excellence in coaching. Despite his infinite love for basketball, Ron Bradley's love for his family and wife, Jan, surpasses this passion.

Ron Bradley's enthusiasm for sports began when he was a young child. Bradley played basketball, baseball, and football throughout his high school years, earning enough respect and recognition to receive a basketball and baseball scholarship to the University of Georgia.

During his time at UGA, Bradley earned seven varsity letters; three basketball and four baseball. He also earned

the Most Valuable Player Award for baseball his senior year. After graduating from UGA, Bradley came to Newton in 1957 and became the Junior Varsity Head Coach. He then moved to Varsity Head Coach the following year.

During his forty-eight years of coaching 1,600 different games worldwide, Ron Bradley's wife, Jan, has only missed five. "Being a coach's wife is exciting, busy and rewarding. I wouldn't choose a different life even if I had the chance," states Jan. "Basketball season at our house is time consuming and tense at times, and I love it. Ron is a great husband and father. I couldn't ask for better."

Bradley's love for the game has and will continue to run strong. Bradley's sons Bill and Bob have carried on the tradition, each coaching their own teams. Bill Bradley is the coach for the current Colorado Girls State Championship team. Bob Bradley,

currently a teacher at Heritage High School coached basketball for eighteen years. "Dad has passed on the love of the game onto the whole family," says Bob Bradley. "It was great to play for my dad. It was great to be around your parents that much. It was a little tougher on us playing for him though.

When practices and games were over for everyone else we were still reliving them at home." Bradley has affected many people throughout his career. "It needs to be said that he has touched a lot of lives since 1958, but I don't know if all of it would have been possible without the support of his wife, Jan," finishes Bob. "He passed the enjoyment of the game onto me. How to watch a game and learn from it not matter what the level, ... you can learn by watching. He has always been passionate about his players and their well-being," adds Bill Bradley. "It was great and difficult at times to play for him, great because of the high

expectations and difficult because of the high expectations. Regardless, it made me a better player, and I would not trade a thing for it." Despite his many achievements Bradley's sons recognize him for his character. Bill ends, "The most important aspect that will go down in history to me isn't the number of wins etcetera, it is the two words that epitomize dad. They are 'He Cares' and all that they imply."



Courtesy of Jan Bradley
Not your average family: Coach Ron Bradley (third from the left) takes time to pose with his family after receiving National Coach of the Year in Boys Basketball.

Ready for Regionals and Shooting for State

Raivondreia Haynes
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As the basketball season comes to an end, five games left before regionals, with all hopes to play state, Newton Boys are doing great. Jerell Boswell states, "Lithonia may have been our best game yet, but there is more to come." With team based strategies and great coaches, the team has every right and reason to play and win s t a t e .

Coaches are extremely satisfied with the team's record so far. "Varsity Rams are doing outstandingly well with a 16-6 record and tying second in the 2-AAAAA region," comments Head Coach Ron Bradley, "This is the most exciting season in a while, I am real proud of

the guys, they are a great team."

Fundamentals and discipline play a major role in all of our strategies which helps us prepare for those tougher games," notes Bradley. Varsity Rams prepare mentally and physically before every game. They come together as a team and discuss the benefits of losing and winning a game. "We don't want the players to get too high when they win or too low when they lose, coaches have expectations for their players and the players have expectations for themselves. When one of these expectations is not met the team falters and is let down. We try not to let anyone falter," says Coach Bradley.

A Legend in Our Midst

By Liz Connors
Business Editor

1,284 wins, over a dozen Region Championships, eleven State Finals appearances, four State Championship titles, and countless hours of hard work and dedication have defined Ronald M. Bradley's illustrious coaching career.

Coach Bradley's accomplishments range from having the Turner Lake Complex basketball

gym named after him to starring in an international film on excellence for the United Parcel Service. Bradley led his teams to four State Championships, one of which, in 1964, was with Newton High School's very own Varsity Boys' team. This is Newton's only state title to date. Under Bradley's leadership, his Newton High teams set a national record winning 129 straight home games

between the years of 1958 to 1967, a record which has yet to be broken.

During his coaching career Ron Bradley has won a total of 1,284 basketball games to date which has earned him the titles of Winningest Coach in Georgia, second active Winningest Coach in the United States, and seventh Winningest Coach in United States history. Coach Bradley is also the only basketball coach in Georgia to win the prestigious Circle of Achievement Award from the Georgia High School Coaches Association.

Throughout his forty-five years of coaching 122 different Varsity teams, Coach Bradley's favorite part of the game is interacting with his players. "The students are some of my biggest inspirations," he states.

Inspiration goes both ways with Coach Bradley. Mr. Bob Richardson, a member of the 1964 State Championship team says, "Ron Bradley was a great motivator. He knew how to get the best out of everyone. He was a positive influence on us all."

Four year Assistant Coach, Rick Rasmussen,

has also been positively influenced by Coach Bradley. "It's been a great experience for me to work with Coach Bradley. I've learned from the best and will always appreciate the time I've spent with him and the things I have learned," says Rasmussen.

Bradley returned after a twenty-seven year absence from Newton for the 2001-2002 season. Coach Bradley left Newton in 1975 to explore other coaching opportunities, one of which included creating a new basketball program for

George Walter in nearby Mc later coac Loganville Hi; Trinity Christi Piedmont Aca at Port St. School in F returned to I fulfill the pers faction of fini: I started," stat "It is a special back coaching When a his plans for Bradley stater been saying > year* for the p years. I have want to do at they can wait ready."